



President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



There have been changes to the CPHS Council of Advisors since my last report – three departures and two new members.

Retired Marine Lieutenant Generals Matthew T. Cooper and Anthony Lukeman and Major General Joseph J. McMonagle, all of whom have served on the Council since our early days, have departed the Council. They have been loyal and helpful supporters for many years and on behalf of the Board of Directors, I thank them for their service.

New Council members are retired Marine Corps General Officers: Major General Anthony L. Jackson and Brigadier General John W. Bullard Jr. Both are former commanding generals of Camp Pendleton and bring valuable perspectives and experiences that will help guide our future. The Board and I appreciate their interest and look forward to working with them.

The Reckless Monument project continues to progress. CPHS and our partner, Robin Hutton, have hired a general contractor to prepare detailed installation plans. I expect that task to be completed and forwarded to the Camp Pendleton staff in April 2016. Barring unforeseen impediments, we are looking towards a dedication date this summer.

Continued page 2, Message

Refurbishment of General Pendleton's cannon

By Mike Lewis



Pendleton cannon at the Ranch House, 1943. Photo courtesy of the CPEN Archives

During the Nicaraguan revolution of 1912, Colonel Joseph H. Pendleton deployed to Nicaragua and commanded the 1st Provisional Regiment, engaging in skirmishes at Masaya and the capture of Coyotepe Hill, leading to the defeat of the rebel stronghold. As a token of appreciation and gratitude, Colonel Pendleton received a cannon as a gift from the Nicaraguan government.

In 1943, Mary Fay Pendleton, widow of General Pendleton, presented the cannon as a gift to the Base to Major General Joseph C. Fegan, Commanding General, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. Since then, the cannon has been located in Cannon Court within the Ranch House complex.

In 1994, the Base History-Museum Branch requested refurbishment of the cannon, due to its deteriorating

Continued page 2, Cannon



Refurbished cannon, 1994. CPEN Archives



Disassembled cannon being refurbished by Ordnance Maintenance Co, 1st MLG, 2016.

Continued front page, Cannon

condition. The Marines of Ordnance Maintenance Company, 1st Maintenance Battalion, 1st Force Service Support Group, stepped up to the task at hand and expertly completed the cannon refurbishment.

Over the past 22 years, the cannon again became exceedingly weathered due to constant sun and rain exposure. In February 2016, the Base History-Museum Branch began exploring options to refurbish the cannon.

In the same month, Lieutenant Colonel Jim Towney, 1 Marine

Expeditionary Force Ordnance Officer, was contacted by the CPHS to determine if Ordnance Maintenance Company could once again conduct a refurbishment of the cannon. Major Glen Tedtaotao, Commanding Officer, Ordnance Maintenance Company and his Marines expressed an interest and willingness to take on the task.



Components of the disassembled cannon being refurbished by Ordnance Maintenance Company, 1st MLG, March 2016.

Continued front page, Message

Next year will mark the 75th birthday of Camp Pendleton. CPHS has partnered with TAE Productions to produce a 60-90 minute documentary commemorating that anniversary. The Rancho Mission Viejo Corporation, whose owners have been long-term supporters of CPHS, generously donated funding for the project.

TAE Productions will seek to show the documentary on public television and will sell it on DVDs through various commercial outlets. The documentary will focus primarily on

the post-1942 era, but will touch on earlier history as well. We believe that it will be a good showcase for Camp Pendleton and its role in our nation's history.

Dal Williams has left the Board. We thank Dal for his contributions and wish him well in his future endeavors.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. Camp Pendleton history covers thousands of years. Indians lived along its rivers for thousands of years before Spanish explorers arrived. It was once part

of Mission San Luis Rey. It was a thriving cattle ranch under the flags of Mexico and the United States. Today it serves as the world's largest amphibious training base.

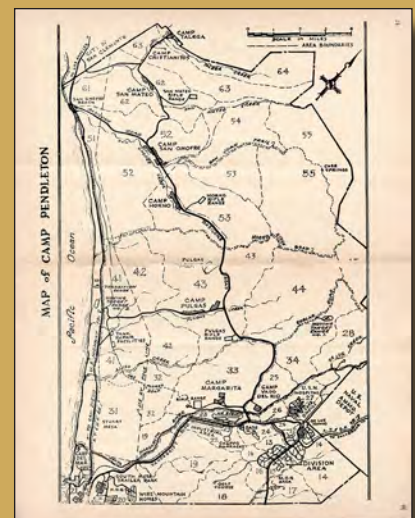
Camp Pendleton's long and varied history is unique in that the men and women who lived those stories would recognize large tracks of the Base if they could walk its hills and canyons once more. With your help, we will continue to keep their stories alive.

Richard B. Rothwell

Camp Pendleton Facts:

Did you know that the land area of Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton was purchased in 1942 for 4.2 million dollars? In April 1942, the initial contract to build the base was awarded to J. E. Haddock, Ltd (Pasadena, CA) and Engineers Limited (Los Angeles/San Francisco, CA) for 35 million dollars.

The Base currently encompasses 125,000 acres (195 square miles) and is larger than the cities of Carlsbad, Del Mar, Encinitas, Escondido, Oceanside, San Marcos, Solana Beach, and Vista combined (118,230 acres / 185 square miles).



Vintage Camp Pendleton Map.

Las Flores Tour with Doug Porter

Doug Porter, an expert on adobe restoration from the University of Vermont, provided CPHS members and their guests with a tour of the Las Flores Adobe on Saturday, Jan. 30. For over two hours, his educational and detailed talk and corresponding tour took us through the courtyard and interior rooms of the Las Flores Adobe.

Doug discussed intricate details of the overall site restoration plan which included seismic and structural stabilization of the ranch and carriage houses as well as numerous repair, reconstruction, and restoration work completed in the entirety of the Las Flores complex structures.

Since 2001, this ongoing project

has been a collaborative effort between the National Park Service, Camp Pendleton, and the University of Vermont. Camp Pendleton continues its commitment to the preservation of Las Flores Adobe with a proposed long-term budget for the restoration and maintenance of the property through 2021.

We're grateful that Doug took time out of his busy schedule to meet with our members and provide this talk and tour. Thanks also to Danielle Page, Base Environmental Security Department, for arranging this special tour for CPHS Members.



Doug Porter leading the tour of the Adobe.



Doug Porter explaining details of the window reconstruction.



Las Flores Adobe, 2016.



Doug Porter giving CPHS member an overview of the seismic and structural stabilization of the Adobe. Photos by Deb Hellman

Artifact Donation - Las Flores Adobe



Magee sofa in the Las Flores Adobe, 1967.

CPHS recently received a significant historic donation from Mr. James La Force in the form of a sofa that was used by the Magee family while they lived in the Las Flores Adobe.

On March 21, CPHS received the sofa donation, a Baroque revival style carved upholstered mahogany sofa with sculptural griffin arm stiles (Robert J. Horner & Company, New York, circa 1886)

and then temporarily loaned it to the Base History-Museum Branch for subsequent display at the Las Flores Adobe.

We were enthusiastic and very appreciative of the offer of donation by Mr. La Force, especially in light of the fact that this furniture was used by the Magee family in the Las Flores Adobe.

Work on the Mech Museum



Mechanized Museum, Building 2612, Camp Pendleton, 2016. Photo by Deb Hellman

A facility repair contract for Building 2612, Mechanized Museum, was awarded to Sygnos, Inc. (San Diego, CA) on 14 March 2016.

This news has been long awaited by the History-Museum Branch. An extensive amount of work on the exterior of the building will be undertaken at the Mech Museum.

Work is currently slated to begin on April 25 and should be completed by mid-September 2016.

A special thanks to the Base Facilities Maintenance and Public Works Departments in advocating for these much needed repairs and obtaining the necessary funding.



Dates engraved into wood siding of the Mech Museum.



The Pendleton Scout, January 1946.

Ranch House Wagon Project

The project is the restoration of a historic, horse-drawn wagon and its placement at the entrance to the Santa Margarita Ranch House property. The wagon is emblematic of Rancho Santa Margarita and serves to demonstrate the agrarian nature of the Rancho.

In May 1987, a covered wagon was donated to the Base by the Padre Junipero Serra Riders de Las Tortugas. Twenty-nine years of

exposure to the elements have taken its toll on the wagon.

Board Members Bill Parsons and Mike Lewis are consulting with local craftsmen to determine the ability to rebuild the wagon using salvageable parts or to purchase a new wagon that is representative of those used on the Rancho.



Covered wagon, 1987. Photo courtesy of the Camp Pendleton Archives

Flag Pole Project - Site of 1942 base dedication

On Sept. 25, 1942, President Roosevelt and Mary Fay Pendleton raised the flag and officially dedicated the Base, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. The location of where the flag was first raised is known but the flag pole does not exist.

The project scope includes installing a flag pole similar to the one that was there in 1942. Additionally, an appropriately-sized monument and etched panels will be incorporated

to reflect the flag raising and dedication activities.

We're in the beginning stages of project concept/design and consultation with the various Base agencies; as we progress, updates will be provided in the Groundbreaker and through our social media sites.

Base dedication flag pole, 1943. Photo by Maynard Parker. Courtesy of The Huntington Library



Bring on the Wrecking Ball



Former 11 Area General Officer Homes Being Demolished

The two former General Officer homes, located northeast of the 1st Marine Division Headquarters in the 11 Area, are being demolished.

The contractor had begun hazardous materials abatement work on April 6

with actual demolition of the first house (#1152) beginning on April 12. Though it is unfortunate to see these older structures being demolished, reportedly the expense to repair these homes was cost prohibitive.

There are many memories of and events held at those two homes,



Exterior and interior views of General Officer home #1154. Photos by Deb Hellman

occupied by numerous Marine Corps General Officers and Colonels from 1947 through 2013.

Oral History Program

CPHS is looking for volunteers to assist with and conduct interviews in support of the Oral History Program.

Soon we will begin coordination with the Base History-Museum Branch to receive training on how to properly conduct an oral history interview; audio and video recording equipment will be provided. In support of the upcoming 75th anniversary of the Base in 2017, we are planning to conduct oral history interviews over the next 14 months (May 2016 - June 2017).

Along with conducting oral histories, we need volunteers to transcribe the oral histories in order to have written text of each of the oral history interviews. All of the audio/video tapes and corresponding transcripts will then



Oral History interview, BGen John Groff, USMC; 1986.

be provided to the Base History-Museum Branch for permanent storage in the Base archives collection.

Though the focus for oral histories in the upcoming months will be on the working ranch, base construction, and initial occupation of the base by military personnel and civil service personnel, we will need volunteers to continue this oral history program past the

September 2017 celebration of the 75 year anniversary of the Base. The intent of the program is to interview various personnel who have worked in the Base agencies/ Staff over the past 75 years as well as conducting and/or assisting with conducting oral interviews with veterans and/or active duty personnel of the many military units that have called Camp Pendleton home since August 1942.

Writers Needed!

If you are interested in writing an article for the Groundbreaker, please contact us at cphs_info@yahoo.com. We're in need of authors to write historical articles for the period of 1769 through present day.



Board Member Positions Open

As approved by the Board of Directors at the March 2016 meeting, CPHS is currently accepting applications to fill three (3) positions on the Board of Directors. The three positions - Volunteer Coordinator, Outreach/Sponsorship Director, and Board Member at Large - are currently vacant. We are looking for motivated, energetic, and resourceful people to fill these key positions. Prior military service is not required.

These Board positions are non-compensated positions and do require an amount of your personal time to dedicate to planning/

coordinating/executing a varying degree of tasks and duties as well as attending regularly scheduled meetings (meeting frequency is bi-monthly).

Per the current CPHS By-Laws, terms of office for Board positions is up to three years.

Along with these three Board positions, we are in need of a qualified lawyer to provide legal counsel (without expectation of compensation) to the Board of Directors. Though our preference is for a former Marine Corps Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) familiar with or having worked on the Camp

Pendleton Staff, any qualified lawyer currently authorized to practice law in the State of California and a California State Bar member in good standing may apply.

If you are interested in applying for either an available Board Member or Legal Counsel position, please submit a 1-2 page summary of your work experience, specific skills (technical, artistic, etc.), reasoning for wanting to be part of the CPHS, and position desired; your document(s) should be submitted to the CPHS Secretary via email at cphs.secretary@gmail.com along with your contact information.

New Committees Formed

As of the January and March 2016 Board meetings, the Board of Directors has approved the formation of the following committees to support the planning, functioning, and operations of the CPHS:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Committee

Purpose: develop a MOU for review, approval, and signature between CPHS and MCB Camp Pendleton

2. Strategy Committee

Purpose: review previously developed strategies and goals; update the CPHS Strategic Plan

3. By-Laws Committee

Purpose: review the current CPHS By-laws, recommend changes

4. Board of Directors Vetting Committee

Purpose: review Board Member applications, conduct interview panels, and make recommendations to the President and Board of Directors as to nominees to fill vacant Board positions

Keep your eye out for ...



Beginning with this edition we will highlight some of the items that make up the history of Camp Pendleton that currently are not part of the Base's Archives collection that we would like to see become part of that collection. If you have or know someone that has items of historical significance to Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, please let us know.

We are looking for Camp Pendleton issued license plates from 1942 - 1950; if you have one to donate or

know someone who does, please contact us at cphs_info@yahoo.com.



Camp Pendleton license plate circa 1943. Photo courtesy of John Boal

Upcoming CPHS Events



Friday, April 29, 2016

The planned Member event for April at the renovated San Onofre Beach Club has been postponed to a future date (TBD). Alternatively, CPHS Board Members will be meeting with the Base Commanding General, BGen Ted Banta, for breakfast on Friday, April 29 at the Eagles Landing

Room at the Marine Memorial Golf Course. We'll post a summary of the event along photos with in the next issue of the Groundbreaker. We're planning for a CPHS Member event to take place in July 2016; details forthcoming.

Friday, June 24, 2016

CPHS President, Dick Rothwell, will give a 45-minute presentation as part of the Learning is for Everyone (LIFE) program at MiraCosta College on Friday, June 24.

The presentation will cover two

stories: "Las Flores and the Magees" and "Courage under Fire" with the latter covering Sergeant Reckless, the decorated war horse that supported combat units of the 5th Marine Regiment during the Korean War.

75-Year Anniversary of the Dedication of Camp Pendleton

As noted in the previous issue of the Groundbreaker, in September 2017, Camp Pendleton will commemorate the 75-year anniversary of the dedication of the Base by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The initial meeting of the Base's 75-Year Anniversary Working Group is scheduled for Thursday, April 14, 2016. Our representative and Board Member, Bo Hellman, is part of that Working Group. As we learn more of the Base's plans, Bo will report back to the Board of Directors and subsequently to the CPHS membership of the commemoration plans.

As previously requested, we'd appreciate your feedback as to events or observances you would



President Franklin Roosevelt and Pancho Brown discuss the lariat (lasso) during the President's visit to the Ranch House in September 1942. California Governor Culbert Olson and Major General Joseph Fegan, Base Commanding General, are to the left of the President. Defense Dept. Photo (Marine Corps)

like to see as part of this diamond anniversary celebration. Please send your comments via email to cphs_info@yahoo.com.

CPHS Member Spotlight

Congratulations to CPHS Member, SgtMaj Scott Helms, USMC on his forthcoming retirement from the Marine Corps in May 2016. SgtMaj Helms has been the Sergeant Major, Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton since June 2013. Thanks for your 31 years of service to Country and Corps!



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

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MEMBERSHIP NEWS

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal and continuing support of our efforts to tell the Camp Pendleton story.

Jean Adkins
Richard Althouse
Norman C. Haven
Jerry and Marcia Lasher
Tom Morton

Joseph and Catherine O'Brien
Michael and Mary O'Donnell
Gordon Romine
Betty Toth
Robert Warrick

Welcome aboard to our newest member who recently joined our cause.

LtCol Charles Kershaw, USMC (Ret)

Member Action Required

Thanks to those Members who responded with updated member information in February. If you have not responded, please do so.

Also, please ensure that our Membership Director (cphsmembership@gmail.com) has your current email address.

A special thanks to the following for their recent monetary donation to CPHS:

Cow Camp Caridades / Anthony Moiso
Judith Burns
Christine Livengood
Dr. Michael O'Brick

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