

*Historic Fort Wayne Coalition/*

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**HFWC Hours given to the Fort in 2007:**

• 3052.75

This doesn't include hours worked by Boy Scout Troops in co-operation with the HFWC.

## 501c3 AWARDED!!!

The Historic Fort Wayne Coalition received quite the Christmas present this year. On Christmas Eve, the Julians checked their mail (which is also the Coalition's mail). The found a letter from the IRS. Our application for 501c3 status has been approved and we are now both a state non-profit corporation AND a

Federally recognized tax-exempt organization. The IRS backdated this application to March 2007.

This is the end of the long road of the application and the beginning of a great new time for the Coalition. Look for updates on what this means to you shortly! Merry Christmas!!!!

## Chairman's Report – Tom Berlucchi

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families! It is with my family's sincere wish that everyone will have a great time with their families enjoying the blessing we all deserve. Please take a moment and remember all of our service men and women who are spending this holiday we so treasure away from their loved ones. It is because of their sacrifice that we all enjoy this thing we call freedom.

In November I wrote to you all concerning items happening at the Fort. I will now update you on some of the items.

- Environmental issues- we replied to the bullet points concerning the lead and other environmental issues. Our reply was forwarded to the Fort Wayne Project Manager to prepare an official response. I do have to admit I did take this as a personal attack upon the hard working dedicated group of volunteers we are. Because of this we now have a more comprehensive safety book located within the kitchen of building 112 (our office). I ask that at anytime everyone review

the plans so we all become more aware of the plans in place to keep us safe.

- Web site- as of 12-7-2007 our existing web site had 7900 hits on it. I understand that the newly developing web site is coming along and should be ready for review soon. Once Jeremy has it ready we will start the roll over process to bring it on line and shut down our current site.
- Events- The official Romanian web site of the Crown Prince Radu Duda, [www.princeradu.ro](http://www.princeradu.ro), was recently updated with pictures of his goodwill tour. The only pictures were of his visit to Fort Wayne.
- Projects- we are moving ahead by working many projects but at this time I want you all to know that the project's committee has been working hard to keep our workdays focused and show measurable benefit to the Fort as a whole. Over the past year you can see the difference in many areas of the fort.

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**2008 Calendar of Events**



January 5, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm – Bi-monthly business meeting at 1pm
February 2, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm
March 8, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5 pm – Bi-monthly business meeting at 1pm
April 5, 2008	HFWC Workday 9am – 5pm
April 18-20, 2008	Federal Combined Arms Drill – Infantry, Cavalry and Artillery expected
April 25-27, 2008	Medich Confederate Battalion Drill
May 2-4, 2008	Boy Scout event
May 16, 2008	Scranton Middle School Presentation – Brighton, MI – HFWC paid \$300.00
May 17-18, 2008	RMS MS visits Fort Wayne
July 11-13, 2008	Civil War Days
September 12-14, 2008	Abate Bike Rally – big fundraiser for the Fort!

**Chairman’s Art – cont’d from pg. 1**

- 501C3- We received our approval on Christmas Eve! More news will follow on this.
- City News- a lot of good has happened here. The Fort has been approved for two new roofs, the Tuskegee Airmen and Quartermaster shop. The city has also provided us with a full time heating/cooling man. I have met him and look forward to having him on site.
- Executive Board- We are working on many new items for the upcoming year. I am also finishing the tour book with photos. I would like to take this moment to thank the group for their efforts.
- Grounds – We have formed the beginning of a grounds committee. The group has already had its initial meeting but there is still more organizational work to do. We’ll keep you updated.

This year will be a great year for the Fort with upcoming events we are working on. We need you all to assist us in trying to work on events. The only way we will be able to get things done is by working together to accomplish it. We need YOUR HELP to assist us. Over the next month there will be a series of communications starting after the first of the year on our upcoming events.

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## Chairman's article – the end:

Check out the events calendar on page two. We have many great events coming up next year and will need help making them the first class events we usually put on. Also I am planning on putting out the upcoming school tour schedule that the City Recreation Department is planning. As you all can see it will be a very busy season at the fort and we all need to participate to make it a full success.

In closing, I ask you all to do one thing for our military Heroes whom are recovering at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Please send them at least one Christmas card so they know that we all remember them at this time of year. Take a moment out of your day and let them know we believe in them and remember them and their families. Give them a personal invite to come to the Fort as our very honored and special guests. As a Disabled

American veteran who spent the Christmas of 1982 in Tripler Army Hospital recovering from my injuries, the thoughts of friends and family so far away made it a long day. Phone calls helped but letters and mail from home made the day more special. Please send the letters, cards to the following address:

We Support You During Your Recovery!  
C/o American Red Cross  
PO Box 419  
Savage, MD 20763-0419

I wish you all a very blessed holiday season and may you not get a lump of coal in your stockings.

Tom Berlucchi



Tom Berlucchi and Dennis Duggan chatting during a workday.  
Photo by Dave Jamroz

## 2008 Dues – Doris Julian

Dear Membership, Please notice it is that time again. Dues are now being collected for the 2008-year. Please fill out the attached membership form and mail your form and dues to the Coalition address. You'll find the address on the form.

We ask everyone to fill the form out each year because it gives us a chance to double check the Coalition's records and make sure we have the correct way to contact each of you. Thank you for your help with this.

Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year from Ric and Doris Julian

## Projects Update – Will Eichler



*“That group (window glazers) has already made a very visible difference in the look of the Quartermaster Shop.”*

*Photo by Dave Jamroz*

It's been quite an interesting year for the project's committee. 2007 was the year we actually got this committee off the ground. It's been one of a lot of success, and some growing pains. As the chair, I want to say thank you to Bob Hovansian, Tom Steele, Al Kohring and Matt Merta for the work each has done to help get this committee formed and functional. Also, welcome to Richard Napier as he steps in to become member of the committee. Richard will serve a two-year term starting in January.

After getting formed and all the paperwork straightened out, we set right to work. We've helped organize lots of the work at the Fort, both on workdays and in-between.

I feel our biggest step forward was the introduction of skill classes to the membership. We started this late in the summer with the window glazing class. This has been a big success and we have seen the growth of a small group of people who are both interested in this work and dedicated to it. That group has already made a very visible difference in the look of the Quartermaster Shop. We

are poised, upon environmental review, to tackle a few new window projects in the New Year.

We are working on better organizing the Coalition during workdays. This will be important as we welcome the new Grounds Committee to the family and encourage them in their efforts. Both committees are already talking about how to make the best experiences for our volunteers and how to best move the Fort forward. Look for joint projects between the committees by spring at the latest.

To facilitate this organization, we have sent letters to some of you. You were chosen because you had attended a workday before June 30. The letters that are going out ask for you to identify your skill level in certain jobs related to both projects and grounds work. This will go to all members after the New Year. We wrote the letters to better match people with interest with the work we are doing.

There are many interesting projects on the horizon for 2008. We look forward to working with all of you to help the Fort!

## Truck Tracks – December, 1945 continued

### More Units Added

On June 1, the parts distributions requirements, standardization and technical activities, were transferred to this depot from Washington with little or no interruption in their operation. The Electrical Accounting (IBM) machines, the nerve center of the army's motor transport distribution system, were also installed at the fort to afford the immediate adoption and transmission of the latest changes in parts, number and

information on parts interchangeability to all Army users.

The Washington unit had been too far removed from the production centers to efficiently carry on this important activity. The arrival of these workers also added another problem to the already serious housing shortage facing Detroit at this time.

Then, on May 6, a telegram from Maj. Gen. W.B. Gregory, QMG, instructed

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*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## Inside Story Headline

Fort Wayne to begin “preparation” of vehicles before shipping them to the field.

All new vehicles were to be inspected and given 100 mile road tests, then re-inspected, serviced completely according to prepared check charts and shipped to the field. The distance was later reduced to 50 miles.

### “Black Top” Added

To prepare the vehicles required the erection of special “circus” type tents on the black top surfacing lying immediately adjacent to the parade grounds. The dirt laden atmosphere surrounding the fort, which lies in a heavy industrial area, deposited dirt films on exposed surfaces that required extra hours of laborious work to wipe clean and re-grease and then complete the servicing.

The immediate construction of a permanent building to house the Preparation Unit was begun, but it was soon decided that this would not provide enough room to handle the thousands of vehicles that were being shipped to the depot monthly; so plans for the acquisition of larger quarters were undertaken.

### Col. Hare Takes Command

Col. Ray M. Hare, in charge of contract distribution in the office of the Under Secretary of War, took command of Fort Wayne, June 1, 1942, upon retirement of Col. Edward E. Bessey, post commandant since it was established as a supply depot.

The first wood body Army cargo truck arrived at the post the same day and the battle to mould the growing depot to meet the increasing requirements of the war effort went on. There was the problem of rapidly piling export materials and civilian personnel turnover.

The OQMG (Office of the Quartermaster General – ed.), on June 14, directed that Fort Wayne handle all fiscal activities in connection with motor supplies, equipment, gasoline and oil for the Fifth and Sixth Service Commands, then Corps Areas. Approximately \$250,000,000 was to be spent for maintenance and \$20,000,000 for gasoline and oil.

On June 23, Brig. Gen. J. L. Frink, Chief, QM Transport Service, inspected Army motor transport activities in the Detroit area, including Fort Wayne, the Bhul and the motor pools of Ford and General Motors at Dearborn and Pontiac.

### Gen. Sommervell Visits Post

July 4 saw the visit of Lt. Gen. Brehon Somervell, Command General, SOS, to the area. Accompanied by Colonel Hare, Fort Wayne Commanding Officer, he toured the bigger munitions plants and at the conclusion of the trip said:

“Fort Wayne did much to make my trip to Detroit a success. I hope that the permanent results will justify your efforts.”

A vast increase in the number of female employees brought on the employment of Mrs. Gene W. Bowen as “Women’s Supervisor” to aid the chiefs in solving the (prob)lems.

Brig-Gen. John K. Christmas, Chief of the Tank and Combat Vehicle division of the Ordnance Department, visited the post July 23 and on the same day 700 requisitions cleared the requisition register to set a new record.

Join us in the next Fort Journal for the next installment of the Army’s look back at its first 100 years a Fort Wayne!



Keith Kushnir helps at a workday in early 2007.

Photo by Dave Jamroz.

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“Fort Wayne did much to make my trip to Detroit a success. I hope that the permanent results will justify your efforts.”

Lt. Gen. Sommervell  
July 4, 1942

## Historic Fort Wayne Coalition

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

**[www.historicfortwa  
ynecoalition.com](http://www.historicfortwa<br/>ynecoalition.com)**

## Welcome New Members!

The fact that it's been July since we've had a newsletter and since we've had several members working hard to reach out to new groups of people interested in the Fort means we have a LOT of new members to welcome. We're glad you share our vision of restoring Fort Wayne for future generations and promoting it to our generation. We look forward to getting to know you.

Wayne Miracle, Mike Rozny, Mark Rozny, Carol Messer, Mason Ferry, William Richardson, David DeGraaf, Ann Winger, Mike Bell, Laurie Coplin, Mertru Rozny, Shirley Hartert, Diane Sharrow,

Jim, McGraw, Lous Tislar, Mike Frazho, Gary Mark, Karen Mark, Brian Mark, Rick Beretzky, Karen Sroka, Jaclyn Sroka, Stephen Sroka, Erin Sroka, Charles Sroka, Ann Warren, William Wall, Joseph Rebandt, Dale Jones, Joyce Jones, Brittney Jones, Anthony Jones, Elizabeth London, Kelsey Fry, Brandon Jones, Kim Cormier, Joshua Kozmer, Brian Dixon, Jason Media, Bonnie Trottier, Nick Trottier, Chelsea Trottier, Brittany Trottier, Kenneth Collier, Cynthia Jett, Peter Jett, Jr., Glen Larson, Allison Warren, Todd Gerring, Peter Jett, Sr., Michael Meredith, James Warren,

### *From The Temporary Editor.....*

Greetings! I'm sorry to report that Mathew Asher has had one of the hardest years of any of us. It's been full to trials both in health and in the family business. I talked to Matt last week and it seems they may be turning a corner.

In the meantime, the show must go on. I'm stepping in for this one newsletter, and hopefully not for too many more.

Still, there is lots of good news as we wrap up another year and we want to celebrate it as a group before we dive into an exciting 2008.

Happy Holidays! - Will