

FEBRUARY 2026

THE CANNON'S MOUTH

*Newsletter of the
California Historical Artillery Society*

The staff here at The Cannon's Mouth hope that you all had a good time off for Winter's Quarters as we welcomed in 2026. Below you will find a message from our President Ted as well as plans for upcoming events for this year as plus dates and times for horse care. The care that our unit's horses receive is outstanding. Please note upcoming dates for working days. You will find additional articles of interest as well.

From President Ted 'El Duce' Miljevich

It has been an eventful year for our organization to relocate and adjust to our new location in Oakdale. Thank you to all that helped in this project in the actual movement and behind the scenes financial help. Our horses are settling into their new surroundings. We continue to search for another location that will offer us lower costs in overhead and boarding. We continue to search for reenacting events and possibly parades to showcase our organization. This is becoming a challenge for various reasons, including diminished interest in the Civil War era. We continue to regrow our membership and appreciate any and all avenues to accomplish reaching this challenge.

The New Buffalo Soldiers 2026 Tournament of Roses, Pasadena, California. Captain Alan Ginos riding Peso.

You think it is easy to do the parade? Your tack and uniform have to be in top-notch condition, so a lot of brass shining and tack cleaning before heading down south.

This was an interesting to say the least year to be in the parade. Big Guy and I were together in most years from 2009 to 2024, but that year taught me that he had had enough of this duty. He missed his ranch buddies, developed ulcers on the trip and was not a happy camper who took months to recover and cost a LOT of money to get him

back to normal. I rented a horse last year the same color as BG, but he could not make it through the parade as it was too much for him. So, this year I reserved a horse that Lt Dan McCluskey rode in last year's parade with no problems. (I actually called the supplier on the way home from last year's parade and snagged him out from under the LT, isn't that what friends are for?) Anyway, Peso, who is only 6 was one of the best horses I've ever ridden, and no doubt capable well beyond my abilities. And of course, I reserved him before we left LA for next year's parade and may rent him for the Huntington Beach event Labor Day weekend.

So, we slept overnight on the freeway in staging for the parade, it rained all night and quite hard at times. Note in the last picture the 1st Cav Division riders wearing see through rain ponchos. That is what we had on as well to keep some wetness at bay, but to be honest the main thing those ponchos did was direct massive amounts of water into our boots, so much so that one of mine actually collapsed around my ankle. Fortunately, it was inside boot so not visible to the cameras or public. Both of our units dropped the ponchos before entering the parade route.

After we got by the cameras the rain actually let up and then stopped, we ended the parade in the sun. What was truly amazing was how many people came out to see the parade even in the rain. Lighter than prior years, but still a lot of people. We tried very hard to give them a good show. Will we do it again, of course if invited.



Preparation for the Rose Parade.



Off to the Rose Parade wet yes, folks happy to see them there yes.

CHAS Truck and Trailer Update

At recent horse workdays at the ranch, the team of Mike Berry, Dave Johnson, Mark Oldridge and Alan Ginos have tarped all the trailers at the ranch. Thanks Ted for supplying really heavy-duty tarps for the red and blue horse trailer. We can now safely store gear in them without as much moisture to deal with. Mark insisted that we tarp the newly decked and

painted caisson trailer as it looks so outstanding. A good suggestion and now done.

Recently the Isuzu had to go to Modesto for a frequent smog test. It had sat for months and of course had to be jumped to get it running. The solar panel in the first picture is the fix for the dead battery issue. We tried these at Casini ranch but with cows, bulls and horses having access to the trucks, the solar equipment never had a chance to survive. Now without any animal intrusion a panel like this is powering up both the Isuzu and Dodge quite well. Will help extend battery life and ensure being able to start the trucks.

Another reason to show the Isuzu is to explain why the truck has nice looking black tires now. That is because all the tires are new. One set of duals were smooth, so Alan went to our local tire shop to see about getting two tires for the front, swap those steer tires to the rear and be done. BUT the front tires were rotting anyway. So, since the truck has to go to Modesto several times a year now, CA's penalty for having an old truck smog test, no way any of us should drive a vehicle with that bad of tires on it. The consolation is that while making it safer it will add to value when we sell it and help traction getting through wet grass and mud.





CHAS D Cross Ranch Horse Workdays

February 28th 8am – 3pm, Work with Horse teams & Limber.

March 21st 8am – 3pm, Work with Horse teams & Limber.

March 28th 8am – 3pm, Work with Horse teams & Limber- Rain Day if 21st doesn't work.

April 3rd 8am – 3pm, Horse Ferrier for Pedicures and grooming.

Event Schedule

April 10th 8am – 3pm, Oakdale Rodeo Parade preparation with overnight at D Cross Ranch or Motel. Limber and Cannon work.

April 11th 7am – 3pm, Oakdale Rodeo Parade with Limber and Cannon work.

April 24th – 26th all day, Cone Grove Event, Red Bluff Cavalry horses only, Cannoneers can fall in on a local gun.

April 30th- May 3rd all day, Mahon Ranch timeline event & School Days, with Limber and Cannon work.

Any help at Ranch for working or loading/unloading for events is highly encouraged.

Alan Ginos adginos@hotmail.com or David Johnson WDJO001@comcast.net.

Thanks to William David Johnson for providing the information above.

Another upcoming event from Chip Lagman, please see the note below about the event. There are rumors about that two of our key folks will be attending but I'll leave it to them to share about their plans to attend.

Alan and Theodore,

Per my brief text exchange with Alan - I wanted to send you some details about a fun event here in Gettysburg over Memorial Day Weekend.

My gun is scheduled to participate in Living History at the Pennsylvania Memorial on the Gettysburg National Military Park - over Memorial Day Weekend. This will be the third year we have held this coveted date and location. We have one other gun that will fall in with us...so a static federal artillery section. Additionally, we will have an operating forge and small camp set up.

There will be no battles...just firing demonstrations and living history. We are under the supervision of Park Rangers who oversee all firing...so NPS drill is required. Next to the battle anniversary programs in July - Memorial Day tends to draw large crowds throughout town and especially to the Pennsylvania Memorial.

If CHAS members would like to make the trek out...this is a great opportunity to get to camp directly on the battlefield (steps from where Father Corby gave communion to the Irish Brigade) and engage thousands of tourists over the weekend. Other than bringing a uniform...we can logistically take care of the rest (tents, camp meals, etc.). I am happy to provide airport pick up/drop off - and a place to shower/crash overnight post event.

This is really a great event - and a chance to be right in the mix of cannons, Gettysburg, and all things Civil War. Additionally....Antietam, Harpers Ferry, and Fort McHenry are all less than an hour and a half away. On a personal note, our house/small farm served as General Custer's headquarters on the second day of the battle and saw fighting between his famed Michigan Brigade and Wade Hampton's Legion right on our property. There is no shortage of cool stuff to see during a long weekend visit.

There are also opportunities for exclusive living history and firing at this same location on July 4th - which will coincide with the annual reenactment at a nearby location.

If you'd like to participate or have questions, my contact info is:

Chip Langman
223.290.0562/cell
chip.langman@gmail.com



Election Results

Before the results, we'd like to thank Carolyn Fabel for continuing to be our Election Coordinator again this year. Excellent work Carolyn.

- President - Ted Milijevich
- Vice President – Mike Berry
- Treasurer – Alan Ginos
- Recording Secretary - Scott Foster
- Corresponding Secretary -Judith A. Boling
- Member at Large –Terry Thompson
- Member at Large – Karen Foster
- Commander – William David (Dave) Johnson

Unit Awards for 2025

- The “At A Boy Award” to Dave Johnson
 - Ed Pico Award to Karen Foster
- The Larry Schneider Award to Mark Oldridge Member of the Year

**Congratulations to the 2025 Award Winners
and to the 2026 Board of Directors.**

Historical/Educational

BATTERY M, 3RD U.S. ARTILLERY LINEAGE AND HONORS1

6th MISSILE BATTALION, 3d AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY

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

LINEAGE

Constitution on 3 March 1847 in the Regular Army as **Company M, 3d Regiment of Artillery**. Organized 1 October 1847.

Reorganized and redesignated 13 February 1901 as the 34th Company, Coast Artillery, Artillery Corps. Redesignated 2 February 1907 as the 34th Company, Coast Artillery Corps. Redesignated in July 1916 as the 1st Company, Fort Stevens [Oregon]. Redesignated 31 August 1917 as the 1st Company, Coast Defenses of the Columbia. Redesignated 1 June 1922 as the 34th Company, Coast Artillery Corps. Redesignated 1 July 1924 as Battery F, 3d Coast Artillery, and inactivated at Fort Stevens, Oregon. Activated 1 July 1939 at Fort Stevens, Oregon. Inactivated 1 February 1940 at Fort Stevens, Oregon. Activated 2 December 1940 at Fort MacArthur, California.

Reorganized and redesignated 18 October 1944 as Battery C, 522d Coast Artillery Battalion. Disbanded 15 September 1945 at Fort MacArthur, California. Reconstituted 28 June 1950 in the Regular Army; concurrently consolidated with Battery C, 43d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion (active) (*see ANNEX*), and consolidated unit designated as Battery C, 43d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, an element of the 10th Infantry Division. Redesignated 15 June 1954 as Battery C, 43d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion. (43d Antiaircraft Artillery Battalion relieved 16 May 1957 from assignment to the 10th Infantry Division.) Inactivated 14 November 1957 in Germany.

Redesignated 12 August 1958 as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Missile Battalion, 3d Artillery (organic elements concurrently constituted). Battalion activated 1 September 1958 at Arlington Heights, Illinois. (Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Missile Battalion, 3d Artillery, consolidated 1 January 1960 with Battery F, 3d Field Artillery

[organized in 1898], and consolidated unit designated as Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 6th Missile Battalion, 3d Artillery.) Inactivated 1 June 1965 at Chicago, Illinois.

Redesignated (less former Battery F, 3d Field Artillery) 1 September 1971 as the 6th Missile Battalion, 3d Air Defense Artillery (former Battery F, 3d Field Artillery, concurrently redesignated as the 6th Missile Battalion, 3d Field Artillery-hereafter separate lineage).

ANNEX

Constituted 5 May 1942 in the Army of the United States as Battery G, 504th Coast Artillery. Activated 1 July 1942 at Camp Hulen, Texas.

Reorganized and redesignated 20 January 1943 as Battery C, 630th Coast Artillery Battalion. Redesignated 12 December 1943 as Battery C, 630th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion. Inactivated 26 September 1945 in Italy. Redesignated 18 June 1948 as Battery C, 43d Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion, an element of the 10th Infantry Division. Activated 1 July 1948 at Fort Riley, Kansas.

CAMPAIGN PARTICIPATION CREDIT

War of 1812
Canada

Indian Wars
Seminoles
*California 1850
*Washington 1858

Mexican War
Palo Alto
Resaca de la Palma
Monterey
Buena Vista
Vera Cruz
Cerro Gordo
Contreras
Churubusco
Molino del Rey
Chapultepec

Puebla 1847

Civil War
*Peninsula
*Antietam
*Fredericksburg
Chancellorsville
Gettysburg
*Wilderness
Spotsylvania
Petersburg
Shenandoah
*Mississippi 1863
*Tennessee 1863
*Tennessee 1864
Virginia 1863

World War II

*Naples-Foggia (with arrowhead)

Anzio (with arrowhead)

*Rome-Arno

Southern France (with arrowhead)

*North Apennines

Ardennes-Alsace

Central Europe

*Po Valley

Korean War

CCF intervention

First UN counteroffensive

CCF spring offensive

UN summer- fall offensive

Second Korean winter

Korea, summer- fall 1952

Third Korean winter

Korea, summer 19

DECORATIONS

*Meritorious Unit Commendation, Streamer embroidered EUROPEAN THEATER (630th Antiaircraft Artillery Automatic Weapons Battalion cited: GO 103, Headquarters, Fifth Army, 19 August 1945)

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 M, 3rd Artillery) or a unit from which it is directly descended earned the honor.

3d AIR DEFENSE ARTILLERY HERALDIC ITEMS

DISTINCTIVE INSIGNIA

The distinctive insignia is an adaptation of the crest and motto of the coat of arms.

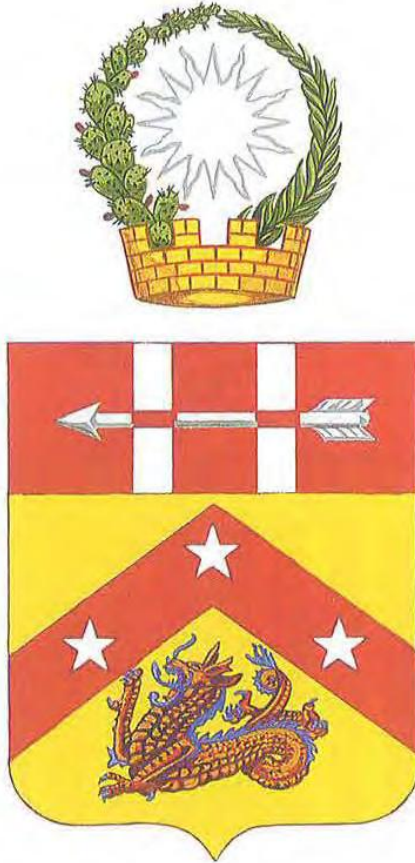


3d Air Defense Artillery

COAT OF ARMS

Shield: Or, on a chevron gules above an imperial Chinese dragon of the like armed azure three mullets argent, on a chief of the second two pallets of the fourth an arrow in fess counterchanged.

Crest: Out of a mural crown or masoned gules a garland the dexter branch cactus the sinister palm proper encircling a sun in splendor argent.



Motto: Non Cedo Ferio (I Yield Not, I Strike).

Symbolism: Scarlet is used for artillery. The two white stripes on the scarlet chief, the colors of the campaign streamers for the War of 1812, commemorate the participation of several companies of the regiment. The arrow alludes to the Indian Wars. The chevron and stars indicate service in the Civil War. The stars also refer to the numerical designation of the regiment. The dragon represents service in China; the claws and teeth are blue to indicate that elements of the regiment served in the China Relief Expedition as infantry.

The mural crown, cactus, and palm signify the regiment's participation in the Mexican War and elements of the regiment in the Philippine Insurrection. The sun in its glory commemorates the laurels earned by the regiment during its days of glory.

Horse Herd Update from Alan Ginos

We have been at 8 horses most of the last year. Banker, a too spirited and independent-minded horse that did not want to participate in what we do, left the herd on February 7th to a new home. Replacing him will be our past ambulance horse Grasshopper returning to us from Casini Ranch where she has been on pasture duty. You will recall her being matched size and color wise with Gumdrop who is still doing well. Both will be on the artillery team unless we need them for ambulance or wagon duty. Both are about 24 years old, so we hope to have some good years left for them.

Speaking of longevity and how we can impact it, for the first time ever we had an equine dentist working on the entire herd recently and am sure the adjustments to bite and teeth fitting will go a very long way to help their ability to process food and thus improve their health. Brodie is a good example as our oldest boy. While we have had vets float their teeth every year, floating is not the same as adjustment of bite and leveling out the teeth in layman's terms. Brodie needed quite a bit of adjustment for both food processing and to remove painful parts that had to detract from his ability to eat. While he has been considered for retirement as he was slowing down the team, now with this dental work done he probably will perk up, gain weight and be able to carry on. As the dentist said regarding him, now the best thing to do with him is use him as he has some more years to give us. What a learning and eye-opening experience that we will continue with every year from now on.

A picture of Banker being worked on by the dentist. Yes, even though he got this treatment as we did not know yet he was going to a new home. If a horse is with us, they get the same treatment and care as the rest of the herd.

Update, Grasshopper was safely transported to Oakdale Friday, 2/13. She is in a pasture with Big Guy and another mild gelding to start out and fit right in. She looks good. Nice to say once caught with the help of sweet feed, she lead and loaded/unloaded easily.



Banker and the Dentist



Grasshopper



Grasshopper is back with her herd.

There are still CHAS items available plus a last goodbye to our friend Ray Ahrenholz

Did you know you can still buy CHAS t shirts in three different themes? All are in stock with Alan and available for pickup at events or by shipping for a fee.

Civil War Days shirts, the yellow one pictured are available in kid to 2XL sizes. Colors to choose from are Yellow, Red, Gray, Light Blue. \$5 each.

Original battery t shirt from the early 90s or before? Anyone know what the Latin translation is for Pedes Ne Me Nunc Deficiatis? Ok it is Feet Don't Fail Me Now.

These are all blue and in sizes from small to XL. \$15 each.

Ray Ahrenholz original caricature artwork t-shirts. Ray passed this last year and was a long-time member of CHAS and other groups. Distinctive looking, impeccably attired, good bugler and historian. Ray was a good man. These shirts should be collector items with a meaning. We have them in sizes from kid to XL in colors from gray, light blue, blue, and white. \$20 each.

There is also one CHAS windbreaker left, medium but generous sized. \$25 and can send a picture if you are interested.

A final item that we have lots of is the pretty cloisonné Pedes pin with crossed cannons on it. \$5 each. We all should wear these.

A shout out goes to Alaina Young who is helping sell this stuff at her sutlery. She was able to sell around 18 shirts and all the remaining kid size kepis at the Castle Noz event. Big thanks to Alaina.

There were some challenges in getting some of the pictures posted. In the future, I will try to correct that hiccup.



I would like to take this time to thank those that have contributed to this Cannon's Mouth; Ted Miljevich, Alan Ginos, Scott Foster (who was able to transfer the information needed for the Cannon's Mouth before my old computer went down for the third time to an extra laptop a couple of weeks ago), Dave Johnson and Ken Dombroski. Also, we can't forget Chip Langman providing an invitation to the special event in May mentioned earlier in the Cannon's Mouth.

Due to the hiccups from the computer plus a round of flu arriving, without invitation, to your editor's home, well, didn't hit my intended deadline. Hopefully the May edition will go better. I hope that you enjoy the content, there several options to choose from.

Between now and mid-May if you would like to contact me with articles, stories from events and pictures. Please send them to me at foster_scott@sbcglobal.net.

Karen Foster Editor for The Cannon's Mouth

Additional edits by Kim Foster

