



Muskets & Broadsword

Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution
September 2008

Editor Jim Blauer

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MEETING INFORMATION

When: September 13, 2008

Where: The Sizzler Restaurant
1401 North Harbor Blvd.
Fullerton, CA

Time: Set up and Social begins at 11:00am

Meeting: Called to Order at 11:30am

Website: www.orangecountysar.org

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! I hope you have had a great Summer with family and friends. Our speaker this month is our own Larry Magerkurth, who physically left "the O.C." for Palm Desert several years ago, but is still with us in Spirit and continues to be a member of the Orange County Chapter. Larry has an excellent hands on presentation, educating us on colonial and antique tools. He will bring his extensive collection for "show and tell". This is really a fun and informative talk, so please join us to see and learn about the implements which our Patriot Ancestors used on a daily basis to build their dreams and our Nation.

On a separate note, Larry is also a candidate for Treasurer General of the National Society. He is the newly appointed auditor of the National Society and will fill us in on all the goings on at the National level and the Center for Advancing America's Heritage.

We had a great Congress in Sacramento, as shown by the photos accompanying this newsletter and on the website. Thanks to all our delegation. Orange County had a fine turnout, and we all enjoyed meeting and mingling with Compatriots from around the country, despite the heat and smoke that blanketed the valley. From the opening Host Society Reception at the Railroad Museum, to the wine tour, through the Memorial Service at the Cathedral, to the closing banquets, we all found common ground, celebrating the sacrifices of our Patriot Ancestors, pledging to work all that much harder to make sure our Nation remember how and why it has been placed on this Earth. Please consider attending next years Congress in Atlanta to experience southern hospitality and more patriotic comaraderie.

Also remember we have our renewed "biosketch" project. Who's next? Please

e-mail me your submission, or bring it to the meeting.

Also please remember to bring a little something for the Ben Franklin Raffle in September. Sometimes we forget after the Summer break, so this is a gentle reminder to bring along a contribution. It is the Ben Franklin Fund that makes up for all the shortfalls in our budget and helps prevent otherwise necessary dues increases.

MARINE PROJECT UPDATE

Those of you who made it to the BBQ, met Lt. Patridge, back safe and sound. He is, however, off to Okinawa in a couple of weeks to be the Assistant Director of the Jungle Warfare School. Mark informs us that it may be useful to identify Marines in Afghanistan to support with the balance of our funds, so we are going to be working on that. We continue to support Operation Archangel while we are seeking out specific units to assist.

John L. Dodd

LARRY JOHN MAGERKURTH

Larry was born on January 4, in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. He attended high school in Bartlesville, then received an Associate Engineering Degree from North Eastern Oklahoma A & M, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering, Design Option, from Oklahoma State University, and he is a graduate of the MBA Executive Program from the University of Southern California.

In high school he met Barbara Carey of Bartlesville, when they both played in the high school band, she the clarinet and Larry the Drum Captain. They married in 1958 and have two married daughters, Sandra McDermott-Hale and Lorana Enroth, who gave them three grandchildren, Victoria Leigh McDermott-Hale, Charles Benjamin McDermott-Hale and Andrew Edward Enroth.

Larry worked for two years as an engineer in the oil industry in Oklahoma, then in 1963 he joined the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation, where he stayed for the next 30 years. During his early years with McDonnell, he worked on a variety of important research, development, design and testing projects in the space and military aircraft industries. In 1986, he transferred to Douglas Aircraft of McDonnell Douglas in Long Beach, where he was promoted to Director of the Douglas Training Division, and elected President of McDonnell Douglas Training Systems and Services. He was responsible for Douglas Aircraft World Wide Commercial and Military Training.

From 1990-1993, he was assigned as Douglas Aircraft Program Manager for all MD-90 Aircraft Systems. Responsibilities included Systems Design, Development, Testing and Transition to Airline Operations.

In 1993 Larry retired from McDonnell Douglas after a career of ever increasing responsibility and authority. In 1993, for the next three years, he was Vice-President of Integration for Dowdy Aerospace with responsibility for the Fly By Wire Control System on the SAAB 2000 Aircraft.

In 1997 to the present time Larry is Advanced Program Manager for British Aerospace Electronics Controls of North America in Long Beach. This organization was originally the Flight Controls Division of General Electric, then sold to Martin Marietta, and then to Lockheed.

Over his interesting and fast moving career, Larry has been involved in many civic and political activities. He was Campaign Manager in the eleventh Congressional District of Missouri for Governors Kit Bond and John Ashcroft. In 1976, he was campaign manager in the eleventh Congressional District for then President Gerald Ford's reelection. He is past

Police and Fire Commissioner of St. Charles Missouri, an Oklahoma Ambassador, and Jaycee International Senator.

He is a member of the Long Beach Yacht Club, the Indian Wells Country Club, Honorably discharged from the US Navy Reserves, the American Legion, the Navy League, and many other organizations. His hobby, about which he has lectured often in period costume, is 18th Century Woodworking, using authentic tools of the era.

For us Compatriot Magerkurth is Past President of our chapter, Vice-President South of the State Society, Executive Vice-President in 2004 and State President in 2005. He was appointed to the Museum Committee of the National Society. He served as Vice-President of the Western Region and was named by President General Appleby to be Auditor General for this next year. He spearheaded the Congress Committee that produced an excellent Congress in Sacramento this Summer. Larry is seeking to become Treasurer General in 2009. His Revolutionary War ancestor is Benjamin Clement, a Virginia Patriot.

ACTIVITIES ABOUND

Since the June Newsletter there is a lot to report on the activities of your chapter. A lot of the May activities did not get noted in that newsletter as some had not yet occurred or had not yet been reported. So, I will do it here.

In May we issued 6 JROTC Awards to deserving Cadets at Kennedy, Don Lugo, Buena Park, La Habra, Orange and Santa Ana High Schools.

Memorial Day services were well attended by our members. Jim Blauer attended the one put on by Newport Harbor High School, his alma mater, on May 23. Dressed in his Lee's Legion Uniform he performed the National Anthem. The following Wednesday his picture from that event appeared in

the local Daily Pilot Newspaper. On May 26 Jim, Kent Gregory, Dan Henry, Walter Davis and John Dodd attended the Ceremonies at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery. Jim & Kent were in uniform and presented the chapter colors and laid a wreath during the ceremonies.

John & Karen Dodd with Will, Mark and Lacey attended the Fairhaven Memorial Park ceremony that was conducted by our own Lou Carlson. Charles Beal and his mother attended the Magnolia Cemetery ceremony. And, Jim & Sue Shadwick attended the Riverside National Cemetery services. Jim in uniform played his bugle(Taps).

In June we had Cadets from Anaheim and Pacifica High Schools receive our JROTC Awards.

Our Eagle Scout program received a boost when a list of names was obtained of new Eagles and we issued 226 Certificates in June. Arthur Koehler continues with the Tours he gives of Knott's Berry Farm's Independence Hall. He did several in May and another 5 in June.

With the Summer break from our meetings and people taking vacations one would think that there would not be much to report. WRONG!!!

Only July 4th your chapter made its 21st consecutive appearance in the Huntington Beach July 4th Parade. Kent Gregory and Jim Blauer were in Uniform. Jim carried the American Flag and Kent marched with his Brown Bess rifle. We had Dave Manning and his 1931 Model A Deluxe Coupe again and our Fifers and Drummer were also there to lead off our entry(#144). This year we had three fifers, so our group is growing. Due to the Congress in Sacramento, some of our members had to be up there early, so we missed them this year, but hope they will be back in 2009. We had our entry announced 5 times along the route and received a full minute on KOCE when they broadcast the

parade on channel 50 that same afternoon. At the bottom of the screen they even placed an identifier for our entry-"Orange County Chapter Sons of the American Revolution". This was repeated on Channel 3 in Huntington Beach 11 more times during the month.

On July 4th Arthur Koehler was busy giving tours of Independence Hall all day at Knott's Berry Farm. He did another tour on July 16th for Eastside Christian Church of Orange.

Meanwhile at the Carehouse Health facility Walter Davis was busy. In uniform he gave a talk on the Declaration of Independence for the residents, staff and family members. He also conducted the "Ring of the Bell" ceremony. He had an audience of about 45.

Compatriot Bill Campbell was busy as well on Independence Day. He actually started on the 3rd when he, wife Mary, sons Brain and Chris and their families attended the City of Orange's 3rd of July Event at Fred Kelly Stadium. He got the festivities off to a start by leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Bill, Mary, their daughter-in-law Danilea and grandson Diego rode in the Orange Park Acres July 4th Parade. He also rode in the City of Anaheim's Fourth of July Parade and celebration. Also during the month, while attending a convention in Missouri, Bill and Mary visited the Harry S Truman Library in Independence, MO. Please note there is no period after the S in Truman's name. That is because it really does not stand for a specific name, but may be a reference to the names of his grandfathers. Even Truman when writing his name would at times place a period after it by mistake.

Then there was Congress. John Dodd, Lou & Karen Carlson, Kent & Lisa Gregory, Larry & Barbara Magerkurth, Dave Siler and Jim Blauer were all in attendance from your chapter.

John, Lou and Larry attended the Memorial service at the Grave of General Winn who was the first President of the CASSAR or Sons of Revolutionary War Sires as it was originally called in 1876.

Kent Gregory and Jim Blauer were in uniform for the many Color Guard Activities. Congratulations goes out to Larry Magerkurth as he received the Minuteman Award at the Congress. The Minuteman Award is presented to those Compatriots for their long service at the National Level. Congratulations Larry!!!

The Ladies Auxiliary for our State Society celebrated their 25th Anniversary with a Cake that was cut by past State Auxiliary President Anne Lampman, using her husband's(Chuck) sword.

There was the Youth Awards Luncheon and the Banquet where Cliff Robertson, the Actor, was our keynote speaker and received the National Gold Good Citizenship Medal. Cliff is a member of the Sacramento Chapter.

There was the installation of officers for the coming year and gifts were exchanged between the outgoing and incoming President General.

They even had a small SAR Men's Chorus that sang at the Church service on Sunday and the banquet on Tuesday.

For those of you who did not receive a copy of Jim Blauer's notes on the Congress, contact him by e-mail(jblauer@pacbell.net) or snail mail and he will get you a copy.

On July 19, Compatriots John Dodd, Lou & Karen Carlson and Jim Blauer attended the Bennington Memorial Service that was held at the Rosecrans National Cemetery in San Diego. It is sponsored by the San Diego Chapter. John Dodd led the Pledge of Allegiance and Lou Carlson gave some welcoming remarks to those in attendance.

On July 26 we held our Fifth Annual SAR Barbecue at the home of John & Karen Dodd. We had about 29 members and guests attend from around the Southland. From San Diego up to Ventura. Lt. Mark Patridge thanked us for all we did to assist in getting supplies to his platoon. It was a beautiful day and the food was flowing. We had cheeseburgers, ribs and chicken barbecued to perfection by master chef John Dodd. There were salads and an assortment of desserts as well.

Jim Blauer continued to busy himself with more Eagle Scout Certificates. He issued another 117 in the month of July. That catches us up through mid May. He hopes to get the next list in the next month.

Other than that it has been a relatively slow Summer.

GET WELL WISHES

There are those members and their families we wish to send along our get well wishes to. To Jim Shadwick we pray for a speedy recovery from your recent setback and look forward to seeing you at the September meeting. To Walter Davis our Prayers go out to you and your wife Helen. Walter is quickly on the mend from recent surgery and Helen resides at the Carehouse facility where Walter gives his presentations in uniform. To Jim Quinnely we pray your recovery is coming along well. Hope to see you in September.

Please keep these Compatriots and their families in your prayers as they travel the road to recovery.

GOD BLESS!!

If you know of a fellow Compatriot or Compatriot's family member who is not well please advise Rev. Carlson so that he may get a card out to them.

Our condolences go out to the family of Compatriot James Denger who we lost before the Summer break. We will have the Charter draped in

Black at the September meeting and Compatriot John Walkowiak will speak to us about Compatriot Denger.

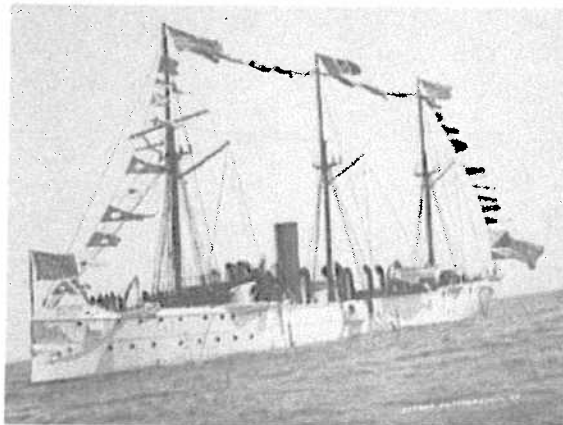
USS BENNINGTON(PG-4)

Named for the famous battle in the American Revolution where the Americans soundly defeated the British, the USS Bennington was authorized by Congress on March 3, 1887.

It was built in Chester, Pennsylvania by N.F. Palmer & Co. at the Delaware River Iron Works. In June 1888 the keel was laid and was launched on June 3, 1890. On June 20, 1891 the USS Bennington was commissioned for the first time. Sponsored by Miss Anne Aston the USS Bennington was commanded by Commander R. B. Bradford.

She was a 1700 ton gunboat of the Yorktown Class. The main battery consisted of six 6-inch breech loading rifles. Her secondary battery consisted of four 6-pounders, four 1-pounder rapid firing guns and two 30-caliber Colt guns. The engines were horizontal, steam expansion, and operated two screws. The cylinders were 22,31, and 50 inches in diameter, respectively with a stroke of 30 inches. The maximum indicated power was 3,392, and the estimated speed attained on the trial run was 17.5 knots per hour. Her coal bunkers had a capacity of 391 tons.

The Bennington joined the "*Squadron of Evolution*" and left New York on November 19, 1891 and cruised down to Brazil. Here they were



transferred to the South Atlantic Squadron on May 5, 1892 and cruised the South American waters until July 19.

She then moved over to Spain and Italy where she joined in the celebrations of the quadricentennial of Columbus' discovery of America. On March 26, 1893, with replicas of Columbus' ships in tow, she returned to Hampton Roads.

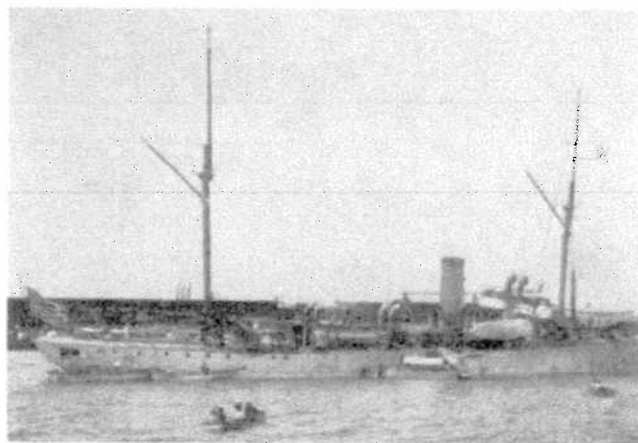
On August 6, 1893 the USS Bennington departed from New York City for the Mediterranean, until being deployed to the Pacific. She left Gibraltar on July 18, 1894 and arrived in Valparaiso, Chile on April 3, 1895 and then to Mare Island Naval Yard in San Diego on April 30.

Here she cruised the Pacific coasts of North and Central America and Hawaii until September 15, 1898. At this point she headed West, making stops at Honolulu and Guam while enroute to Manila, Philippines where she arrived on February 22, 1898. While enroute to Manila they took possession of Wake Island on January 17th.

While in Manila and the Philippines she assisted the US Army in the Spanish American War and insurrection until January 3, 1901. She returned to Mare Island on August 19th and was decommissioned on September 5, 1901.

On March 2, 1903 the USS Bennington was recommissioned and cruised the coasts of North and South America for the next two years.

On the morning of July 21, 1905 in San Diego Bay as she was preparing to get underway, two boilers exploded showering the vessel with steam and scalding water. Sixty-two men were killed, those killed outright as well as those who died shortly afterwards. There were 14 men injured and 26 others were injured less seriously. So over half of the 197 men were killed or injured. Though the ship eventually sank it was refloated and returned to



Remains of the USS Bennington

Mare Island on August 17 and was decommissioned on October 31, 1905. On September 10, 1910 the name was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. Finally, on November 14, 1910 she was sold for scrap.

Many of these men acted heroically and for their actions received the Navy Medal of Honor. They included; Seaman Edward William Boers, Carpenter's Mate 2nd Class George F. Brock, Chief Gunner's Mate John J. Clausey, Boatswain's Mate Willie Cronan, Watertender Emil Fredericksen, Seaman Rade Grbitch, Ship's Cook First Class Frank E. Hill, Machinist's Mate First Class Oscar Frederick Nelson, Seaman Otto Diller Schmidt, Hospital Steward William Sidney Shacklette, and Chief Electrician William E. Snyder.

The USS Bennington PG-4 received the Philippine Campaign Medal noted in Special Order #81 in June 1908 for its services in the Philippine waters on the following dates; February 22, 1899-July 5, 1899, July 15, 1899-April 5, 1900 and May 27, 1900- January 3, 1901.

As reported earlier in this newsletter Lou & Karen Carlson, John Dodd and Jim Blauer attended the Memorial for these men at the Rosecranz National Cemetery in San Diego on July 19. The ceremonies were held at the obelisk erected in their memory and around which many of these brave men are buried.**



Ways to Give

In support of The Center for Advancing America's Heritage, I pledge:

\$1,000 \$10,000 \$50,000 Please contact me. I am interested in donating \$100,000 or more

Pledge commitments may be fulfilled over a five year period. At the end of the pledge period, donations will be acknowledged at the level received

A check for \$ _____ is enclosed, payable to *The SAR Foundation, Inc.*

The balance will be paid as follows: _____

I/We expect to make the next payment _____ (month/year)

Signature: _____ Date: _____

I prefer to make my donation by credit card. Please charge \$ _____ to my

Visa MasterCard Discover AmEx

Card Number: _____ Expires: _____

Name on Card: _____ Signature: _____

Please contact me, I am interested in:

Named giving opportunities Establishing a charitable trust No, I do not wish to be listed

Name: _____ National Number: _____

Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Please list my donation as: _____

Photo Album

Summer 2008



HONOR: James Blauer sings the Star Spangled Banner during the 2008 Memorial Day Tribute at Newport Harbor High School on Friday.

KENT TREPTOW / DAILY PILOT

At left Jim Blauer sings the National Anthem at Memorial service for his Newport Harbor High School's alumni who have lost their lives in the service of our country.

At right Jim Blauer & Kent Gregory at the Memorial Day ceremonies at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery. Jim & Kent presented the colors and laid a wreath during the ceremonies.



At left Walter Davis waits for the ceremonies to begin at the Old Santa Ana Cemetery

At right and below an artillery company from the Sons of Union Veterans man a canon.

Below they prepare the canon and then fired it saluting those who have given their lives for our country. This was done twice. A nice added touch to these ceremonies.



Photo Album

Summer 2008-2

June Meeting



At left our Ben Franklin prizes for the month help to raise much needed funds for the chapter.

Below Members and guests who gathered at the Sizzler Restaurant partake of an enjoyable lunch before the speaker and business are conducted.



At left Vick Knight speaks to our chapter. At right President John Dodd Presents Mr. Knight with a Certificate of Appreciation.

Below left Mr. Knight is presented booklets on the Masons, George Washington and the writing of the Constitution.



At right Danny Cox receives his Military/War Service Certificate from President John Dodd



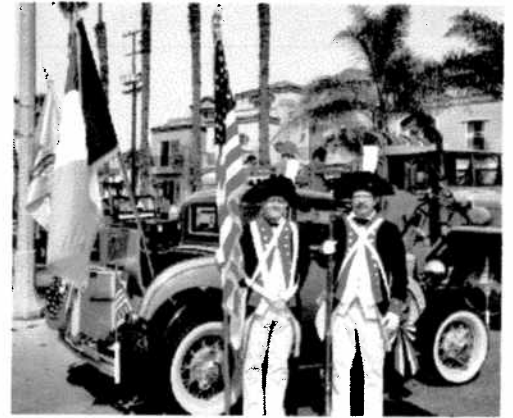
Photo Album

Summer 08-3

July 4th



The 1931 Model A with Jim Blauer and Kent Gregory at right. Below left our Fifers and Drummer lead off with Jim & Kent right behind.



Above right, Walter Davis does his presentation on the Declaration of Independence and "Ring the Bell" Ceremony at the Carehouse Healthcare facility where wife, Helen, is a resident.

At left, Jim and Kent in the Huntington Beach Parade.

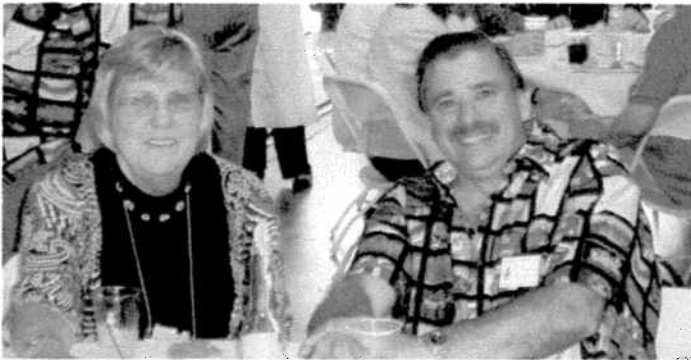
Below, Bill & Mary Campbell, daughter-in-law Daniela and grandson Diego ride in the Orange Park Acres July 4th Parade.



Photo Album

Summer 08-4

Congress 2008



At left Sandra Jacobs and John Dodd and At right Kent & Lisa Gregory having a good time at the RR Museum.



At left Larry Magerkurth is presented the Minutman Medal and Certificate and receives congratulations from President General Bruce Wilcox. Below Barbara and Larry at Banquet.



Below-David Siler gets to meet his idol Cliff Robertson and get an autograph following the Tuesday night Banquet.



At right-Karen and Lou Carlson pose for a photo at Congress.



Photo Album

Summer 08-5

Bennington Memorial July 19, 2008



At left-the Bennington Memorial Obelisk.

At right-the Color Guard prepares to advance and present the Colors.



Below left-Lou Carlson welcomes those in attendance and brings greetings from the State Society.

Below center-the crew of the USS Bennington PG-4

Center right-is the grave of Medal of Honor recipient William Cronan.



Below attendees have lunch at a local restaurant that is but a hundred or so feet from where the USS Bennington exploded in 1905.



At right a descendant of one of the sailors places a flower on a pole that is then placed in the water as a memorial.



Photo Album

Summer 08-6

Fifth Annual SAR Barbecue



Above left-John Dodd acts as master chef showing Danny Cox & Rex Shannon his Barbecuing style. Above right-Dan Henry gives John an assist. At left Dave Siler also assists helping the master chef. Below-the kitchen where members and guests gathered to see what was for lunch.



At far right-Lt. Mark Patridge from our adopted platoon thanks our chapter for all the support we gave them while in Iraq.

Below-Compatriots and guests socialize and have a good time.

