

*Newstetter of Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# *The General*

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

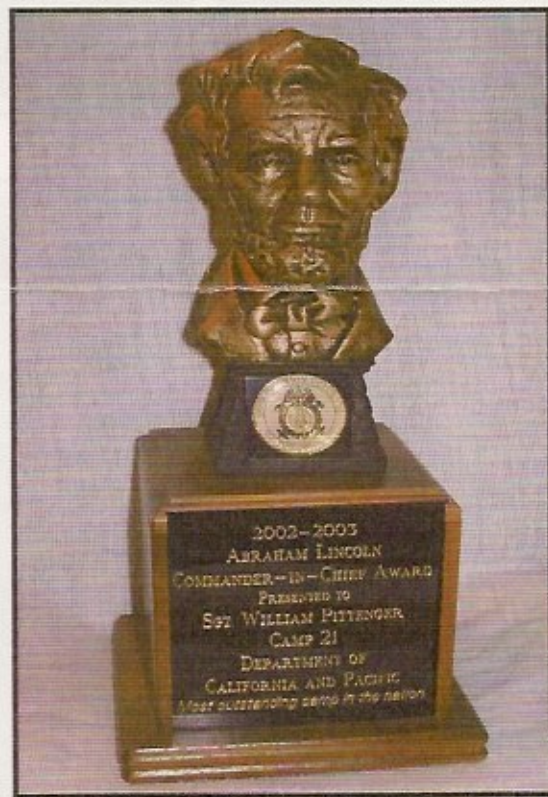
Volume IX Number 5

Sep 15, 2003

## Camp 21 Receives Top Award

On August 9<sup>th</sup> 2003, at the 122<sup>nd</sup> National Encampment of the SUVCW, the Sgt. Wm. Pittenger, Camp 21 received the Abraham Lincoln, Commander in Chief's Award for Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation. Camp Commander Sayre accepted the award on behalf of the Camp. Also in attendance were PDC Bob Lowe, and SVC Dave Allyn of Camp 21. In addition to the trophy (shown at right) a plaque and silk streamer for the Camp Flag were awarded.

The department of California and the Pacific was well represented by all the top officers of the Department, Department Commander Brad Schall, Department Senior Vice Commander Linn Hoadley, Department Junior Vice Commander Tad Campbell, Department Secretary/Treasurer Dan Earl, Glen Roosevelt, Commander Camp 17, Bob Kadlec, Commander Camp 4, and Rudy Velasco SVC, Camp 2. Our Department was also well represented in the following: **Dave Allyn** National Guide. **Linn Hoadley** National Membership at Large Coordinator. National Committee on Americanization and Education. **Bob Lowe** National Committee on Graves Registration. **Brad Schall** National Committee on Fraternal Relations – Chairman. National Committee on E-Bay Surveillance. National Committee on Memorials – Aide. **Jerry Sayre** National Committee on Fraternal Relations. **Tad D. Campbell** National Committee on History. National Committee on Membership. **Dan Earl** National Committee on Legislation – Chairman. National Committee on Constitution and Regulations – Aide. The Ladies were also in attendance as Rosemary Lowe served as National Patriotic Instructor for the Auxiliary. The award culminated a “Super” year of Activities,



Parades, Events, and our appearance at the Super Bowl. Please make your plans to attend in 2004, in Iowa. - by Jerry Sayre

(More photos on next page)

Camp Website - <http://home.earthlink.net/~suvchw/pittenger21.html>

**CAMP OFFICERS**

Commander ..... Jerry Sayre  
540 West Fig Street  
Fallbrook, CA. 92028 - 2821  
(760) 728 - 1444 cod26ia@adelphia.net

Sr. Vice Comdr. .... Dave Allyn  
Jr. Vice Commander ..... Will Tisch  
Secretary ..... Gene Armistead, PDC  
747 Mycorte Drive  
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760-747-5397

Treasurer ..... Gene Armistead, PDC  
Chaplain ..... Ernie Powell  
Patriotic Instructor ..... John Finch  
Council ..... Dale Rakestraw  
Council/Guard ..... Tom Helmantoler  
Council/Memorials ..... Larry Fillhard  
Color Bearer ..... Chuck Rothlauf  
Guide ..... Colin McKim  
Eagle Scout Coord ..... Wayne Rogers  
Graves Registration ... Bob Lowe, PDC  
SVR Representative ..... Dave Allyn  
Newsletter Editor ..... Dave Allyn  
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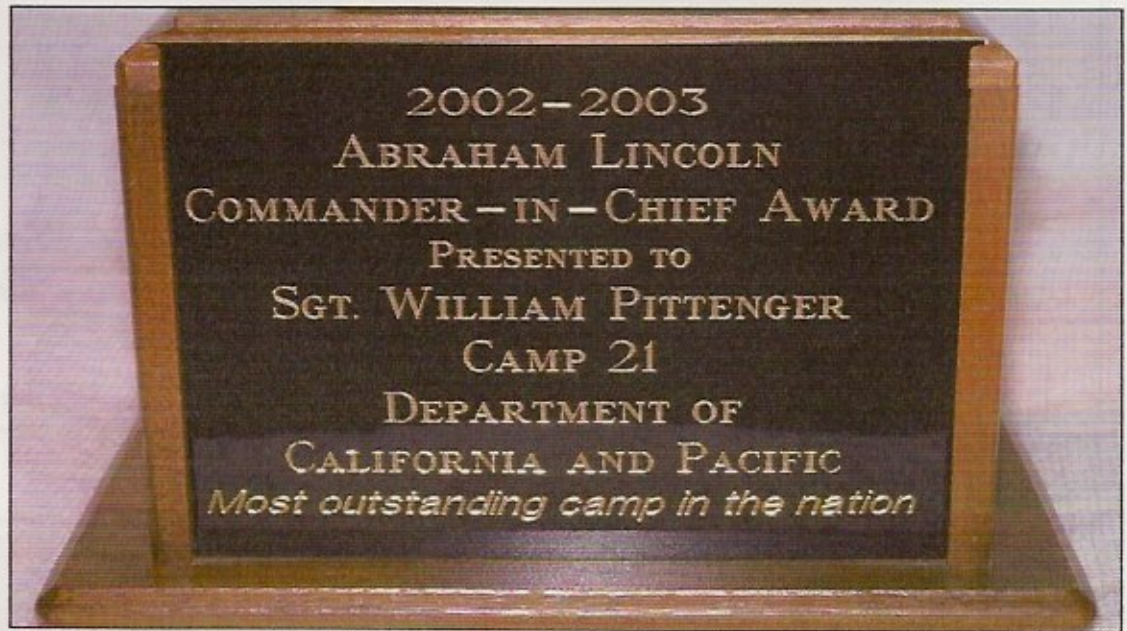
**THE GENERAL** is the official newsletter of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It is published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It is also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders group. Such groups are welcome to reprint articles from *The General* with attribution. Brief articles are invited and should be sent to the Newsletter Editor listed above with the understanding that space limitations may require editing.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be mailed to Camp Secretary at the address listed above. Failure to notify the Camp of change of address will result in missed issues of *The General* and *The Banner*.

**CAMP EMAIL DIRECTORY.** If you wish to be included in the Pittenger Camp Email Directory, send your permission and email address to Bob Lowe at Cavalry21@cox.net.

**SONS OF VETERANS RESERVE (SVR)** is the uniformed contingent of the SUVCW. You do not have to be a reenactor to join. Annual dues are \$5.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

Close-up of Abraham Lincoln Trophy



Our Proud Commander!



The San Diego Civil War Round Table meets the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the John D. Spreckles Masonic Lodge, 3858 Front Street, San Diego and is open to the public. For further information contact President Dave Tooley at (858) 672 - 2593.

Above, Camp Commander and 1st Sergeant of Company G, 5th California Volunteer Infantry, Jerry Sayre, holds the Abraham Lincoln Trophy. Jerry is wearing the 100th Anniversary (1903 - 2003) Commemorative Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) badge, and 122nd National Encampment badge to the outside of his Camp Commanders badge. At right, is the framed Certificate which was received by Jerry from then C-in-C Robert Grim. It reads, "To All Who Shall See These Presents, Greetings: Let it be known that on the ninth day of August in the year Two Thousand Three at the One Hundred Twenty Second National Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in Ft. Mitchell, Kentucky Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21 Department of California and Pacific was awarded the Abraham Lincoln Commander in Chief Outstanding Camp Award."

Huntington Beach "Civil War Days" - by Bob Lowe, PDC

A joint Camp 21, 2, & 17 effort was made to recruit new members and inform the public of the Allied Orders during the annual Huntington Beach Civil War Days that was held in Central Park on August 30-31, 2003. Our six-table display was one of the busiest attractions at the event. While adults were informed of our Order's existence and purposes, children of all ages were entertained by hands-on experience with Civil War weapons and accoutrements. Many thanks to those hardy Camp 21 members & lovely Auxiliary ladies that manned our section of the display. During the 2-day event, Dave & Gay Allyn, Will & Eileen Tisch, Jerry & Kim Sayre, Al & Cindy Hodges and Bob & Rosemary Lowe performed excellent "table duty". Many other Camp Brothers in attendance or reenacting stopped by to assist or say hello: among whom were Tom & Tim Stinson, Ernie Powell, Colin & Linda McKim and Monroe McBride with several of the Boy Scouts he brought to the event.

After the last battle on Sunday, August 31<sup>st</sup>, a multi-camp social was held, thus reestablishing a tradition of our Southern California GAR ancestors. Conceived, organized and MC'ed by Commander Glen Roosevelt of Sedgwick-Granger Camp 17, programs were distributed, songs were sung,

announcements and recognitions made and cheerful conversation abounded to the delight of nearly 50 in attendance. A period band, The Cottonwood Strings, provided music. The dinner was catered and consisted of fried chicken, beef and pork spareribs, baked beans, corn-on-the-cob, tossed salad, potato salad, cornbread muffins, and assorted sodas and water. Lucky winners (1 lady, 1 youngster, & 1 SUVCW member) were given Door Prizes based on a drawing of dinner tickets.

Farewell sentiments and a gift were given to former Camp 21 SVC, Rev. Mark Woolfington, as he prepares to carry on his ministerial duties in Illinois. (See Mark's Farewell letter elsewhere in this edition) It was indeed a fine conclusion to an enjoyable and productive weekend. Three cheers and a "tiger" were given Brother Roosevelt for his unstinting effort to make this first multi-camp social a success. The suggestion has been made that the responsibility for organizing/hosting this picnic be shared and rotated among the three Camps. Everyone there agreed the fun and food were delightful and it is sincerely hoped that this will indeed become a regular annual event. (Note: See photos on Page 7)

Sons of Veterans Reserve (SVR) News - by Dave Allyn

On 9 August, at the annual SVR breakfast in Ft. Mitchell, KY, Captain Dave Allyn was promoted to the rank of Major. Major Allyn was reappointed as Commanding Officer of the 6th Military District. In addition, the 6th MD was redrawn to include 15 states, including all west of the Rocky Mountains, including Alaska and Hawaii. Major Allyn announces that his current staff remains; Captain Bob Lowe as Adjutant and Chief of Staff, and 2nd Lt. Carl Taylor, as Chaplain. New to the staff is 2nd Lt. Kenneth Early, appointed Public Information Officer. Lt. Early also serves as 1st Sergeant of the Newest Unit in the 6th - Company B of the 1st Nevada Infantry Battalion, made up of SVR/SUVCW Brothers of the Keith Camp #12, of Las Vegas. In addition to his duties as C. O. of the 6th Military District, Allyn continues as Captain of Company G, 5th California Volunteer Infantry, our local SVR

unit. Captain Dave wishes to thank everyone who has helped support the SVR and invites all SUVCW Brothers to consider joining - or renewing - their membership in the SVR. It's a great way to recruit more SUV members, support patriotism, and enjoy fun and fellowship in the parades and other ceremonies in which we participate. It's not necessary for an SVR member to own a uniform but SVR members are "encouraged to consider" obtaining the minimal uniform to participate with the Company in events. The basics are a cap (forage or kepi), coat (dark blue sack, frock or shell) trousers (sky blue) braces (Civil War suspenders) leather waist belt w/"US" brass buckle and brogans or suitable black leather shoes. Contact Captain Dave for more details.

Schedule of Coming Events/Activities

\* denotes Co. G, 5th Calif. Infantry, SVR participation

Contact for details

*Tustin "Tiller Days" Parade	10:00 AM, October 4, 2003	Dave Allyn, Jerry Sayre
Pittenger Camp Meeting - Escondido, CA.	4:00 PM, October 11, 2003	Jerry Sayre, Dave Allyn
*Veteran's Day Parade - San Diego, CA.	11:00 AM, November 11, 2003	Dave Allyn
* Remembrance/Veteran's Day Ceremony - Fallbrook, CA.	11:00 AM, November 16, 2003	Jerry Sayre, Dave Allyn, Bob Lowe
*Mother Goose Parade - El Cajon, CA	November 25, 2003	Dave Allyn, Bob Lowe
Camp Drum "Victorian Christmas" - Wilmington, CA.	December 6-7, 2003	Bob Lowe
Pittenger Camp Meeting & Elections (Important) - Escondido, CA.	4:00 PM, December 13, 2003	Any Camp Officer

## My Union Ancestors - by Monroe McBride

I am favored to have two great-great-grandfathers who served the Union cause, one of whom saw more action as a civilian than on active duty. Jonathan Summers of Lexington, Indiana, not far from the Ohio River, enlisted first in the Indiana Legion or Home Guard in 1862 and continued in that service into 1863, according to his declaration for an invalid pension. Governor Morton had established the Home Guard for the defense of Indiana in the event of an invasion by Confederate forces. The guardsmen were true militia in the sense that they would pursue their civilian occupations, drill from time to time, and answer the call in case of a military emergency. As one might expect, enlistment in the Home Guard was heavier along the Ohio River than in northern Indiana, where the threat of a Confederate incursion was remote. General John Hunt Morgan, commanding the Confederate First Kentucky Cavalry crossed the Ohio into southern Indiana on July 1, 1863. He spent the evening of July 2 sleeping in a civilian's home in Lexington. A unit of the Home Guard moved into Lexington that same night but was quickly repelled with little effort. I do not know whether Jonathan Summers was in that brief engagement (I am still researching his service in the Home Guard), but his family certainly saw its share of excitement. "Morgan's Raiders," as they are called in the version of the story passed down in my mother's family, raided the Summers farm, killing livestock and seizing firearms before moving on to the next Indiana town. My great-grandfather and namesake, Monroe Summers, was an eight-year-old at the time but had a clear memory of the affair to the end of his days. Jonathan Summers subsequently enlisted for 90 days as a captain in Company I of the 137<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment on May 14, 1864 and was discharged at Indianapolis on September 21, 1864. Between those dates, his unit served principally in Tennessee guarding trains and otherwise involved in occupation duties. While at Tullahoma, Tennessee, he contracted an intestinal parasite from unclean water, an ailment that afflicted him off and on for the rest of his long life. There is no indication that his unit was involved in any significant engagements during its term. One affidavit in his pension file, made by Alexander Thom, who had been a first lieutenant in

Company I of the 137<sup>th</sup> Indiana, states that Summers had been in "a campaign to Vicksburg, Miss[issippi] in 1862." This is mysterious to me since he was in the Indiana Home Guard at the time. He returned to his farm, was involved in politics, and lived a long life, finally passing away in Otto, Indiana on April 23, 1929 at the age of 98, having been born on October 31, 1830. David Chamberlin, a great-great-grandfather on my father's side, saw decidedly more action than Jonathan Summers did. Chamberlin, a resident of Posey county, Indiana, near the confluence of the Wabash and Ohio Rivers, enlisted early in the war as a private in Company F of the 25<sup>th</sup> Indiana Volunteer Infantry Regiment at Mt. Vernon, the county seat, on July 23, 1861 for a three-year term. The most remarkable event of his service would certainly be the Battle of Shiloh in April 1862. The 25<sup>th</sup> Indiana was held in reserve during the first day of the battle and then split into two positions during the second day. Chamberlin's company was placed in the Union right. He survived the battle unwounded but was soon rendered unfit for duty because of the gradual worsening of a left inguinal hernia. He had sustained the hernia in August 1861. It was with apparent disgust that the surgeon at the Mound Hill, Illinois hospital disclosed the cause of the injury. It was "caused by *wrestling*, and not by any duty belonging to a soldier." I believe that Major E. C. Franklin, the surgeon, had an unrealistic view of a soldier's life, marked as it was by long periods of tedium between marching and combat. Often that tedium was relieved only by such entertainment as the soldiers themselves, in many cases, provided. Certainly wrestling matches were a common pastime. Chamberlin received a medical discharge in September 1862. It is unlikely that he accompanied his unit from Pittsburgh Landing to Corinth; from April 30 through June 30, 1862 he was "detailed in hosp'l, Mt. Vernon, Ind[iana]." He later married and settled in Montgomery county, Illinois in 1872, eventually moving to Grangeville, Idaho and, finally, to Winters, California, where he died on March 30, 1900 at the age of 58, having been born on August 6, 1841.



### NEW MEMBERS

No new members were brought into the Camp during Aug/Sep

Remember: everyone is a "Recruiter" — think of friends who like history — ask, "Did you have an ancestor who served in the Union forces during the Civil War?" you'll be amazed how many say "Yes."

### Remembrance Day Ceremony

A Remembrance Day Ceremony is scheduled for Sunday, November 16, 2003 at the gravesite of William & Winnie Pittenger, in Fallbrook, California. This is the 5<sup>th</sup> annual event sponsored by the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21. The event will commence at 11:00 AM at the Odd Fellows Community Cemetery, 1400 block of Alturas Road. Please consider attending with your family. You may direct questions or comments to Commander Jerry Sayre or SVC Dave Allyn. Honor your ancestor and our Camp's name-sake by attending and wearing your membership badge or nametag.

## Proposed Camp By-Laws Change - Sec/Tr s Gene Armistead, PDC

Two amendments to the Camp's By-Laws will be discussed and voted upon at the October meeting. The first Amendment will assess those Brothers who have become Life Members (of the SUVCW) since 2001, annual Camp dues equal to the Camp portion (presently \$12.00) of the total dues and per capita assessments of Regular Members. [Brothers who became Life Members prior to 2001 will not be affected since the National Organization remits annually to the Camp a sum to cover Camp expenses related to these Brothers] The assessment of dues to those who became or become Life Members after 2001 would be in addition to any assessment by the Department (which at its 2000 Annual Encampment voted to not assess its per capita dues on Life Members). The Camp Dues assessed upon post-2001 Life Members will defray the costs of services to those members. The second amendment to be voted upon will delete Article XI - "Divisions of the Camp" - and renumber all subsequent Articles one number higher. With the formation of Camps of the SUVCW in Los Angeles and Orange County, the Camp no longer needs to provide for subordinate "Tents" of the Camp. This article was never utilized and similar provision(s) are not provided for in the Constitution or By-Laws of either the National Organization or the Department. If passed by the Camp, approval of the Department Commander is required. The assessment of Camp Dues upon post-2001 Life Members would not take effect until 1 January 2004.

## Farewell from Rev. Mark Woolfington

To the Officers and Brothers of the Sgt. William Pittenger Camp 21 of the SUVCW:

Gentlemen:

As you have no doubt heard by now, I have resigned from my various positions within Camp 21, the Department of California and Pacific, and Company G, 5th California Infantry of the SVR. I have resigned from these positions due to the fact that I have accepted the call to serve as the pastor of a congregation in the southwest suburbs of Chicago. This move will allow us to raise our son, Joshua, near his grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins, who are all in the Midwest. Our last Sunday in Tustin will be Sept. 21, and we'd like to invite all of you to attend the worship service at the First Advent Christian Church, which begins at 11 a.m. Lunch will be provided after the service, and all of my SUVCW

brethren are encouraged to attend in uniform or period attire. Soon after we arrive in the Department of Illinois, I will be involved in the local Camp of the SUVCW, and I hope to see many of you at future National Encampments. Your friendship has been a great blessing to me over the years, and there will always be a special place in my heart for the Pittenger Camp. At the 2003 National Encampment, the National Order only confirmed what I have known for a long time: you are the best Camp in the Order! May God bless and keep you all, until we meet again when the Final Muster is called.

I remain, your obedient servant,

Rev. Mark D. Woolfington  
Pastor-Elect  
Church of the Highlands  
1525 W. Plainfield Rd.  
La Grange, IL 60525

## Minutes of Camp Meeting - August 9, 2003

The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM by JVC Will Tisch at Charlie's Family Restaurant in Escondido, CA. A total of 20 people were in attendance including 14 Brothers (Gene Armistead, Mark Davis, Larry Fillhard, Tom Helmantoler, Gary Henson, Nelson Hughes, John May, Monroe McBride, Colin McKim, John Pollard, Ernie Powell, Mike Schooling, & Will Tisch), 1 visiting Brother (Mark Woolfington) from Camp 17, and 5 guests (Sveinbjorn Claessen, Maribeth Hughes, Mary May, Linda McKim, & Eileen Tisch). 3 Brothers (Dave Allyn, Bob Lowe & Jerry Sayre) were absent but in attendance at the National Encampment.

The opening prayer was delivered by Rev. Mark Woolfington. The pledge of allegiance was led by JVC Tisch,

JVC Tisch recognized Sec/Tr Armistead for a special announcement. Armistead reported a phone call at 9:00 AM from SVC Allyn calling from the National Encampment that our Camp had been awarded the Abraham Lincoln Award for "Most Outstanding Camp" in the nation. The award includes a statuette of Lincoln, a plaque, and a ribbon for attachment to the Camp Flag. Pictures will be in the Sept. Newsletter along with more details.

Upon motion (Helmantoler/Powell) unanimously passed, minutes of the June meeting as published in the July newsletter were approved with one correction: new Brother Steve Simpson is not a descendant of William Pittenger but rather of another of the Andrews Raiders, Jacob Parrot, who was the first person to receive the Medal of Honor.

Treasurer Armistead reported a balance of \$1,133.11 after payment of expenses for the July newsletter, a camp seal, postage expenses of officers, and \$40.00 to Camp 17 upon transfer of 8 Brothers to that camp.

JVC Tisch reported briefly on the 25 June Officer's meeting clarifying that uniforms are optional and upon circumstances for presentation of a pin to new members (only when present at first meeting at which elected to membership). The Secretary passed around one of the pins for viewing.

JVC Tisch reported that the Camp is presenting quite a few Eagle Scout Recognition Certificates lately.

Secretary Armistead had only one item of correspondence to report. A 28 July letter from the Southern Museum of Civil War and Locomotive History advised 17,000 visitors in the first 3 months since re-opening and that it is selling commemorative bricks at \$65.00 each. Brochure/order forms for said bricks were made available to interested attendees.

Under "Old Business," JVC Tisch reminded the Camp of the fund-raising for the monument to Bob Hope and of the multiple camp picnic with Camps 2 and 17 to be held the afternoon of Sunday 31 August in Huntington Beach's Central Park.

Under "New Business," Secretary/Treasurer Armistead announced a Camp By-Laws Amendment to be voted upon at the October meeting. If approved, the amendment will assess Brothers who become Life Members after 2001 annual dues in an amount equal to the Camp portion (presently \$12.00) of the total annual dues. Life members who gained such status prior to 2001 are not affected.

During the "Member" Minutes" portion of the agenda:

M. Woolfington invited all Brothers (in uniform if they desire) to his final service at 11:00 AM 21 Sept. at Tustin's First Advent Christian Church. J. Churchyard shows news articles of the 1930 Riverside Annual Encampment of the Dept. of California GAR and Allied Orders that he has copied for Dept. Historian, Bob Nelson. T. Helmantoler reported an unsuccessful search for an ancestor's grave. E. Powell and his wife took his granddaughter to visit Antietam, Philadelphia & Saratoga. M. David advised of a Fife & Drum event at Riley Farm next weekend which he and C. McKim will be participating in. M. Schooling introduced his guest, Sveinbjorn Claessen who is an exchange student from Iceland and a member of Iceland's Jr. National Basketball Team. G. Henson visited the Atlanta Cyclorama, Kennesaw Mt., Pickett's Mill and Andersonville in June. W. Tisch recognized the contributions of M. Schooling, G. Henson & E. Powell to the Memorial Day Services at Mt. Hope Cemetery.

The book raffle, conducted by M. Woolfington and T. Helmantoler, earned \$45.00 for the Camp. 1st Winner W. Tisch selected a paperback copy of Buck's *Road to Reunion*. 2nd Winner Mary May donated her selection to guest, B. Claessen who chose a copy of the coffee-table book, *Fighting Men of The Civil War*. 3rd Winner M. Davis selected a copy of Margaret Leach's Pulitzer Prize winning book, *Reveille in Washington*. 4th Winner T. Helmantoler received a copy of Malone's, *The Civil War Quiz Book*.

The announced speaker Pedro Garcia did not show up. To fill the program, W. Tisch showed the History Channel video, "*Civil War: the Story*" which those in attendance found to be an excellent, concise, unbiased summary of the basic events and progress of the Civil War.

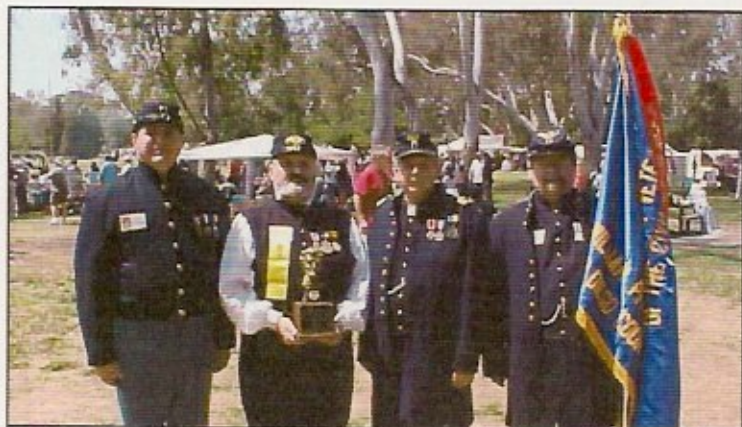
JVC Tisch reminded attendees to keep in mind those serving our country overseas.

Rev. M. Woolfington delivered the closing prayer.

JVC Tisch adjourned the meeting at 5:12 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gene C. Armistead, PDC  
Secretary/Treasurer

Huntington Beach, August 30 & 31, 2003 ~ photos by Gay Allgn



Will Tisch, Dave Allyn, Bob Lowe and Jerry Sayre with Lincoln Trophy and Camp Flag with Award Streamer attached



Camps 21, 2, & 17 combined Information Table/display was visited by many spectators and reenactors, both days



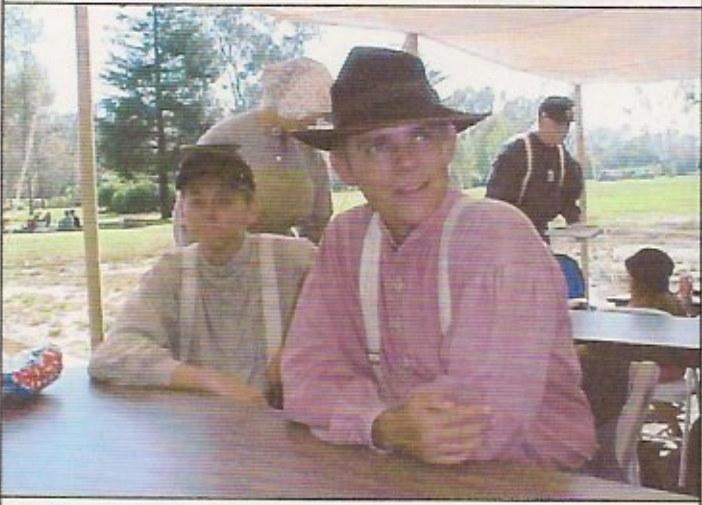
Mark Woolfington, Al Hodges, Kim Sayre & Cindy Hodges await instructions to "Chow down!" from Glen Roosevelt of Camp 17



Eileen and Will Tisch enjoying the bright August day



Jerry Sayre and Will Tisch wind down in preparation for the picnic



Tim and Tom Stinson are ready - bring on the grub!  
Two of our SUCVW Brothers who reenact as Confederates

## NEXT CAMP MEETING

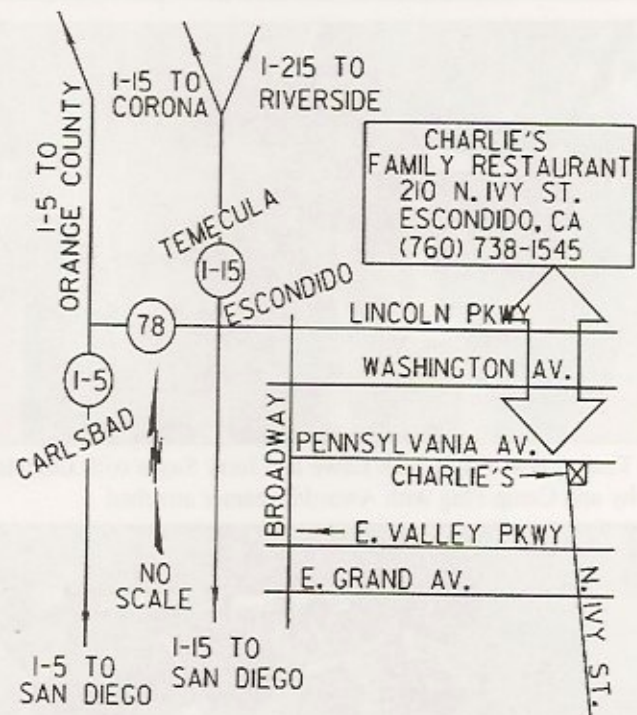
OCTOBER 11, 2003 - 4 PM

CHARLIE'S FAMILY RESTAURANT  
210 NORTH IVY STREET

OUR OCTOBER PROGRAM WILL BE PRESENTED BY GEORGE & MIMI BUTLER OF THE SAN DIEGO CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE. GEORGE, ASSISTED BY MIMI, WILL PRESENT "CIVIL WAR LEGENDS & MYTHS: FACT OR FICTION." YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS THIS ENTERTAINING MIX OF HUMOR AND PATHOS!

### NOTICE

It has been requested by the management of Charlie's Restaurant that, when attending meetings, we use the Municipal Parking Lot behind and to the East of the restaurant. Please comply.



The General

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Dave Allyn, Editor  
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