



La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux
Grand Voiture du Texas



19 December 2009



Dear Santa
Encourage our members to renew
and get some new members so
that Grand du Texas gets 119%

To: All Voyageurs in Grand du Texas

Monsieur Voyageurs,

Hope this finds everyone in good health and that you and yours had a great Thanksgiving.

I am sorry that I did not make it to V-542 Pancake Breakfast for the Scholarship Awards on 5 December. But it was great that the Chef de Chemin de Fer Jerry Brady was on hand to make the presentations.

I did have the pleasure of attending V-266 Promenade and seeing some old friends. The new Chef de Gare Scott Smith did a great job. Kathy and I had breakfast with them on 5 December and Voyageur Doug makes a great omelet. They still serve the best breakfasts in town and at a good price. Thanks V-266 for a great time.

I attended a wreath laying ceremony in Harker Heights. V-1031 Chef de Gare George Murphy and Sandy Kousman assisted in laying the wreath. The turnout was great and the guest speaker was BG Peter Atkinson, III Corps Deputy Commanding General – Canada. I had an opportunity to talk with him after the ceremony and it was a great experience. The Mayor, his staff & the Veterans Coalition did an outstanding job.

On 11 November myself and other members of V-1031 participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Killeen. The turnout was one of the biggest they have had in a few years. It was great to see all the children waving. I would like to thank Chef Murphy, Steve Anderson, Sandy Kousman, Wayne Hamilton, Ron Rusak, Annemarie Murphy for riding with me in the parade.

I also attended the Christmas Party of V-1123 and AL Post 140 in Longview. They had a great turnout and the food was outstanding. They had a group of four ladies called Shake Rattle & Roll and if you haven't heard of them yet you will. Thanks to Chef de Gare Thad Nehrling, Kenneth T. Messer, Billy Shivers and all of V-1123 for the invite and all the hospitality offered Kathy and me during our stay. I would also like to thank Rosemary Messer and her staff at the hotel for a great stay. As always V-1123 did an outstanding job. By the way they will be over 200% by the end of the year or close to it. **GREAT JOB**

We always have to talk about membership. As of 17 December we have 6 Locales at 100% or more. What happen to the rest of the Locales? We have 4 Locales just needing 1 more to get 100%.

In my past letters I have asked that the Locale get some members together and call the one that have not renewed or go see them. Has your Locale done this? What have these 10 locales done that you have not? Give them a call and see if they can give you some pointers.

3rd and 4th Divisions are above 90% and could easily be at 100% by the end of the month.

The Grande is at 79% and most of that comes from two Divisions. If this organization is to grow it will take all the Grand Officers and Locales Officers to do their job. It is time for action to get our membership up and get Texas on top.

I want to thank all those that have worked hard this year for their Locale, Grand du Texas and this great organization.

I hope that everyone and their families have a safe and healthy



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR



Don't forget we need as many as possible to attend Merci Box Car 12, 13 & 14 February 2010. If we can get a big turnout then we can work on getting a better price for the hotel next year. So please make plans to attend.

If you would like for me to visit your Local please let me know. If at all possible I will be there.



**KEEP ONE EYE CLOSED TO NEGATIVITY
KEEP ONE EYE ON GETTING NEW MEMBERS
KEEPING GRAND DU TEXAS ON TOP**

“WORKING TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE”

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