



President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



As the year nears its end I am happy to report that your Society is financially healthy and actively involved with assisting the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

Earlier in the year I mentioned that the Board of Directors had authorized a \$2,700 donation to the Mechanized Museum for the restoration of two World War II era ambulances. After further review of the need and our own financial condition, the Board subsequently authorized a significantly larger gift. In July we purchased \$4,485.50 worth of spare parts that we then donated to the Marine Corps for use by the Mechanized Museum in the restoration of the two ambulances.

A longer-term benefit from the donation to the Mechanized Museum was to establish a procedure by which CPHS can make similar cash or in kind donations to the Marine Corps. It is surprising to some to learn that while the government is very efficient in collecting taxes, it is far less adept in accepting charity. There are, of course, good reasons for this, but the bureaucratic gymnastics required to donate money to the government can be daunting. By working with the Marine Corps to complete this transaction, we have established a procedure that will help both sides during future donations.

I am very happy to report that our 2009 fund raising event, the Las Flores Hoedown, was a great success. You can read more about it elsewhere in this newsletter. Our net profit of over \$5,400 was an excellent result in light of the difficult economic conditions. I thank all who worked to make the event so successful, particularly Howard Blair, who chaired the Hoedown committee for the second year.

Maj.Gen. Michael Lehnert relinquished command of Marine Corps Installations West in September and retired from active

Continued page 4, Message

Hoedown at Las Flores - 2009

Once again the Camp Pendleton Historical Society held its annual fund raiser at the Las Flores Adobe on August 29, 2009. As last year, the theme was again a Western hoedown. We had close to ninety people attend the event, which shows great support in these economic times and when the temperature was flirting with a 95 degree day.

The function started at 2:00 pm that afternoon. The Board decided to have the function in the afternoon this year as some members did not come last year as they don't like to drive at night. Having it in the afternoon eliminates the need for portable light towers, which is quite a hassle to get delivered, set up, and have hauled away.

When the attendees arrived, they could enjoy a cool drink from the bar and listen to a great group of Mariachis as they socialized. They could also begin to look at the many interesting items that were displayed for the silent auction.



Master Gunnery Sergeant Jim King brought in two trucks from the Mechanized Museum which provided transportation for attendees to ride up to see the Estancia ruins, which was about one quarter mile from Las Flores. The experience riding

in the truck brought back many memories from veterans at the function as they recalled the hours riding in similar vehicles during their time in the service. Getting on and off the truck proved to be a challenge as a latter was provided. No one could jump in and out of the truck as they used to do years ago. You can see a group ready to go on the bumpy ride up the hill to the ruins. As it was a clear day, the view from the ruins was spectacular.



Continued page 2, Hoedown

Hoedown at Las Flores - 2009

A local restaurant from Escondido provided the food and the beverage. Everyone seemed to enjoy the "Mexican Style BBQ." The buffet was set up for one hundred people and not much was left after the first time through the buffet line.



You will notice that due to the afternoon temperature that the committee set up canopies that covered the tables which provided some shade. Just before dinner the silent auction was closed and winners announced. There were also several raffle prizes given and it seemed that almost everyone won something.

During dinner the group was entertained by a Disc Jockey that played everyone's favorite Western music. Not only was the music enjoyable, but some of the committee used his public address system to make the welcome address and announce the winners of the prizes.



You will notice to that the DJ was set up near the eating area, in the shade of a large pine tree. And as the event wore down, there are always a few brave individuals who will show their stuff in Western Line dancing. Even if you didn't know the moves, the DJ called them out to help you along.

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society would like to express their appreciation to the members and friends who were sponsors. We would also like to thank those who attended the event, and who donated their time and money for the Hoedown.



The fund raiser was successful, and we are one step further to completing the renovation of the historic Las Flores Adobe.

Historic Old Bell Again Rings, Thanks to Santa Fe Railroad

(Reprinted from the Supplement to Oceanside Daily Blade-Tribune, October 25, 1943)

"A typical railroad town" was the designation applied to Oceanside in 1888. Oceanside is on the main line of the Santa Fe Railway, and there was a time, in those early days, when the railroad found it profitable to run excursion picnic trains here from many Southern California points.



The first train to reach Oceanside arrived over the old California Southern Railway in 1881. After 1885 this line became part of the Santa Fe system. At the present time, Oceanside is keenly interested in the development of rail service to Camp Pendleton, hugs U.S. Marine Corps base.

Additional facilities are now under construction to provide the base with better service and facilitate the movement of vital wartime materials.

A siding will be provided to accommodate long freight trains and a "Y" track will permit trains to move from north or south direct to Camp Pendleton. Grading for these important rail facilities has been completed and Santa Fe engineer's estimate that the tracks will be in service late this year.

Recently an impressive ceremony took place which aptly described the interest Santa Fe officials are taking in the camp. Dedicated as a symbol of peace for which Marines and all America's armed forces are fighting, a 115-year-old California Mission bell was returned to the camp. The bell, in possession of the Santa Fe Railway since 1887, was presented to Camp Pendleton by E. E. McCarty, general manager of the railroad's Coast Lines.

The old bell originally hung at Mission Las Flores, ruins of which are on the Marine base. The bell was cast in 1828, brought around the Horn aboard a Yankee ship and was placed at Las Flores by the padres at Mission San Luis Rey.

Historical Happenings Fourth Quarter

October 9, 1950	Invasion on North Korea
October 12, 2000	Bombing of USS Cole
October 13, 1775	U.S. Navy Established
November 8, 1950	First All-Jet combat in History
November 10, 1775	U. S., Marine Corps Established
November 11, 1918	Signing of WWI Armistice
December 16, 1944	Battle of the Bulge Began
December 20, 1989	Operation Just Cause
December 24, 1964	USAF Began Strikes on Laos
December 31, 1946	Official End of WWII

INVASION ON NORTH KOREA

Two individuals who attended the Hoedown at Las Flores this year are members of the Chosin Few (D. K. Davidson and Jack Stites) so I thought as this quarter in history was the invasion of North Korea we should remember the Marines who fought there.

The following is taken from the Santa Margarita Y Las Flores Gazette, published in October, 2009:

Lieutenant General Lemuel Shepherd returning from Korea stated Marines did not retreat, were not trapped at Chosin Reservoir. "They conducted an orderly move from exposed positions to a more secure area near Hamburg." The General also states the Division was aware when they began the advance into the Chosin area that guerrilla forces might cut their supply lines and prepared for such action by assembling a heavy stock of supplies in forward dumps and preparing for delivery of needed material by air. When ordered to move 75 miles southward, the First Division launched a series of deadly attacks, routing six Chinese Divisions, driving through snow and sub zero weather to arrive at their objective with their equipment and supplies in tact.

(Excerpts from the History and Museum Division Archives, contributed by Elmer Anderson.)

1989 OPERATION JUST CAUSE

This conflict in Panama began escalating when Dictator General Manuel Noreiga came to power. During his reign he broke international treaties, allegedly supported drug trafficking, and declared war on the United States.

He openly encouraged attacks on Americans, and when a Marine was killed by Panamanian forces, the United States decided Noriega would no longer be tolerated.

The United States launched Operation Just Cause with the goal of deposing the dictator and returning order to Panama. The Marine Corps Security Force, infantry, and a Fleet Antiterrorism Security Team played a critical role in the short but complex operation. Within just two weeks they had achieved success. Noriega surrendered and the people of Panama began to restore their nation.

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Continued front page, Message

duty. He and his wife, Denise, have been strong supporters of CPHS. We will miss them. Happily, Maj.Gen. Lehnert has agreed to join the CPHS Council of Advisors. So, we wish them both farewell and good fortune in their new life and welcome aboard.

CPHS has partnered with San Clemente historical groups to support a showing of historic World War II photographs. The exhibit will be in the beautiful and historic Casa Romantica on the cliffs overlooking the San Clemente pier. We are planning an outing to San Clemente for members during the first half of 2010 to see the exhibit, Casa Romantica, and other San Clemente historic sites. I hope that many of you will join us.

I wish all a happy holiday season and extend my thanks for your continued support. Without it we cannot succeed. As you approach the end of the year, should you find an additional tax deduction helpful, keep in mind that CPHS is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation and that donations are considered charitable contributions for income tax purposes.

Richard B. Lathwell

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Ever Wonder Why?

Ever wonder why so many Marines volunteer for second and third deployments to overseas conflict areas? Ever wonder why the Marines have such a reputation for being a fierce fighting force? Some of the reason is because of their training, some may be because of their love for their country, but the overriding reason is because of the bond and respect for their fellow Marines. Yes, there is a bond among friends, and a bond among married couples, and a bond among family members. Nothing compares to the bond that Marines feel toward their fighting comrades. This feeling stays with you your whole life. The old saying, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine" is true because of the bond of each Marine, young or old, feels about the warriors he or she served. The bond also comes from upholding the Marine Corps' glorious history, and the pride that is felt from serving with such a dedicated group of individuals. Semper Fi.

Get on Board

One of the keys to building awareness of CPHS is networking with our friends. To help members become familiar with our story, we are offering two brochures for distribution. Please order your free copies by e-mail to hgblair@cox.net or phone 858-583-0067.

Stay Tuned

We invite our readers to contribute stories of their experiences aboard Camp Pendleton for publication in future issues. Humorous pieces would be particularly welcome. Please e-mail your 300 words or less to hgblair@cox.net, subject line "CPHS." Submissions may be subject to editing.



Preserving a Rich and Colorful History

www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org

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