



## President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



The board of directors participated in two recent events that will help increase the visibility of CPHS in the Marine Corps and civilian communities.

Following our regular quarterly board meeting on April 8, Brigadier General Edward D. Banta, commanding general Marine Corps Installations West/Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Mrs. Banta, and several members of the general staff joined us for lunch at the Camp Pendleton Memorial Golf Course. It was an opportunity to introduce them to our board and to discuss ways in which CPHS can help the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

The board will continue to introduce ourselves to different commands aboard the Base. Our next meeting will be at Camp Telega in the very northern reaches of Camp Pendleton. It is a historically interesting section of the Base in that it was not part of the original property that the Marines purchased in 1942. In their zeal to prepare for war, the Marines mistakenly began to build facilities on privately owned land. By the time they realized their mistake it was too late; war training could not be delayed. After World War II the Marine Corps compensated the owners for the unintended error by deeding them a similar parcel, and Camp Telaga became a true part of Camp Pendleton.

On April 25 Judith Burns and her family hosted a fundraising event in Temecula for CPHS. It was an excellent opportunity to acquaint citizens of that city with our society. I appreciate Judith's interest in our society and thank her for her good work on our behalf.

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## Camp Pendleton's Historical Collections

by Faye Jonason, Museum Officer, Camp Pendleton History Museum Branch

If someone told you to preserve and interpret the history of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, what would your collections encompass? Would protecting and opening the historic Ranch House and Las Flores Adobe for tours be enough? Should the collections focus on California history, or the Marine Corps history of the rancho turned Base?

The adobe structures at the Ranch House and Las Flores comprised all the "collectibles" the Marine Corps owned on Camp Pendleton when the Base was purchased for about 4.25 million dollars in 1942. But President Roosevelt knew it was not enough to show visitors the empty adobes when he told MajGen. Fegan to fill the Santa Margarita Ranch House with antiques and to share the rancho's history with visitors.

The antique furnishings MajGen. Fegan purchased to fulfill his commander in chief's directive became the first pieces to be added to the Camp Pendleton artifact collection. MajGen. Fegan went on to renovate and dedicate the old blacksmith shop building into the Ranch House Chapel. He had remarkably beautiful stained glass windows installed using donations from the original rancho families: the O'Neills, Floods, Picos, Forsters, and Baumgartners. The windows cost \$250 apiece in the 1940s when he purchased them; in 2010 it cost \$6,000 to replace one window.

In the 1970s the Bunk House Museum at the Ranch House was dedicated by MajGen. Hoffman and Col. James Roosevelt, USMC (Ret), which resulted in new donations to the collections. The families gave branding irons, original furnishings, rifles, paintings, photographs, and tools from the old rancho. The Baumgartner family returned the Ranch House bell, completing the unique original entrance of the adobe. Others who valued the rancho for its significance as one of the important cattle ranches in California donated silver saddles, blacksmithing tools, and other ranching gear to help interpret the history of an earlier time in America's Western development to children and other visitors.

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Oceanside Daily Tribune article, "President Dedicates Camp," October 1, 1942, courtesy Oceanside Chamber of Commerce.

## Continued front page, Collections

Over the years, Camp Pendleton trained its Marines and sent them off to wars and humanitarian missions around the world, and these actions cultivated another unique collection of artifacts, documents, photographs, maps, and memorabilia for the Base History Museum Office. An example of a rare photograph from this part of the collections is shown here.



Photo, China Marines basketball team c. 1930, courtesy Master Tech Sergeant Harry J. Schmitt collection.

Much of the Base's history, from the 1940s through the 1970s, was recorded on postcards which today help to identify equipment, locations, structures, and training methods previously utilized. Items pertinent to Camp Pendleton's military history were collected and turned over to the History Museum Office, such as the cover for SSgt. Reckless's foal, Pvt. Dauntless, or actor Anthony Quinn's donation of John Barrymore's collection of religious relics for the chapel, or the painting on leather of Camp Pendleton's history given to MajGen. Munn upon his retirement. Col. Charles Waterhouse's unique acrylics on Masonite depicting the 1975 transformation of the Marine Base into camps for Southeast Asian refugees were also donated to the Base.

In 1996, the Camp Pendleton Archives was informally established in the History Museum Office to study and care for the many graphic mementos of its past. More than 5,000 military photographs have been catalogued. MajGen. Fegan's original "flimsies," or carbon copies of correspondence, were discovered and preserved. In 1997, a map discovered in the Marine Corps Archives at the Washington Navy Yard, which combined both 1943 and 1944 versions of Camp Pendleton's training areas and ranges, became an important and revealing historic link to Camp Pendleton's past and was added to the Base archives.

The first oral history added to the Base archives was that of San Franciscan and O'Neill descendant John Peter Baumgartner, recorded in April 1996, relating his childhood summers on the rancho. The Marine Corps' marking of the

50th anniversary of the Korean War enabled the addition of equipment to record the stories of Korean War Marines.

Later, reunions of World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War veteran Marines resulted in their donation of more than 50 oral histories, as well as the period uniforms, weapons, and accoutrements they had used. The valuable oral histories help flesh out accounts from garrison life to combat, bringing them to vivid reality by adding faces and personal experiences to textbook reports.

In honor of the 60th anniversary of Camp Pendleton, MajGen. Bowden officially opened and dedicated the Marine Corps Mechanized Museum in 2002, featuring the first nine vehicles collected. With the work of volunteers who restore vintage vehicles for display, the Mechanized Museum today boasts the world's largest collection of United States Marine Corps vehicles, including the popular Self-Propelled M50 Ontos as well as the recent gift from the Camp Pendleton Historical Society, the M29 Weasel tracked vehicle.



M29 Weasel tracked vehicle, currently on exhibit through June 2015 at the San Diego Automotive Museum in Balboa Park. (Photo courtesy Ron Jonason Photography)

The Camp Pendleton History Museum Branch collections span the history of the land from the days of early explorers to present-day Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, but the museum has not collected everything. The question remains, if given the task, what would you collect?

*Tours of the Ranch House Complex are available by appointment only with the Base Museum and History Office for the 1st Tuesday, 2nd Wednesday and 3rd Thursday of the month, from September to June 1st. Requests for tours should be sent by email to [MCBCAMPEN\\_history@usmc.mil](mailto:MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil); or by fax Attn: History & Museums at (760) 725-5727. Tours may also be booked by calling the History & Museums office at (760) 725-5758.*

## Continued front page, Message

Mark Saturday, October 17, on your calendars. That is the date for our 2015 Annual Fundraiser. We will hold it in the beautiful and historic Camp Pendleton Ranch House. There will be music, food, docent led tours, and much more. Additional information will follow. I hope to see you there.

I will close again by thanking you for your support and wishing you and your families a fun filled summer.

*Richard B. Rathwell*

# Temecula Fundraiser



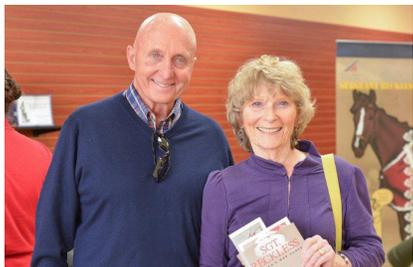
Author Robin Hutton (L) and Lynn Mattocks (R) with Judith Burns' granddaughter, Amelia, holding her copy of a signed Sgt. Reckless book at the CPHS fundraiser at Jefferson Creek Plaza in Temecula, CA on April 25. Lynn Mattocks was Sgt. Reckless's handler in 1958, and led her in numerous parades and ceremonial events that year.



Judith Burns (2nd from left) talks with family and event supporters during the CPHS fundraiser.



CPHS board member, Greg Goodman, looking at the details of a tank model, handcrafted by the late John Burns, which was available for sale at the CPHS Fundraiser at the Jefferson Creek Plaza in Temecula.



CPHS board member, Dal Williams, and wife, Christina, with their signed copy of *Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse*.

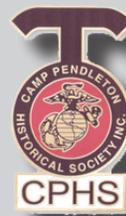
A CPHS fundraiser was hosted on April 25 at the Jefferson Creek Plaza in Temecula, CA. The fundraiser featured sale of items from the John J. Burns military collection. The private collection consisted of art, military uniforms, weapons, and books.

John, who passed away almost five years ago, had devoted much of his life to the art and history of the military. He built and hand painted military miniatures. The fundraiser event was coordinated with his wife, Judith Burns; and 100% of the proceeds realized from the event was donated to CPHS. In addition to the sale, author Robin Hutton was in attendance signing copies of her book, *Sgt. Reckless: America's War Horse*. Live entertainment was provided by Hannah Mills. Food donations were provided by Annie's Café and Filippi's Pizza Grotto, both located at 27313 Jefferson Ave. in Temecula.

The event was a nice opportunity for CPHS members, supporters, and individuals from the community to get together that day. A special thanks to Judith Burns for supplying the venue and for sharing her late husband's passion and collection with those who attended. Thanks to Jerry Polyascko for helping bring everything together. Thanks to CPHS member LtCol. Bob Turley, USMC (Ret), for transporting the M20 recoilless rifle to the exhibit and to all CPHS members who attended and assisted with the event.

At the end of the fundraiser CPHS realized \$300 in donations, with another \$1,500 pending. For those who did not have an opportunity to participate or may know anyone interested in military collectibles, Judith plans on selling the remaining items on eBay, with the proceeds of the sales going to CPHS.

Thanks to Deb Helman for these photos taken at the Temecula fundraiser.



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# Temecula Fundraiser



Author Robin Hutton (R) and Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores docent Diane Brooks pose for a photo by the M20 recoilless rifle exhibit at the fundraiser on April 25.



Musician Hannah Mills created a great atmosphere with her exceptional musical talent at the CPHS Fundraiser at the Jefferson Creek Plaza in Temecula, CA.

*More photos and story, page 3*

## MEMBERSHIP NEWS

The following CPHS members have renewed their memberships this year, in the month indicated. Many thanks to these loyal members for their faithful support of our efforts to tell the Camp Pendleton story.

We extend a special welcome to the following new regular members who have recently joined our cause.

### JANUARY

Greg Goodman  
Bo Hellman  
Mike Lewis  
Dal Williams

### FEBRUARY

Cal Frantz - Commander's Circle  
Robert Melbourne  
Betty Toth

### MARCH

Norman Haven  
Wyatt and Susan Hart  
Ronald McCarville  
Robert and Gudrun Warrick

### MARCH

Thomas Morton

### APRIL

SgtMaj Scott Helms, USMC

### MAY

Ted Wayne  
Benjamin Spaulding - Commander's Circle

### APRIL

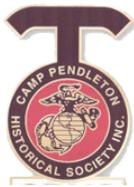
Joseph and Catherine O'Brien

### MAY

The Heritage of San Clemente Foundation

### JUNE

Kim Fox  
Martin O'Connor



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*Camp Pendleton Historical Society  
...preserving a rich and colorful history*