



President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



This has been a busy quarter. The lead story in this edition of the Groundbreaker tells of the grand opening of Images of War's End -- an exhibit of original Charles Waterhouse paintings and official

Marine Corps photographs memorializing one of the most uplifting events to have occurred on Camp Pendleton -- the arrival of Southeast Asian War refugees in their first step to a new life in the United States. CPHS was honored and pleased to sponsor the affair, which earned considerable press coverage throughout Southern California.

Another article describes our member trip to beautiful San Clemente. Thanks to Board member Wayne Eggleston, who made all the arrangements, we were able to visit a number of the town's historic buildings, enjoy a delicious lunch at the fabulous Casa Romantica, and view a very interesting exhibit of World War II photographs and memorabilia.

Several messages ago I mentioned that CPHS had donated over \$4,400 towards the restoration of two vintage military ambulances. I thought you might be interested in seeing the "before" and "afters." Hats off to Jim King and his skilled volunteers at the Camp Pendleton Mechanized Museum.



Work in progress



Mission complete

Continued page 4, Message

War's End, 35 Years Ago

It was 35 years ago April, 2010, that 16,000 refugees from Vietnam landed at Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton. They were the start of a large group of refugees that needed shelter, food, education and sponsorship to integrate into a new society that was very different from their former homeland. Marines and Sailors built a "tent city" at Camp Pendleton to help these people try and build a new life. By October of 1975, 36,000 refugees were based in eight tent cities on the Base. During this time, Col Charles Waterhouse did several painting on Acrylic depicting various phases of the life in the tent cities. These paintings were stored for several years on the Base and were in need of re-framing.

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society, working with the Base Historical Officer, donated money to have the pictures re-framed and ready for showing. On April 9, 2010 at 10:00 am, the "Images at War's End" opened at the Ranch House. The display shows various paintings by Col. Waterhouse and also photographs documenting the era of the Vietnamese tent city living. There were approximately fifty people who came to see the display and tour the Ranch House. Many of those present were Vietnamese who had lived in the camps and went on to make a successful living in this country. Also present were several Marines who assisted the individuals in the camps.



CPHS President Richard Rothwell (*above right*) welcomed the group and talked about the difficult times for the refugees and the sacrifices they made leaving their country and seeking a new life in a free society. He also discussed the many hours of work that was done by the Marines and Sailors who helped with the refugees and many hours that were spent trying to educate these brave individuals into our society.

The picture to the right, *The New Coat*, is one of the paintings by Col. Waterhouse on display at The Ranch House.

The display will be at the Ranch House until September 30, 2010. For reservations for a tour and viewing, contact Sgt Boston at 760-725-5758.



CPHS Members visit San Clemente

At 10:00 am on Monday, April 4, 2010, CPHS members gathered at the Bowl Pier parking lot to start a day of visiting interesting places in San Clemente. Wayne Eggleston, CPHS Board member and San Clemente resident, organized and hosted the visit. From the parking lot, the group walked up to Park Semper Fi and Wayne explained to the group about how the park was started and other interesting details about the park and the Marine model who posed for the statue. For more information about the park, visit our website and go to the Groundbreaker, second quarter



2008. There is an article on Park Semper Fi. After visiting the park, the group walked down to the San Clemente pier. Wayne Eggleston was joined by member Bob Carrick in talking about the history of the pier and how it played a central role in the fishing industry in early San Clemente.

The visit continued with a car caravan through San Clemente to the famous old 73-year-old Casino. This



building at one time was the center of the social life in southern California. It is being restored and will once again hold shows, dances and major entertainment. Even though it was somewhat cold and windy, members enjoyed the visit. Across the street from the Casino was the Ole Hanson Beach Club. This building was built in 1928, just three years after the city was founded. It was offered as a benefit to anyone who

purchased a lot from Ole Hanson in those early days. It was also used for the Olympic swimming trials for the 1933 Olympics. It has been refurbished and now is open to the public for swimming lessons and workouts.

From the Beach House, the group drove back toward the pier and parked at the Casa Romantica. Built in 1927 the original five-acre estate was home to Ole Hanson, his wife and their eight children. This beautiful home is listed on the National register of Historic Places and now is the San Clemente cultural center and gardens. After we received a warm welcome from the Casa Romantica staff, the group was divided into two groups for a tour of the residence. The Casa is built on a hill overlooking the ocean just north of the San Clemente pier.



After four years of living in the Casa, the Hanson's were evicted by the Bank and for years the property passed through a series of private owners. In 1989 the San Clemente City Redevelopment Agency purchased the property and saved the magnificent home from destruction. Thanks to contributions of many sponsors, donors, and grants the Casa is a thriving arts center.

After the tour, lunch was served in the main salon which was once the formal living room. This room features an atrium with the original frog fountain, an imported crystal chandelier and a dramatic high ceiling. You can see the group lunch in the picture to the right. After lunch,



Wayne Eggleston introduced President Richard Rothwell who thanked everyone for supporting CPHS and especially thanked Wayne for organizing and setting up the visit.

Continued page 3, San Clemente Visit

Obituary of Don Pio Pico

(Originally printed in the Los Angeles Times, Sep. 22, 1894)
(Taken from the January issue of the Santa Margarita Y Las Flores Gazette)



Don Pio Pico, the last governor of California during the Spanish regime, and one of the historical characters of the State, died at his residence, No. 136 West Fifteenth Street, yesterday morning, after a short illness, at the advanced age of 93 years.

Owing to his great age, Don Pio has not of late been able to get about to any great extent, but up to within the past few days has been able to take his daily constitutional in his buggy, and his phaeton and sorrel house were a familiar sight in that part of

the city where he has lived since he came in from his place out on the banks of the San Gabriel River. Don Pico was the courtly Spanish gentleman of the old school up to the last. While he was friendly to Americans, he never learned the English language, and always spoke through an interpreter in his conversations with them. He always commanded respect, and had many warm friends among the old-timers in this part of the State.

Don Pio was an extensive land-owner in former times, having acquired great possessions during his public career. Among his ranchos was that of Santa Margarita at San Juan Capistrano, an immense tract of land, including thousands of acres. He also had large holdings at San Fernando and other points, besides much property in this city. He built the Pico House, for years the leading hotel in the city, and made other valuable improvements. At the time of his death, however, he had virtually nothing, the last of his valuable property having been lost in the Cohn suit, which was only decided a few years ago. His decline seemed to date from that time, as he then appeared to lose hope. He retired to his little home out on the San Gabriel River, and there remained until some months ago, when he came into the city.

The funeral will take place Thursday morning 930 o'clock, when solemn high requiem mass will be celebrated at St. Vincent's Church.

San Clemente Visit (continued from page 2)

Before the group departed, there was one more display to view. The Casa Romantica has on display "Memories from World War II" which is a traveling exhibit, set up at the Casa. The display is divided into two sections with the Pacific Theater on one side of the courtyard, and the European Theater on the other side. Each display consists of original pictures of the war, many which have not been published, plus some uniforms and other war memorabilia. You can see in the picture on the left the flag raising on Iwo Jima, a corpsman's uniform and some other memories of the Pacific Theater. The display was done very well, each section taking up three large rooms, and well worth taking the time to drive to San Clemente to visit.



Comments from the members about the day were very positive and everyone had an enjoyable time. The sites were interesting and educational. Once again, thank you Wayne Eggleston for the time and effort spent in organizing the event.

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Continued front page, Message

Mark your calendars for Saturday, June 26. That is the date for our 3d annual fundraiser. I hope those in the local area will be able to join us. We will introduce you to another of the beautiful, historic properties on Camp Pendleton – the Santa Margarita y Las Flores Ranch House. If you have not seen it before, you will be in for a treat. If you have been there, I am sure that you will want to return.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. Because of it CPHS is able to help preserve and tell the history of this land we know today as Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton. It is a history worth preserving and its stories should be remembered.

Richard B. Rothwell

New Membership Level for Active Duty Military

Active duty military can now join the Camp Pendleton Historical Society for only \$35 a year. Visit the CPHS web site at www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org for more information or send your check with your name, rank, branch of service, street address or post office number, city, state, zip code, and email address to:
*Camp Pendleton Historical Society, Inc., Attn: Howard G. Blair,
10555 Meadow Glen Way East, Escondido, CA 92026*

Other member levels are:

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| Vaquero | \$ 50 donation |
| Ranchero | \$ 100 donation |
| Commander's Circel | \$ 250 donation |
| General's Board | \$ 500 donation |

Information on the different levels is also available on the Society web site.

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 Howard Blair at 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.

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