



GROUNDBREAKER*

First Quarter 2007

Volume 1 Number 1

President's Message



Richard Rothwell

I am pleased to introduce our first issue of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society's quarterly newsletter, aptly named

The Groundbreaker. For that's what we intend to do. Break new ground in establishing an organization that serves the Marines and the community at large.

CPHS is dedicated to supporting Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton historical programs including significant sites and museums. Fund raising is an important part of that task. We are also committed to raising public awareness of the historical, cultural and architectural significance of the Base today.

The Marine Corps has long been a proponent of historical preservation. Unfortunately, federal funding is far below what is needed to preserve and exhibit almost 240 years of history not to mention pre-history. That is where CPHS comes in.

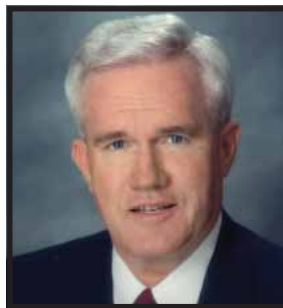
Every non-profit organization needs time, talent and treasure to succeed. We are fortunate that our founding members have an abundance of time and talent to seek the treasure it takes to sustain such an organization. There is much to do and a long way to go, but it promises to be an exciting and fulfilling journey. Welcome aboard.

Richard B. Rothwell

Introducing the CPHS Founders

All three founding officers are retired Marine colonels who have served at Camp Pendleton. Their collective resumes would fill a book let alone a newsletter. Here we offer a brief introduction to their life stories.

Dick Rothwell, President, was born in Olongapo, Philippine Islands, to a Marine family. A graduate of Annapolis, Dick also holds a masters degree and is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. Like his father before him, Dick commanded the 5th Marine Regiment at Camp Pendleton. After completing twenty-nine years service with the USMC, Dick started another career with San Diego Gas & Electric and Sempra Energy managing their legal administration department. He is currently on the board of Pacific Marine Credit Union. Dick and wife, Ann, herself the daughter of a Navy captain, reside in Escondido. The couple has two children and is active in preserving historic Escondido.



Jim Williams

Vice President, Jim Williams, a native son of Minnesota, made his first career in the Marine Corps. He distinguished himself during the Viet Nam War, and was awarded two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. He currently consults for some of the descendents of the families who lived on the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. As an infantry officer and a member of the Portola Riders Club, Jim has explored much of the Camp Pendleton terrain on foot and horseback. He has been active in the Boys & Girls Clubs of San Juan Capistrano. Jim and wife, Cindy, live in Oceanside and have four adult children.



Joe Kirkpatrick

Financial Officer, Joe Kirkpatrick, is an enrolled agent practicing with a CPA firm in Vista, California. He joined the Marine Corps Reserve while still in high school, and in 1956, entered the U.S. Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. Following graduation, his principal assignments were in the combat engineering and financial management fields. During the last of his three tours at Camp Pendleton, he was base comptroller. Joe holds an MBA, Finance, from the University of Hawaii, and two awards of the Legion of Merit. Gospel music has always been a part of his life and he is active in the music ministry of his church. Joe and his wife, Jannell, are the parents of two adult sons.

Founding Families of the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores

The Pico family, Pio, brothers Andres and Antonio, and sister Ysidora by her marriage to Don Juan Forster, were instrumental in developing the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores into a working cattle ranch. The Picos were Mexican citizens who were awarded land grants by the Mexican government after the Mission lands were secularized. The northwest rooms of the Ranch House, where the adobe is the thickest were built by the Picos circa 1841.

Pio Pico was the last Mexican governor before the Americans took over what was then called Alta (upper) California. Andres Pico was a captain in the Mexican army that fought the Americans for California. He later became a state senator and was appointed

General of the California National Guard by the American governor.

Even if they are unfamiliar with the history of the Picos, many Californians are familiar with the



Interior Courtyard of Ranch House

name—Pico Boulevard crosses Los Angeles, from Downtown to Santa Monica. Built in 1869, Pico House, across from Olvera Street and El Pueblo de Los Angeles, was the first hotel built in Los Angeles. Many other cities have streets or boulevards named

Pico. In fact, Pio and Andres Pico lived most of their lives in Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley, while employing brother, Antonio, to manage the Rancho. The brothers were great gamblers and in constant debt, mortgaging their vast lands at double-digit interest rates. Understandably, as Mexican citizens, the family did not speak, read or write English. That ultimately contributed to Pio and Andres losing control of the Rancho land to Don Juan Forster, a native of England.

Today, descendants of these founding families serve on the Board of Directors and Council of Advisors for the Camp Pendleton Historical Society.

Source: Pico vs. Forster, by Paul Bryan Gray (Spokane: The Arthur H. Clark Company, 1998).

Marching Forward

Our next issue will feature an interview with Maj. Gen. Michael Lehnert, Commanding General of Marine Corps Installations West. Gen. Lehnert and his wife, Denise, reside in the historic Ranch House. We will be asking the General to share his impressions of the hacienda and some of the history associated with it. We'll be particularly interested in whether either he or Ms. Lehnert have encountered the ghost said to appear in Dona Ysidora's bedroom.

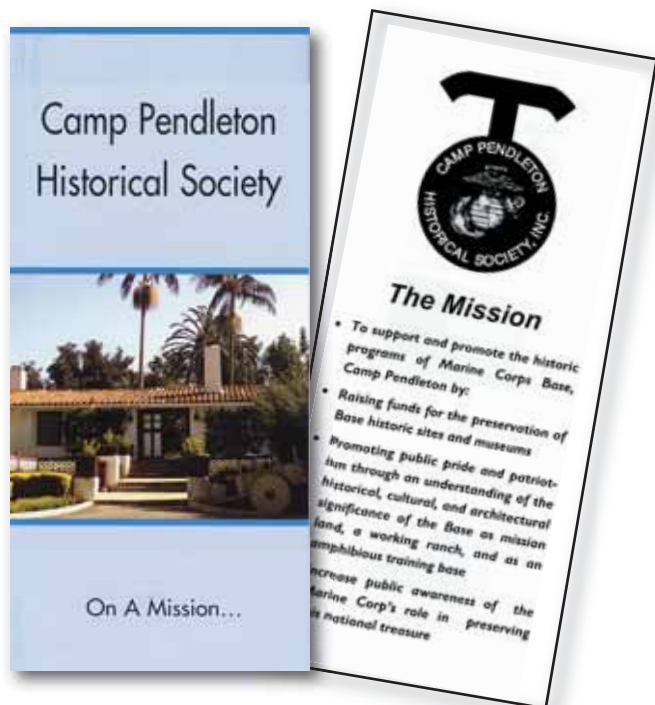
Check Out Our Website

www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org.

Lt. Col. Jerry Broeckert, USMC (Ret) another of our hard-working volunteers, has done a great job pulling together a first class site. Before returning to his native Minnesota, Jerry was Executive Director of the Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego Historical Society.

Friends Network Friends

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 Howard Blair at hgblair@cox.net, or phone 760-579-0167.



Joining our officers on the Board of Directors are:

Linda F. Holmes, Secretary
Howard G. Blair, Director of Marketing
Anne Pedley Estes, Dir. of Development
Col. Steve Fisher, USMC (Ret.)
Robert "Taffy" Stauss
Lt. Col. Thomas Vetter, USMC (Ret.)

Council of Advisors

A distinguished group of advisors is helping to guide us as we grow. We are pleased to acknowledge their support.

Lt. Gen. M. T. Cooper, USMC (Ret.)
Thomas A. Forster
L. Patrick Forster
Anthony G. Joseph
Maj. Gen. J. J. McMonagle, USMC (Ret.)
Anthony Moiso
Maj. Gen. Wilbur Simlik, USMC (Ret.)

Charter Members

Welcome to our newest members. They join our growing organization and will enjoy the special privileges of Charter Members. Please visit our website for a description of membership categories. Charter members through January, 2007, are:

Patron (\$5000 or higher)

Anthony B. Joseph
San Juan Company, LLC

Sponsor (\$1000 to \$4999)

Hawthorne Machinery Co.
Col. Richard B. Rothwell, USMC (Ret.)

General's Board (\$500 to \$999)

Howard G. Blair
Col. Joe J. Kirkpatrick, USMC (Ret.)

Commander's Circle (250 - \$499)

Major Calvin C. Frantz, USMC (Ret.)
Dan Hapke, Esq.

Ranchero (\$100 to \$249)

Glen A. Barton
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Vaquero (\$50 to \$99)

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Lt. Col. Bill Evans, USAF (Ret.)
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Dr. Michael O'Bric
John D. Tanner, Jr.
Col. Mary Sarnecky, USA (Ret.)
Capt. Robert Warren, USN (Ret.)
Capt. Thomas White, USMC (Ret.)
Gary C. Wilkins

Memoirs

We invite our readers to contribute stories of their experiences at Camp Pendleton for publication in future issues. Humorous pieces would be particularly welcome. Please e-mail your 300 words or less to anneestes@adelphia.net. Submissions may be subject to editing.

What's In A Name?

We are asking our readers to weigh in on the official name of the Camp Pendleton Historical Society newsletter. The editor selected a temporary name for the first issue. One of the ideas was Mail Call. Here are some of the other ideas, all beginning with "The": Banner, Dispatch, Navigator, and Review. Or Reflections might fit. You can submit your suggestions and votes to anneestes@adelphia.net

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