



Newsletter of *Sgt. William Pittenger Camp #21*

# The General

*Department of  
California & Pacific*



*Sons of Union Veterans  
of the Civil War*

*"Most Outstanding Camp in the Nation" ~ 2003*

*"Most Outstanding Brother in the Nation" ~ 2005*

**Volume XIII Number 5**

*"Best Camp Newsletter in the Nation" ~ 2004 & 2006*

**Sept 29, 2007**

## **Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch**

Congratulations to our Newly elected SUVCW Commander in Chief, Charlie Kuhn, and to our Camp Brothers that attended the 126<sup>th</sup> National Encampment in St. Louis. I want to relate to you how proud I am of our Camp Brothers for conducting business as usual at the August meeting, during the time of the National Encampment. Several issues arose concerning the "Minter's Ranch" project and "The Showalter Party" capture near Lake Hinshaw. One, is the procurement of a monument which will be maintained by the State in perpetuity, following installation. We, as a Camp have decided to proceed in this direction: to install a monument and plaque in alignment with other historical markers in the San Diego County area. This will eventually require a purchase price of \$2600 for the price of the Monument to be paid with money we are already in the process of raising. The other issue that arose is the wording on the plaque and by whom it will be dedicated. We chose to limit the amount of donations to small amounts and to issue certificates to larger donors. In this way, our Camp will be listed as sole dedicating entity on the Monument, to draw

attention to and promote the good work of the SUVCW. We have also effectively chosen a location for the monument, close to the actual place of the engagement, in a high profile, heavy-traffic area, across from the Lake Hinshaw store. There is a turnoff at the location and cars can very easily stop to see the monument. Thank you Dave & Jan Shaffer and Gene & Darlene Armistead for your excellent efforts. This year's Mother Goose Parade promises to be an exciting affair for our Camp. We are building a platform float to be towed behind Dave Shaffers' truck and upon which our Camp members may ride. For those of you who don't know, the parade is almost three miles long so this will be a welcome addition to be incorporated into our participation. If you are interested in helping out on the Parade Committee, let me know. And if you wish to participate in the Parade, we would love to have you! We are collecting donations to purchase Al Hodges uniform so we may donate it to the Veterans Memorial Museum Center in Balboa Park.



At the Sep. 1-2 Huntington Beach reenactment, Cmndr Will Tisch stands with an aspiring future living historian in front of our Flags.

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**THE GENERAL** is the official newsletter of Sgt. Wm. Pittenger Camp 21, Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. It's published each odd-numbered month for Camp members. It's also available by newsletter exchange to other SUVCW or Allied Orders groups. 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: space limitations may require editing.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** should be mailed to Camp Secretary at 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 Camp Email Directory, send your permission & email address to Dave Allyn at:  
 svrsuvcw@yahoo.com

**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 \$6.00. Interested Brothers should contact the SVR Representative listed above.

**2007 Blue and Gray Cotillion By Bob Lowe PDC**

On the evening of August 25, 2007, Co. I, 2<sup>nd</sup> U.S. Cavalry Reenactors held their 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Blue and Gray Cotillion and Military Ball in Escondido. Tripping the light fantastic and representing the SUVCW/SVR and ASUVCW were Pvt. Deane and Mrs. Brenda Poole, Lt. Will and Mrs. Eileen Tisch, Capt. Bob and Mrs. Rosemary Lowe, and Ms. Julie Atzen. Dance cards were provided the ladies to be filled by eager gentlemen. Two bottles of wine on each table loosened the feet and inhibitions of the dancers. The men looked elegant and the ladies beautiful as the evening began with the Grand March. The music performed on period instruments by talented musicians was fantastic and dances of great variety were offered. Portrayers of Abraham Lincoln, Jefferson Davis, U.S. Grant, R.E. Lee and George Pickett were seated at the head table and provided additional color and authenticity to the event. During a mid-evening break an awards ceremony took place, honoring a selected individual in the reenacting community. A newly established "Reenactors Hall of Fame" was announced. A sword was shown, on which was inscribed the names of the first inductees into the Hall of Fame. A most pleasant surprise occurred when our good friend Al Haun of Co. G, 6<sup>th</sup> U.S. Infantry Reenactors was named as first recipient of this prestigious recognition for his long-time commitment and service to the reenacting community. A well-deserved award for this dedicated gentleman. The Cotillion & Ball was sold out this year. Although this event is mainly attended by Reenactors, our small contingent had a wonderful time and plan on attending future events of this nature. Hopefully, other like minded and uniformed Brothers will consider attending next year.

Photos of the event are below and on Pg. 7



Left: L-R, Pvt. Dean Poole, Capt. Bob Lowe and Lt. Will Tisch, our proud "Gentlemen in Blue" and below, L-R are the lovely ladies of our Camp who attended the Cotillion, Julie Atzen, Brenda Poole, Rosemary Lowe and Eileen Tisch. Don't they all look simply grand !





**Camp Commanders Corner ~ by Will Tisch (Con't.)**

*Continued from Page 1*

As many of you know, the VMMC honored Al by presenting a US Flag to Cindy Hodges during a humbling ceremony dedicated to our Nation's heroes who have served our Country in the Armed Forces. The VMMC can certainly use more representative items of the Civil War with which to teach Americans - young and old - who visit the museum.

Our next Camp meeting is shaping up to be extraordinary. We cannot use the MCAS Miramar Staff NCO Club as it will be closed due to the Air Show.

Our Senior Vice Commander, Tom Helmantoler and his lovely wife Sandy will be hosting an "Oktoberfest" at their house. Instead of a speaker, we will have a Camp round table so bring any items you wish to share, or think of a discussion question of interest. Please let me know if you

plan on attending. There is no charge and we expect to have a very enjoyable evening. The meeting will commence at the usual time of 4:30. Please don't be a stranger; stop by for this great event.

Directions to "Schloss Helmantoler" (Tom and Sandy's 'Castle') are found on the last page of *The General*. If you would like to bring something to pass, please contact Tom by phone. He and Sandy are going to supply the essentials; Brats, Beer and sauerkraut. They are looking for potato-salad and desserts, especially some good strudel.

For those of you we have not seen for awhile, we hope all is well and please know that we are here to serve the memory of "The Boys in Blue."

Respectfully  
Will Tisch, Commander



Dept. Cmndr Jerry Sayre poses beside the Dept. flag holding his prized replica Henry Repeating Rifle which excited much interest at the Huntington Beach event.

Camp Calendar: Event, Location (* Denotes SVR participation)	Time, Month, Day, Year	Contact Persons
Regular Camp Meeting, Tom Helmantoler's home, Scripps Ranch area - special "Oktoberfest Party" and "Q&A" Session	4:30 PM, Oct. 13, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park	11:00 AM, Oct. 27, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Massing of Colors, Order of the World Wars, Balboa Park	10:30 AM, Nov. 4, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Veterans Day Parade, San Diego	10:30 AM, Nov. 11, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* "Mother Goose Parade" El Cajon, CA	9:00 AM, Nov. 18, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
* Christmas Parade, Fallbrook, CA	5:00 PM, Dec. 1, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch
Regular Camp Meeting, SNCO Club, MCAS Miramar	4:30 PM, Dec. 8, 2007	Will Tisch, Tom Helmantoler
* Honor Guard, Memorial Service, VMMC, Balboa Park	11:00 AM, Dec. 22, 2007	Jerry Sayre, Will Tisch

## **MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, August 11, 2007**

**Present:** Brothers Gene Armistead, Andrew Brooks, Jerry Cady, Bill Daley, George Cavanagh, Michael Clover, John Finch, Jeff Malone, John May, Monroe McBride, Deane Poole, Mike Schooling, Dave Shaffer, Will Tisch, and guests Darlene Armistead, Julie Atzen, Brenda Boucher, Angie Daley, Rosemary Lowe, Spencer McBride, Janice Shaffer and Eileen Tisch. The meeting was called to order by Commander Will Tisch at 4:35pm at the Staff NCO Club, Miramar MCAS, San Diego, CA. The opening prayer was offered by Chaplain D. Poole and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by B. Daley.

### **I. Honored Attendees**

Spencer McBride, son of Br. M. McBride was welcomed.

### **II. Announcements**

- 1) Newly elected Commander-In-Chief is Charles Kuhn
- 2) Br. Glen Roosevelt from Camp 17 has been named National SUVCW Brother of the Year.
- 3) Br. Stephen Berrey has moved and Br. B. Lowe has agreed to take over the post of Eagle Scout Coordinator.
- 4) Br. Bill Daley will be moving to the Redlands area and will be sorely missed by our Camp.
- 5) Colin McKim has dropped his membership in the Camp.
- 6) Eileen Tisch has been collecting money for the "No-Bake Bake Sale" fundraiser.
- 7) Congratulations are extended to new grandparents, Jan and Dave Shaffer, Darlene and Gene Armistead, and Jerry Cady.
- 8) Deceased Br. Al Hodges' uniform items are for sale. See Cindy Hodges.

### **III. Committee Reports**

- 1) J. May reported that the Last Soldier Project has a plaque selected and the cost will be \$600. A rendering of the plaque was distributed. A dedication date is needed to complete the wording on the plaque and to finalize the project.
- 2) M. McBride reported that planning for the speech contest is coming along. The contest will be in February, 2008.
- 3) D. Shaffer reported for the Minters' Ranch Project. He has approached the Vista Irrigation District, the owner of the land, and has found them interested in the project. He will address the board at their Sept. 5 meeting and will report back. The projected cost for a California State installed and maintained monument will be \$2975. A motion (May/Daley) to commit the Camp to raising the needed funds was passed.

### **IV. Upcoming Events**

- 1) Huntington Beach Civil War Reenactment, Fri.-Sun., Aug. 31-Sept. 2.
- 2) Our Color Guard will be presenting the colors at the Padres game on Sept. 15.
- 3) Next Camp Meeting will be held at T. Helmantoler's home on Oct. 13.

### **V. Minutes of Last Meeting**

A motion (Daley/May) to approve the minutes of the last meeting, as published in The General, was passed.

### **VII. Officers' Reports**

- 1) JVC J. Malone reported no new members
- 2) Chaplain D. Poole reported no new correspondence.
- 3) Sec. J. May reported on correspondence from a) the Borrego Springs Chamber of Commerce requesting our presence at their annual parade in Oct., b) Rita Cartwright thanking us for our good work and enclosing a small donation, and c) Camp #10 who has requested our presence in Monterey for a living history event.
- 4) Treas. J. May reported that since the last meeting, the Camp had expenses of \$30.75 and income of \$99.00. The balance is \$3206.41, of which \$1325.45 is in the Flagpole Replacement Fund. Additionally, approx. \$600 has been encumbered to purchase the Last Soldier plaque.

### **VIII. Old Business**

J. May reported that the ceremonial bugle discussed at the last meeting would cost \$525 plus tax and shipping. It is a recording of "Taps" from the 1999 Memorial Day service at Arlington National Cemetery. The bugle comes with a one year warranty.

### **IX. New Business**

- 1) Our Camp is planning on creating a float for the Mother Goose Parade in El Cajon this year.
- 2) The Veterans' Day Parade will be held on Nov. 10 in San Diego.
- 3) A motion (May/Cady) to donate \$200 to the Civil War Preservation Trust was approved (8-5).
- 4) J. May suggested that members bring books to exchange each meeting.
- 5) Suggestions for fund-raising were discussed.

### **X. Members' Minutes**

- 1) J. Finch shared a Father's Day gift--- a copy of Killer Angels with an etching of his ancestor's name from the monument in Gettysburg inscribed in the front.
- 2) J. May mentioned a trip to Vermont where he found the gravesite of his g-g-grandfather, Dennis May of the 17<sup>th</sup> VT INF.
- 3) An SUVCW sword is now being offered by the

**LAUS DEO: A little history lesson you may enjoy ~ submitted by Marc Moniz via email forward**

One detail that is not mentioned, in DC, is that there can never be a building of greater height than the Washington Monument. With all the uproar about removing the ten commandments, etc... This is worth a moment or two of your time. I was not aware of this historical information.

On the aluminum cap, atop the Washington Monument in Washington, DC, are displayed two words: **Laus Deo**. No one can see these words. In fact, most visitors to the monument are totally unaware they are even there and for that matter, probably couldn't care less. Once you know Laus Deo's history, you will want to share this with everyone you know.

But these words have been there for many years; they are 555 feet, 5.125 inches high, perched atop the monument, facing skyward to the Father of our Nation, overlooking the 69 square miles which comprise the District of Columbia, Capital of the United States of America.

*Laus Deo!* Two seemingly insignificant, unnoticed words. Out of sight and, one might think, out of mind, but very meaningfully placed at the highest point over what is the most powerful city in the most successful nation in the world. So, what do those two words, in Latin, composed of just four syllables and only seven letters, possibly mean? Very simply, they say, **'Praise be to God!'**

Though construction of this giant obelisk began in 1848, when James Polk was President of the United States, it was not until 1888 that the monument was inaugurated and opened to the public. It took twenty five years to finally cap the memorial with a tribute to the Father of our nation, *Laus Deo*. *Praise be to God!*

From atop this magnificent granite and marble structure, visitors may take in the beautiful panoramic view of the city with its division into four major segments. From that vantage point, one can also easily see the original plan of the designer, Pierre Charles l'Enfant - a perfect cross imposed upon the landscape, with the White House to the North. The Jefferson Memorial is to the South, the Capitol to the East and the Lincoln Memorial to the West. A cross you ask? Why a cross? What about separation of church and state? Yes, a cross; separation of church and state was not, is not, in the Constitution.

So, read on. How interesting and, no doubt, intended to carry a profound meaning for those who

bother to notice. *Praise be to God!*

Within the monument itself are 898 steps and 50 landings. As one climbs the steps and pauses at the landings the memorial stones share a message. On the 12th Landing is a prayer offered by the City of Baltimore; on the 20th is a memorial presented by some Chinese Christians; on the 24th a presentation made by Sunday School children from New York and Philadelphia quoting Proverbs 10:7, Luke 18:16 and Proverbs 22:6. *Praise be to God!*

When the cornerstone of the Washington Monument was laid on July 4th, 1848, deposited within it were many items including the Holy Bible presented by the Bible Society. *Praise be to God!*

Such was the discipline, the moral direction, and the spiritual mood given by the founder and first President of our unique democracy - 'One Nation, Under God.' I am awed by Washington's prayer for America. Have you ever read it? Well, now is your unique opportunity, so read on!

'Almighty God; We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy holy protection; that Thou wilt incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow citizens of the United States at large. And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.' *Laus Deo*

When one stops to observe the inscriptions found in public places all over our nation's capitol, he or she will easily find the signature of God, as it is unmistakably inscribed everywhere you look. You may forget the width and height of '*Laus Deo*,' it's location or the architect but no one who reads this will be able to forget it's meaning, or these words:

'Unless the Lord builds the house it's builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain.' (Psalm 127: 1)

*"LAUS DEO" - 'PRAISE BE TO GOD'*



# PITTENGER CAMP SCRAPBOOK



Will Tisch & Gay Allyn entertain on cornet & mandolin. at Rt: Chaplain Deane & Brenda Poole Sat. at Huntington Beach.



below: Jerry Sayre showing GAR and SUV memorabilia to a couple of elegantly dressed living historians



above: Bob explains edged weapons to interested youngsters. below: Deane demonstrates the weight of a Springfield.



above: Brenda Poole displays ASUVCW & other items of interest to women under the Camp 21 fly. below: Rosemary Lowe and Jerry Sayre 'peopling' our information table while others of the Camp enjoy a break while the 'battle' draws the crowds away briefly.



below: the SVR all-National Flags Color Guard of Will Tisch - Navy, Glen Roosevelt - Marines, Deane Poole - Infantry & Bob Lowe - Cavalry at a Sep. 15 SD Padre's game at Petco Park.



below: Glen Roosevelt (at left) and the USMC Historical Company were a welcome addition this year. Glen was named "Brother of the Year" by then CinC Jim Pahl at the 126th National Encampment in St. Louis. Huzzah Glen !!! (or should I say, "OooRah !!!")







**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING, August 11, 2007 Cont.**

National Quartermaster. Cost is \$425.

- 4) D. Shaffer shared a list of books on Civil War engagements in the Western United States.

**XI. Raffle**

The raffle netted \$60.00 for the Camp treasury. Winners included Brenda Boucher (several times), A. Brooks (twice), Rosemary Lowe (twice), W. Tisch, J. Cady (who graciously passed), and B. Daley.

**XII. Program**

The program, entitled "Sowing the Seeds of the Civil War", was presented by Spencer McBride, recent graduate of Brigham Young University. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented to the presenter by Cmdr. Tisch.

The closing prayer was offered by D. Poole and Cmdr. Tisch adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
John May, Secretary

**Welcome New Brothers!**

There were no new members since our last report. We need to do all we can to assure the continued health of our Order.

We have special recruiting newsletters available to give to interested men so be sure to call or write Commander Will or one of the other Officers of the Camp for your copy.

Unless we grow, we cannot survive & thrive !

**"DECADERS"  
Congratulations on attain-  
ing 10 years of member-  
ship in the SUVCW**

- ◆ Jim Churchyard - 2/96
- ◆ Leroy Olson - 3/96
- ◆ Dan Edwards - 6/96
- ◆ Ralph Winkler - 8/96
- ◆ Jerry Sayre - 9/96
- ◆ Andrew Kovach - 3/97
- ◆ Ed Strobridge - 3/97

**Thank you Brothers for  
your continued commit-  
ment to the objectives of  
our Order !**

The San Diego Civil War Roundtable meets the Third Wednesday of each month, 7 PM at Palisades Presbyterian Church 6301 Birchwood St., San Diego and is open to the public. For further information, contact President Dave Tooley at 858/672-2593 on the Web at [sdcwrt.org](http://sdcwrt.org)



More Cotillion Pix: Top, L-R, Julie Atzen with Bob & Rosemary Lowe. Top-R, Dean & Brenda Poole are seen waltzing, Bottom-R, Rosemary leads Bob to the floor, and Bottom-L, Brenda Poole, Eileen & Will Tisch are seen in a Reel along with some of the other ladies and gentlemen at the Escondido event. From their smiling faces, it is easy to see why this was a very enjoyable evening for all.



# OUR NEXT CAMP MEETING (Note Time)

October 13, 2007 4:30pm

## DIRECTIONS

### Meeting Location

SVC Tom Helmantoler's home,  
10716 Brookview Ln. in the  
Scripps Ranch area

### Our Program

Tom and Sandy have graciously opened their home and will provide the main ingredients for an "Oktoberfest" party, followed by a "Q & A" session on anything of interest to the Camp. We shall feast on Beer, Brats, Kraut, Potato-salad and Strudel with Oompah Band accompaniment to celebrate this traditional German festive celebration. We hope you will be able to join us !

**From the North:** I-15 South to Mira Mesa Blvd. Left to Scripps Ranch Blvd. Right to Scripps Lake Blvd. Left to Red Cedar Dr. Right to Grayfox St, continue to bottom of hill, Right on Brookview. 4th house on Right.

**From the South:** I-15 North to Carroll Canyon Rd. Right to Scripps Ranch Blvd. Right to Aviary Dr. Left to Red Cedar Dr. Left on Red Cedar then Left on Grayfox and down the hill to Brookview Ln. 4th house on the right.

**Note: the 15 North will have heavy traffic in the Right lanes for the Miramar Air Show, so stay Left until you pass "Pomerado-Miramar" exit; Then get to the Right - quickly !**

Call Tom at 858-566-0012 or Will Tisch at 619-889-4833 if you need help.

The General

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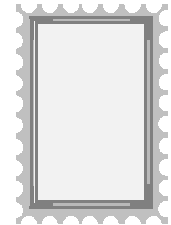


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Preserving the memory of the G. A. R. & "The Boys in Blue"

*"In God We Trust"*

*"One Nation Under God"*



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