

Mr. Carter:

We are working out plans for a tour by the car (with no obligation or expense to the Foundation) through all this territory.

The plan is outlined in the attached. However, I am asking for a letter signed by the proper officials to safeguard the Foundation, the paper and you against any costs, etc.

I believe that you are familiar with the plan and have approved it.

We can get a big play in the small towns, I am sure.

JRR

FROM:

Walter C. Wolff, Chairman
Merci Car Committee
San Antonio, Texas

May 9, 1949

Mr. James R. Record:

It is the concensus of the Merci Car Committee that the Amon G. Carter Foundation should have permanent custody of the Texas Merci Car, but there are a few things which we feel should be arranged for, if at all possible, before making final disposition of the car.

There are between 50 and 75 Texas cities and towns which had some part in the Friendship Train movement. The majority of them have requested of our committee that they be given a chance to see the car and gifts.

We have no funds nor facilities with which to make such a tour but feel that it would be a great service to the thousands of Texans who appreciated the fine spirit expressed by the French "Gratitude Gifts."

It is our understanding that a number of concerns have indicated that they would be glad to co-operate in making a traveling exhibit of the French boxcar and taking it on such a tour, without expense to the Foundation. If such a service can be rendered to the many who have requested that we make it possible for them to see the car and gifts, then our committee will feel that it has fulfilled its duties.

After the tour is completed we would appreciate having the car and the exhibit of gifts displayed at the state convention of the American Legion to be held at Fort Worth, Aug. 4-7. We would give permanent custody of the car to the Foundation before the tour was made, with a formal presentation of the car to be made, if you so desired, at the annual Promenade of the Grand Voiture of Texas, Forty and Eight, to be held at Fort Worth on Aug. 5.

We also understand that it would be agreeable with the Foundation for the Forty and Eight or its designated bodies, such as the American Legion or other service organizations, to use the car on proper occasions held within the state in the future, provided that such bodies bear the expense of moving the car to the designated place and returning it to the permanent house for it at Fort Worth.

As you will recall, when we granted temporary custody of the car to the Foundation, you said that the possibilities of such a tour would be explored. We understand that this has been done and that such a tour is practical and can be conducted without expense to the Foundation. We have stressed this for the reason that another group is interested and has been applying considerable pressure to get the car. However, we feel that the car should rightfully go to the Amon G. Carter Foundation, and if this tour can be made we can act immediately in awarding it to the Foundation.

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