



# SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR PICACHO PEAK CAMP No. 1 ARIZONA CAMP-at-LARGE



## CAMP NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Camp Web site: [suvchwaz.org](http://suvchwaz.org)

**Camp gets an official visit from SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor & National ASUVCW Vice President Diane Mellor**

**Four Camp Brothers attend the Department-at-Large Encampment & the 131<sup>st</sup> National Encampment in Los Angeles, Calif.**

### Minutes of the August 18, 2012, Camp meeting:

Location:  
Hometown Buffet  
1312 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, Arizona

Camp Commander David Swanson called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m. There were 37 Brothers and guests in attendance.

### Official visit by CinC Perley Mellor & National ASUVCW Vice President Diane Mellor

Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor, who was recently elected and installed at the 131<sup>st</sup> National Encampment in Los Angeles, made an official visit during our August Camp meeting. Brother Mellor has been a member of the SUVCW for 52 years and has held just about every camp, department and national office. He was accompanied by his wife, Diane Mellor, who was also recently elected and installed at the 126th Annual Encampment of the National Auxiliary to the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War which also occurred in Los Angeles.

Both addressed the Camp in separate speeches which were met with great enthusiasm from all present.

Commander-in-Chief Mellor's father, Clark C. Mellor was also the commander-in-chief of the SUVCW from 1988-1989.

This is the first time in our Camp's 16 year history that any national officer has ventured into the wilds of Arizona and it was our distinct pleasure to have them!

Also present was Verna Maleski, president of the Margaret Warner Wood Tent No. 1, Barbra Metzger, past president, and four other Sisters of the Tent.



SUVCW Commander-in-Chief Perley Mellor and ASUVCW National Vice President Diane Mellor



CinC Mellor receiving a gift from Camp Commander David A. Swanson on behalf of the Camp.



ASUVCW National Vice President Diane Mellor also receiving a gift from the Camp

### **Officer's reports:**

Camp Commander Swanson gave a brief overview of the Department-at-Large Encampment and the 131<sup>st</sup> Annual encampment of the SUVCW which was recently held in Los Angeles.

While the Department-at-Large encampment was brief, no one including then Commander-in-Chief Donald Palmer or PCinC James Pahl remembers or has knowledge, at least in recent memory, of such an encampment taking place. Present at this encampment were: Then CinC Donald Palmer, PCinC James Pahl (who is also the Assistant National Secretary for the Department-at-Large), and Picacho Peak Camp delegates David Swanson, John Conrad, Don Strachota, and Mike Moore.

Since none of the other Camps-at-Large sent delegates, all four were delegates to the National Encampment. The Department-at-Large could have sent a total of seven delegates.

Attending the SUVCW National Encampment was a new experience for all of us with the exception of Mike Moore. Here we got to experience the flavor of a national meeting of our Brothers from throughout the country. It was an activity that made us proud of our association with the SUVCW and at the same time it makes you stop and think that except for the sacrifices our ancestors, who kept this country together, we would not have been there.

Next summer the 132<sup>nd</sup> National Encampment will take place in Wisconsin.

### **Senior Vice Commander**

Brother John Conrad, PCC, in later remarks talked about how interesting it was to see how this Order works, at least at the encampment level, and the dedication of those involved. He also talked about our tour to Drum Barracks, in LA, which was the headquarters for the California Column.

### **Graves Registration:**

Brother Jan Huber reported that since May 12, 2012, he has completed four new grave registrations as follows: One Union soldier in Union Mills, IN; One Union soldier in Parker, AZ; one Confederate soldier in Parker, AZ; and one Confederate soldier in Phoenix.

The total registration activities since his appointment: 245; 159 new and 86 updates.

*CinC Mellor commented specifically about the great work that Jan has done.*

Brother Huber also gave some follow-up information on preparations for obtaining a headstone for Union Civil War soldier and Buffalo Soldier Ambrose Skinner, who as reported in the last newsletter, is buried in Greenwood Cemetery with no headstone. Jan has received approval from a relative of Skinner (which is now needed) so things are progressing.

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

Brother Jerry Bloom gave a comprehensive report on our Camp's financial condition and our current membership level. We currently have 66 Brothers and two Junior members.

### **Discussion regarding "Gettysburg Days"**

Brother Huber talked about a middle school program called "Gettysburg Days" that has taken place for at least six and probably more years at the Desert Shadows and Greenway middle schools. These separate events are run by Don Jolly, re-enactor, the day long events teach the kids how to drill and then re-enact the battle. They then go to different stations set up around the yard and about the various aspects of the war. Each (almost 800) of the students get a kepi to wear and keep.

The camp voted to donate \$200 to this project and hopefully, we can have a table (station) at one or both of the events.

This is a big event for each school and the 8<sup>th</sup> graders love it.

The Desert Shadows event is on November 15<sup>th</sup> and the Greenway Middle School's is December 7<sup>th</sup>.

Brother Huber is coordinating this event so please contact him and volunteer some time to help in this most worthwhile endeavor. His e-mail address is: [janhuber1933@yahoo.com](mailto:janhuber1933@yahoo.com) and his phone number is 623-975-4805.

### **Guest Speaker**

Brother HG Smith gave a presentation regarding the Civil War in North Carolina. This was the first presentation that HG has given to our Camp. The CinC was in the audience along with the National ASUVCW vice president and Sisters from Margaret Warner Wood Tent, so there really wasn't any pressure to do a great

job—much! He gave an outstanding easy to follow pictorial history of the major Civil War events occurring in that state and it was obvious to all that his knowledge about these and other events and players in them was very comprehensive. (He even enlisted the support of five Brothers and gave them speaking parts.) There was only one problem with all of this, now he is on the radar of those looking for future presentations, so HG get those operators standing by!

Thanks for an outstanding presentation!



Brother HG Smith speaking about the Civil War in North Carolina



Left to right: John Conrad, Don Strachota, David Swanson, Mike Moore and PCinC James Pahl (Assistant National Secretary for Departments-at-Large).



### **Some pictures from the 131<sup>st</sup> Annual Encampment of the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War at Los Angeles, California, August 9-12, 2012**

As noted earlier in the newsletter the following Camp Brothers attending this meeting were: David Swanson, John Conrad, Don Strachota, and Mike Moore. What was not reported is that Jan Swanson and Janell Strachota also attended and managed to keep busy and have fun while the four Camp delegates were slaving away at the business meetings making sure that the Camp left its imprint on the important decisions . . . well actually they were having fun as well.

Don't miss the 2013 Encampment!



### Picacho Peak Camp officer elections

Camp officer elections will take place on November 10, 2012.

The following Brothers are running unopposed:

- Commander: David A. Swanson
- Senior Vice Commander: John Conrad PCC
- Junior Vice Commander: Jim Heller
- Secretary/Treasurer: Jerry Bloom

Camp Council (3 positions):

- Mark Haynes
- Bob Young
- Don Strachota

The names of Camp Brothers appointed to fill “appointive officer” positions in the Camp will be presented at the meeting and listed in the January 2013 newsletter.

As a reminder: Officers in our Camp are elected/appointed and installed at each November meeting; therefore, once the ceremony is over (not the meeting), the newly elected/appointed officers take charge of the Camp.

We will also elect delegates/alternates to the 2013 Department-at-Large Encampment which will take place in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on August 8. The 132<sup>nd</sup> Annual National Encampment will take place in Milwaukee from August 8-11.



#### November 10<sup>th</sup> Camp meeting

Just a reminder, our next Camp meeting will take place on Saturday, November 10, 2012, at noon at the Hometown Buffet.

Our Camp meetings take place on the second Saturday at noon on the following months: November, February, May, & August.

Our speaker for the November meeting will be Brother John Kohl and his topic is: The Civil War Journey Continues with Private/hospital Steward Jacob Cumley. The journey continues with Sherman through Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina (including some of the lesser known but significant North Carolina (including some of the lesser known but significant battles and skirmishes} and the Grand March in Washington. Jacob served through the entire war including 33 battles and skirmishes.

### Historical Sketch of the John W. Owens Post No. 5, Phoenix, Az

By David A. Swanson

Here is a continuation of articles regarding the John W. Owens Post No. 5 GAR of Phoenix from its inception in September 1885. This “historical sketch” includes a glimpse of the Post, the Department of Arizona GAR, the city of Phoenix and the territory and state of Arizona, taken solely from published Phoenix newspaper accounts.

In the last newsletter was an account (from the *Daily Phoenix Herald*) of Memorial Day preparations in Phoenix, Ariz., in 1888. I will continue with the newspaper account of the activities.

You will also note the first reference of the future founder of Scottsdale, Captain Winfield Scott.

Thursday, May 31, 1888:

#### TO THE NATIONS DEAD.

#### The Boys in Blue renew the Memory of Their Fallen Comrades.

#### Imposing Parade.

Yesterday, the morning dawned fair and auspicious and the sun mounting through a cloudless sky, gave promise that no inclement weather should mar the celebration in honor of America’s fallen heroes. Throughout the forenoon the streets presented a semi-holiday appearance, thronged with quiet and orderly crowds of citizens whose manners and mien indicated that they were not intent on business. The fronts of all the hotels and business places were festooned with the national colors and decorated with flags, and on the city hall plaza, a monument had been erected, a single shaft with pedestal, imitating marble and encircled with one spiral garland of evergreen.

At noon all stores and business places closed their doors for the day, but the crowd continued to increase and as the afternoon wore on, it assumed a more pleasing appearance, being interspersed with hundreds of ladies.

Promptly at four o’clock, Allen T. Bird, marshal of the day, ordered the signal to be sounded by beat of drum and bugle call and the column commenced forming on Washington street opposite the city hall, its head on Montezuma street. Noiselessly and in order the various sections of the procession took their appointed places

in the column and the order: attention! Forward, march, was given by Adjutant Bird at exactly 4:20 p.m. Slowly the column moved forward, to the sad notes of a funeral march by the Phoenix band marching at its head, and a beautiful and impressive sight it offered as it stretched its martial and bannered companies along the noble width of Washington street, turning north at Mohave street, eastward when Monroe street was reached, down shady Monroe street to Pima street and thence south to Washington street once more, and on to the memorial shaft 'neath the cottonwoods on city hall plaza. The procession was lead by an advance guard composed of City Marshal, J. W. Blankenship; assisted by Frank Cox and Frank Baxter, all mounted on spirited horses. These were followed by the Phoenix band marching in open order, and behind them marched the Mexican veterans, A.H. Peeples and W. N. Osborne. Then came the G.A.R., Junior Vice Department Commander, Edward Schwartz, and the Department staff, Geo. F. Coats, J. L. Ward, and H. B. Lighthizer, all uniformed, decorated and well mounted. Behind these marched John A. Logan Post No. 7 of Tempe, with F. S. Earle, Post commander, leading the way for the Phoenix members of the G.A.R., John W. Owens Post No. 2, J. B. Creamer Commander. These two bodies made a fine appearance in their uniforms and decorations as they marched to the familiar tap of the drum, so eloquent to them with memories of the past.

The remainder of the column was dispersed in the order as given in the programme of the day published in Tuesday's HERALD. Old soldiers of the war followed the G. A. R. companies, then the Tempe company of the Patriotic Order Sons of America, a little band that attracted much attention and admiration, and after them the orator of the day, Col. J. A. Zabriskie and the Mayor and Common Council of Phoenix followed in carriages. The woman's relief corps next succeeded, also in carriage, and these lead the way for Canton Arizona No. 1, Patriarchs Militant, N. A. Valley Lodge No. 1 I. O. G. T., Winthrop Seers, W. C. T. The Fire Department followed, led by Chief J. B. Long, and a beautiful display it made, with its rows of bright uniforms and its engine hook and ladder and hose carts elaborately decorated and festooned with wreaths and garlands of flowers.

The memorial shaft was reached at 5 o'clock and the column halting in platoon the G.A.R. Posts to the south, with the several societies and the fire department on the other sides of the monument, forming a hollow square, it was decorated with wreaths and floral emblems and the memorial service was held by Major F. S. Earle acting Post Commander, with Geo. F. Coats, officer of the day, and H. B. Lighthizer, chaplain.

This closes the exercises of the day.

The procession was the most beautiful and remarkable ever seen in Phoenix and was most ably conducted and engineered throughout by Marshal Allen T. Bird, assisted by Frank D. Wells and I. Neustatter aides.

The most brilliant feature of the parade was the Canton of the Patriarchs Militant, with their magnificent regalia, while its most interesting feature was the phalanx of boys in blue. Our neighbor Tempe contributed largely to the success of the day with her members of John A. Logan Post and her patriotic Order Sons of America. Scores of her citizens were also in attendance as spectators, and helped to swell the greatest throng that has ever collected on the streets of the city.

A brilliant assemblage gathered at the Opera House at 8 p.m. to attend the conclusion of the day's memorial services of the G.A.R., and listen to the oration of Col. J. A. Zabriskie. Every seat in parquet and gallery was taken and an admiring audience enjoyed the beautiful decoration of the stage, which was hung with the national colors, festooned on every side, and half hidden in floral emblems of every description. At 8:30 p.m. Post Commander J. B. Creamer, opened the services assisted by the Post and Department officers of the G. A. R. and a quartette composed of Mrs. Frank Cox, Mrs. J. E. Walker, Mr. Harry Carpenter and Mr. E. S. Hershey, with Miss Laura Coats at the piano, rendered the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" in splendid perfection of power and harmony. A prayer by Rev. Dr. R. W. Pearson followed, at the close of which a declamation (Warren's address) was delivered by young Victor Zabriskie with an inflection and a harmony of gesture which took the audience by storm and gained many marks of favor in the shape of handsome bouquets of flowers.

The quartette then sang, "Tenting on the Old Camp Ground," with beautifully blending voices. . . .

#### Notes

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The two heavy weights of the Grand Army boys are Dr. H. E. Wharton and J.D. Monihon. In the procession they marched side by side. It is safe to say they were neither of them, so heavy in the Sixties.

The Hook and Ladder boys had plenty of exercise; only six of them were on hand to drag their heavy cart. They were equal to the emergency, however.

Neustatter, as mounted aid de camp to Marshal Bird was simply immense.

The streets were too dusty. The city should have had the sprinkling carts doing duty, up to the hour of the parade.

The Fire ladies turned out in splendid shape yesterday. The procession would have been less than half a success without them.

The ladies were ever the soldier's best friends. They predominated in the throng of spectators yesterday.

The beautiful and imposing regalia and uniforms of the Patriarch Militant were admired by all.

The Patriotic sons of America were a very attractive feature of the procession.

A delegation of G.A.R. members reported to the cemetery yesterday and adorned the soldier's graves.

Saturday, June 9, 1888:

### **A Card of Thanks**

At a regular meeting of John W. Owen Post No. 5, Department of Arizona, G.A.R., a vote of thanks was passed unanimously conveying the gratitude of the Post to the public for their liberal contribution of money and flowers for Memorial day; to Rev Pearson for his eloquent memorial sermon Sunday evening, May 27<sup>th</sup>; to Col James A. Zabriskie for his masterly oration on Memorial day; to John A. Logan Post of Tempe and the Fire Department and various fraternal organizations of Phoenix for their participation in the observations of the day, and to the Press of Phoenix for their liberal and many notices, contributing to make Memorial day, 1888, the most successful public occasion in the annals of Phoenix.

J. B. Creamer  
Post Commander

Wednesday, July 8, 1888:

### **A Visitor from California**

Capt. Winfield Scott, Chaplain of the United States Army post at San Francisco, is now in the city a guest of his friend Mr. C. W. Mills of Phoenix, Arizona Territory, who is in Lancaster on business. Capt. Scott was at the late reunion at Gettysburg, having served in the late war in the 126<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers. He is Chaplain of the staff of the Commander of the Department of California, G.A.R., and is a member of the joint committee of the G.A.R., and the California State Board of Trade, which will arrange for the exhibition of Pacific Coast products at the exhibition in Columbus, Ohio, which opens Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>.

Thursday, July 19, 1888:

At the late Gettysburg reunion some charges took place that far outdid any of the bloody assaults made on that battleground. They were made by the Gettysburg hotel keepers.

Monday Evening, July 23, 1888:

### **A NON-PARTISAN ORDER.**

Commander Rea Issues an Official mandate  
To the G.A.R. Members.

Minneapolis, July 16—A stringent and comprehensive order commanding non-partisanship in politics by the Grand Army of the Republic was issued from headquarters here today. The mandate is put forth officially as "General Order No. 9." It is as follows: "In view of the period of great political excitement upon which the country is now entering, the commander-in-chief deems it his duty to call the attention of all comrades to the following extract from the rules and regulations: 'No officer or comrade of the Grand Army of the Republic shall in any manner use this organization for partisan purposes, and no discussion of partisan questions shall be permitted at any of its meetings, nor shall any nomination for political office be made.' (Article 1 chapter 5.) The continued prosperity and welfare of our fraternity depends upon the avoidance of even a suspicion that it can be used by any person; or in any locality for any partisan purpose whatever. The members of the organization, as citizens of their country, have all the rights and are subjects to the duties of citizenship. They have and should have their political convictions and party affiliations and their right to advocate and proclaim them, and the right to differ in regard to them as they do is in no way questioned; but fidelity to the principles of the organization and a due regard for its efficiency and welfare demand that any and every violation of the letter or spirit of the above cited rule and should be studiously avoided and promptly condemned. Comrades are reminded that the uniform of the order shall not be worn at any political gathering. They are admonished to discountenance the use of all political badges or devices in any way calculated to associate the Grand Army of the Republic with any political party or candidate. To the end that the fraternities which now unites many may not be impaired by partisan contentions, this warning is promulgated, and commanders of departments and

posts are directed to supplement the same by all proper methods.

John P. Rea,  
Commander-in-Chief



**WANTED—Brothers to fill two appointed  
Camp officer offices for 2013**

Your Camp needs the following officer positions filled for 2013—Counselor and Eagle Scout Coordinator--if you thought about getting involved now is the time. Please volunteer—contact Senior Vice Commander John Conrad before the November meeting. Brother John Wanzel, who did a great job with both, has moved out of state.

**If you are receiving this newsletter in black & white via the United States Postal Service and an e-mail color version would work just as well for you, e-mail the newsletter editor—this saves your Camp money and lessens the load on the poor, poor editor**

**Address Change**

Brothers, if you change your address, *e-mail address* or phone number please advise our Camp Secretary/Treasurer Jerry Bloom at your earliest convenience.

This will ensure that you get *The Banner*, our Camp newsletter, and additionally this will enable us to contact you.

**Past Camp Commanders**



Larry Fuller 1995-2003  
David A. Swanson 2003-2006  
Robert Hannon 2006-2008  
John R. Conrad 2008-2010  
David A. Swanson 2010-2011



**Camp Officers for 2012**

**Commander:**

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**Senior Vice-Commander:**

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**Junior Vice-Commander:**

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**Secretary/Treasurer:**

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Bob Young (642)-801-7037  
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**Chaplain:**

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**Patriotic Instructor:**

Dave Kampf (602) 978-0951  
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**Eagle Scout Coordinator:Open**

**Signals Officer:**

Will Vessels (480)488-4703  
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**Graves Registration**

Jan Huber: (623) 975-4805  
E-mail: janhuber1933@yahoo.com

**Civil War Memorials Officer:**

David Swanson (Camp Commander)

**Counselor: Open**

**Historian:**

David A. Swanson (Camp Commander)

**Color Bearer:**

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**First Class Mail**



**PROUD TO BE . . .  
SONS OF UNION VETERANS  
OF THE CIVIL WAR**