

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Your Society is looking forward to an eventful 2018.

The CPHS Board of Directors plans to fill a void in Camp Pendleton's historical legacy by commissioning and donating a monument of Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton to the Base. We have selected Scott Streadbeck as our artist. I encourage you to view some of his work on his website (<http://www.scottstreadbeck.com/>). Our next steps are to select an appropriate site for the monument and to submit a formal donation offer to the Base commanding general.

As with the Staff Sgt. Reckless monument project, we expect that it will take several years to obtain approval from the Under Secretary of the Navy and to raise the necessary funds. We estimate that the production, transportation, and installation will cost about \$100,000. Our Board will match every dollar raised, up to \$30,000, with funds already on hand. This will be an exciting project that will enhance Camp Pendleton's landscape. I hope that our members will recognize the significance of this monument project.

We continue efforts to build bridges with other local historical societies. On Jan. 6, CPHS and the Oceanside Historical Society

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The Future of CPHS

A Look Ahead

*by Cal Frantz,
Growth Committee*



"Things are looking up!" An old saw, yes, but definitely the case for the Camp Pendleton Historical Society. Both immediate and long term plans promise a busy and challenging future.

In April 2017, the CPHS Board of Directors voted to begin movement toward becoming a larger, more robust organization at a special board meeting. As a result of the decision, a Growth Planning Committee was formed to initiate this movement, chaired by Cal Frantz with Bill Parsons and Charlie Kershaw selected as Committee members. Preliminary guidance to the committee was set forth by the CPHS President and included determining, preparing, or finding the following:

1. A recommended organizational

structure and cost of a professional staff consisting of an executive director and modest administrative support.

2. A job description for each staff member.

3. The cost and availability of office space aboard Camp Pendleton or surrounds.

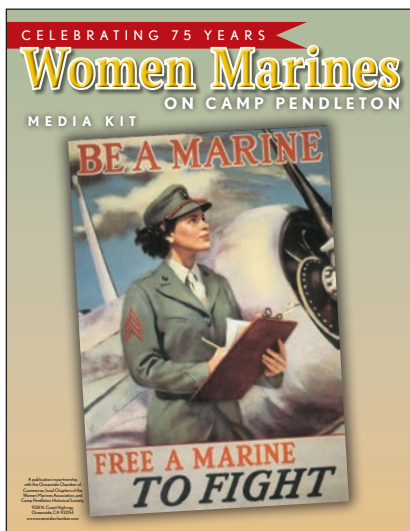
4. Other unidentified costs, if any, at this initial level of growth.

5. Total cost of items 1-4 (above) and a plan to raise the required revenue to fund this.

Since its formation, the Growth Planning Committee met six times to explore ideas and develop various growth strategies. The committee gathered information from local charities who have interests similar to ours, to see if their approach to

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Celebrating Women Marines



In collaboration with the Oceanside Chamber of Commerce and the local Chapters of the Women Marines Association (WMA), the CPHS is assisting in the creation of a commemorative anniversary publication, due to be released in August 2018.

Along with this special publication, CPHS will be also be honoring Camp Pendleton women Marines, veteran and active duty alike, at our annual gala event, which will held in October 2018. The Events Committee continues to brainstorm other ideas, events to further commemorate this diamond anniversary. Details to follow.

Base Information Stats

Women Marines - Camp Pendleton - 1943



March 5, 1943 - Capt. Lillian O'Malley Daly reported to Camp Pendleton for duty. She was the first woman Marine to be assigned to Camp Pendleton, serving as the West Coast Liaison Officer for the new Women's Reserve organization. During World War I, she was one of the 305 women who enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserve (F).

Oct. 26, 1943 - The first contingent of women (95) Marines, comprised of (2) Officers and (93) enlisted Marines arrived at Marine Barracks, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton. The unit commander was 2nd Lt. Marguerite M. Maloney; the acting sergeant major was Sgt. Bernice A. Barrett.

Keep your eye out for ...



In observance of the 75th anniversary of the arrival of the first women Marines to Camp Pendleton in 1943, CPHS is currently looking for photos and stories from women Marines who were stationed at Camp Pendleton over the past 75 years.

If you or someone you know has stories and photos to share, please submit those digitized photo(s) and accompanying story(ies) to



caliwomenmarines@gmail.com. Deadline for submission is May 14, 2018.

We're also looking for photos, ceremony programs, and artifacts of the 24 Area WR barracks, the Green Hat Club, 13 Area Women Marine barracks, the Woman Marine Company and other similar significant units, sites, and events aboard Camp Pendleton.



Photos from the CPEN Archives

Artifact Donation Highlights: Sgt. Maj. Mike Mervosh

In December 2017, the Camp Pendleton History Museum Branch was contacted by Rosemary Mervosh, daughter of Sgt. Maj. Mike "Iron Mike" Mervosh, USMC (Ret), concerning a donation of her late father's personal collection of Marine Corps photos and miscellaneous ephemera. A decorated combat veteran of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam, Sgt. Maj. "Iron Mike" Mervosh was well-known throughout the Marine Corps.

He served in combat in every enlisted rank from private to sergeant major with Marine infantry units, was assigned to five Marine Divisions and also served two tours (each) as a drill instructor and a recruiter. A Sergeant Major for 19 1/2 years, having been a battalion, regimental, brigade, division, station, and base Sergeant Major, his final assignment was as the Fleet Marine Force Pacific Sergeant Major. When he retired from the Corps in 1977, he was the most senior enlisted man of all the U.S. Armed Forces. Those who have spent time at Camp Pendleton might be familiar with the "Iron Mike" room at the Pacific Views Event Center, a fitting tribute to this exceptional Marine.

It was indeed a privilege and an honor to receive this expansive collection that Iron Mike had amassed during his 35-year career in the Marine Corps and the succeeding 40 years as an ardent supporter of the Corps and highly sought after speaker. The Base History Museum Branch continues to document this very special collection.



Shown here are a few of the photos from Sgt. Maj. Mervosh's collection. Of note, his return to Iwo Jima in 2012; at Camp Pendleton in 1943; with actor Jim Nabors; and as a member of the 1961-62 1st Marine Division baseball team.

The Rancho Santa Margarita Wagon

by Joe Fegan III, CPHS Advisor

For many years, visitors to Camp Pendleton noticed a covered wagon prominently displayed in front of the Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House. The wagon was a representative example of a circa 1890 Conestoga Wagon/Prairie Schooner Wagon, which was instrumental in our nation's early commerce and westward expansion. The wagon was the focal point at the entrance to the historic Ranch House and was gifted to the base in 1987.

This wagon was donated by the Padre Junipero Serra Riders - Las Tortugas who, for many years, have enjoyed equestrian events aboard base. "The Riders" would organize and enjoy long scenic rides across Pendleton's rolling terrain. These rides were an opportunity to experience life aboard Rancho Santa Margarita when it was a working ranch. On many occasions the rides would conclude with an old fashion BBQ at the ranch house.

The wagon, rides, and social events were emblematic of both the life style of Rancho Santa Margarita and the agrarian nature of the ranch over the many decades before becoming MCB Camp Pendleton. The Padre Junipero Serra Riders donated the wagon to show their appreciation of the base's efforts to preserve the heritage of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores.

This period accurate wagon stood proudly at the Ranch House entry from its dedication in May 1987 until early 2017. However, over the 30 years, Mother Nature took her toll on the wagon and sadly the wagon was allowed to degrade, becoming dilapidated and rundown to the point of being a virtual eyesore. In early 2017, the wagon remains were removed from the site.

This easily could have been the



Above: The wagon in 2016 before its replacement. Photos courtesy of Mike Lewis

end of the Ranch House Wagon story but the Camp Pendleton Historical Society (CPHS) became interested in the wagon's history. CPHS established a goal of replacing the dilapidated wagon with a refurbished wagon that reflected the manner of those used during the agrarian period of Rancho Santa Margarita.

The Society's interest in the wagon replacement project was generated by then Vice President, Col. Jim Williams, an active long time participant in the local riding community and a valued conduit with regional and local historical societies. Jim's encouragement and interest combined with CPHS Secretary Bill Parsons's expertly researched and written proposal in August 2015, initiated the wagon replacement project.

Because the procedure and scope of work for this task turned out to be detailed and extensive, multiple

talents and specialized skills would be required to accomplish this project. To coordinate these efforts, the CPHS Events Chairman, Mike Lewis, was assigned to find a replacement wagon and coordinated the necessary talents and skills required to complete this most ambitious task. Mike's first priority was to find a replacement wagon. An extensive search of San Diego County and beyond was conducted but unfortunately no suitable replacement wagon was found. During one of Mike's many discussions about finding a suitable wagon replacement, a friend, Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, US Army (Ret) indicated that he may have a solution to Mike's problem. Simply said, he would build one!

As it turned out, Andy, a qualified blacksmith, was quite experienced with the old world artisan skills used in wagon making/refurbishment. Some of his previous endeavors include a museum quality restoration of an antique horse drawn buggy and the total reconstruction of the carriage of an old period cannon. Mike and Andy began an even more extensive search to find any items which could be used in the construction of a replacement wagon. After a long search, that included visits to many remote locations, they found a circa 1894 Studebaker two board covered wagon in Escondido (Calif.).

Although the pile of boards and metal associated with this carcass amounted to little more than various pieces of dry rot boards infested with termites and bent metal for wheels, Andy realized that he had found a treasure with good bones. The Studebaker Brothers Manufacturing Company started building quality wagons in 1852. These sturdy wagons were a smaller version of the famous Conestoga/Prairie Schooner

The Rancho Santa Margarita Wagon cont.

wagons of early Pennsylvania. Being a smaller version of their Pennsylvania cousin, Studebaker wagons proved to be of great value in numerous military operations and were instrumental in establishing the farming and agrarian endeavors of early California.

The condition of Andy's new treasure was such that he completely rebuilt the wagon box, spokes of the wheels, hub, wagon tongue, axles, axle assembly, brakes, and bows for the wagon cover. To maintain historical accuracy, Andy repaired and used all existing recovered parts and for the missing or destroyed parts he created new replacement parts from scratch. When complete the new ranch house wagon will be a historically accurate working example of a circa 1872 to 1894 Studebaker Covered Wagon. The restored wagon will meet the desired goal of the CPHS to establish a unique opportunity for visitors to understand and appreciate the strong relationship between the military and early 20th century owners of the ranch.

The refurbished wagon will again be proudly displayed in the paddock area of the entrance to the ranch house and will again be the focal point for the ranch house complex. On April 2, the wagon will be formally dedicated and presented to the Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton at the entrance to the Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House.



Bottom Left: Wagon wheel disassembled. **Top Left:** Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, US Army (Ret) standing by wheel base during the reassembly. **Top Right:** Wagon frame during reconstruction. Photos courtesy of Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, US Army (Ret) **Middle:** Lt. Col. Joe Fegan III, USMC (Ret) and Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, US Army (Ret), install a restored covered wagon at the historic Santa Margarita Ranch House on Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Feb. 20. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Megan Roses **Above:** Restored wagon after being returned to the Ranch House on Feb. 20. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Lance Cpl. Megan Roses

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growth might offer some tips on how CPHS might achieve future growth. This information gathering effort included interviewing leaders and staff of the following organizations: Flying Leathernecks Historical Foundation, MCRD Museum Foundation, Oceanside Historical Society, San Juan Capistrano Historical Society, San Diego Parks Society, and 1st Marine Division Association.

After lengthy and detailed discussions and deliberations, the Growth Planning Committee offered the following goals and potential programs for consideration by the Board:

- Membership

Membership and revenue increases are the key elements in CPHS growth toward becoming a larger and more robust organization. Identification of potential membership pools, preparing targeted marketing material, and conducting a "membership drive" during a three month period each year.

- Revenue

Recommended revenue producing initiatives considered appropriate for further development at this time. New revenue sources proposed included the following: retail

sales (online), sister organization collaborations, film festivals, benefit concerts, Speaker Bureau fees, establishment/operation of a Camp Pendleton tour company, educational programs, grant applications, and philanthropy/patronage program.

- Board Positions

Establish Public Affairs, Marketing, and Legal Counsel Positions on the Board.

- Facility

Establish a physical facility to accommodate storage of CPHS property, provide a meeting place, act as a venue for historic artifact displays, provide a work space for CPHS activities, and eventually provide an office space for whatever staff CPHS considers necessary to sustain its operations and programs. This facility may be either aboard Camp Pendleton or in an adjacent community.

- Programs/Projects

CPHS should seek to develop and execute projects and programs that do not require lengthy government approval or involvement, as has been the case in the past. The Committee emphasized that all current projects, events, and

initiatives should continue.

At the January Board meeting, the Growth Committee reported their findings and recommendations to the Board of Directors. Besides requesting that the Board approve the Growth Planning Committee Report, the Committee recommended assigning responsibility for one or more of the proposed new revenue sources (previously listed).

Initiatives to achieve growth provide an excellent opportunity for CPHS members to actively participate in our efforts. We welcome your ideas on how we can achieve growth; and encourage you to contribute your talents and experience to our cause. Please contact any one of our directors or council of advisor members to let us know how you can help us out.

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partnered to sponsor a presentation at the Oceanside Library by Wayne Donaldson, the newest member of the CPHS Council of Advisors. Wayne is a preservation architect and currently serves as the Chairman of the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation. The son of a Navy corpsman and Navy nurse, Wayne grew up at Camp Pendleton. In his youth he became an avid surfer. His excellent talk centered on his surfing experiences at Camp Pendleton's San Onofre Beach.

The year is off to a fast start, which is exciting. I look forward to reporting our progress to you in our next edition of the Groundbreaker. Thank you for your continued support. Without it we would not be able to help the Marine Corps preserve and tell the history of Camp Pendleton.

Richard B. Rothwell

Iwo Jima veterans honored at Camp Pendleton



On Feb. 17 Iwo Jima veterans, families and guests gathered together for the 73rd Anniversary of the Battle of Iwo Jima at Pacific Views Event Center on Camp Pendleton. Photo by Deb Hellman

Upcoming CPHS Events

Save
the
Date!



Continuing with last year's theme, CPHS will be teeing off into 2018 with two golf related events:

Wednesday, April 11

CPHS will sponsor a golf event for 36 children from military families at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course; CPHS is working with Pro-Kids/First Tee of Oceanside and the Marine Memorial Golf Course to make this happen. The event, free of charge to these children, includes nine holes of golf where each child is paired with golf professionals in order to enhance each child's golf skills and provide a better appreciation of golf as a life sport. Pro-Kids/First Tee of Oceanside is a non-profit organization that evolved from an organization originally established by former NFL Player Ernie Wright. Their mission is to challenge youth to excel in life by promoting character development, life skills, and values through education and the game of golf.



Friday, April 20

CPHS will conduct the 2nd Annual "Golf With A Hero" Golf Tournament at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. Similar to last year, each foursome will be composed of one (1) active duty Marine and three (3) golfers. This event provides an opportunity to converse with Marines who have had recent operational experience carrying out the global mission of the Marine Corps. This tournament theme differentiates this golf tournament in San Diego County where 1,000 charity golf tournaments are conducted annually. Volunteers from CPHS are supporting this tournament. Register your team online at the CPHS Events web page (<https://camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org/events>) by April 10. Cost per player is \$150.



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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:

Richard Althouse
Janet Coley
Rick Darnall
Dick and MaryAnn Davidson
Stuart Forsyth
Norman Haven
William McDonald
Michael Moreland
Tom Morton
Betty Toth
Robert Warrick
Matt and Kari Witman

A special thanks to our donors:

Col Donald Gressly, USMC (Ret)
MGen Anthony Jackson, USMC (Ret)
Rainier Welding, Inc.

Welcome aboard to our newest members who recently joined our cause:

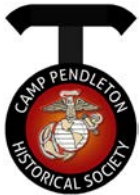
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**Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of
Women Marines at Camp Pendleton
1943 - 2018**