

40&8 LEE COUNTY VOITURE 409 AWARDS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Sauk Valley Community College nursing student receives scholarship



DIXON – Rose Sondgeroth was awarded a \$500 nurses training scholarship by 40&8 Lee County Voiture 409. Sondgeroth is a second-year nursing student at Sauk Valley Community College.

Sondgeroth resides in Dixon with her husband, Ben, and her son, Ryder.

“My goal is to combine my past life experiences with my nursing education to become a dedicated, caring, compassionate and lifelong nurse in the Sauk Valley area,” Rose Sondgeroth said.

James Devine, chairman of the Lee County Voiture 409 nursing award, Ryder Sondgeroth, scholarship recipient Rose Sondgeroth, and Richard Longfellow, organization’s Chef de Gare, stand in front of the Lee County Voiture 409 Locomotive built in 1934-35 by World War I veterans.



VOITURE 516 CONTINUES THEIR SUPPORT OF STOCKINGS FOR SOLDIERS & VETERANS



Chef de Gare Ron May of Voiture 516 presents a \$300 check to John Sutherland and Amanda Ponyi of the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home in Centralia to support the Christmas Stockings for Soldiers & Veterans Program. The Christmas stocking program is a service project that exemplifies the very essence of the objectives of the 40 & 8.

Voiture 516 in Centralia Illinois recently donated \$300 to the Sutherland-Garnier Funeral Home to support the Christmas Stockings for Soldiers & Veterans program. The Voiture has supported the program through the Sutherland’s over the past several years. Funeral home employees fill stocking with packaged food and personal care items for soldiers serving abroad to provide our troops with a little taste of home for the holidays. The donated funds will assist with postage costs to ship the stockings overseas.

The Stocking Program established in 2002 originally sent Christmas Stockings only to soldiers serving abroad. However, the national organization has expanded the program this year and are including infirmed veterans to be receiving the Christmas Stockings. In addition to sending Christmas Stockings abroad to our troops, the Sutherland’s will also be providing the stockings to infirmed veterans in local adult care facilities and those veterans who are home-bound as a gesture of the community’s recognition for their service to our country.

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Organization
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GRAND COMMISSAIRE INTENDANT VICTOR J MARTINKA



At the Fall Cheminot the decision was made to TEMPORALLY Discontinue the Grand Calendar Program. Reasons being with COVID-19 our Voyagers are not seeing people in person like we normally would. Also, many of our Top Calendars Donation getting members have passed away. Voitures are NOT able to get as many donations for Calendars as they used to. The Calendar Program needs donations of about 650 Calendars just to cover costs of program. Expenses include Prizes, Printing of Calendars, Postage and Commissions. That is a Lot of Work just to break even.

ALL 7 Program pins for 2022 are available at this time. Pins are \$3.00 each. POW/MIA Dangles are \$5 a pair. For Pins and more

information please contact me DIRECTLY. My home phone number is (815)-372-2656. My E-Mail address is LPFD130@sbcglobal.net. I will mail pins to you. You can pay for them with a check payable to Grand du Illinois. I ask everyone to PLEASE Support the Programs of the 40&8. Questions, Comments or Pins please contact me.

Sous Grand Correspondant Bob Cearlock is doing a FANTASTIC JOB of keeping the Illinois 40&8 web-site up and running. There is a lot of Useful Information that can be had. If you are NOT a Computer Person, find someone who is. Have Grandchildren? They will be Happy to Impress Grandpa with how Smart they are when it comes to computers.

My wife Jan and I hope you ALL had a Grateful Thanksgiving with Your Families. Also, we wish you ALL a Very Merry Christmas. We wish you a Happy New Year for 2022. May it be Happy and Prosperous with Good Health for ALL.

Finally, hope to see many of you at our Grand Spring Cheminot in Bloomington come April.



HONORING OUR MILITARY OPERATION PURPLE HEART

Today, I ask you to help me with Operation Purple Heart, an unprecedented mission to return 11 Purple Heart medals to their rightful owners.

The military honors were entrusted to my office as part of the Unclaimed Property program after their owners could not be found. It is my duty to find their owners and reunite them with their medals.

These medals personify honor, sacrifice, and duty. They belong in the loving care of families rather than hidden inside our cold basement vault.

We hope attention to the recent Veterans Day celebrations and tributes will spark a memory or provide a clue so that we can return these medals.

Each of these medals was in a bank safe deposit box that had been untouched for years. The last names associated with the safe deposit box, the date in which the medal was recorded with the state treasurer's office, and the location of the bank: Cawthon, Received Nov. 1, 1992, Portland, Oregon

Wilson, Received Nov. 13, 1995, Chicago
Burns, Received Nov. 5, 1997, Homewood
Moore, Received Oct. 17, 2001, Peoria
Smith, Received, Nov. 18, 2002, Oak Park
Gorski, Received, Oct. 30, 2003, Darien
Tuttle, Received Oct. 25, 2018, Decatur
Alexander, Received Oct. 26, 2018, Channahon
Isbell or Shayer, Received Oct. 31, 2018, Chicago
Steward or VanHasselaere, Received, Oct. 31, 2018, Round Lake
Wiest, Received Oct. 23, 2019, O'Fallon

We have an unparalleled record in returning these military honors and we will build on this success, with your help. Our ask is simple: Do you know a Veteran? Did he or she live in any of these communities? Bank in these communities? Maybe a son or daughter later moved to one of these communities?

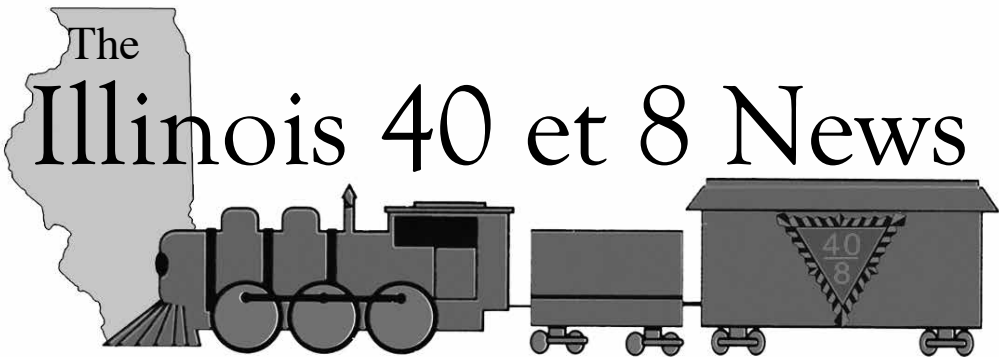
Let's start that conversation.

Sincerely,
Michael W. Frerichs
Illinois State Treasurer

Grande Voiture du Illinois

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Wally Hammond - Grand Correspondant

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GIFTS TO THE YANKS WHO GAVE



Veteran Mike Stachowski, Chairman, left, accepts a \$300 donation to the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave from Voyageur Tom Ballagh, Correspondant, representing the Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 in Centralia.

The Marion County Voiture 516 in Centralia, Illinois contributed \$300 to the long-standing Illinois program Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave. The program shows appreciation during the Christmas holiday season to those infirmed veterans who have served our nation. The Illinois State Department of American Legion has sponsored this program throughout Illinois since 1944 for area American Legion Posts.

Voiture 516’s contribution is one of many coming from local veteran service organizations that support the Gifts to the Yanks Who Gave Committee to reach their goal of \$3,000 for

the Centralia area. Voyageur Mike Stachowski of Voiture 516 is also a member of the American Legion Post 446 in Centralia and serves as the chairman of the committee for Post 446. Each year, Veteran Stachowski visits the two nursing homes in Centralia and one in Odin to obtain the number of residents who are infirmed veterans. He also contacts other veterans in the Centralia area who are homebound. Each infirmed veteran is offered their choice of either a blanket, jogging suit, robe or gift pack. The gifts are distributed in December.

THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY

MIA Update: The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced four burial updates and three new identifications for service members who have been missing and unaccounted-for from World War II and Korea. Returning home for burial with full military honors are:

-- Army Cpl. Kenneth R. Foreman, 19, of Mount Orab, Ohio, was assigned to Company A, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, 7th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Dec. 2, 1950, after a fighting withdrawal near the Chosin Reservoir, North Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. He will be buried on Dec. 2, 2021, in his hometown.

-- Army Pfc. Juan F. Gutierrez, 26, of Santa Fe, New Mexico, was a member of 200th Coast Artillery Regiment, when Japanese forces invaded the Philippine Islands in December 1941. Intense fighting continued until the surrender of Corregidor Island in 1942. Gutierrez was among those captured and held at the Cabanatuan POW Camp, where he reportedly died on Nov.19, 1942, and was buried. His remains were initially misidentified. He will be buried on Dec. 7, 2021, in Oakland, California.

-- Army Pvt. Archie V. Fleeman, 19, of Bell, California, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 3rd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on Nov. 11, 1944, after his unit was part of the Hürtgen Forest offensive, near Hürtgen, Germany. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Fleeman will be buried in Oklahoma City. The date has yet to be determined. .

-- Army Cpl. Charles E. Lee, 18, Cincinnati, was assigned to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Lee will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. The date has yet to be determined.

-- Army Pvt. Edward M. Ryan, 33, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 105th Infantry Regiment, 27th Infantry Division, which occupied defensive positions along the northwest coast of Saipan. He was reported killed in action on July 7, 1944. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending.

-- Army Pfc. Jimmy Rowland, 19, was assigned to Heavy Mortar Company, 19th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 16, 1950, while fighting North Korean forces along the Kum River north of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending.

-- Army Pfc. Jack E. Lilley, 19, was assigned to Headquarters Company, 1st Battalion, 34th Infantry Regiment, 24th Infantry Division. He was reported missing in action on July 20, 1950, after his unit was forced to retreat from the vicinity of Taejon, South Korea. Following the battle, his remains could not be recovered. Interment services are pending.

RETIRED U. S. NAVY VETERAN TELLS AN EXCITING STORY

by Mary E. Eschelbach

The twenty years Cyril Beasley spent serving his country in the U.S. Navy fit Cyril Beasley like an ocean fits a shore. His story of military service, mostly while on the sea, is exciting to hear. From the time of Beasley's enlistment on January 24, 1968 to his retirement on October 30, 1992, there were four years of reserve service for him. One year of serving in the active reserve and three years in the inactive reserves were included in those four years.

Beasley enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1968 after realizing that he would be drafted into the U. S. Army. He was in good physical condition and was 1-A, eligible for military service. Knowing he could be sent to Vietnam, Beasley chose the U. S. Navy as his branch of the service.

Great Lakes U.S. Naval Training Center, Illinois was the first training site for the young recruit. From January 25 to May 29, 1968, Beasley was in training. Upon graduation he was assigned sea duty on the USS Cormorant but was never deployed on this ship at this time. The ship was a training site for reserve units. Remembering this time living

near Long Beach, California, Beasley says that he enjoyed his duty time there, but that the pollution was very bad in the area. Naval vessels on which Beasley served were the USS Woodpecker, USS Enterprise, USS Midway, USS Peleliu, and USS Carl Vinson. While serving on the USS Midway, he and his first wife made Yokosuka, Japan their home.

Beasley's first ship, the USS Cormorant, was a mine sweeper. There are three types of mine sweepers: costal, ocean going and inland. These vessels are sent out before other ships. Beasley says that the mines are blown up in various ways. When they are found they are detonated by being shot or destroyed by electronic means.

While serving in Long Beach, California, active-duty seaman Beasley participated as a tour guide at Seattle, Washington's Seafair, the community's summer celebration. He volunteered for the assignment during the weekend event that offered tours of aircraft carriers.

Beasley says that his favorite aircraft carrier is the USS Enterprise, the world's first nuclear-powered aircraft carrier. While serving on this ship, he participated in the

evacuation of troops and refugees from Vietnam in 1975.

"There were four aircraft carriers evacuating people from Vietnam, two for people and two with air wings on board launching fighters," said Beasley.

He remembers that some evacuees did not want to leave Vietnam. The USS Enterprise is to be deactivated on December 1, 2012.

A day on an aircraft carrier begins very early in the morning. Leaving a berthing area that has bunks stacked three high, 80 navy personnel in his division were served breakfast. Beginning at 6 a.m., the crews would begin moving aircraft on the ship. While near Vietnam, moving aircraft from hanger bays to decks would last until very late in the night.

"We may have had an hour between activities," said Beasley. "If they (the aircraft) were still flying, we were up."

"The sky would light up with artillery going off," he said, remembering what it was like at nighttime.

Beasley indicated that two of the most poignant stories are about accidents on the ship. One involved an A-6 Tanker.

"Biggest you can get. It hit the aft end of the ship. There was a fire on the flight deck. Thank



Cyril Beasley of Deer Creek is pictured at his retirement ceremony on March 31, 1992. The photo was taken at Naval Air Station Whidbey Island near Oak Harbor, Washington.

goodness it wasn't a bomber. It was a bad accident. The two pilots were never found," he says.

The other accident that seemed to be fresh in Beasley's memory was the crash of an F-14 Tomcat. He says that the pilot did not respond to the lights on the ship flashing-a wave off. The pilot then lost control of his aircraft.

Beasley had an accident while responding to the call to general quarters. It was after the A-6 accident at 1:15 a.m. He ran into a bomb rack on an aircraft and split his head open. After the accident, he was treated on the aircraft by a medic.

"A Navy doctor was there to see that things were done right," said Beasley. "Navy doctors are trained and they

know that they are doing."

A fishing accident on shore in Pensacola, Florida resulted in a broken right leg in two places. He was on convalescence leave for four months. The injury has left Beasley with a shorter right leg that caused a back injury. He now walks with a cane.

Beasley wears a special hat that he received at the VA Hospital. It reads, "I served with Pride; Vietnam Era Veteran."

The pride for Cyril Beasley, 64 of Deer Creek, continues through his involvement with the Deer Creek American Legion No. 1276, the Tazewell County Voiture 40 and 8, and the Morton VFW Post 592. He and his wife, Donna, participate in the activities of these organizations.

A HUMBLE SERGEANT: EDWARD F. YOUNGER AND THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

By Timothy Frank, ANC Historian

On October 24, 1921, when Sergeant Edward F. Younger entered City Hall in Châlons-sur-Marne, France, and gazed upon the four identical caskets that lay before him, he embarked on a task that forever linked him to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Born in Chicago on September 24, 1898, Younger enlisted in the Army on February 23, 1917, six weeks before the United States entered World War I. He deployed to France and fought in the Troyon and Château-Thierry defensive sectors, the Aisne defensive, and the Meuse-Argonne offensive. He received his first wound in action at Vaux on July 2, 1918, when a concussion from a shell rendered him unconscious; he was wounded again on October 3, 1918, in the Champagne when a machine gun bullet pierced his left thigh. He retroactively earned the Purple Heart with Oak Leaf Cluster after that medal's establishment in 1932. After his honorable discharge on October 29, 1919, Younger reenlisted the next day and served in the 50th Infantry during the postwar occupation of Germany.

As an infantry sergeant in Coblenz, Germany, Younger received the honor of serving as one of six pallbearers to attend the selection of the Unknown Soldier in France. Originally, instructions called for a commissioned officer to make the selection. At the last minute, however, Major General Harry L. Rogers, the Army quartermaster general, learned that the French had delegated this honor to an enlisted man when they chose their Unknown Soldier in 1920. Rogers consequently authorized this duty to be given to one of the enlisted men participating in the ceremony. Major Robert P. Harbold, the officer in charge, chose Younger. Inside the Hôtel de Ville (City Hall), the four American unknowns lay in identical caskets. Younger's task was to choose one to be buried at Arlington.

It is likely that Major Harbold chose Younger on account of his superior service record. Younger, however, recalled that he thought of himself and his comrades as just "good, average soldiers," and believed that "none of the men had been decorated, nor had performed signal feats." Indeed, as Younger later described, receiving the singular honor of selecting the Unknown Soldier felt somewhat arbitrary. Speaking to a Washington Post reporter in 1930, he

recalled simply being told, 'I guess you're the one, Younger.... You select the Unknown.'"

Younger's subsequent public recollections thus seem to square uneasily with evidence suggesting he had been chosen because of his service record. Yet Younger's self-perception was entirely consistent with his deeply felt connection to, and identification with, the Unknown Soldier. By portraying himself as simply a "good, average soldier," Younger emphasized his commonality with the Unknown rather than his individual distinctiveness. In so doing throughout his life, he implicitly redirected the media spotlight away from himself, allowing the Unknown to remain the focus as a symbol of all American service members, regardless of duty or rank.

Younger received an honorable discharge from the Army as a sergeant on October 29, 1922. He returned to Chicago, worked as a post office foreman, and joined the American Legion. In 1930, a Washington Post reporter tracked him down. Younger told him that no one had ever asked him about his role in the selection, except for one post office coworker. Younger also told the reporter that he had yet not been to Arlington to see the Tomb. He had long wished to visit, but on his salary, a trip to the nation's capital was prohibitively expensive.

On Memorial Day in 1930, the Washington Post paid for Younger to finally make the trip. At Arlington, he reenacted the selection ceremony by placing roses on the Tomb. Younger again emphasized his personal connection with the Unknown, noting that he might have "eaten, slept, and fought next to him" and that it was "real nice to get a chance to visit him again." Titled "Humble Soldier Who Selected Unknown Will Honor Comrade," the article portrayed Younger as a "modest, blond chap just over 30," who had experienced "nine years of obscurity" after the selection ceremony. Such references to Younger's humility and "obscurity" aligned him with the Unknown—who rested in the ultimate obscurity, having sacrificed not only his life but his identity. In newspaper reports and consistently in his public recollections, Younger became, like the Unknown himself, one of many; an average soldier who served honorably and now embodied the collective memory of the war.

Younger also conveyed

the intensely emotional aspects of his experience, underscoring his affinity with the Unknown Soldier he selected. Fifteen years after the selection, he authored a candid first-person account, "I Chose the Unknown Soldier," which appeared in the November 8, 1936 edition of *This Week*, a syndicated Sunday magazine supplement carried by more than twenty papers, including the *Los Angeles Times*, *Boston Herald*, and *Cincinnati Enquirer*.

In this article, Younger remembered feeling "overwhelmed" as he selected the Unknown: "I took the flowers and advanced to the little temporary shrine through a line of French troops. I entered the door ... and stood alone with the dead.... For a moment I hesitated, and said a prayer, inaudible, inarticulate, yet real. Then I looked around. That scene will remain with me forever. Each casket was draped with a beautiful American flag.... I began a slow march around the caskets. Which should it be? Thoughts poured like torrents through my mind. Maybe these buddies had once been my pals. Perhaps one of them had fought with me, had befriended me, had possibly shielded me from a bullet that might have put me in his place. Who would even know?"

Younger went on to recount, "I was numb. I couldn't choose.... Three times I walked around the caskets; then something drew me to the coffin second to my right on entering.... I couldn't walk another step. It seemed as if God raised my hand and guided me as I placed the roses on the casket. This, then, was to be America's Unknown Soldier, and by that simple act I had started him on his road to destiny. I tarried a moment, then remembered my task was done. I saluted the casket, and reported that the order had been fulfilled."

In September 1937, the American War Mothers—a national organization that commemorated and supported World War I veterans—republished "I Chose the Unknown Soldier" in their organizational magazine, *American War Mother*. Younger's piece offered a deeply personal perspective on the selection process and the meanings of the Unknown Soldier—one that would have resonated with mothers, widows, and others who experienced the Tomb as a site of personal grief. And by likening the Unknown to one of his "buddies," Younger implied



Sgt. Edward Younger on the day of the selection ceremony. (Army Heritage and Education Center)



On Memorial Day 1930, Younger placed roses on the Tomb, reenacting his selection of the Unknown Soldier nine years earlier in France. (Library of Congress)

that the man he selected to be buried at the Tomb could have been the son of any mother who did not have a gravesite to visit.

More recently, Younger's son Jack has further illuminated how the experience of selecting the Unknown Soldier shaped his father's later life. In a 2009 letter, Jack recalled that his father was asked to speak to various civic and veterans groups during the 1930s and was even a guest on a New York radio show called "We the People" in 1938. His appearance received an overwhelming response from listeners, and he was invited back to the show in 1939.

Younger passed away on August 6, 1942 from a heart ailment. He was buried in what was, at the time, the World War I section of Arlington National Cemetery (now Section 18), a humble sergeant who did his duty in war and in peace.

VOITURE 516 AWARDS NURSING SCHOLARSHIP AT KASKASKIA COLLEGE



The 40 & 8 Voiture 516 Nursing Scholarship was presented to Kelsey Hoyt by Voyageur Mike Stachowski, Chairman of the Nursing Scholarship Committee.

Marion County 40 & 8 Voiture 516 and Kaskaskia College Associate Degree Nursing Program are proud to announce that nursing student Kelsey Hoyt of Walnut Hill was recently awarded a \$500 scholarship to financially assist her with her studies. Kelsey is in her second year of nurses training at Kaskaskia College. She has long wanted to become a nurse to be able to better help people in need. This scholarship will assist her in reaching that goal. She has also expressed an interest to continue her education for a BSN after completing her program at Kaskaskia College. The 40 & 8 Voiture 516 is very proud to be affiliated with this excellent program at

Kaskaskia College that prepares our area students at the Community College level to serve as Registered Nurses. The Kaskaskia College nursing program is located in an on-campus, recently-constructed, state-of-the-art Nursing Education Center with a simulation lab and convenient clinical sites for students to earn an Associate of Nursing Degree in one or two years. Graduates of this program at Kaskaskia College have a superior pass-rate for the NCLEX-RN Boards which qualify them to practice as fully qualified Registered Nurses. Kaskaskia College nursing graduates typically remain in the local area to practice in area medical facilities and

raise their families. The National 40 & 8 organization recognizes the importance that nurses are to our communities and the essential part they contribute to humanity from before birth and throughout life. The Nurses Training Initiative sponsored by the National 40 & 8 has challenged each local 40 & 8 to develop a scholarship program to support local nurses training for individuals who have demonstrated the willingness to undergo formal training to seek a career in nursing. The local Voiture 516 is continuing to foster the Initiative by offering Nurses Training Scholarships for nursing students at Kaskaskia College who reside within the boundaries of the Kaskaskia College Illinois Community College District 501.

THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER All Americans know the first verse, but do you know the rest?

In 1814, Francis Scott Key wrote the poem, *Defense of Fort McHenry*. The poem was later put to the tune of (John Stafford Smith's song) *The Anacreontic Song*, modified somewhat, and retitled *The Star Spangled Banner*. Congress proclaimed *The Star Spangled Banner* the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Oh, say, can you see, by the dawn's early light,
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming?
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, thro' the perilous fight,
O'er the ramparts we watch'd, were so gallantly streaming?
And the rockets' red glare, the bombs bursting in air,
Gave proof thro' the night that our flag was still there.
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

On the shore dimly seen thro' the mists of the deep,
Where the foe's haughty host in dread silence reposes,
What is that which the breeze, o'er the towering steep,
As it fitfully blows, half conceals, half discloses?
Now it catches the gleam of the morning's first beam,
In full glory reflected, now shines on the stream:
'Tis the star-spangled banner: O, long may it wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

And where is that band who so vauntingly swore
That the havoc of war and the battle's confusion
A home and a country should leave us no more?
Their blood has wash'd out their foul footsteps' pollution.
No refuge could save the hireling and slave
From the terror of flight or the gloom of the grave:
And the star-spangled banner in triumph doth wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave.

O, thus be it ever when freemen shall stand,
Between their lov'd homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the heav'n-rescued land
Praise the Pow'r that hath made and preserv'd us a nation!
Then conquer we must, when our cause is just,
And this be our motto: "In God is our trust"
And the star-spangled banner in triumph shall wave
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

The Forty & Eighter

Between manliness of serving his Country, and sometime during the “Golden Years” to follow, we find a delightful fellow called a “Forty et Eighter”. Voyageurs come in all sizes, ages, drinking capacities and from all walks of like.

Forty et Eighters are found everywhere – on top of, hanging from, climbing on, running for, presiding over and giving to. Children love them, members hate them, wives tolerate them, newspapers misspell their names, nurses respect them, and Heaven protects them.

A Forty et Eighter is many things – he has the consumptive capabilities of a camel, the digestive qualities of a little boy, the energy of a rocket thrust, the imagination of a clown, the audacity of a pick-pocket, the enthusiasm of a cheerleader, and the heart of a saint.

A Forty et Eighter is fun with egg on his smock, camaraderie with beer in his belly, cockiness with a chapeau on his head, chivalry with a string around your legs, innocence with a buzzer on your hip, wisdom with his own version of the French language, hope with candy in his pocket and sack of toys under his arm.

He likes conventions, kids, nurses, parades, fire trucks, box cars, swapping stories, wrecks; his best friend is always another Voyageur, he’s not much on lengthy meetings, windy speakers, neckties, complainers, non workers, Voyageurs who don’t pay dues on time.

Few others would even claim all he can hold in his pockets. Raffle tickets, can opener, a beer can, breath freshener, assorted crumpled up addresses, keys, billfold, credit cards, paperback joke book, cigars or cigarettes, matches, American Legion Membership forms, 17 chances on a bushel of booze.

A Forty et Eighter is quite a guy, you can knock him, tease him, torment him, flatter him, rebuke him, but you can’t beat him in the long run. He’s an angel of mercy to the needy, but a fun loving, hell raising, flag waiving little boy who runs amok among the unsuspecting, He’s a hard working, dedicated man to his community, but sometimes hard to find, unapproachable, grouchy man when the grass needs mowing and the ball game is on. He’ll break a leg playing ball with the kids and laugh it off, he’ll work from dawn til dark cooking for a Voiture project, tho at home he won’t fry an egg, but he’s got a gift of gab, that before you know it, you find yourself listening to his words of wisdom with awe.

So when you meet this Voyageur, after a wreck or a Promenade, and he’s slightly worse for the wear from booze, cards, talk and lots of work, grinning a little foolishly, you have just met “some kind of a Man”, a Forty et Eighter.

THE BLUE CHEVALIERS HONOR GRUNDY COUNTY SHERIFF’S DEPUTY TYLER POST

By Maribeth M. Wilson

MORRIS — Deputy Tyler Post was honored by the Representatives of the Blue Chevaliers on Wednesday night. Representatives of the Blue Chevaliers awarded Deputy Tyler Post with a citation of appreciation. The citation states that “in recognition of the tenacity and bravery displayed during the events of 7 October 2021. His actions and the gunshot wound he sustained in the performance of his duties reflect the highest standards of Law Enforcement and his dedication to the safety of his community”

The Blue Chevaliers project launched in January of this year as a project of La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, commonly known as the 40 and 8. The purpose is to support law enforcement and acknowledge the contributions of those wearing the uniform. Deputy Post was injured in the line of duty Oct. 7 during a routine traffic stop on Route 47 north of Mazon. Post was shot once in the arm and twice in the vest. Post was previously honored during a Grundy County Board meeting in

which Sheriff Ken Briley presented him with a plaque from The International Association of Chiefs of Police and the DuPont KEVLAR Survivors’ Club. State Rep. David Welter, R. Morris, presented him with a proclamation. “Voiture 1195 is proud to acknowledge Deputy Post as our first recipient of the award. We also honor and respect those who wear the badge and protect our community. Overall, we believe Tyler exemplifies his peers,” stated Chef de Gare Jerry Terando.



Chef de Train Steve Huettemann, Deputy Tyler Post, and Chef de Gare Jerry Terando.



A massive force of police gathered in Mazon after a Grundy County Deputy Tyler Post was shot.

A LITTLE HUMOR

Bad Dream

A wife wakes from a bad dream one night scared and crying. Her husband comforts her and asks why she’s so upset. She replies, “I had a dream that a very rich and handsome man kidnapped me from you.” Her husband soothingly replies, “That’s okay honey, it was just a dream. “The wife starts sobbing loudly, “I know that’s why I’m crying”

Saying Grace

Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When little Logan received his plate, he started eating right away. “Logan, wait until we say our prayer,” his mother reminded him. “I don’t have to,” the little boy replied. “Of course you do,” his mother insisted, “we say a prayer before eating at our house.” “That’s at our house,” Logan explained, “but this is Grandma’s house and she knows how to cook.”

Duck Hunting

A big city lawyer went duck hunting in rural Tennessee. He shot and dropped a bird, but it fell into a farmer’s field on the other side of a fence. As the lawyer climbed over the fence, an elderly farmer drove up on his tractor and asked him what he was doing. The litigator responded, “I shot a duck and it fell in this field, and now I’m going to retrieve it.” The old farmer replied, “This is my property, and you are not coming over here.” The indignant lawyer said, “I am one of the best trial attorneys in the United States and, if you don’t let me get that duck, I’ll sue you and take everything you own.” The old farmer smiled and said, “Apparently, you don’t know how we settle disputes in Tennessee. We settle small disagreements with the ‘Three Kick Rule.’” The lawyer asked, “What is the ‘Three Kick Rule’?” The Farmer replied, “Well, because the dispute occurs on my land, I get to go first. I kick you three times and then you kick me three times and so on back and forth until someone gives up.” The attorney quickly thought about the proposed contest and decided that he could easily take the old codger. He agreed to abide by the local custom. The old farmer slowly climbed down from the tractor and walked up to the attorney. His first kick planted the toe of his heavy steel toed work boot into the lawyer’s groin and dropped him to his knees. His second kick to the midriff sent the lawyer’s last meal gushing from his mouth. The lawyer was on all fours when the farmer’s third kick to his rear end, sent him face-first into a fresh cow pie. The lawyer summoned every bit of his will and managed to get to his feet. Wiping his face with the arm of his jacket, he said, “O’kay, you old fart. Now it’s my turn.” The old farmer smiled and said, “Nah, I give up. You can have the duck.”

Grace Before a Meal

A Christian farmer spent the day in the city. In a restaurant for his noon meal, he sat near a group of young men. After he bowed his head to give thanks for his food, one of the young men thought he would embarrass the old gentleman. “Hey, farmer, here in the city, nobody does that. Maybe you’re not used to that where you come from.” The old man calmly replied, “No, son, out on the farm, the pigs don’t do it either!”

20th Anniversary Gift

A man walks into Victoria’s Secret to purchase some see-through lingerie for his wife as a 20th Anniversary present. He is shown several possibilities that range from \$50 to \$150 in price, the more see-through, the higher the price. He opts for the sheerest item, pays the \$150 and takes the lingerie home. He presents it to his wife and asks her to go upstairs, put it on and model it for him. Upstairs the wife sees the price tag he forgot to remove and thinks “I have an idea. It’s so see-through that it might as well be nothing. I won’t put it on. I’ll do the modeling naked, return it tomorrow, get a \$150 refund and get myself something I really want.” So she appears naked at the top of the stairs and strikes a pose. Seeing her, the husband exclaims, “that’s weird, it wasn’t that wrinkled in the store.” [VISITING HOURS ARE 6:00 TO 8:00 PM

Reincarnation

A wife was talking to her husband about reincarnation. “What exactly is reincarnation?” he asked. “It’s when you die and come back as something completely different,” she explained. “So,” he suggested “I could come back as a pig?” She sighed wearily. “You’re not listening, are you?”

Need Money

A kid called up his mom from his college and asked her for some money, because he ran out of it. Mom said, ‘Sure, sweetie. I’ll send you some money. You also left your calculus book here when you visited 2 weeks ago. Do you want me to send that up too?’ ‘Uh, oh yeah, OK,’ responded the kid. So Mom wrapped the book along with the checks up in a package, kissed Dad goodbye, and went to the post office to mail the money and the book. When she gets back, Dad asked, ‘Well how much did you give the boy this time?’ Mom said, ‘Oh, I wrote 2 checks, one for \$20, and the other for \$1000 ‘That’s \$1020!!!’ yelled Dad, ‘Are you crazy????’ ‘Don’t worry hon,’ Mom said, as she kissed Dad on the on top of his bald head, ‘I taped the \$20 check to the cover of his book, but I put the \$1000 one somewhere between the pages in Chapter 19!’

Blarney Stone

A group of Americans was touring Ireland. One of the women in the group was a real curmudgeon, constantly complaining. The bus seats are uncomfortable. The food is terrible. It’s too hot. It’s too cold. The accommodations are awful. The group arrived at the site of the famous Blarney Stone. “Good luck will be followin’ ya all your days if you kiss the Blarney Stone,”he guide said. “Unfortunately, it’s being cleaned today and so no one will be able to kiss it. Perhaps we can come back tomorrow.” “We can’t be here tomorrow,” the nasty woman shouted. “We have some other boring tour to go on. So I guess we can’t kiss the stupid stone.” “Well now,” the guide said, “it is said that if you kiss someone who has kissed the stone, you’ll have the same good fortune.” “And I suppose you’ve kissed the stone,” the woman scoffed. “No, ma’am,” the frustrated guide said, “but I’ve sat on it.”

Lost Wife

A man went grocery shopping with his wife. They split to save time, he was to get produce and she would get dairy. With his hands full of fruit and veggies, the man walked over to the dairy section to meet with his wife, but he couldn’t see her anywhere. After walking up and down a few aisles, he approached the very beautiful woman in aisle 9 and said, “You know, I’ve lost my wife here in the supermarket. Can you talk to me for a couple of minutes?” “Sure, but how will that help?” “Because every time I talk to a beautiful woman my wife appears out of nowhere.”

Perfect Bride

An extraordinarily handsome man decided he had the God-given responsibility to marry the perfect woman so they could produce perfect children. With that as his mission he began searching for the perfect woman. In his search, he met a farmer who had three stunning daughters that positively took his breath away. So he explained his mission to the farmer, asking for permission to marry one of them. The farmer simply replied, “They’re all looking to get married, so you came to the right place. Look them over and select the one you want.” The man went on a date with the first daughter. The next day the farmer asked for the man’s opinion. “Well,” said the man, “She’s just a weeeeeee bit, not that you can hardly notice, but pigeon-toed.” The farmer nodded and suggested the man date one of the other girls. So the man went out with the second daughter. The next day, the farmer again asked how things went. “Well,” the man replied, “She’s just a weeeeeee bit, not that you can hardly tell, cross-eyed.” The farmer nodded and suggested he date the third girl to see if things might be better. So he did. The next morning the man rushed in exclaiming, “She’s perfect, just perfect! She’s the one I want to marry!” So they were wed right away. Months later the baby was born. When the man visited nursery he was horrified: the baby was the ugliest, most pathetic human you can imagine. He rushed to his father-in-law asking how such a thing could happen considering the parents. “Well,” explained the farmer, “She was just a weeeeeee bit, not that you could hardly tell, pregnant when you met her.”

Sarcastic AI Says:

Refusing to go to the gym counts as resistance training, right? Sarcasm is the secret language that everyone uses when they want to say something mean to your face.

Agreeable Husband

Several men are in the locker room of a golf club. A mobile phone on a bench rings and a man picks up with the speaker phone on and begins to talk. Everyone else in the room stops talking. MAN: “Hello?” WOMAN: “Hi Honey, it’s me. Are you at the club?” MAN: “Yes.” WOMAN: “I’m at the shops now and found this beautiful leather coat. It’s only \$2,000. Is it OK if I buy it?” MAN: “Sure, go ahead if you like it that much.” WOMAN:”I also stopped by the Lexus dealership and saw the new models. I saw one I really liked.” MAN: “How much?” WOMAN: “\$50,000.” MAN: “OK, but for that price I want it with all the options.” WOMAN: “Great! Oh, and one more thing... I was just talking to Kate and found out that the house I wanted last year is back on the market. They’re asking \$980,000 for it.” MAN: “Well, then go ahead and make an offer of \$900,000. They’ll probably take it. If not, we can go the extra eighty-thousand if it’s what you really want.” WOMAN: “OK. I’ll see you later! I love you so much!” MAN: “Bye! I love you, too.” The man hangs up. The other men in the locker room are staring at him in astonishment, mouths wide open. He turns and asks, “Anyone know who’s phone this is?”

Rides with Papa

A grandfather always made a special effort with his grandchildren. Many Sunday mornings he would take his 7-year old granddaughter out for a drive in the car for some bonding time. One particular Sunday however, he had a bad cold and he really didn’t feel like being up at all. Luckily, grandma came to the rescue and said that she would take the grandchild out. When they returned, the little girl anxiously ran upstairs to see Grandpa. “Well,” the grandfather asked, “did you enjoy your ride with Granny?” “Oh yes, Grandpa,” the girl replied, “and do you know what? We didn’t see a single dumb bastard or lousy jerk!”

A bit of Historical knowledge for YOU.

Thanks to Phil & Vicky Drum

Early aircraft throttles had a ball on the end of it, in order to go full throttle, the pilot had to push the throttle all the way forward into the wall of the instrument panel. Hence “balls to the wall” for going very fast. And now you know the rest of the story.

During WWII, U.S. Airplanes were armed with belts of bullets which they would shoot during dogfights and on strafing runs. These belts were folded into the wing compartments that fed their machine guns. These belts measure 27 feet and contained hundreds of rounds of bullets. Often times, the pilots would return from their missions having expended all of their bullets on various targets. They would say, I gave them the whole nine yards, meaning they used up all of their ammunition.

Did you know the saying “God willing and the creek don’t rise” was in reference to the Creek Indians and not a body of water? It was written by Benjamin Hawkins in the late 18th century. He was a politician and Indian diplomat While in the south, Hawkins was requested by the President of the U.S. to return to Washington. In his response, he was said to write, “God willing and the Creek don’t rise.” Because he capitalized the word “Creek”, he was referring to the Creek Indian tribe and not a body of water.

In George Washington’s days, there were no cameras. One’s image was either sculpted or painted. Some paintings of George Washington showed him standing behind a desk with one arm behind his back while others showed both legs and both arms. Prices charged by painters were not based on how many people were to be painted, but by how many limbs were to be painted. Arms and legs are ‘limbs,’ therefore painting them would cost the buyer more. Hence the expression, ‘Okay, but it’ll cost you an arm and a leg.’ (Artists know hands and arms are more difficult to paint.)

As incredible as it sounds, men and women took baths only twice a year (May and October). Women kept their hair covered, while men shaved their heads (because of lice and bugs) and wore wigs. Wealthy men could afford good wigs made from wool. They couldn’t wash the wigs, so to clean them they would carve out a loaf of bread, put the wig in the shell, and bake it for 30 minutes. The heat would make the wig big and fluffy, hence the term ‘big wig’. Today we often use the term ‘here comes the Big Wig’ because someone appears to be or is powerful and wealthy.

In the late 1700’s, many houses consisted of a large room with only one chair. Commonly, a long wide board folded down from the wall, and was used for dining. The ‘head of the household’ always sat in the chair while everyone else ate sitting on the floor. Occasionally a guest, who was usually a man, would be invited to sit in this chair during a meal. To sit in the chair meant you were important and in charge. They called the one sitting in the chair the ‘chair man.’ Today in business, we use the expression or title ‘Chairman’ or ‘Chairman of the Board.’
