

MAY 2026

THE CANNON'S MOUTH

Newsletter of the California Historical Artillery Society

Hello to Members and Friends of the California historical Artillery Society, the staff at the Cannon's Mouth wish you a happy and welcome Spring. Temperatures are warmer, flowers are blooming and trees are leafing creating shady spots to enjoy a warm day. As the newsletter progresses, you will find messages from the President of the Board of Directors, Ted Miljevich. Followed by several articles from Captain William David Johnson, Alan Ginos and Ken Dombroski.

The Cannon's Mouth welcomes articles and pictures from Member's currently and from the past.

Word from the pup tent Ted Miljevich

Spring is upon us with good weather and things are going well for the organization. There was great turnout for work parties and the parade in April. Great to see such good members participation. We have an active reenacting season this year calendar wise, and this is a welcome sign of things to come hopefully. We are still actively looking for a location/ ranch option to board our team horses that can reduce our overall expenses. Anyone with any leads for us to follow up on would be greatly appreciated.

In your service

El Duce

CHAS Commanders Report

Winter Quarters in Oakdale

Rae, the Ferrier, was busy preparing everyone's hoofs and special cleaning of a few equine members over winter quarters. Our furry friends received shots and a dose of dewormer at Alan's great effort. Feed was loaded up and stored, and all were checked for health. Grasshopper even made the move from Casini Ranch to join her friends in Oakdale.

April 2026 – The Oakdale Rodeo Parade

Day one, the unit had veterinary services on the team and Parade preparation for everyone else. Once the team was bedded down the horse wranglers visited a local establishment for vittles at the 50's roadhouse in Knights Ferry. Day two, the big event. Up at the crack of dawn, before actually, the horses were tacked up and loaded into the big blue trailer for the short haul to Oakdale high school rally point for our position in the parade. A smooth transition from trailer to team, limber, and cannon as well as 3 drivers and a couple of walkers were ready to go. After establishing that there was no organization to the position in the parade, we just took a position and figured out what next. A straight shot up main street Oakdale and a very well-behaved team was our reward. We loaded up following a long walk back from the parade end point. All were satisfied with the success of our exposition. Given our first parade in a while, we learn lessons for next time like a limber mounted sign.

April/May 2026 – Mahon Ranch Event, Elk Grove

CHAS brought a 4-up team and a cannon to the Living History event at Mahon Ranch in Elk Grove, Ca. Slow-paced event but a good opportunity to work the team. A 3-inch wrought iron gun and a four-member team arrived promptly to successfully repel a reconnaissance raid by 100's of school children. Weather conditions were favorable, with comfortable temperatures throughout the event. 4 small engagements, we won twice and lost twice, go figure. No injuries or safety incidents were reported, except for the rattlesnake in the middle of the company street. It did fairly well after being accidentally run over.



The Snake



Our Brave Cannon Crew



As the sun sets



Good weather



Dance night

Future Events:

- Graeagle, Quincy July 2 – 5 2026
- Castle Noz Event, Snelling October 15-18, 2026

Faithfully,

Captain William David Johnson

3rd US Artillery L & M

A letter sent to Alan Ginos which Alan has shared. Matthew is one of our newest members to CHAS;

I had a couple of extra photos from the Lincoln Assassination segment of the Mahon Ranch event.

I haven't yet had an opportunity to write up a blurb or segment on my experience so far, but I can provide a spark note summary:

For my first "real" event, I had a blast at Mahon Ranch with the team- and I can only see the experience getting better from there. The drivers, cannoneers, and horses excellently portrayed a light artillery battery as well. In terms of safety, the drill and processes are very well done to take into consideration a wide variety of situations that can arise... although First Sergeant Foster and I had quite the flight from the limber box on the second day.

I am still doing my reading on the battery, as well as recently obtaining a reproduction of Patten's Artillery Drill (1862) to build knowledge on the drill during the war compared to today. Even a Section of Artillery would need 24-horses just for the guns and limber, not including the battery wagon and forge which would be another dozen... it is amazing that even for a single gun, the scale of horses and men that would be required to execute such an undertaking is an amazing feat of logistics.

I can't wait to do more events and build my impression and knowledge. I have met a fair number of interesting reenactors from other units as well and learning a ton!

Respectfully sent,
Matthew Di Loreto



Matthew Di Loreto, General Grant, who was on our horse Brodie and Alan Ginos

BATTERY L, 3RD U.S. ARTILLERY LINEAGE AND HONORS

6th BATTALION, 62d AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

Regular Army (inactive) **by Ken Dombroski, Ph.D. (Major, United States Army, Retired)**

LINEAGE

Constituted 3 March 1847 in the Regular Army as **Company L, 3d Regiment of Artillery**. Organized 1 October 1847.

Reorganized and redesignated 13 February 1901 as the 33d Company, Coast Artillery, Artillery Corps. Redesignated 2 February 1907 as the 33d Company, Coast Artillery Corps. Redesignated 5 August 1916 as the 14th Company, Fort Mills (Philippine Islands). Redesignated 31 August 1917 as the 14th Company, Coast Defenses of Manila and Subic Bays. Redesignated 30 June 1922 as the 33d Company, Coast Artillery Corps.

Reorganized and redesignated 14 September 1922 as Battery D, 62d Artillery (Antiaircraft) (Coast Artillery Corps) (concurrently additionally designated as the 33d Company, Coast Artillery Corps; additional designation abolished 1 July 1924). Redesignated 1 July 1924 as Battery D, 62d Coast Artillery.

Reorganized and redesignated 24 March 1944 as Battery D, 62d Antiaircraft Artillery Gun Battalion. Inactivated 13 March 1946 at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey. Redesignated 9 December 1948 as Battery D, 62d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. Activated 15 January 1949 at Fort Bliss, Texas. (62d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion assigned 4 November 1949 to the 2d Armored Division; relieved 20 October 1950 from assignment to the 2d Armored Division.) Redesignated 1 October 1953 as Battery D, 62d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. Inactivated 15 September 1958 in Germany.

Redesignated 21 March 1961 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Missile Battalion, 62d Artillery (organic elements concurrently constituted). Battalion activated 19 April 1961 at Fort Bliss, Texas. Redesignated 20 August 1965 as the 6th Battalion, 62d Artillery. Redesignated 1 September 1971 as the 6th Battalion, 62d Air Defense Artillery. Inactivated 13 September 1972 in Germany.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War of 1812

Streamer without inscription

Mexican War

Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Contreras, Churubusco, Molino del Rey, Chapultepec, Puebla 1847

Indian Wars

Seminoles, *Washington 1856, Washington 1858

Civil War

*Mississippi River, *Peninsula, *Antietam, *Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg, *Wilderness, Spotsylvania, Shenandoah, Virginia 1863, *Mississippi 1863, *Tennessee 1863, *Tennessee 1864

War With Spain

*Manila

Philippine Insurrection

*Manila, *Malolos, *Luzon 1899

World War II

*Algeria-French Morocco, *Tunisia, *Sicily, *Rome-Arno, *Southern France, *Rhineland, *Ardennes-Alsace, *Central Europe

Korean War

UN defensive, UN offensive, CCF intervention, First UN counteroffensive, CCF spring offensive, UN summer-fall offensive, Second Korean winter, Korea, summer-fall 1952, Third Korean winter, Korea, summer 1953

DECORATIONS

Presidential Unit Citation (Navy), Streamer embroidered INCHON

NOTE: Campaigns and decorations for each battalion under the Combat Arms Regimental System include all the honors of the parent regiment. Asterisks (*) appearing in the list of honors indicate the honors for which a particular unit is the earning organization. This distinction means that either the unit itself (in this case, Company L, 3rd Artillery) or a unit from which it is directly descended earned the honor.

62d AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY HERALDIC ITEMS

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is the shield of the coat of arms.



62d Air Defense Artillery

COAT OF ARMS

Shield: Gyronny of six embattled azure and gules, a circle of sixteen mullets argent.

Crest: On a wreath of the colors, argent and azure, on a saltire azure fimbriated argent two arrows of the last, all entwined with a serpent vert.

Motto: *Nitimur in Alta* (We Aim at High Things).



Symbolism: The six embattled sectors symbolize participation in six wars by units of the 62d Coast Artillery, from which the 62d Air Defense Artillery is descended—the War of 1812, Indian Wars, Mexican War, Civil War, War with Spain, and the Philippine Insurrection. The blue and red and the sixteen mullets commemorate the date (1798) one element of the regiment was organized; the uniforms worn by artillery soldiers were dark blue faced with scarlet and there were sixteen states in the Union.

The saltire, alluding to the flag of the Confederacy, is blue to indicate that service of elements of the regiment during the Civil War was with the Union Army. The two arrows represent the Indian Wars and the serpent the Mexican War.

In Memorial

Former CHAS Member Bob Strother Passed away at 87

Bob was laid to rest May 19, 2026, at the Dixon National Cemetery with full military honors provided by an Air Force Honor Guard from Travis AFB.

Most of you won't know Bob, but he was/is a very good friend of Alan and served as a Driver in the 3rd U.S. from the mid to late 1990's. He had never ridden a horse before, but with Alan doing it he was up for the challenge. In fact, one of Bob's favorite sayings was "In for a dime, in for a Dollar". If you are going to do something, go all the way with it. And that he did with gusto. Work parties, driving haul trucks everywhere we went, in those days from Salinas to Sacramento, LA, Monterey, Mariposa, Murphys, Moorpark, Fresno and numerous other places for parades in addition to reenactments. Bob advanced from Pvt all the way through the ranks to Quartermaster Sgt in charge of all the teams on the field and those working with the horses. Note in the pictures the 1840 style uniform we used to wear and of course Civil War uniforms. Bob's is survived by his wife Candace who resides in Rio Vista.





Jim and Lynn Hulsey Passing

Those that remember Jim Hulsey a long-time member from the old days of helping Bob Ebert with unit meals. Some may remember they had a guest ranch in Wyoming too. I am sad to report that he and his wife both passed away on May 16th in a car accident. He was driving and apparently had a heart attack and swerved into a tree on the side of 101 freeway, NJ just 10 miles from their home in Santa Rosa. They were together their entire lives sense grade school. They have been friends of mine for almost 45 years. I was portraying confederate artillery back when we met. Jim and Lynn were originally from Virginia, so he joined the south. They have a son and daughter, who both as toddlers were dressed as civilians and the whole family reenacted for a short time. Jim was 5 days shy of his 82nd birthday. We all know the challenging times when anyone loses family or friends. Our prayers and well-wishes go to his family and those they knew.

Memory Eternal

Ted

Larry Schneider's Resting Place

At the Mahon Ranch event recently, Alan forgot some key gear at the ranch and had to return to Oakdale to retrieve it. As fortune would have it, just as Alan was leaving the event site he got a call from long-time member Bill Hawkins. During this talk Alan asked Bill if he knew where Cap'n Schneider was buried off Hwy 99, and as it turned out the exit was coming up right then. Alan was able to visit the cemetery, find Larry's site from the office, and pay respect for the first time in over 25 years. At the burial Alan was lead driver on the caisson team and could not visit the gravesite. He now has and reports a very well-maintained property with Larry buried alongside other military veterans. It was a very moving experience. Schneider's Battery is forever grateful for all of Cap'n Schneider's contributions.



Update on For Sale items:

Isuzu SOLD

The last of our fleet of Isuzu haul trucks has now departed for some country south of the border. The buyer came up from LA with his small pickup to load on the truck to take it back south. It worked great and please see the pics. When he arrived home he sent me a note saying how good a truck it is. This was Dennis' personal truck that had a/c in it. All still worked, but with just enough horses for a team and outrider, plus a spare or two, we couldn't justify the terrific expense of keeping the truck going. Insurance, registration, and smog checks had gotten to over \$4,000 per year. With the red horse trailer now a stationary storage rig, we are left with the blue trailer as our workhorse being pulled by the 98 Ram diesel leased to us by Teri Moretti. What a fantastic towing machine it is too. Thanks ever so much to Teri for keeping this going.



Merchandise

With the help of Alaina Young's sutlery, we are doing a pretty good job of bringing down the Civil War Days t-shirt inventory. Here is all that is left so if you want some set aside for you please let Alan know. \$5 each plus shipping.

2XL -- 5 yellow, 2 blue
XL -- 3 yellow, 1 blue
L -- 1 red
M -- 1 gray
S -- 1 gray
Youth large—1 light blue
Youth Medium, 1 red



We have begun to sell the Ray Ahrenholtz \$20 full caricature shirts now also through the Sutler store. Large range of sizes up to XL, and many colors. Will list in a future newsletter or on the website. Same goes for a pretty large stock of the \$15 Pedes, ne me nunc deficiatis shirts, all in dark blue. Many sizes to choose from.



There is still some CHAS coffee mugs for \$10 each, and tons of the cloisonne pins



with our logo for \$5 each.

Website:

Alan is happy to report on the website which is up to date with event information, horses, and a lot of other information. If you have suggestions for something you would like to see or update, let Alan know. And by the way, this is the best year for events for us since before covid.

Thank you for those that have provided to the May Cannon's Mouth! There will be a new Cannon's Mouth in August so if you have anything to contribute to the Cannon's Mouth related to CHAS, the American Civil War, daily life during that time period and last but not least typical foods eaten at home or on the field. Recipes too by mid-August I would be most thankful.

Karen Foster Editor for The Cannon's Mouth

