

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



I mentioned in my last report that CPHS was off to a fast start in 2018. That was almost an understatement.

Since then we have completed three major projects that are reported in this edition of the Groundbreaker.

On April 2, thanks to the incredible work of volunteer master blacksmith and woodworker, Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, U.S. Army (Ret), we dedicated a beautifully restored 1894 horse drawn Studebaker wagon to Camp Pendleton. The wagon sits prominently at the entrance of the Ranch House compound as a vivid tribute to the rancho heritage of the Base. In addition to Andy, Bill Parsons, Jim Williams, Mike Lewis, and Joe Fegan played significant roles in the project.

On April 11 our Events Committee under the leadership of Mike Lewis and with the assistance of Mike O'Neil and Charlie Kershaw, several volunteers, sponsor Lincoln Military Housing, and the non-profit, Pro Kids, conducted our first Military Children Golf Day at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course. Youngsters were introduced to the fundamentals of golf: chipping, putting, and driving. As someone who started at age 50, I can assure you that it is better to start young.

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Renovation of the Ranch House



Ranch House circa 1937. Photo courtesy of The Huntington Library.

by Danielle Page,

Camp Pendleton Environmental Security Department

The historic Santa Margarita Ranch House (Building 24154) is a 13,000 square foot building listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 (Register No. 710506003) with a period of significance from 1842 to 1947. This building along with portions of land known the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores was acquired by the Navy in 1942. The historical record identifies an initial built date of 1841 by Pio Pico, last Mexican Governor of Alta California.



Father Antonio Peyri, ca. 1900

There is evidence of a structure on the site in 1827. According to Fr. Engelhard's 1921 book on the San Luis Rey Mission, Father Peyri's

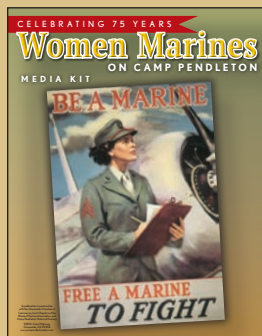
1827 report on mission properties and lands stated that there was a house and garden at Santa Margarita. However, it is unclear if the house in this report is the same building as the Ranch House.

Over the last few decades the Ranch House has fallen into a state of disrepair. With the need to seismically upgrade the building, fiscal constraints, and competing priorities, minimal funding has been available for repairs and/or maintaining the building. In 2012, the Marine Corps determined the building's condition was substandard. Since 2013, the installation has been seeking approval and funding to repair the Ranch House.

In 2017, Camp Pendleton obtained approval and funding to design the seismic stabilization and needed

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Celebrating Camp Pendleton Women Marines - 75th Anniversary



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.

"They are Marines!"

With the recruitment and enlistment of women in the Marine Corps in 1943, the public anticipated a catchy nickname for women Marines, much like the WACS, WAVES, and SPARS. Numerous proposals submitted to Headquarters Marine Corps included nicknames such as MARS, Femarines, WAMS, Dainty Devil-Dogs, Glamarines, Women's Leather-neck Aides, and even Sub-Marines.

Lt. Gen. Thomas Holcomb, 17th Commandant of the Marine Corps, stated "They (Women Marines) don't have a nickname, and they don't need one. They get their basic training in a Marine atmosphere, at a Marine Post. They inherit the traditions of the Marines. They are Marines."

In practice, they were most often called Women Reservists, informally shortened to WRs.

Historical Timeline

June 30, 1943 - Marine Corps authorized a strength of 6,500 Women Reservists; 416 Women Reservists were initially required for Camp Pendleton.

August 1945 - the Marine Corps Women's Reserve comprised of approximately 17,640 enlisted and 820 officers. There were 28 units headed by women commanding officers, plus 17 smaller units, and additional women assigned to specialist duties.

June 4, 1946 - Disbandment of Women's Reserve Battalion at Marine Barracks, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton

Aug. 8, 1950 - Capt. Jeanette I. Sustad, Technical Sgt. Catherine G. Murray, and Sgt. Beatrice M. Kent report to Camp Pendleton to make advance preparations for the arrival of women Marines.

June 1, 1951 - Woman Marine Company, Service Battalion, Marine Barracks, Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, was activated.



Representatives from WMA Chapters CA-2 and CA-7 along with CPHS Board Members at Oceanside's Operation Appreciation on May 19. Photo by Deb Hellman



Harriet Harley Taber from Missouri and Col. Marianne Waldrop, USMC (Ret) discuss Harriet's Marine Corps career at the Veteran's Association of North County on May 12. Photo by Deb Hellman

Keep your eye out for ...



CPHS is still 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.

We're also interested in obtaining photos, ceremony programs, and artifacts of the 24 Area Women Reserve barracks, Green Hat Club, 13 Area Women Marine barracks, Woman Marine Company, and other similar significant women Marine units, milestones, events aboard Camp Pendleton.



Update - CPHS Speaker's Bureau

The CPHS Speaker's Bureau has been busy, coordinating and providing a wide variety of presentations to a varied number of groups from November 2017 through February 2018 with more presentations being scheduled for the coming months. Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents Barbara Greenbush and Richard Leste have agreed to co-chair the Speaker's Bureau.

In November 2017, CPHS President Dick Rothwell gave a presentation to the San Juan Capistrano Historical Society during its semi-annual member meeting; the subject of the presentation was the origins of Camp Pendleton.

Starting off the new year, a couple of presentations were conducted in January. On Jan. 6, CPHS Advisor Wayne Donaldson gave a very interesting talk at the Oceanside Library Community Center about Southern California surf culture and surfing at San Onofre. CPHS co-hosted the event with the Oceanside Historical Society. On Jan. 18, Dick Rothwell gave a presentation about

Korean War horse, Staff Sgt. Reckless, to Chapter B of the P.E.O., a woman's philanthropic organization.

Dick Rothwell gave a presentation about the history of Camp Pendleton on Feb. 15 to those attending the Iwo Jima Memorial Service & Banquet at Camp Pendleton.

On May 24, Barbara Greenbush and Richard Leste gave a presentation entitled "Camp Pendleton: Stories of the Land and Marines in Southern California" to a group of 28 people at the Escondido Senior Center.



The Speaker's Bureau has presentations scheduled through North County Oasis, a non-profit that provides classes for senior citizens. The following presentations will be held at the Escondido Senior Center

for the following dates indicated:

June 13: Courage Under Fire: The Story of Staff Sergeant Reckless

July 24: Las Flores and the Magees on Camp Pendleton

Aug. 13: Importance of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve

To register for the presentations at the Escondido Senior Center, please visit their web site at

<https://www.oasisnet.org/San-Diego-CA/Classes>. Type "Camp Pendleton" in the Search box to view of listing of these presentations.

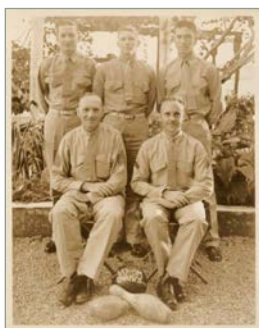
If you know of any organizations that would like a presentation about the history of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores or Camp Pendleton, please contact our Speaker's Bureau Chairperson at cphs.speakers@gmail.com.



Donation Highlights - History Museum Branch

Over the past few months, the Base History Museum Branch has been the recipient of a number of beneficial donations of historical material (in the form of photos, documents, and published works) to the Base Archives. Since March, (10) individual donations had been offered and accepted by the Branch as well as one collection on loan to the Branch.

Two of the collections from private individuals were photo albums; one from the family of Master Sgt. Adolph D. Bressan, USMC contained (428) individual photographs during his service from 1937 - 1939; the other from the family of CWO3 John Eakes, Jr., USMC contained (85) photographs of his service with



Marine Observation Squadron VO-9M in Puerto Rico, St. Thomas, and St. Croix during the period of 1935-1936.

Other notable donations included a sizeable (265 items) collection of books, publications, magazines, and historical reference pamphlets



Photos courtesy of CPEN Archives

from the Camp Pendleton Library as well as a collection of (137) books primarily covering the Mexican-American war along with historical documentaries (videos) and Marine Corps art prints (reproductions).

Wagon Dedication

Once again the prominent entryway to the Rancho Santa Margarita Ranch House is displaying an authentically restored wagon. The circa 1894 wagon was instrumental in Southern California's early development with land development and commerce.

The wagon was gifted to the base by the Camp Pendleton Historical Society (CPHS) in an afternoon ceremony on April 2. The ceremony was well attended by Camp Pendleton personnel and many of the "riders" of the Padre Junipero Serra-Las Tortugas, the organization that gifted the original Conestoga wagon that stood proudly at the Ranch House entry from 1987 to 2017. The comments delivered by the Base Commanding General stimulated many conversations among members of the CPHS and the riders, a few who had attended the ceremony in 1987.

The General's remarks addressed the efforts of many who were involved in



MCIWEST-MCB Camp Pendleton Commanding General, Brig. Gen. Kevin Killea poses with Andy Brochu and members of the Padre Junipero Serra-Las Tortugas at the dedication. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Stephen Beard

the restoration of the wagon during the year plus endeavor. Specifically he mentioned the unique restoration skills of retired Lt. Col. Andy Brochu, a blacksmith and wheelwright who was quite experienced in the "old world skills" necessary for the professional refurbishment of the wagon. The museum quality refurbishment of the circa 1872 to 1894 Studebaker covered wagon is in keeping with the goals of the CPHS to always recognize the

Marine Corps efforts to preserve the heritage of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores and celebrate the history of Southern California.

Of special note were contributions made by the Ranch House landscape manager, Rob Young, who greatly facilitated the wagon site preparation and required site maintenance and Faye Jonason and the Marines of the Camp Pendleton History Museum Branch.

Military Children Golf Day

On April 11, CPHS, working with Pro-Kids/First Tee of Oceanside and the Marine Memorial Golf Course, and supported by Lincoln Housing, executed the inaugural Military Children Golf Day at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course.

Over 50 children participated in the clinic, which included three separate but linked instructional periods on putting, chipping and driving. Each child was paired with golf professionals in order to enhance that child's golf skills and provide a better appreciation of golf as a life sport. This event was conducted during the spring break of the Oceanside school district to ensure no interference with school activities.

Pro Kids/First Tee of Oceanside is a non-profit organization that



Military children learning golf basics at the interactive stations on the Marine Memorial Golf Course. U.S. Marine Corps photo by Pfc. Stephen Beard

has evolved from an organization originally established by Ernie Wright after his successful NFL career with the then San Diego Chargers. The mission of Pro Kids/First Tee is to challenge youth to excel in life by promoting character development, life skills, and values

through education and the game of golf. The Oceanside chapter is also partnered with Callaway Golf and TaylorMade Golf, who have helped them develop a world class golf training facility and six-hole, par-3 course adjacent to the Oceanside Golf Course.

Board member Charlie Kershaw and CPHS member Col. Marianne Waldrop, USMC (Ret) provided significant support to the execution of this golf clinic.

The tournament benefitted from the support of a generous sponsor, Lincoln Military Housing.

CPHS is working with Pro Kids/First Tee of Oceanside and the Marine Memorial Golf Course to repeat the Military Children Golf Day on an annual or semi-annual basis. More to follow.

"Golf with a Hero" Golf Tournament



A group photo of the golfers, sponsors and CPHS Board members on April 20 before the start of the tournament. Photos by Deb Hellman

On April 20, CPHS, in partnership with the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course, successfully executed the 2nd Annual "Golf with a Hero" golf tournament. Similar to last year, each foursome was composed of one (1) active duty Marine and three (3) other golfers. This pairing provided many the opportunity to converse with Marines who had recent deployment experience carrying out the varied missions of the United States Marine Corps. This tournament theme differentiates golf tournaments in San Diego County, where 1,000 charity golf tournaments are conducted annually.

A total of 42 golfers hit the links, with the field composed of 29

civilians and military retirees, and 13 active duty Marines. Several active duty Marine golfers playing in the tournament recently returned from supporting Operation Inherent Resolve in Syria and Iraq.

No event is successful without the support of its volunteers. CPHS members Scott and Kathy McEldowney and Marianne Waldrop provided significant support to the execution of this golf tournament.

This tournament greatly benefitted from the support of a distinct group of sponsors (listed below).

CPHS is planning its third "Golf with a Hero" golf tournament in April 2019 at the Camp Pendleton Marine Memorial Golf Course.



CPHS members Scott and Kathy McEldowney at the sign in table.



The winning team (L to R) - Scott Walker, Pat Willin, Michael Joe, and Rick Perkins.

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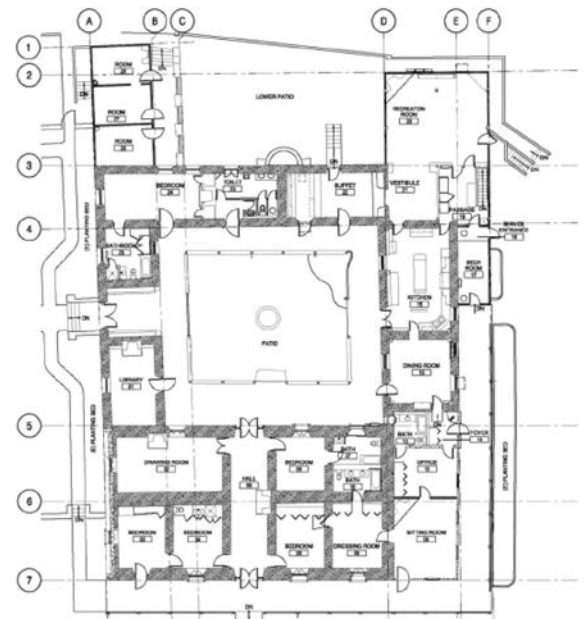
BY SUPPORTING THEM!

Continued front page, Renovation

repairs. In September of last year, Joseph Chow and Associates (JCA) was awarded an architectural and engineering services contract task order to develop a full design to repair and seismically stabilize the historic building. This multidisciplinary team of architects and engineers is tasked with developing the design, specifications, and calculations to repair, seismically stabilize, and preserve the Ranch House.

All of the work must comply with the historic preservation requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties. The team's additional challenge is that all of the work still needs to comply with all applicable Unified Facilities Criteria and the California Historic Building Code (CHBC). As the Ranch House is constructed of a combination of adobe, reinforced concrete frames with hollow clay tile infill, hollow clay tile (HCT), and clay tile on gabled roofs, it is imperative that all these different construction materials are tied together to strengthen the building. Completing a design that meets all of these requirements is not an easy task.

The team has already completed its assessment of the over 170+ years old Ranch House and found that there are significant deficiencies in several building systems including: structural; architectural; fire and life safety; roof and building envelope; plumbing; mechanical; and electrical. There are 51 doors and 61 windows requiring restoration. The team faces major challenges with balancing the historic preservation objectives and rehabilitation while seismically stabilizing the historic building as a Risk Category II facility. Fortunately, the team has previous studies and reports at their disposal such as the Santa Margarita Ranch House Historic



Existing Floor Plan, First Floor (Source: HSR 2007)

Structure Report (HSR) completed in 2007 under a cooperative agreement with the University of Vermont. This HSR provided the team a jump start on the major issues they have to tackle.

JCA's team has completed a design charrette and submitted conceptual designs. They are now in the design development phase and actively addressing fire suppression requirements for the historic building. There is still a lot left to accomplish to comply with the historic preservation and code requirements for the design. Camp Pendleton hopes to have a completed/approved design by the fall/winter of 2018.

A Reprieve for Ranch House Tours!

The History Museum Branch just received good news. The date for closure of the Santa Margarita Ranch House National Historic Site for renovation has been moved into 2019. With that being the case, Docent-led tours are still available on any first Tuesday, second Wednesday or third Thursday every month until we receive notice of the actual closure date.

Now also available are guided tours of the Las Flores Adobe National Historic Landmark on the fourth Thursday of each month. If the Las Flores Estancia National Historic Landmark is also desired as part of the Las Flores Adobe tour, please indicate that with your request.

The Marine Corps Mechanized Museum, located on Vandegrift Blvd at the bottom of Rattlesnake Canyon

Road, has a unique collection of Marine Corps vehicles and artillery and is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Fridays until 1 p.m.

To reserve a tour date for the Ranch House, Las Flores Adobe, or Mech Museum, please contact the History Museum office at (760) 725-5758 or email MCBCAMPEN_history@usmc.mil.



Docent Richard Leste addresses a tour group at the Las Flores Adobe. Photo courtesy of Barbara Greenbush.

Upcoming CPHS Events

Save
the
Date!



Women Marines celebrate V-J Day at their Camp Pendleton barracks on Aug. 14, 1945. Photo courtesy of MCRD Museum Archives.

Mark your calendar for our annual gala event, tentatively scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 6, 2018 at the Pacific Views Event Center aboard Camp Pendleton. The theme of this year's gala event is honoring the past 75 years of service by women Marines at Camp Pendleton. This year also marks the 100th anniversary of women in the Marine Corps.

The Events Committee continues to work the many details of the event. We've contacted the Base leadership and requested an active

duty woman General Officer as our Guest of Honor. We plan to have a display consisting of women's Marine uniforms and accessories as well as historic Marine Corps equipment. The event will feature silent and live auctions. Our Events Committee had a special coin designed to commemorate this diamond anniversary; this coin will be given to all guests attending. Details as to the cost of the tickets and when tickets will go on sale are forthcoming.

Continued front page, Message

The following week the Events Committee and volunteers conducted our second annual "Golf with a Hero" golf tournament. It was a beautiful day with a great turnout and much appreciated support from a growing list of sponsors.

Barbara Greenbush and Richard Leste, both experienced Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores Docents, have volunteered to pump new life into our Speaker's Bureau. They will spread the word about Camp Pendleton history and the role of CPHS throughout San Diego and Orange Counties. Welcome to

our team, Barbara and Richard.

Mark your schedules for Oct. 6 for our 2018 gala. This year we will pay tribute to women Marines who this year celebrate 100 years of service to our country and 75 years of service at Camp Pendleton.

As always, thank you for your continued support. Because of it we have been able to make significant contributions to the preservation and telling the history of Camp Pendleton.

Richard B. Rothwell



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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:

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Marcia Lasher
Bradley Lee
Col Stewart Navarre, USMC (Ret)
Col Joseph O'Brien, USMC (Ret)
Allan and Wanda Prosser
Gordon Romine
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A special thanks to our donors:

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

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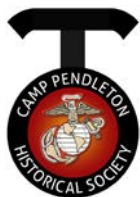
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Celebrating the 75th Anniversary of
Women Marines at Camp Pendleton
1943 - 2018