Camp Pendleton Historical Society

GROUNDBREAKER

www.camppendletonhistoricalsociety.org

Fourth Quarter 2022 Volume 16 Number 2

Dedication of Camp Joseph H. Pendleton

By Calvin Frantz

Camp Pendleton came into being on Aug. 3, 1942, when the U.S. Navy acquired the property then known as the Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores. Maj. Gen. Joseph C. Fegan, USMC, became the first commanding general of the base, and the Marines began the process of turning the ranch into the world's largest amphibious training base. But the actual dedication ceremony for the base did not occur until almost two months later on Sept. 25, 1942.

Unfortunately, very little is known about that ceremony. The reason for this sparse knowledge is World War II. The country had been at war since Dec. 7, 1941 and the Marines were into their second month of fierce combat at Guadalcanal. When President Franklin D. Roosevelt came to Camp Pendleton for the dedication in September 1942, there was a complete news blackout of his whereabouts and itinerary. No TV cameras, no multiple news channels covering the events of the day, no grandstands full of dignitaries and visitors. None of that.

What we do know about the base dedication ceremony comes primarily from journal entries kept by Grace Tully, President Roosevelt's personal secretary at the time. Grace writes the following about the ceremony,

"The President's cavalcade of cars was underway from the ranch house at 3:00 and a short stop was made a moment or two later to permit the President to view a small lake nestled in the low hills of the training grounds. About five minutes later the President's car drew up before the Headquarters of Camp Pendleton and came to a stop while the Marine Band plays "Hail to the Chief." Following this, Mrs. Joseph H. Pendleton, the widow of Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton, for whom this camp was named, bent on to the halyards of the flagpole a large United States flag, and, as Old Glory was hoisted and unfurled in the breeze, the band played the National Anthem. Following this, Maj. Gen. Fegan read his orders and the camp was considered to be dedicated and formally placed in commission. This was a most impressive ceremony."

For the Marines, there was more to the president's visit than just the dedication ceremony. Noted in Grace Tully's journal that the president's cavalcade "... was underway from the ranch house at

Continued page 2, Dedication



Marines of the 9th Marine Regiment on the march from Camp Elliott (San Diego, Calif.) to the newly-built Camp Joseph H. Pendleton (September 1942). Images courtesy of the Camp Pendleton Archives

Dedication, Cont.



Camp Pendleton commanding general, Maj. Gen. Joseph Fegan, speaks to Marines upon arrival at Camp Pendleton from Camp Elliott (Sept. 8, 1942)

3:00..." The President's visit to the ranch house was perhaps as significant as the dedication ceremony itself, and what took place there reverberates down to the present day.

It is conventional wisdom among Marines that President Roosevelt directed the Marines to preserve the ranch house as an historic site. But what did he really say?

The fact is, we don't really know. The official record available to us does not include any specific comments by the president directing preservation of the ranch house. Again, Grace Tully's journal appears to be the only eye witness account of the president's visit to the ranch house, or record of comments he made there. The following synopsis of the President's day in Southern California is based on the Tully journal.

President Roosevelt's visit to Southern California on Sept. 25, 1942 began at 9 a.m. at the Douglas Aircraft plant in Long Beach. Later, a train ride brought his party to San Juan Capistrano at about 1:15 p.m., where he was met by Maj. Gen. Murray, commanding general of the Southern California sector of the Western Defense Command, and by Maj. Gen. Fegan. A drive down U.S. Highway 101 brought the party to Camp Pendleton about 2:25 p.m. that afternoon. At this point in the Tully journal, a brief history of Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores is inserted into the narrative. The last paragraph of this Rancho history reads as follows:

"Upon authorization of the Secretary of the Navy, on Aug. 3, 1942, Camp Pendleton became a reality on the ranch site. The Marines will harden their men for battle over the historic hills and canyons and teach them to swim and handle boats in the surf of the long stretch of beach line. The historic Ranch House, which was built in 1828, will be preserved as an Officers' Club, to house distinguished guests."

Following this rancho history, the Tully journal narrative continues with an account of the president's inspection of the ranch house, where the President spent about 20 minutes touring the site. While there, he joked with the Marine officers conducting the tour that they certainly had all the comforts of home, and that he was "going to pass a law making this place available to ex-Presidents."

While in the ranch house patio, the president was introduced to 20-year ranch hand "Pancho" Brown, who told the president about the old days at the ranch. The president told Pancho that he, the president, was going to see that the ranch was kept "just the way it is now."

Following inspection of the ranch house, the president's party drove to the headquarters for the dedication ceremony. At about 3:10 p.m., the president's party left for San Diego to visit the Naval Hospital at Balboa. Total time aboard the base was less than one hour; a whirlwind pace even by today's standards.

Nowhere in the journal are there any words quoted from the president directing preservation of the ranch house. Only two comments by the president are enclosed in quotation marks in the journal, indicating that he actually said the words quoted. The first is the joking remark that he was "going to pass a law making this place available to ex-Presidents." The second is his promise to an old ranch hand that he, the president, was going to see that the ranch was kept "just the way it is now." This second remark was perhaps meant to comfort a man who had just lost his job, but the Marines never intended to keep the ranch "just the way it is now." They intended to turn it into a massive amphibious training base, and that is exactly what they did. The first quoted remark was obviously facetious.

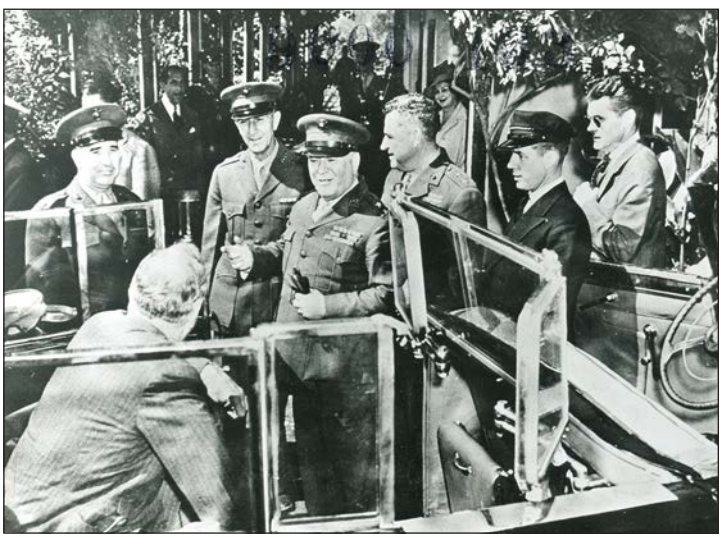
So whence cometh the idea that President Roosevelt himself told the Marines to preserve the ranch house? A hint comes in the last paragraph of the rancho history inserted into the journal. Apparently, there was some provision in the Secretary of the Navy's authorization for the base that the ranch house was to be "preserved as an Officers' Club, to house distinguished guests." Further, as reported in Linda McIntosh's 2011 article in the San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper, the day following the president's visit, Maj. Gen. Fegan wrote the following to Marine Corps Commandant Maj. Gen. Thomas Holcomb: "He told me as I jockeyed him through what he thought should be done with it... He wanted to make a shrine of it." That is a clear indication that President Roosevelt expressed his ideas about the future of the Ranch House, but what he actually said was apparently not recorded.

Whatever was said, the Marines have considered it their duty to preserve the ranch house ever since acquiring the property in 1942, quite as if they had a presidential mandate to do so. While its designation as an Officers' Club was of very short duration, it served continuously as living quarters for the base commander until 2007. The overall structure and several of the rooms have always been preserved as historically faithful to their 1942 status. And the Navy Secretary's provision to keep the ranch house as a place to house distinguished guests has indeed been honored.











Top Left: Gunnery Sgt. Carl A. Ostrom, USMC, holds the US flag prior to the flag raising to dedicate Camp Joseph H. Pendleton; President Franklin D. Roosevelt and Mary Fay Pendleton, widow of Maj. Gen. Pendleton, look on. (Sept. 25, 1942)
Middle Left: President Roosevelt receives a lariat from Pancho Brown at the historic Ranch House, Camp Pendleton. (Sept. 25, 1942)
Bottom Left: President Roosevelt in his vehicle at the Ranch House - L to R Col. Knighton, Brig. Gen. Howard, Maj. Gen. Vogel, and Maj. Gen. Fegan.
Top Right: Color raising and dedication ceremony at Camp Pendleton. From left, Maj. Gen. Clayton Vogel, Commanding General of the Amphibious Corps of the Pacific Fleet; unidentified; President Roosevelt; Mr. and Mrs. John A. Roosevelt; Mrs. James Roosevelt; and Mr. and Mrs. John Boettiger.
Bottom Right: Marine overlooking the site of the Sept. 25, 1942 base dedication; photograph by Maynard L. Parker.

OCEANSIDE DAILY BLADE-TRIBUNE

(COMPLETE LOCAL NEWS) A Daily Newspaper Serving Northern San Diego County (UNITED PRESS LEASED WIRE)

VOL. XV OCEANSIDE, SAN DIEGO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1942 NO. 194

PRESIDENT DEDICATES CAMP

'FDR' Saw Graphic Demonstration Of Southland At War

BY MERRIMAN SMITH
United Press Staff Correspondent

ABOARD PRESIDENTIAL TRAIN EN ROUTE THROUGH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA, Sept. 25 (Delayed)—President Roosevelt today saw a graphic demonstration of how war changes a nation as he rolled through Southern California to find the land of playful luxury transformed into an armed camp bristling with troops and guns and factories turning out the tools of war.

VISITED WAR HEROES

Instead of shapely movie queens normally associated with the southern part of the west coast Roosevelt saw young sailors who had their arms and legs blown off in the Battle of the Pacific.

Instead of breath-taking spas and beautiful mountain retreats, he saw factory assembly lines making bombers by the hundreds.

Even the weather seemed to be on a war footing as the President made a seven-point swing from Los Angeles to San Diego.

Instead of bright balmy weather, Roosevelt saw cold fog rolling in from the sea at Long Beach, but later at San Diego he was treated to bright sunshine and clear skies.

STOPS EN ROUTE

The President's itinerary today included stops at Douglas aircraft at Long Beach, the Mission at San Juan Capistrano, the new marine Camp Pendleton at Rancho Santa Margarita y Las Flores, and at San Diego, the navy hospital, the navy and marine training centers and the plant of Consolidated air craft corporation.

Before turning east in his nation-wide tour of war activities, the President spent an evening at the Coronado home of his son, John, and his wife, Anna, and played for a while with their two-year old son, Haven.

John, a navy lieutenant (J.G.) was expected to leave shortly for sea duty.

(Continued on page 6)

REPORTS $6820 BUILDING TOTAL FOR SEPTEMBER

Construction Limit Of $200 Reflected In Monthly Returns

Thirty-two permits, mainly for small jobs, rolled up a total of $6820 for local construction during the month of September which closed Wednesday.

The total was less than one-half that of the corresponding month in 1941 when building was going ahead with extra vigor and untrammelled by war restrictions and priorities.

The permits for September, 1941 run up an aggregate of $15,775, it was reported by George W. Schmidt, city building inspector, with a total of $264,720 for the period of Jan. 1 to Sept. 30, last year.

$108,252 TO SEPT 30

The 9-month total this year amounted to $108,252, a check-up revealed.

Outside of one permit for $1600 and two for $500 each the list for September was made up of small items, $200 and under, and mostly for repairs, alterations and additions.

The large permit was an addition to the Hilton dry cleaning establishment at 109 North Hill St.

A limit of $200 was placed on permits by the WPB effective Sept. 7.

RECENT PERMITS

Permits issued during the closing days of September were as follows:

E. A. Taylor, 2524 Mesa drive, repairs to stable, $20.

A. J. Fairecourt, 409 South Ditmar St., addition, $195.

Herman Nelson, 322 South Ditmar St., $20.

Gateway hotel, 428 North Hill St., addition to wash room, $200.

ORDINANCE FOR BIKE RIDERS NOW IN EFFECT

In the interest of safety, bicycles cannot be left standing or parked on any sidewalks within fire zone number 1, Ike Hoe, Chief Warren Paxton announced today.

Ordinance No. 471, adopted by the city on August 26, authorizes the police department to remove and hold all bicycles which are found being ridden or parked in violation of the ordinance.

The ordinance reads, in part, "it shall be unlawful for any person to park or leave standing any bicycle in any space or area on any street where under the laws of the state of California or any ordinance of the City of Oceanside, automobiles are prohibited thereby from parking in said area or space."

That means that bicycles cannot be left in red zone areas, such as in front of the theatres.

PASSENGER TRAIN SCHEDULES 'FROZEN' BY ORDER OF O.D.T.

By United Press

WASHINGTON, Oct. 1— The Office of Defense Transportation today "froze" all railroad passenger schedules in the United States.

The order becomes effective Oct. 4 on the basis of schedules used on Sept. 26.

The order, with certain exceptions, prohibits railroads from running any special passenger trains; adding new trains to existing schedules or running extra sections to regular trains unless such extras have been run at least 20 per cent of the time during the past 90 days.

TIDES

TONIGHT—Low, 9:34, 1.4.
FRIDAY—High, 6 a.m., 3.5; low, 9:34 a.m., 3.1; high, 3:03 p.m., 4.4; low, 10:49 p.m., 1.2.

SPEED CEILING OF 35 MPH IS NOW IN EFFECT

California motorists today will begin operating their cars under a speed "ceiling."

Governor Olson last night signed a proclamation ordering a 35-mile-an-hour speed limit for the State, effective today.

Director of Motor Vehicles James M. Carter announced that warnings would be issued to the majority of violators of the 35-mile speed limit but that patrolmen would make arrests wherever they believed they could make a case for illegal speed in light of driving conditions, in-

(Continued on page 6)

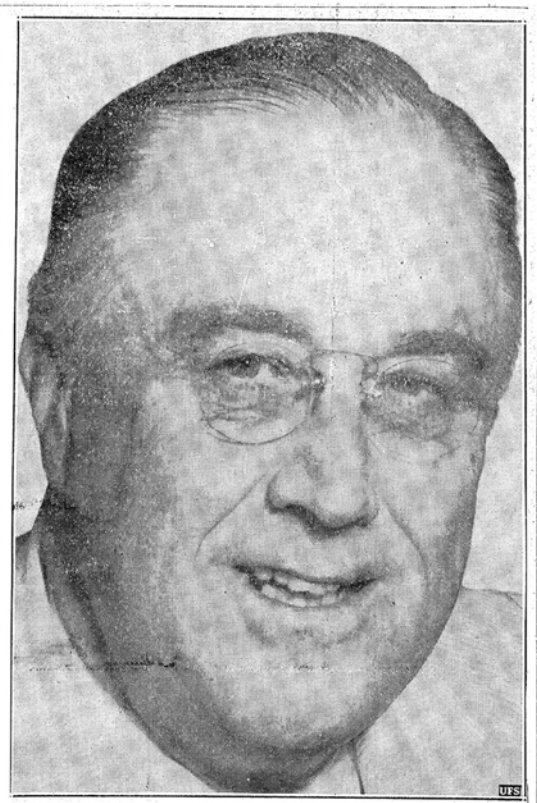
DIMOUT OFFENDERS TO GET CITATIONS, STARTING TONIGHT, SAYS POLICE CHIEF

Starting tonight, citations will be issued by the police department to all violators of the dimout ordinance.

In the past the department has been rather lenient, issuing warnings to violators, but all "leniency is off and the heat is on," according to Police Chief Warren Paxton.

The dimout, to be effective, must be rigidly adhered to by everyone. It is not right to 95 per cent of the population to observe the dimout, and have their efforts spoiled by fiv eper cent, the department states.

Citations will be given to motorists and householders alike who fail to observe the ordinance.



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT

CRITICAL HOUR FOR STALINGRAD SEEN AT HAND

Nazi Reinforcements Thrown Into Fray; Russ Counter-Attack

BY HARRISON SALISBURY
United Press Staff Correspondent

The critical hour of the Battle of Stalingrad appeared at hand today amid mounting indications that the Volga river traffic center constitutes the final Nazi military objective in the east for 1942.

Russian dispatches reported that masses of Nazi reinforcements were being thrown into the battle, particularly in the northwestern sector where they were met by sharp Soviet counter attacks.

RUMANIANS BESTED

South of the beleaguered city Russian troops bested Rumanian detachments and drove them out of three villages and 350 miles to the northwest in the Voronezh sector a Soviet diversionary attack had put Nazi on defensive.

A dispatch in the government

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Cardinals Win 4-3 To Tie Series With 'Freshman' as Star

ST. LOUIS, Oct. 1—It took a freshman pitcher to shackle the heavy-hitting Yankee sluggers this afternoon in Sportsman's Field, when the Cardinals took the second game of the World Series, 4 to 3, to tie it up at one all.

Young Beasley, 21-year-old pitcher went on the mound for the Cardinals today and held the Yanks scoreless until the eighth inning, when Keller got a hold of one of Beasley's fast ones, and put it over the fence to score Cullenbine and DiMaggio ahead of him, and to tie the score at three all.

The Cards kept right on the scoring spree they started yesterday in the ninth inning, and had two runs before the game was more than an inning old today.

Brown, first St. Louis man up walked, then stole second base, and advanced to third on a fielder's choice that put Moore on first.

Walt Cooper, then got ahold of a double that scored both men, and put the Cards out in front. In the seventh they got one more, when Hopp, who had singled, scored on Kurowiski's long triple.

But the Yankees, who are never beaten came into the eighth inning three runs behind, and proceeded to tie up the game. Cullenbine hit, then stole second base. Di Maggio hit and then came Keller's homer.

But this was St. Louis' day, and the home town was not to be denied, for tomorrow the teams move to New York. Slaughter, who was somewhat of a hero today, got a hit to open the eighth inning. He then scored on Musial's hit to put the Cards ahead 4 to 3. Then in the first half of the ninth, when it looked as if the Yanks might tie it up again. Slaughter took Hassett's hit to right field, and

(Continued on page 6)

SAN DIEGO EDITOR TO ADDRESS LOCAL ROTARIANS FRIDAY

J. S. Safley, managing editor of the San Diego Union and San Diego Tribune-Sun, will address the Rotary club Friday. His subject will be a timely and interesting one.

Safley has addressed many clubs in southern California. He often visits in Oceanside.

President Frank Telford urges a good attendance at the meeting.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE SET FOR DAUGHTER OF MR., MRS. SOWERS

Graveside services will be held Friday morning in the Oceanview Memorial Park for Eleanor Frances Sowers, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Sowers of 1624 South Hill st. The Rev. H. C. Burgess will officiate. The baby passed away at a San Diego hospital.

Mr. Sowers is serving with America's armed forces overseas. M. L. Johnson mortuary is in charge of services.

Surprise Visit Paid To Big Base By Roosevelt

President Franklin D. Roosevelt today completed a 12,000-mile nation-wide military inspection trip that included a visit to Oceanside last Friday.

The President dedicated Camp Joseph H. Pendleton, the world's largest marine training base, and passed through Oceanside en route to San Diego, where he inspected the marine base, Consolidated Aircraft, and other military establishments.

The visit of the President to the west coast came as a distinct surprise, only high military officials, press associations and radio stations being appraised of his visit.

EDUCATION, WAR AND VACATIONS ARE DISCUSSED

Toastmasters Also Talk About Press Influence, Movies

Talks before the Toastmasters club were of extremely high calibre Tuesday evening, making the meeting an interesting one. Education, war and vacations comprised the major talks, while a discussion of the influence of the press, radio and motion pictures provided the theme for one-minute topics.

Nominations for officers for the next six months were placed by the nomination committee, headed by Allan Kelly, as follows: Edward Yauck, president; Robert Nichols, vice president; Harold Sobel, secretary-treasurer; John Steiger, sergeant-at-arms.

COMMITTEE NAMED

President Carl Munson appointed Harold Beck, Lynn LaMunyon, Raymond Griset and Yauck as a committee to make arrangements for the installation banquet next month.

Speaking on "Education," Charles Burton referred to unfavorable publicity the Los Angeles school system is receiving. Modern principles of teaching have been used there, and it has been found they have not produced desired results in many instances. The fundamental principle used is that interest is the key in learning, with the result that many students have never found an interest in certain subjects, and they have been steered in other directions. Many of the students have reached the upper grades without a thorough knowledge of the three fundamentals, reading, writing and arithmetic.

CITES PUBLIC DANGER

The danger of public appraisal of the system, under fire, is that the public may demand the whole system be revised, which may result in many of the good features being discarded with the bad, the speaker said.

He spoke highly of the Ocean-

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WRONG PARKING GETS TICKET FOR JUDGE M'LEAN

Now Judge John MacLean, who has tried many thousands of traffic cases, knows how it feels to be cited.

He got a ticket for parking in a wrong spot while in San Diego Wednesday on official business.

Judge Thomas McLaughlin, of Encinitas, who was along, gave his fellow justice a hearty "raxxberry," when the summons was handed out.

MacLean retaliated by declaring the other Mac was just as much to blame as he was. He said the latter was just as much responsible because he declared the parking space was an open one.

The car was said to have been parked in a loading zone on Eighth near the public library, which was not clearly marked, the paint having faded.

Anyhow MacLean is taking it all in good part and is showing good sportsmanship by telling the story and releasing same for publication.

CENSORSHIP FORBADE PREVIOUS MENTION

A rigid censorship forbade mention of the President's visit to Oceanside until he was safely back in the White House.

At the time of his visit to Camp Pendleton, he had been out of Washington four days. He came by special train to San Juan Capistrano, where he disembarked and boarded a specially designed automobile for the inspection trip along the historic Rancho Santa Margarita ranch line and into the center of the camp proper. He spent one hour and 20 minutes inside the camp, a major portion of that time at the old ranch house, a hospitality center for over 100 years, and in the military areas.

Amid the screeching of sirens, and surrounded by secret service men, the President and his party stopped in front of the huge flagpole that stands in front of the officer's quarters.

GENERAL'S WIDOW SLOWLY RAISED OLD GLORY

There, as a regiment of infantry, a battalion of artillery, stood at attention; as the marine band played; as high ranking officials of the army, navy and marine corps looked on; as a select group of representatives from Oceanside "ohed" and "ahed", and as Mrs. Joseph H. Pendleton, widow of the distinguished general after whom the camp was named, slowly raised the flag to the top of the pole, the President sat in his closely guarded automobile to officially dedicate the marine area.

At his side were Rear Admiral Ralston Holmes, commandant of the Eleventh Naval District, and Major General Joseph C. Fegan, commanding officer of Camp Pendleton.

PRESIDENT ESCORTED BY HIGH RANK OFFICIALS

These two high-ranking officials joined the President at San Juan Capistrano, and rode with him along the ranch coast line, through the boat basin, and to the ranch house, where the President was greeted by Major General C. B. Vogel, commanding officer of marine activities in the southern area.

Escorting Mrs. Pendleton from Gen. Fegan's car, parked nearby, to the President for presentation were Major General Charles Hunting Lyman, former chief of staff under General Pendleton, and his aide Lieut. John Marston III.

In the official party were Lieut. John Roosevelt, son of the President, and Mrs. Roosevelt; Mrs. John Boettinger, of Seattle, a daughter of the President, and Mr. Boettinger; Mrs. James Roosevelt, wife of another of the President's sons; Mrs. Sara Delano, a cousin of the President's; a Mr. Hooker, former law partner of the President; Admiral Ross McIntyre, surgeon general of the navy, medical advisor to the President; Stephen Early, secretary to the President; Miss Grace Tully and Miss Margaret Brady, White House secretaries; and Captain John McCrea, the President's personal aide.

Also in the official party from Los Angeles to the rancho were Governor Culbert L. Olson, Lieutenant General R. L. DeWitt, fourth army sector commander, and Major General Harold Murry.

Other distinguished officials present at the dedication included Rear Admiral Fancis W. Rockwell, Major General John H. Russell, Major General Douglas McDougal, Brigadier General Mathew H. Kingman, Colonel Joseph W. Knighton, chief of staff for Gen. Fegan; and Col. L. S. Shepherd, of the ninth marines.

Col. Knighton very ably arranged the dedication, working with difficulty under strict censorship orders, and Col. Shepherd furnished the guard of honor for the President.

CLOSELY GUARDED BY SECRET SERVICE AGENTS

Mike Riley was in charge of secret service operatives, of whom there were several. They closely guarded the President at all times, and during his 15-minute appearance at the dedication, the operators stood ready with tommy guns to go instantly into action in case of emergency, and were scattered throughout the crowd to observe the actions of all guests.

A motion picture machine recorded the dedication, and official cameras snapped. A few persons in the crowd, attempting to take a picture, had their cameras seized, and pictures held for official release.

With Gen. Vogel at the ranch house to greet the President were Mrs. Vogel, and Brigadier General and Mrs. Howard from Camp Elliott, and Captain McHaney, the general's aide.

Representatives of all press associations were present

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HITLER HURLS DEFI ON SECOND FRONT; TELLS GERMANS HE WILL TAKE STALINGRAD AND WIN WAR

LONDON—Adolf Hitler told his armies and peoples yesterday that Germany will cling to her war gains for the coming year, promised to take Stalingrad, and said he and his high command are constantly preparing for an Allied second front, wherever it might strike.

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"President Dedicates Camp", from the Oceanside Daily Blade-Tribune (Oct. 1, 1942); courtesy of Oceanside Historical Society

President's Message

Richard B. Rothwell



Mission accomplished. At long last, we reached the final leg of our four-plus year project to place a monument to Maj. Gen. Joseph H. Pendleton aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton; the officer who envisioned a permanent Marine Corps presence in Southern California now has a permanent presence aboard his namesake base.

The monument dedication ceremony was held on Dec. 1, 2022 at the 11 Area Parade Field, across the street from the 1st Marine Division Headquarters building, with approximately 130 people in attendance. Besides remarks from Brig. Gen. Woodworth, monument sculptor Scott Streadbeck said a few words during the dedication before I concluded the remarks portion of the ceremony and the monument was unveiled. Thanks to General Woodworth and his staff for arranging and hosting the dedication ceremony. We plan to cover the dedication in a special issue of the Groundbreaker in late January 2023.

Anne Estes, one of our early Board of Directors members, has rejoined our current Board as an Associate Director. A few of you may remember her name; she was the one who came up with "Groundbreaker," the name of our newsletter. Anne will be rejuvenating our Speakers Bureau. If you are interested in giving presentations about the history of Camp Pendleton, please send an email to speakers.cphs@gmail.com; Anne will get back to you.

An old tradition was renewed at the Camp Pendleton Ranch House on Sept. 29. Renee Woodworth, wife of the Base commanding general, organized a fiesta to showcase the historic home, volunteer organizations, and volunteer opportunities aboard Camp Pendleton. CPHS Directors Mike Lewis and Bo Hellman, along with volunteers Kathy and Scott McEldowney and Jim Pruitt, greeted visitors on behalf of CPHS. It is good that this historic adobe was opened for our Marines and their families to tour and enjoy.

I told the story of Staff Sgt. Reckless to members of the San Diego Wednesday Club on Nov. 9. The club, which dates from 1895, is a long-respected San Diego literary and philanthropic organization whose members have been among San Diego's most prominent families. The Club's first president, Lydia Horton, played a key role in bringing the first Carnegie Foundation library west of the Mississippi River to San Diego. The table decorations were scarlet and gold in recognition of Staff Sgt. Reckless. "She was more than a horse - she was a Marine!"

On Nov. 11, CPHS held its annual "Old Corps" Marine Corps Birthday Celebration at the Carlsbad Omni La Costa Resort and Spa. Included in the 100+ people who attended the celebration were active duty Marines and their guests, who joined us at no cost to them thanks to the donations that CPHS had received. Tradition counts; I ask that you continue to help us help them to start and carry on a tradition of a lifetime. Many thanks to our Events Chairman, Mike Lewis, and his team along with all who supported and attended this traditional birthday celebration.

On Dec. 31, 2022, I will step down as President of CPHS; our Vice President, Jerry Polyascko, will succeed me. I will remain on the Board for the immediate future. Thanks to everyone who made my tenure so personally fulfilling and CPHS so successful.

Lastly, thank you for your continuing support of CPHS. The history of the land we know today as Camp Pendleton is unique in that the men and women who lived its stories from the Indians, to the missionaries, to the ranchers, and now to the Marines would recognize large tracts of Camp Pendleton if they could walk its hills and canyons once more. It is a history with saving.

Richard B. Rothwell

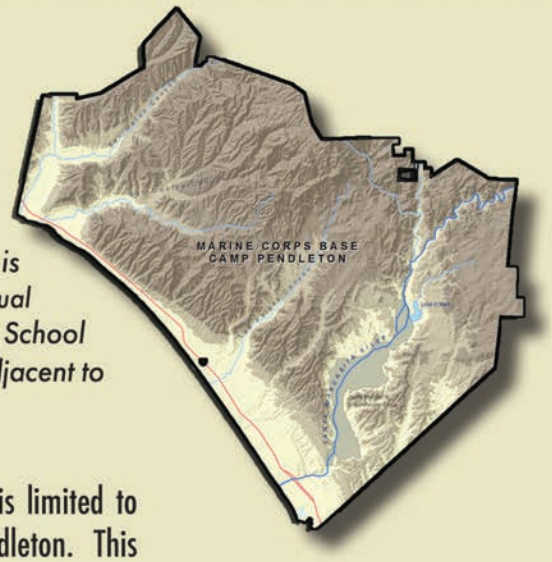


CPHS President Richard Rothwell speaks at the dedication. Photos by Deb Hellman



L to R: Brig. Gen. Jason Woodworth; Lt. Gen. George Smith, Jr.; Pendleton family members Lesta Vogel, Eddie Pendleton, and Dayl Spagnolo; and Brig. Gen. Ryan Rideout

2023 Essay Contest



The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is pleased to announce the 3d Annual historical essay contest for High School students living in those School Districts adjacent to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton.

SUBJECT SCOPE. The subject of the contest is limited to history of the land now known as Camp Pendleton. This scope includes the pre-history (archeology) of the land, its native American occupants, the Spanish exploration and mission era, the rancho era, and the history of the Camp as a significant cultural and economic institution in San Diego County since 1942. Not included in the scope is military history of Marine Corps units stationed at the camp as tenant organizations.

For further details and submission guidelines visit: Camp Pendleton Historical Society website

ELIGIBLE

High School Students living in those School Districts adjacent to Marine Corps Base, Camp Pendleton

PRIZES

1st Place $1,000
2nd Place $500

All entrants will be recognized with a certificate and a one year free membership in the Camp Pendleton Historical Society

DEADLINES

Application Letter Jan 31, 2023
Essay Submission March 31,2023

CPHS "Old Corps" Birthday Celebration

CPHS celebrated the Marine Corps' 247th birthday at the Omni La Costa Resort and Spa on Nov. 11, 2022. Our guest of honor was Brig. Gen. Jay Bullard, USMC (Ret), former Commanding General, Marine Corps Installations West - Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

Photos from the evening's event can be found on the CPHS website under Events -> Past Events.









Upcoming Events

CPHS Events - 2023

The Camp Pendleton Historical Society is planning a number of events throughout the coming year; the following is the currently planned event:

7th Annual "Golf with a Hero" Charity Golf Tournament
Date: May 12, 2023
Location: Marine Memorial Golf Course, Camp Pendleton

Detailed information for the above event is communicated via the CPHS Facebook page, CPHS web page, Eventbrite, and separate digital communication.

Speakers Bureau

CPHS Speaker Bookings Now Open for 2023

Whatever you would like to know about the history of Camp Pendleton, we have a speaker who is an expert on the subject. Since its inception, CPHS has deployed speakers to tell the stories of the Base before and after the Marine Corps bought the 125,000-acre former cattle ranch in 1942.

We'll Go to Your Venue
Our speakers bring to life stories about subjects as diverse as:

- "The Portola Expedition and Mission Era"
- "Family Life in the Santa Margarita Ranch House and Las Flores", a 3-part series
  - Pio Pico, Andreas Pico, Don Juan Forster
  - Floods, O'Neills and Baumgartners
  - Magees and Las Flores
- "The Portola Expedition and Mission Era"
- "Presidential visits to the General's House"
- "Women Marines from 1942 to Present"
- "From Trains to Tanks: The Mechanized Museum, the World's Largest Marine Corps Vintage Vehicle and Artillery Collection
- "Talega and Cristianitos: The Southeast Asia Settlement Camps"
- "Animals in Peace and War", a 3-part series
  - Staff Sgt. Reckless; how Reckless got her name
  - Hero Dogs of World War II
  - Wild and Tame: Base Animals including a Herd of Bison
- "Surf City USA" 16 miles of coastline to ride the waves
- "On the Set", movies filmed at Camp Pendleton

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Schedule key dates such as Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Veterans Day. The presentations are free to your organization though we do encourage donations. Speakers pay for their own transportation, bring visuals (slides, videos), handouts, and books (as applicable) for sale. We ask that your venue provide audio visual equipment support.

Contact the CPHS Speakers Bureau at speakers.cphs@gmail.com or phone 760-579-0167 and leave a message.

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

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Hank Donigan
James McDonough, Jr.
David Rivas
Wallace Siems
Dayl Spagnolo

Many thanks to our loyal members for their recent membership renewal:

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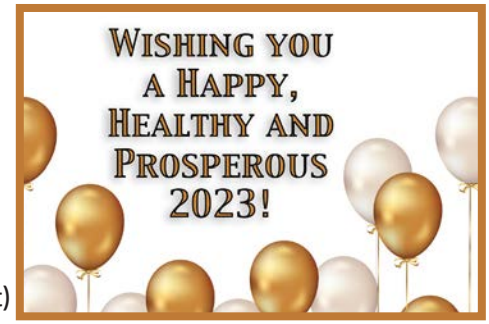
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