

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**La Grande du Arizona
La Societe des Quarante Homme et Huit Chevaux
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MERCI TRAIN STORYBOARDS TO BE DEDICATED AT MCCORMICK-STILLMAN RAILROAD PARK

Scottsdale, AZ (January 17, 2025): The Grande du Arizona Box Car and the civic organization "The Questers" will host a dedication ceremony for a series of new historical storyboards about the Merci Train on Sunday, February 9, 2025, at 1:00 PM. The event will take place at the Arizona Boxcar, located within the McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park at 7301 E. Indian Bend Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250. The public is cordially invited to attend this special event.

The Merci Train was a gesture of gratitude from the people of France to the United States following World War II. In 1949, 49 boxcars filled with gifts from French citizens were sent to the United States, one for each state. The Arizona Boxcar, housed at McCormick-Stillman Railroad Park, serves as a poignant reminder of this historical exchange and the enduring friendship between the two nations.

The Questers, a non-profit organization dedicated to historical preservation and education, have meticulously researched and created a series of informative storyboards that detail the history and significance of the Merci Train. These storyboards will be unveiled at the dedication ceremony and will become a permanent exhibit at the park, enriching the experience of visitors for years to come.

"We are honored to share the story of the Merci Train with the community," said a representative from The Questers. "These storyboards will help ensure that this remarkable act of gratitude is never forgotten."

The dedication ceremony is open to the public. The Questers extend a special invitation to members of the 40&8, in appreciation of their ongoing support.

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