



Voiture 1379 Communiqué for April 2015

For those who did not attend the Grande Spring WRECK you missed a most enjoyable event. Chef de Chemin de Fer – Mike Wood and Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer – Mark Moots were present for the entire weekend.

Two Voiture 1379 P.G.'s (Ann Roberts and Charles Beery SR) were WRECKED and now are Voiture Militaries. Please take a moment and welcome them into the Forty and Eight.

The Voiture 1379 Race Car and its driver/builder Calvin Bumgarner put on a good performance showing off the race car and driving it in the races. Thank you Calvin!

Membership is currently at 55 with our goal of 61 for the 2015 membership year. So keep on the lookout for those deserving veterans as possible members of the Forty and Eight.

It is also that time of the year we will be seeking nominations for Voiture Locale Officers and Directeur. So anyone interested in a position please let the Chef de Gare Locale Bob Box or Correspondant Robert Emery know of your interest.

It is also that time of the year for reports. If everyone would take a little time and make a note of their information for the past year (July 2014 to June 2015), that would help make our reports better. Generally the Directeur are looking for total number of hour's volunteered, total number of miles driven and total dollars donated to various community and veteran projects.

One hundred and fifty years ago on April 14, our country was changed forever by a single gun shot to a sitting president by a frustrated, outspoken, pro-Confederate actor. The history that surrounds the Lincoln assassination is so rich and deep, that a book would do well to cover the topic and all its facets, let alone a humble blog. However, there are some lesser-known historic facts surrounding that terrible day to which few are privy - a glaring shortcoming in our education considering Mr. Lincoln's standing as the most beloved and greatest U.S. President to date.

Who knows how history may have been altered had Abraham Lincoln been allowed to finish his second term in office. Many postulate that Lincoln would have sped along the Reconstruction of the South and further advanced Civil Rights, instead of having them flounder for another 100 years. Lincoln was unquestionably more apt than his successor to help reconcile the nation and get her whole again. In contrast, Johnson ignored Civil Rights, did little to reconcile, survived impeachment by a single vote, and is generally considered one of the worst U.S. presidents in history.

But today, let us not remember the ineptness of Johnson, nor the rancor and violence of Booth.

Instead, let us recall the rail splitter, the politician, the avid reader, the self-made man, the wrestler, the abolitionist, the story teller, the lawyer, the orator, the nationalist, and preserver of the Union - Abraham Lincoln - who lost his life serving a country at the brink of dissolution.

This months Promenade will be on April 22nd at Post 61 North Kansas City, MO with dinner and Promenade at Post 61 starting at 18:00 HRS.

Thank you for your service to Our Great Nation, and your service to the 40et8 through Voiture 1379. If we all work together we can and do make a difference.

Robert C. Emery, Correspondant Locale, Voiture 1379