



VOYAGEURS

I am starting this newsletter with sadness in my hear. On Sunday, January 6th, I Received a phone call informing me of the passing of Grand Chef de Gare Craig Boelter. I traveled to Pipestone on January 10th to attend the memorial Service and funeral on January 11th. There were a very large number of Voyageur's Militaire and Dames in attendance, as well as Legionnaires and Veterans to send Grande Chef passe Craig to meet the Supreme Commander.

On January 12th, Renae and I travelled to Little Falls for Voiture 1329's Christmas party. Thank you Chef Locale Mel Buessler and Voyageur's for a fantastic time. While we were the ladies talked about starting a Cabane. Grande Presidente Renae is working on this.

On January 13th, we travelled to Osseo for Voiture 1281's Nurses Training Banquet. It is an honor to present these scholarships to these deserving ladies.

On February 1st, we travelled to Faribault for the Grande Mid-Winter. As usual attendance was low. I would like to encourage more participation from all the Voiture's. Every Chef de Gare Locale should attend or have a representative there. Correspondant Locale 1324 Jim Douda and the rest of the Voyageur's did a fantastic job in putting this together. The post staff and the kitchen crew were extremely accommodating and friendly.

Chef de Chemin de Fer Barry Bovee, from Michigan, had a great time as did Presidente Nationale Betty Reisenweber from Alabama.

I hope everyone got shoveled out from the recent snow storm. The official measurement in Grand Rapids was 9 1/2 inches. I know I had at least 14 inches piled up on my car roof.

A short note on the upcoming Grand Wreck in Grand Rapids on Sunday March 10th. If you will have any Goof's, please contact me, as I am the Correspondant Locale, Voiture 806. Phone 218-326-1163, let me know how many that you plan on bringing also the Locale which they are from. Leave a message.

Grand Chef de Gare

Don Snow





Calendar Of Events

Voiture Locales- Events/Functions to be published in the Grand Voiture Newsletter must be submitted to the Editor as soon as you know the Dates. They will run in this Column as long as possible before the event/function. Get them in and spread the word so many others will know about the event.

- 3/10/13 Grand Chef's WRECK GRAND RAPIDS
- 4/21/13 Grand Chef's & Grand President's Testimonial (More information to follow as received)
- 5/3-5/13 Minn-Dakota More information to follow as received (see insert at bottom of news letter)
- 8/4/5/6/13 GRAND PROMENADE — HUTCHISON, MN. More information to follow



MINNEAPOLIS VETERANS HOSPITAL VISITATION

The below listed order of visitation will be a Permanent article in the monthly newsletter.

Chef's de Gare and Correspondants Locale are asked to review it each month and get your Voyageurs Militaire committed to attending the monthly assigned visitation. A minimum of six Voyageurs are requested. La Femmes are welcome and encouraged to attend the Visitation.

- 23 Feb. Voiture 1281, Minnetonka
- 27 Mar. Voiture 44 Forest Lake
- 24. Apr. Voiture 1457 Dakota County
- 29 May Voiture 791 Bayport/Stillwater
- 26 June Voiture 838 Ramsey Country
- 31 July Voiture 33 Washington Co.
- 28 Aug. Voiture 39 Ramsey County

**Voiture 390, Anoka County,
3 Voyageurs, 1 from Voiture 45**
Voyageurs out for the Visitation are to meet John Torma, Richard Hammond, VAVS Representatives at the Center in the main Atrium at 6:50 P. M. The Visitation can be completed in less than one hour. LaFemmes are welcome and encour-

ENDORSEMENTS 2013-2014

Endorsements for Grande Voiture Office must be submitted in writing and signed by The Chef de Gare & Correspondent Locale. Please submit a **Separate Letter for each Office Endorsed**. Letters which do not meet with mandate will be returned.

ENDORSEMENTS

V-414 HUTCHINSON	JERRY BLOCK	GR. CHEF DE GARE
V-415 ST. CLOUD	STEVE DIRCKS	GR. CHEF DE TRAIN
V-39 ST. PAUL	DAVE GUSTAFSON	SOUS GR. CHEF DE TRAIN
V-1281 MINNETONKA	TOM ALLEN	GR. GARDE DE LA PORTE
V-806 GRAND RAPIDS	DONALD SHOW	CHEMINOT HATIONALE
V-1281 MINNETONKA	BRUCE HARMS	ALT. CHEMINOT NATIONALE
V-415 ST. CLOUD	PAT WOLNEY	6TH DIST. GR. CHEMINOT
V-1281 MINNETONKA	JOHN TORMA	10TH DIST GR. CHEMINOT
V-390 ANOKA	BOB LOCKER	10TH DIST. S. GR. CHEMINOT



TAPS VOITURE EVERLASTING FEBRUARY 2013

Herb Cook	Faribault	V-1324
Bruce A. Hakes	Hutchinson	V-414
Walter Kundsén	Long Prairie	V-1329
Vernon Lee	Thief River Falls	V-737
Dennis Lyman	Faribault	V-1324
Bradley S. Peters	Cottage Grove	V-33
Vernon Quam	Thief River Falls	V-737
Emil G. Sulander	Minnetonka	V-1281

**2013 You are invited to the 2013
M.N.N. - DAKOTA
40 et 8 Promenade**

President
Aaron McFerran
5009 Wagen Wheel Circle
Mandan, ND 58554
701 663 7774
aaronmcferran@brackets@trainack.com

Secretary / Treasurer
Feston B. Olson
43526 264th St.
Stillwater, ND 58119
605 729 0313 or 605 661 7839
festonb@trainack.com

Hospitality Room Friday evening,
Promenade and WRECK Saturday
Social hour and banquet Saturday night
Memorial service Sunday morning

**Mandan, North Dakota
May 3rd, 4th & 5th, 2013**

HOSTED BY
GRAND du North Dakota & Voiture 704

Limited number of rooms blocked off under 40 et 8
Best Western Plus, Seven Seas Hotel (\$91.99 +Tax)
Block of ROOMS held until 2 weeks prior
HOTEL 800 597 7527

2611 Old Red trail... I-94 Exit 152
ALL FUNCTIONS will be held
At the Seven Seas Hotel
Registration 15\$ Banquet 216.00
Send checks (payable to Voiture 704) and registrations to:
A.J. McFerran
(Address above)
Call motels ahead

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ City _____
Zip _____ Voiture # _____ Grand du _____

We THANK YOU, we appreciate your support and look forward to seeing YOU. For
A WEEKEND OF NORTH DAKOTA HOSPITALITY
This is an APPROVED PLAN 2013.

Space permitting TAPS will be published in the newsletter as taken from the Web Page of Voiture Nationale on a monthly basis. Names of deceased Voyageurs submitted to Voiture Nationale will be published. Correspondant Locales should use the form from the Voiture Nationale Web site to send them to Voiture Nationale



VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

The Donald J. Theis Voyageur of the Year Award applications for 2013 are again available to any Voiture Locale wishing them contact the Grand Correspondant and they will be sent out.

GRAND CHEF'S WRECH

SUNDAY MARCH 10, 2013

GRAND RAPIDS

HOSTED BY VOITURE LOCALE 806

START TO LOOK FOR THOSE NEW "PG'S" now, lets have a good turn out.

There will be lodging available for those that wish to come early and stay over on Saturday March 9, 2013 before the Wreck. The Budget Host Inn 311 East Hwy 2, is the Location, the phone # is 218-326-3457, the cost is \$44. 95 per night. When making reservations mention you are with the 40/8. More information to follow later.

GOOF'S ARE TO REPORT AT 9:37 A. M.

1ST DEGREE STARTS AT 11: A. M.

LUNCH SERVED FOLLOWING THE 2ND DEGREE

CONTACT:

DON SNOW AT 218/326-1163, with NAME, VOITURE LOCALE & NO. OF GOOF'S BRINGING

ENDORSEMENTS 2013-2014

The time has come to start to Submit those Endorsements for the 2013-2014 for those Grand Voiture Offices.

They must be Submitted in writing and signed by the Chef de Gare and Correspondant Locale.

Each office Endorsed must be on a separate letter. ENDORSEMENTS MUST BE RECEIVED PRIOR TO JULY 1, 2013. Those not meeting the mandate will be returned. Lets start to get them in. Mail endorsements to: Mel. Stoppelman Grand Correspondant 2609 Goettens Way # 205, St. Cloud, MN. 56301

CERTIFICATE of APPRECIATION

Past Chef de Gare Bruce Harms along with Chef de Chemin de Fer, Barry Bovee presented Past Grand Correspondant Bob King with a Certificate of Appreciation for his 22 Years of service as the Grand Correspondant of Grand du Minnesota and the Forty and Eight. Thank your for your Dedicated Service.

BIDS NEEDED

Bids for the Mid-Winter in 2014, and up and Coming Grand Promenades are NEEDED. Voiture Locales check with your locale and Legion Post and see if they would be interested in Hosting one of these events. Bid Forms can be Obtained form either Robert Skillestad at 507-545-2885, or from the Grand Correspondant. Submitted Bids must be received prior to the Grand Promenade in Hutchinson on August 2-3-4, 2013.

GRAND CHEF DE GARE & LA PRESIDENTE

TESTIMONIAL

For those who wish to stay over when attending the Grand Chef de Gare's & La Presidente Testimonial the following hotels and prices are listed;

Budget Host Inn—Eash Hwy 2 — 218-326-3457

Rate; \$44. 95

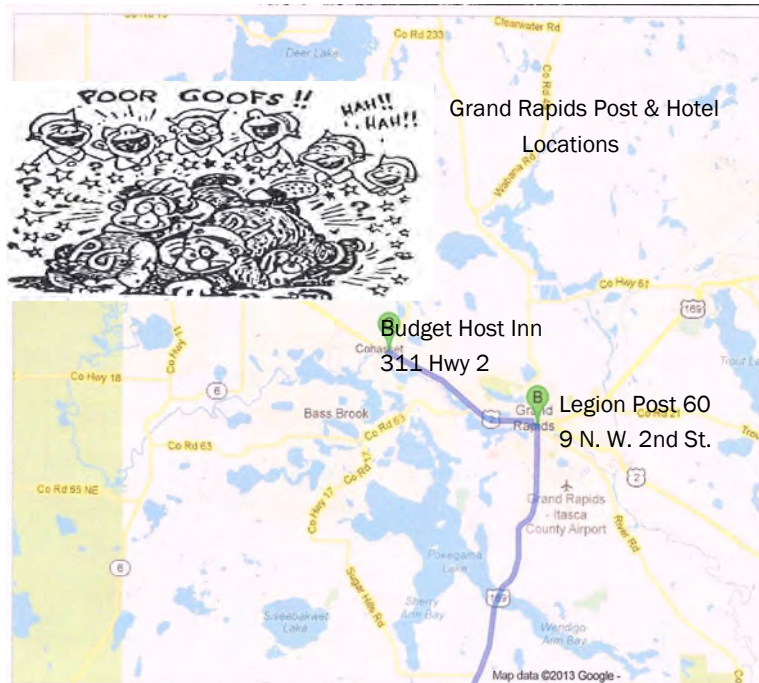
Americinn 18142 S. Pokegama Ave — 218-326-8999

Rate: \$79.00 and up + Tax

Super 8 1702 S. Pokegama Ave — 218-327-1108

Rate: Sat. \$72.79 + Tax

Rate: Sun. \$68.29 + Tax



MEL. STOPPELMAN NAMED 2012 VOYAGEUR OF THE YEAR

Voyageur Militaire Mel. Stoppelman of Voiture Locale 415 St. Cloud was named as the 2012 Voyageur of the Year. The Donald J. Theis Voyageur of the Year Committee met in Rochester, MN. during the Grande Promenade last August. Mel is a Veteran of the United States Navy. He has served several terms as Chef de Gare and Corre-



spondant Locale for Voiture Locale 415, Mel is very active at the St. Cloud Veteran's Home taking part in Veterans Day activities and also when the City of St. Cloud recognizes Veterans. Mel has kept Voiture Locale 415 running smooth for the past nine years serving as Correspondant Locale. He conducts raffles for the Voiture, has organized many Locale and Grande Voiture Wrecks and has served as Chairman of three Mid-Winter Conferences and one Minn-Dakota Promenade and Wreck. He is present on the Loci of the Voiture at all functions it is scheduled to attend.

On the Grande Voiture level Mel is serving his 9th Term as 6th District Grand Cheminot and is in his fourth term as Grand Activities Directeur.

Mel has taken over the duties as Grand Correspondant for the 2013 year. Besides being an outstanding Voyageur Militaire he has also been a model Legionnaire for Sauk Rapids Post 254 including three years as Post Commander and ten years plus as Post Adjutant. On the District level he has served as Membership Director and has held many Chairmanships. He currently helps out at the Post with Bingo on Wednesday evenings. Voyageurs Militaire of Voiture Locale 415 and members of Post 254 all say that without Mel around there would be a great loss of a Comrade whenever needed but also a great friend. Please give Mel. Stoppelman a warm Thank You for all he has done for us and La Societe when you see him in your travels.

GRAND PROMENADE

The Place Hutchinson, MN. the site will be the Victoria Inn & Suits. The Date AUGUST 2-3-4, 2013. The phone # for any one wishing to make reservations is 320-587-6030, and mention the 40/8 when making those reservations. All functions and meetings will be held at the Hotel.

STREET MAP OF GRAND RAPIDS

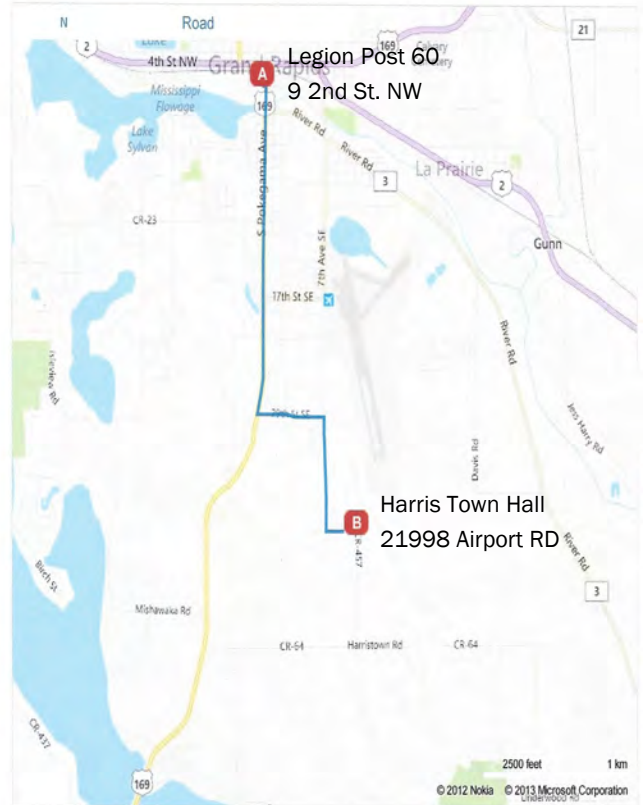
Location "A" is the Legion Post and Location "B" is the Harris Town Hall the Location of the Testimonial Dinner

superpages.com we know maps around here

Start: 9 2nd St NW, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 *Legion Post*

End: 21998 Airport Rd, Grand Rapids, MN 55744 *Harris Town Hall*

Route Summary: 3.7 miles | 11 minutes



GRAND VIOTURE DU MINNESOTA

MEMBERSHIP AS OF FEBRUARY 14, 2013

VOITURE	#	2012	2013	% of Quota	Short
ST. PAUL PARK	33	25	24	96.00%	-1
ST. PAUL	39	45	43	95.56%	-2
FOREST LAKE	44	59	55	93.33%	-4
MINNEAPOLIS	45	17	46	270.59%	29
CHIPPEWA COUNTY	54	17	0	0.00%	-17
MADISON	62	27	26	96.30%	-1
MANKATO	281	75	54	72.00%	-21
ROCHESTER	327	99	68	68.69%	-31
ANOKA	390	41	25	60.98%	-16
HUTCHINSON	414	136	132	97.06%	-4
ST. CLOUD	415	82	62	75.61%	-20
WINONA	580	23	12	52.17%	-11
BEMIDJI	582	27	17	62.96%	-10
VIRGINIA	634	47	37	78.72%	-10
PARK RAPIDS	712	32	19	59.38%	-13
CASS COUNTY	714	15	14	93.33%	-1
EAST GRAND FORKS	734	38	21	55.26%	-17
THIEF RIVER FALLS	737	31	25	80.65%	-6
PEQUOT LAKES	754	30	18	60.00%	-12
CROOKSTON	772	19	19	100.00%	0
BRAINERD	778	30	23	76.67%	-7
BAYPORT/STILLWATER	791	61	59	96.72%	-2
GRAND RAPIDS	806	42	42	100.00%	0
RAMSEY COUNTY	838	19	9	47.37%	-10
ALBERT LEA	1210	10	3	30.00%	-7
MINNETONKA	1281	102	69	67.65%	-33
FAIRBAULT	1324	32	15	46.88%	-17
LITTLE FALLS	1329	54	45	83.33%	-9
WILLMAR	1413	32	22	68.75%	-10
ROSEAU	1436	31	36	116.13%	5
DAKOTA COUNTY	1457	53	53	100.00%	0
SOUTHWEST MINN	1468	22	22	100.00%	0
TOTALS		1373	1115	81.21%	-258

Chef de Chemin de Fer's Comments

Condensed from original in the 40/8er.

My wife and I left snowy, cold Detroit only to arrive in Minnesota to the same only colder, met by Marland Ronning and Chris, arrived in Faribault for the 93rd Mid-Winter Conference. Attended Finance Meeting, followed by a excellent steak dinner and plenty of hospitality.

10:00 AM Saturday the Cheminot opened by Grand Chef de Gare Donald Show for business. There were many good reports and discussions. A total of 209 memberships were turned in to raise their percentage to around 79%. Great job and thanks. The Donald J. Theis "Voyageur of the Year for 2012" presented by Grand Chef Donald Snow and myself to Grand Correspondant Mel. Stoppelman for his dedication to La Societe. Congratulations Mel! Grand Avocat Roger Ball was Master of Ceremonies for the banquet at Post43, and another great meal. After program and many photos it was back to hotel to hospitality room hosted by four locales. Everyone did relax after a hard day's work. 9:00 AM Sunday the Mid-Winter reconvened to finish up the business. Grand Chef Snow encouraged all to work membership and programs to their best.

Linda and I would like to thank V-1324 for hosting the Mid-Winter, and all from Grand du Minnesota for a very enjoyable weekend.



VOYAGEURS ALL

Hello fellow Voyageurs from warm and sunny Mazatlan, Mexico. I think this would be a great Place to hold a Mid-Winter, "Just Kidding". Voyageur Jim and his fellow Voyageurs did a Magnificent job in hosting the Mid-Winter in Faribault. My compliments to their Chef de Cuisine For the fabulous meals.

Now, down to business. We have 6 months to get the membership train back on track. Sadly, we are still down 258 members as of this writing. We have 15 "Cars" with less that 10 to go and 7 "Cars" with 5 or less renewals to go. I know these are the hardest ones to get, but you can do it. "CAR 54 WHERE ARE YOU". Are you aware that you still do not have any renewals turned in? You are the only "Goose egg in the Grand", and there really isn't any excuse for this. I know you have paid members. Please get them turned in.

We had a pretty good turn in at the Mid-Winter with 209 renewals. This raised our percentage considerably. I would have liked to see more, but considering the attendance, I guess it was ok. The Chef de Chemin de Fer told us we are not the only Grand with the renewal problem. Hopefully, we will no longer be part of the "Problem" in the near future.

One thing to keep your eye on is the totals that National has listed for your Voiture. For instance my own Voiture has 5 PUFL's and I turned in 130 renewals at Mid-Winter which should equal 135 but National is showing 132. Do not be afraid to call Tammy Bennett at National (317-634-1804). She will help get it straightened out.

For the snow birds out there, give your Voiture an hand collecting those renewals. Keep in touch with Correspondant and help collect those members. Thank you all who are at 100%. Siesta time now.

Grand Chef de Train, *Jerry Black*