

# The Camp Gazette

Volume I Number 1

February 1998



1861



1865

*The Official Newsletter of  
Camp Picacho Peak*

# The Camp Gazette

*The Official Newsletter of Camp Picacho Peak*

## Our Battle, Their Skirmish

**O**n April 15, 1862, a detachment of a dozen Union soldiers commanded by Lt. James Barrett surprised and captured three Confederate pickets at Picacho Pass, about 40 miles north of Tucson. The few shots that were fired in the capture alerted the seven other Rebels on picket duty to the danger, and they took up a defensive position in a heavy thicket of shrubs. When Lt. Barrett led his mounted men through the thicket, the Confederates opened fire. Lt. Barrett and two other men were killed in the 90 minute fire fight that ended when the Yankees broke off the fight and retired from the field.

Of the 10 Rebel pickets, three had been captured and three others wounded. The Rebels took their wounded and rode to Tucson to warn of the approach of the California Column. This engagement has often been cited as the westernmost battle of the Civil War (though many believe a skirmish near Gila Bend two weeks prior should have been so claimed.)

With ever increasing interest in the Civil War, those of us in the Southwest cling to the smallest connection with that Great War and its battlefields. Military actions such as, Valverde, Glorieta and Picacho Pass are not well know by the average Civil War student. However in Arizona, we hold to our "Battle of Picacho Pass" like a flag bearer to the Regimental Colors. This is our battle. A place that we can visit and touch; a place

that we can see our Nation's flag ribbon across the blue Arizona sky as we stand at the memorial to Lt. Barrett, Pvts Johnson and Denerd and their Confederate foes.

As the accounts of the engagement of Picacho Peak have been relayed, it is clear that there was a skirmish between two small patrols. The Confederates got the best of the Union that day. It is at the feet of an odd shaped peak which rises like a compass needle pointing north, we have our battlefield! Granted this is not Fredericksburg, Shiloh, nor Gettysburg, but out here- out west is Picacho Pass.

So, it is in the Battle of Picacho Pass that we have our day to remember gallantry and courage. We have our day never to forget what it is to sacrifice. We have a place to commemorate service.

What the historians with "tongue-in-cheek" refer to as the western most engagement of the War and mention only as a trivia question, we call a battlefield. Let us not diminish this place, for three of our number fell in the desert, in Picacho Pass and we should never forget their sacrifice.

### CAMP OFFICER RESIGNS

Camp Chaplain Allen Murphy has notified Commander Larry Fuller that he has resigned his post as Camp Chaplain. Brother Murphy is in the process of selling his home in Scottsdale and will be relocating in California. This will be California's gain and our loss.

Brother Murphy is a charter member of Camp Picacho Peak and volunteered to serve as one of its first officers. He has fulfilled his duties as Camp Chaplain admirably. His attention to the needs of our members has not gone unnoticed

*(continued on page 3)*

and his words this past holiday

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER	3
BRIEFING BOARD	3
CAMP NEWS	4
CAMP REPORTS	5
THE MEMBER'S CORNER	6
...from the HISTORIAN	6

## LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

**D**EAR BROTHERS:  
On September 1, 1996 our official charter for Camp Picacho Peak was signed. There were 22 charter members inscribed. As of November, 1997, we have 41 fully paid members of the SUVCW, Camp Picacho Peak #1. From little acorns, large oak trees grow!

In July, 1995, 6 people met for lunch at Monti's in Tempe. Richard Graffin and myself were at the first basic organizational meeting, hoping to form a camp. From July, 1995 to this February we have grown from 2 to 41 active and enthusiastic members. I doff my Union cap to my 40 fellow brothers.

For 1998, I personally would like to see our members become more involved in such activities as the Civil War re-enactments at Picacho Peak, March 14 and 15, Memorial Day ceremonies, Pearl Harbor Day, etc., etc. We should let the people of Arizona know that there is an active group of patriotic citizens known as the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War. If we could all coordinate our efforts and plan to meet at Picacho Peak to pay honor to our fallen Union Veterans on March 14 & 15, this would further the purpose of our Camp.

I would like also to advise you that we have added a new Camp officer to our ranks- Dan Gray. At the November meeting, I called for a volunteer to establish and publish a Camp newspaper and Brother Gray volunteered. He is also one of our newest members. Dan is now filling the officer position of Editor. I certainly thank him for his help.

Let us all have a great 1998 and hope to see everyone on February

21st.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,  
Larry Fuller, Commander  
Camp Picacho Peak #1

### RESIGNS *(continued)*

season were encouraging and enlightening.

Brother Allen Murphy's great grandfather, Francis Murphy was a temperance leader, evangelist and chaplain for the Northern Army. He traveled by horseback throughout the Civil War camps bringing the message of salvation and the Gospel of hope. And so it is with Brother Allen.

It is with a heavy heart that we say farewell and with a grateful heart that we say thank you. In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty, Thank you.

## PICACHO PASS BATTLE REENACTMENT MARCH 14 & 15

On March 14 & 15 there will be a reenactment at Picacho Peak State Park. You are welcome to enjoy the Picacho Pass Battle Reenactment, authentic camps and a weekend full of "living" history. Let's get together for a wonderful weekend and pay honor to those who fought and served in Arizona. This is our battlefield and let's support this ceremony and celebration.

*(continued on page 4)*

## THE BRIEFING BOARD

Upcoming Events

### CAMP MEETING TO BE

**HELD :** A camp meeting of the Picacho Peak Camp #1 will be held on **Saturday, February 21st, 1998** at 1200 noon at the **Arizona Club, 37th Floor, Bank One Tower, 201 North Central Ave., Phoenix.** Lunch will be served at the cost of \$17.00 per person. Directions for parking are included in the flyer with this issue. Please RSVP no later than Wednesday, February 18, 1998. Make your checks payable to the

Camp Picacho Peak, SUVCW.  
Send to John Coon  
13710 Aleppo Cr  
Sun City West, AZ. 85375  
We hope you all can attend.

**INVITATION EXTENDED** Camp Picacho Peak has invited our friends from the **Colonel Sherod Hunter Camp 1525, Sons of Confederate Veterans** to join us again for our February meeting. They have shared their meetings with our commander and have helped us by providing us with ideas and information. We welcome our brothers and sisters from the Sons of Confederate Veterans of Arizona.

### ANNUAL DUES ARE DUE,

**AGAIN** Yes, it's that time of year again when we must pony up and pay our dues. Please bring your payment of \$25.00 current and \$35.00 for new members to the February 21st meeting and you won't have to worry about it the rest of the year! Make your checks payable to the **Camp Picacho Peak, SUVCW.** This supports our great Camp and all its efforts to remember those who have sacrificed so much for us.

**ARTICLES WANTED** The Editor of The Camp Gazette is encouraging each of you to submit articles, stories, or anything of interest to be published. So, don't be shy and get to writin'! Articles should not be more than about 400 words, unless you are inspired. Send your masterpieces to:

Editor The Camp Gazette  
c/o Dan Gray  
6850 W. Sierra St.  
Peoria, AZ 85345

# CAMP NEWS & BUSINESS

## *GIFT GIVEN TO SONS OF CONFEDERATES*

Camp Historian Bob Hannan presented a nicely framed reproduction of a song sheet cover to **Colonel Sherod Hunter Camp 1525, Sons of Confederate Veterans**. The song was dedicated to Gen. Stonewall Jackson and a drawing of the General is its focal point. This gift was well received by The Sons of Confederate Veterans. They were delighted and very grateful for the gift.

Brother Hannan has an active interest in odds and ends that pertain to the Civil War. He is always on the look out for War memorabilia. He has several unique pieces.

Brother Bob will be presenting a similar song sheet cover of General U.S. Grant to **Camp Picacho Peak** at our February meeting.

Great job Brother Hannan for your gift on behalf of the SUVCW.

## **GUEST SPEAKER at the upcoming Camp meeting!**

**Thomas K. Barratt, Ed.D.**

Doctor of Educational Administration,  
Pennsylvania State University.

Professor of Education,  
Edinboro University of Pennsylvania.

Dean of Administration,  
Alliance College, Cambridge Springs, Pennsylvania.

27 year member of the Army of Cussewago  
(Civil War study group.)

Acknowledged expert on the Civil War.

### TOPIC

**PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE CIVIL WAR**

## **REENACTMENT...**

The park encompasses the sheer-sided peak that rises abruptly 1,500 feet from the desert floor, has camping, picnicking, and hiking.

Picacho Pass is south of Phoenix on Interstate-10 about 40 miles north of Tucson.



## **ORDER ORDER ORDER!!**

NAME TAGS are now available for our members.

2 Lines for \$2.00

YOUR NAME  
CAMP PICACHO PEAK

3 Lines for \$3.00

Contact Larry Fuller  
Sign up and ORDER

YOUR NAME  
CAMP PICACHO PEAK  
REGIMENT OR RANK

at our next camp meeting!!!

# CAMP REPORTS

I am happy to announce that in just a few short years, our camp membership has grown to 40 strong. We are deeply saddened by the passing of Brother William N. Caldwell last year. His dedication to making this camp a reality should inspire us all to continue on with the mission of this organization. We will also be losing the fine spiritual leadership of Chaplain Allen Murphy who is moving to California. We appreciate his leadership and inspiration.

I can't say enough about how honored I am to receive and process the many camp memberships that I have received over the past few years. Each application and accompanying documentation that is sent to me represents a fascinating bit of Civil War history. With your approval, I would like to print some of these documents in upcoming newsletter

issues. The beauty of belonging to an At-Large camp is the variety of different States that our ancestors served for- 13 in all. At present, we have Civil War ancestors who served in almost every major theater of engagement.

Our last regular camp meeting was held November 22, 1997 at the Executive Park Hotel. The meeting was called to order and a prayer of remembrance was given by Chaplain Murphy in honor of Bill Caldwell. After a brief discussion, it was decided by the members that permanent name tags should be printed for future meetings. Also, Commander Fuller suggested that the camp print a newsletter, at which time, Brother Gray most generously volunteered. The position of Newsletter editor was created with the requirement that he

## SECRETARY'S REPORT

*Camp Secretary Dan Zwiener  
January 1998*

attend all regular council meetings.

After lunch, Camp Historian Brother Robert Hannan led us in a lively discussion of the history of U.S. Grant. Following that, a Civil War quiz was given to members with Brother Michael Pierce winning the grand prize of three prizes for the most knowledgeable of those in attendance.

Please feel free to contact me concerning any questions you may have.

In Fraternity, Charity, and Loyalty,

Dan Zwiener

## FINANCIAL REPORT DECEMBER 31, 1997

Treasurer-J.R. Coon (Jan. 10, 1998)

<b><u>BANK BALANCE</u></b>	September 30, 1997	\$690.02
<b><u>RECEIPTS</u></b>	Luncheon Nov. 22, 1997	\$185.50
	Total Receipts	\$185.50
<b><u>DISBURSEMENTS</u></b>	Expenses- Allen Murphy	\$15.00
	NATSUVCW (Quarterly Report 3-31-97)	\$100.00
	NATSUVCW (Quarterly Report 6-30-97)	\$130.00
	NATSUVCW (Quarterly Report 9-30-97)	\$102.50
	Winner of Free Lunch- M. Pierce	\$13.25
	Cost of Luncheon- Executive Park Hotel	\$194.88
	Total Disbursements	\$555.63
<b><u>BANK BALANCE</u></b>	December 31, 1997	\$320.79

## THE MEMBER'S CORNER

# ORIGIN OF "TAPS"

submitted by ARLENE NORTON

**P**ossibly the most cherished musical selection from the Civil War period is the bugle call "TAPS". Now recognized world-wide, it was played for the very first time in July 1862 by brigade bugler Private Oliver Willcox Norton of the 83rd Pennsylvania Volunteers- and also the great-uncle of Chauncey Norton, today a member of the "Sons of Union Veterans , Camp Picacho Peak, Camp 1."

Bugler Oliver Norton in his book "ARMY LETTERS" written long after the war ended, tells the story as follows:

"One day in July of 1862 when the Army of the Potomac was in camp at Harrison's Landing on the James River, Virginia, resting and recruiting from its losses in the seven days of battle before Richmond, General Butterfield summoned the writer, his brigade bugler, to his tent, and whistling some new tune, asked the bugler to sound it for him. This was done not quite to his satisfaction at first, but

after repeated trials, changing the time of some of the notes which were scribbled on the back of an envelope, the call was finally arranged to suit the general. He then ordered that it should be substituted in his brigade for the regulation 'TAPS' (extinguish lights) which was printed in the Tactics and used by the whole army. This was done for the first time that night. The next day buglers from nearby bridges came over to the camp of Butterfield's brigade to ask the meaning of the new call. They liked it, and copying the music, returned to their camps, but it was not until sometime later, when generals of other commands had heard its melodious notes that orders were issued to substitute it throughout the Army of the Potomac. From that time it became and remains to this day the official call for 'TAPS'.

General Butterfield felt the regulation call for 'TAPS' was not very musical and not appropriate to the order which it conveyed. He wanted a call which in its music should have some suggestion of putting out the lights and lying down to rest in the

silence of the camp.

There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call. Its strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. Its echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air. Like Handel's 'LARGO', it is immortal."

*Arlene Norton submitted this story on behalf of her husband, Chauncey, the great-nephew to Oliver Willcox Norton.*

*Books written by Norton:*  
ARMY LETTERS (1903)  
STRONG VINCENT AND HIS BRIGADE AT GETTYSBURG (1909)  
THE ATTACK AND DEFENSE OF LITTLE ROUND TOP (1913)

## ...from the Historian

Robert Hannan  
Camp Historian

### EMBLEMS OF UNIT PRIDE

**O**fficially prescribed by Brig. Gen. Joseph Hooker in 1863 to boost his army's flagging spirits, corps and division insignia provided a mean by which commanders could identify their units in the field.

The first corps badge were distinctive shapes, cut from colored cloth. In time, more elaborate badges appeared, especially among officers who purchased them from sutlers, or commissioned jewelers, to fashion them to individual specifications. Materials for the

badges ranged from solid gold to coin metal and bone.

General Philip Kearny had soldiers of his division wear a red patch to distinguish them from ether troops.

The First Corps was a disc. A patch or lozenge was reserved for the Third Army Corps. Second Army Corps, the trefoil was chosen, as a sort of shamrock; there being many troops of Irish origin in that Corps who served under Winfield Scott Hancock.

The idea of corps badges was taken to the Western armies by the transfers of the Eleventh and Twelfth Army Corps from the Army of the

Potomac to Tennessee in 1863. When these Corps arrived at Chattanooga, they were wearing their Corps badges. Rivalry between them and the Western corps was strong and the contrast in neatness of dress between the two sections was marked.

One of the Easterners asked an Irishman of the Western troops what his corps badge was, the Westerner slapped his cartridge box and

*(continued on page 8)*

replied- "This is my corps badge." As a result of this incident, his unit, the Fifteenth Army Corps adopted the

SONS OF UNION VETERANS  
 CAMP PICACHO PEAK

CAMP OFFICERS, 1997-1998

COMMANDER	6801 E. Camelback Rd #S114 Scottsdale, AZ 85251 945-9816	CAMP COUNCIL	10002 N. 7th St. Phoenix, AZ 85020 870-1728
SR. COMMANDER	Robert Bohannon 27202 N. 150th St. Scottsdale, AZ 8255 471-2222	CAMP COUNCIL	Jerry McKenzie 4242 N. 10th Pl. Phoenix, Az 85014 234-1672
TREASURER	John Coon 13710 Aleppo Dr. Sun City West, AZ 85375 584-3304	CAMP COUNCIL	Michael Pierce 1823 Canary Way Chandler, AZ 85248 786-3060
SECRETARY	Daniel C. Zwiener 1000 Speedway Tucson, AZ 85000 (520)832-8289	CAMP CHAPLAIN	VACANT
HISTORIAN	Robert Hannan 8445 E. Depew Ave. Mesa, AZ 85208 380-9153	CAMP GAZETTE EDITOR	Daniel Gray 6850 W. Sierra St. Peoria AZ 85345 646-0525
Larry Fuller		Richard Graffin	

CAMP MEETINGS: The Camp meetings for the Sons of Union Veterans Camp Picacho meet three times per year in the months of February, August, and November. Times, dates and camp meeting sites are announced in this newsletter,

CAMP DUES: Total dues for full members are \$25.00 per year, which includes National Dues and Camp Dues. New members first time dues are \$35.00.

**Historian** *(continued)*

cartridge box with the words, "Forty Rounds" as their corps badge.

Only two (Thirteenth and Twenty-first) of the 25 corps failed to adopt badges in the Federal Army.

The badges were cloth and were worn either on the cap or left side of the hat. The men bought them from sutlers or made them themselves from the lining cloth of their overcoats. The men bought them from sutlers or made them themselves from the lining cloth of their overcoats. In some armies at least, badges were furnished by division headquarters. The original badges for the Army of the Potomac were ordered on March 24, 1863, by members for color and style of pattern to be made in Philadelphia. Corps emblems were used everywhere being painted on

ambulances, wagons, and being worn by the men. Most of the metal corps badges were sold by sutlers. In addition to brass and tin, silver badges, engraved with the soldier's name, company, and regiment were popular. One soldier consider his corps badge as possessing the power to protect him from all Reb missiles. The Confederacy did not have corps badges. Popular corps badges reflected soldier's pride in their outfits. The shape of the badge denoted the corps, while its color designated the division- red, for the first; white, the second; and blue for the third; green, for the fourth; and orange, for the fifth.



**QUOTATION....**

*"Let us have faith that right makes might, and in that faith, let us, to the end, dare to do our duty as we understand it."*

Abraham Lincoln

# The Camp Gazette

Camp Picacho Peak  
Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War  
6801 E. Camelback Rd. Apt. S114

*FORWARDING AND ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUIRED*

John Coon  
13710 Aleppo Dr.  
Sun City West, AZ 85375

