

The Valley Compatriot

San Fernando

Valley Chapter



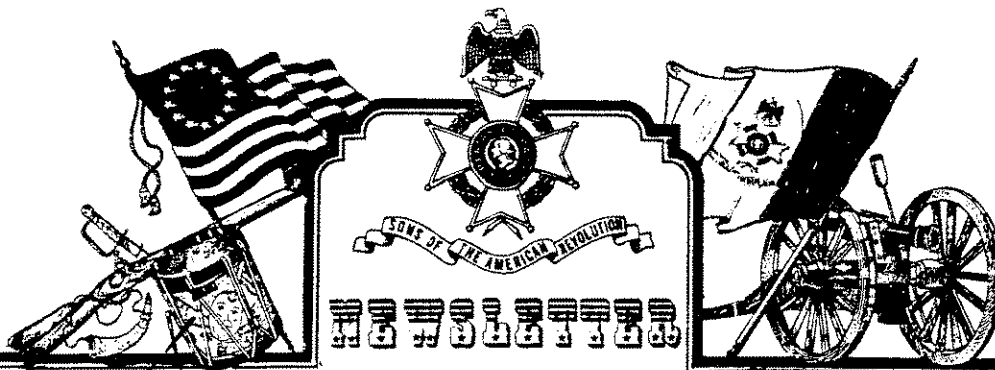
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION



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NEWSLETTER

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER

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THE FRONT COVER

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA, 12 September, 1787
 GEORGE WASHINGTON, President of the convention
 presents to the delegates, there assembled, the
 completed document - - THE CONSTITUTION OF THE
 UNITED STATES.

THE VALLEY COMPATRIOT

The VALLEY COMPATRIOT is the official publication of the
 SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER,
 CALIFORNIA SOCIETY,
 SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

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The editorial content of the VALLEY COMPATRIOT reflects the opinions of
 the Editor or the authors of the various articles and is not necessarily
 the official position of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California
 Society, Sons of the American Revolution, unless so stated. Back-issues
 of this publication are available for the cost of postage.

PRESIDENT ROBERTSON SPEAKS AT
BOYSTOWN, NEBRASKA

By: Roger E. Robertson



THE 'BOYSTOWN' RESIDENCE VISITED BY ROGER ROBERTSON

Bad luck usually has its compensations, if only to make us appreciate our blessings. It happened reroute to the National Congress, with the Color Guard flags, muskets, swords, etc. packed in among suitcases, raincoats and all the paraphernalia that might be needed for 8,000 miles and five weeks on the road. A few hours out of Los Angeles, we stopped for a leisurely lunch in the California desert. Starting again, it seemed rather warm. Then I realized, the air conditioner was blowing air, desert air, not cooled. Victorville had no agency garage. Either turn back or go on to Las Vegas. We reached the gambling mecca just as the garage was closing for a long holiday weekend.

For the next three days we traveled the old fashion way, windows open! It reminded us of moving to California from Pennsylvania, 30 years ago. Up early to cover miles in the cool morning air, long rests in the heat of mid-day, traveling late in the cool of the evening. How lucky to have air conditioned cars in recent years.

Tuesday morning in a garage in Omaha, Nebraska, I met a big fellow with ARIZONA on his sweat shirt. Yes, he was a football player, had played in college and was the new coast at Boy's Town, Nebraska. After several hours of telling stories back and forth, he said, "Say, would you come out to boy's town and tell that to the boys?" He saw the puzzled look and explained. Each boy has had serious problems of one type or another

before reaching Boy's Town. Real life, first hand stories of problems overcome by working them, by not giving up, will help the boys. The boys are not required to stay. Some don't. It is not easy for them to adapt to a work and reward system; some take the easy way out for the moment and leave. We were to meet one who had.

Astonished, and curious, I promised to try, on the way back, in about a month. He gave me his phone number. That invitation was exceptionally good luck. We were to learn a lot more about Father Flanagan and his legacy than our memories of Spencer Tracy and Mickey Rooney in the movie "Boy's Town" provided.

A month later, Mary Lou and I spent several hours touring the town and farm. It is now large enough to have its own postal zip code. Once far out in the country, now it is on the outskirts of Omaha. Once the remnants of a working farm, it now has many fine brick buildings and a well run farm with modern equipment. They have a modern high school, athletic fields, a Vocational Career Center, Hall of History of the Town, beautiful Chapel, separate homes for small groups of boys (and now girls), a list of 28 buildings and areas shown on the map given out by one of the boys in the Visitors Center.

Father Flanagan first started a home for homeless men. Later he became involved with juveniles paroled in his custody by the courts. Turning the home for men over to others in the Church, he started another home, with five boys. There were homeless orphans paroled to his

care; two were assigned to him from juvenile court the day it started, December 12, 1917.

In the Hall of History we saw pictures of graduates of Boy's Town. Thousands of homeless orphans and juvenile hoolums have become useful citizens as the result of Father Flanagan's work.

Mary Lou and I were invited to Sunday dinner at one of the homes. From the moment we entered the door the boys impressed us with their knowledge of social graces. There will be useful to them for the rest of their lives. In a friendly and informal manner, each boy extended his hand and introduced himself. As we gathered in the living room, they asked about our interests, our activities, our hopes and desires. In turn, they responded to our questions of their interests and ambitions. For a group of high school age boys, they displayed social graces that would rival those of college graduates. In this relaxed setting it was easy to weave in the stories that the coach wanted me to tell, without it being a lecture. Some of the boys had heard of the DAR. None had heard of the SAR. One said he was surely eligible because of a DAR member of his family.

While dinner was being prepared for serving, we were given a tour of the home by two of the boys. Two to a room, each had the typical posters on the walls and other evidences of their interests, such as sports, cars, hi fi. The rooms were typical in all ways except one. Each room was neat and tidy. They learn to plan nutritious menus, to mend and wash their

clothes, to care for themselves. When a new boy arrives, he is counseled and rated daily on a score card. He must learn to take criticism and must earn his privileges, later, rating sessions are stretched to weekly and monthly.

At dinner the conversation continued to demonstrate how those homeless boys, some of them having been in trouble with the law, were receiving training to become useful citizens. The boy at my right had run away from Boy's Town, but had returned, was being given a second chance. He confessed being on probation, in a smiling joking manner that seemed to say he now relizes how fortunate he was to be taken back.

Our hosts, Coach Gary Smith and his wife, were the heads of the household, helped by an adult assistant advisor. Eight boys and the Smith's daughter were the children of the house. When one of the boys asked a question that was not proper, he was immediately corrected in a matter-of-fact way. Some of these questions revealed the backgrounds of the boys, and demonstrated how the boys were being taught basic lessons.

Mary Lou and I pulled out on the highway and headed west, we talked a long time of the impression those boys had made. They have a wonderful opportunity. They are learning in both home and school. They are becoming good citizens.

ROGER E. ROBERTSON
President;
San Fernando Valley
Chapter, California
Society, Sons of the
American Revolution

THE SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF THE
PILGRIMS



ince the inception of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R. a strong bond has existed between the S.A.R. and the "Pilgrims". The California Branch of the Pilgrims was founded by LtC Clifton R. Brooks, Sr, MD, who served as the first Governor and is a founding member of our Chapter. He was succeeded by Dr. Calvin E. Chunn, who served as the second Governor and was a two time President-General of the SAR, than LtC James Bellah, served as the third Governor, and than as the forth Governor was Donald Norman Moran (both former presidents of the Chapter.) Former Chapter President George Van Dorn is also an active member. So it is easy to see the strong ties between the two organizations.

The fifth Governor is the very capable Mrs. William H. McBride. Under her able leadership we will see the Pilgrims grow and become one of the leading hereditary Society up and down the State.

Governor McBride has called a meeting here in Southern California for October 24th, 1987 and will be sponsoring a luncheon that will proceed our February 1988 Commemorative George Washington Massing of the Colors. We will provide details in one of our future issue. For information regarding membership in the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, contact:

Mrs. William H. McBride
Governor
2029 Euclid Avenue
Napa, California 94558

GEORGE WASHINGTON, PRESIDENT OF THE PHILADELPHIA CONVENTION



Most of us tend to think of George Washington in his buff and blue uniform of the Revolutionary War, few recall that it was he who presided over the Philadelphia Convention which gave us our Constitution which celebrates its' 200th anniversary next month.

After the war, Washington retired to his beloved Mount Vernon. He resigned as a vestryman in Truro Parish and took no part in Virginia politics. The only office he held was President of the Society of Cincinnati, and it was for the most part an honorary position. He had retired indeed.

Events in Massachusetts caused him great concern. The Shay rebellion could have led to the demise of the fledgling nation. To Henry Lee (Lighthouse Harry) he wrote: "Precedents are dangerous things - let the reins of government then be braced & held with a steady hand if defective, let it be amended, but not suffered to be trampled upon whilst it has as existance"

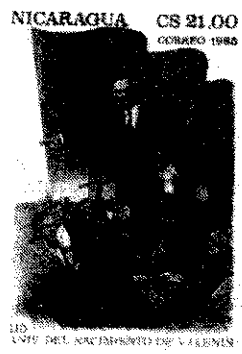
On May 9th, 1787 Washington answered the call of his country and left Mount Vernon for Philadelphia. Arriving there he stayed with Robert Morris.

On May 25th, a quorum of States were present and they unanimously elected Washington President. He very much liked the position which left him free from the debates. Only when an issue was put to a vote was he required to make known his choice. Otherwise he was completely impartial and neutral, to a point that some of the delegates stated he was totally aloof.

There is no doubt that his commanding presence was the major factor in the successful writing of the new Constitution. After the Convention was over, James Madison wrote to Thomas Jefferson, stating: "Be assured, his influence carried the government".

Truly, George Washington is the Father of our Country and the more we read of his contributions the more we are convinced of his greatness.

N I C A R A G U A ' S P O S T A G E S T A M P S



The Sandinistas aren't hiding their alliances, just look at the above postage stamps. The above stamps commemorate: (L-R): The 115th Birthday of Lenin, the 25th Anniversary of Castro's rise to power; and the 100th anniversary of Karl Marx's death, and another of Lenin

THE GREAT EARTHQUAKE AND THE S.A.R.



As we approach the 100th anniversary the founding of the Sons of American Revolution, we will be hearing and reading a lot about the Society's origins here in California, and its roots in our parent Society, "The Sons of the Revolutionary Sires". To the discerning reader it will become evident that the history of those early days is somewhat lacking, particularly in documentary references. What many of our readers are unaware of is that another major event in California was the cause.

That was the San Francisco Earthquake of 18 April 1906.

That catastrophic earthquake destroyed the largest city on the West Coast.

Along with everything else, all the records of "The Sons of the Revolutionary Sires" and the California Society of the Sons of the American Revolution were committed to the ensuing inferno.

Destruction of those records has caused much debate over when the Society was actually formed. What we do know is from recollection and a few surviving documents.

Compatriot Carl H. Lamb, Executive Secretary of the California Society, in his



SAN FRANCISCO IN RUINS - APRIL 18th, 1906

research found the Minutes of a meeting of the Board of Managers of the California Society, S.A.R. We have reprinted them herein for your edification.

"2511 Broadway,
San Francisco, Cal.
25 May, 1906

A regular meeting of the Board of Managers was held as above in the residence of Compatriot Geo. C. Sargent.

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Edward Mills Adams using the gavel made of timbers of the U.S. Frigate Constitution which had escaped destruction in the conflagration of April 18th by the fact that it was in the safe of the Occidental Hotel. Pres. Adams was seated at a card table which had been the property of Henry Clay.

Members of the Board present were Compatriots Hosner, Coolidge, Hubbard, Manly, Sargent and Moss.

The Secretary announced that all the records of the Society had been destroyed. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting therefore waived.

Communications were read as follows:

From the Secretary. General transmitting resolutions of sympathy passed by the National Congress. From the Colorado Society, resolution of sympathy, From the Mass[achusetts] Society a resolution of sympathy and an announcement that they had voted \$200.00 for the relief of sufferers by the fire and earthquake in San Francisco.

From the Ohio Society, a telegram authorizing the President to draw upon their Society for \$200.00 to relieve Compatriots in distress.

From the District of Columbia and Iowa Societies letters announcing that they had instructed their delegates to vote against the proposed amendment to the Constitution which would change the present method of voting.

It was moved and carried that the President should accept the offer of the Ohio Society.

The Secretary announced that he had already written to all Societies offering sympathy and thanking them for the same.

The Registrar and Secretary were appointed a committee of two to restore the roll of members.

The Secretary was instructed to write to the Treasurer and ask him to send a report of the finances of the Society.

The Registrar presented the application of Roscoe Palmer Bromley which was placed on file.

Compatriot Coolidge asked for a leave of absence as he expected to be away from the State for a long time. President Adams resigned the chair to Comp[atriot] Hosner and moved a vote of thanks to Comp. Coolidge for his zealous and valuable services, and of regrets for his prospective absence. Motion Carried.

Comp[atriot] Coolidge thanked the Board for its' kind expressions of regard and

greatly regretted that necessity that compelled him to go away.

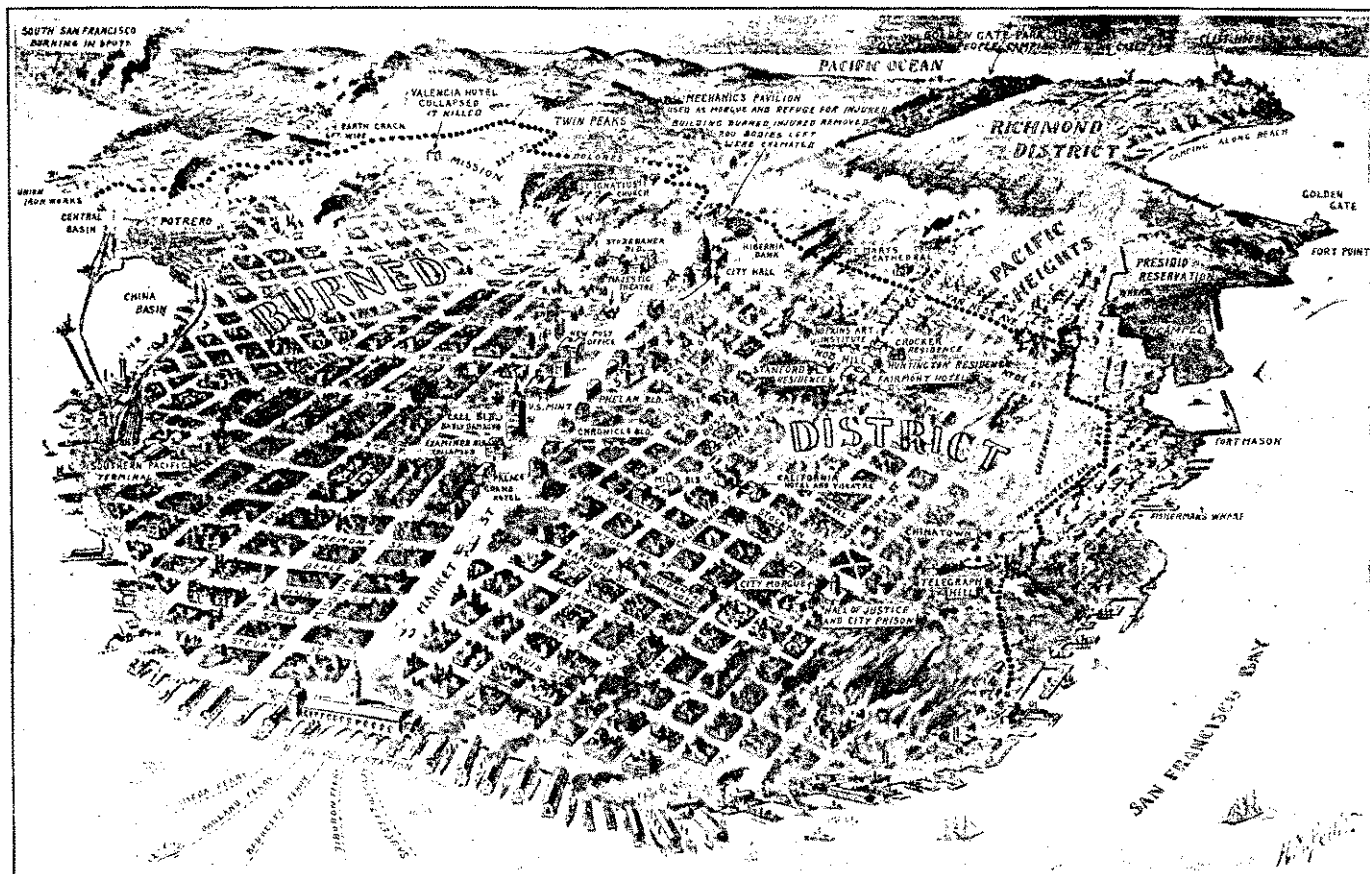
Pres. Adams having resumed the chair Comp[atriot] Manley moved that Gen. Coolidge's request for a leave of absence be granted. Carried.

The meeting was adjourned.

J. Mora Moss,
Secretary"

Less than five weeks after that infamous earthquake, the California Society, S.A.R. was going about the business of reorganizing. We do not know if any Compatriots were killed, nor do we know how many lost their homes or businesses, but surely they could not all have been spared from this great tragedy.

Today, the scientific community is predicting another earthquake, probably this century, along the San Andreas Fault in Southern California. They estimate that thousands will be killed, and hundreds of thousands made homeless. That fault passes directly thru areas served by the San Fernando Valley, Pasadena, Riverside Chapters and will nodoubt affect many other Chapters in the Southland. When it happens, and it will, please remember the Society will continue. But there will be disruptions. It is therefore important, that if you have had to relocate, as many of us will be forced to do, notify the State Secretary or if unreachable, the National Headquarters. The State Society will up-date the mailing lists with National's help.



An Artist's view of San Francisco, showing the twenty-five square miles of burned city! (Leslie's Weekly", May 3, 1906)

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

MAY 25th, 1987 MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held at 6:30 P.M. on Memorial Day, May 25th, 1987 at Leon's Steak House, North Hollywood, California. First Vice-President D.F. "Bill" Semerau, presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT

D. F. "BILL" SEMERAU
COL. GEORGE A. ECKERT, JR.
DONALD N. MORAN

WALTER H. WALLEY
STEPHEN W. GREGORY

GUESTS PRESENT

DOROTHY WALLEY
CHARLES M. PITCHFORD
VIVIAN L. MORAN

TONI PITCHFORD
LINDA T. MORAN

OLD BUSINESS

1. QUORUM

Secretary Donald Norman Moran advised the meeting that a Quorum was NOT present. Business can be conducted, but nothing that requires a vote may be approved or disapproved.

2. TREASURERS REPORT

Vice-President and Treasurer Bill Semerau reported on the Chapter's finances. The Chapter is in excellent shape and our permanent fund is growing. All indebtedness has been taken care of.

3. VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Berni K. Campbell reported that the Veteran's Administration has honored the Chapter for its efforts by presenting us with a Certificate of award. A second certificate for the National Society, S.A.R. was presented. President Roger E. Robertson will make the presentation of that Certificate to the National Society at Valley Forge.

Four Hundred (400) more books have been collected and will be delivered to the two hospitals we support - Sepulveda and Sawtelle.

The MAY 25th, 1987 MEETING MINUTES

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4. REPORT ON THE COLOR GUARD

Secretary Donald Norman Moran advised that all has been prepared to transport the uniforms and equipment to Valley Forge and that volunteers have been obtained to man the guard.

5. REPORT ON THE MAY 9th VETERAN'S PARADE

Secretary Donald Norman Moran reported on the parade and the lack of news media coverage. Our Color Guard did a great job and a special thanks is being sent to the five Midshipmen from U.S.C. that manned the unit.

NEW BUSINESS

6. REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

President Roger and Mary Lou Robertson were already enroute to the National Congress and will be joined there by George and Mary Van Dorn, Charles and Toni Pitchford, Gus and Dotti di Zerega (dual member); Donald and Linda Moran and applicant Audel Hicks will visit with us there. It should be a great delegation.

7. REPORT ON OUR APPLICANTS

Secretary Donald Norman Moran reported that we have a grand total of sixty-seven men that have been contacted that are interested in membership in the S.A.R. A system must be developed that will facilitate our communication with them. A committee should be established that will assist the Registrar and Secretary in this regard. WE NEED THESE POTENTIAL MEMBERS.

8. REPORT ON THE R.O.T.C. SWORD PRESENTATION.

Secretary Donald Norman Moran substituting for Chairman Walter G. Turnell read a letter received from Cadet Niel Lovering thanking us for the sword we presented him. Compatriot Steven Gregory reported that he would be making the Air Force presentation and upon the conclusion of all the 1987 presentations a photo feature story will be published in the "Valley Compatriot", including the Lovering letter.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER business before the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution, Vice-President F.D. "Bill" Semerau declared the meeting adjourned.

DONALD NORMAN MORAN, Secretary

SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER
CALIFORNIA SOCIETY
SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

JUNE 29th MEETING MINUTES

The monthly meeting of the San Fernando Valley Chapter, California Society, Sons of the American Revolution was held at 6:30 P.M. on June 29th, 1987 at Leon's Steak House, North Hollywood, California. President Roger E. Robertson presiding.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Roger E. Robertson
Berni K. Campbell
Col. George A. Eckert, Jr.
Donald Norman Moran

Arthur Wm. Barrett
Jeffrey L. Towery
Robert B. Warwick

GUESTS PRESENT

Mary Campbell
Kitty Warwick
Helen R. Barrett

Mary Lou Robertson
Kathy Towery
Linda T. Moran

OLD BUSINESS

1. THE MINUTES OF THE 21 MARCH 1987 MEETING

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot Berni K. Campbell and SECONDED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr. that The Minutes of the March 30th 1987 meeting of the Chapter be approved as presented. The MOTION CARRIED

2. THE MINUTES OF THE MAY 25TH 1987 MEETING

IT WAS MOVED by Compatriot George A. Eckert, Jr and SECONDED by Compatriot Jeffery L. Towery that the Minutes of the May 25th Meeting of the Chapter be approved as presented. The MOTION CARRIED.

3. THE REPORT OF THE VETERAN'S BOOK DRIVE COMMITTEE

Chairman Berni K. Campbell reported that 355 books were donated to the Sepulveda Veteran's Hospital. Another delivery is being scheduled for the Los Angeles Veteran's Hospital.

4. THE REPORT OF THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Registrar Berni K. Campbell reported that Charles Pitchford's application was approved and the presentation of his membership certificate was made at the National Congress at Valley Forge, Pennsylvania. Another applicant, Audel Hicks has submitted his worksheet and looks very good.

THE JUNE 29TH MEETING MINUTES

Page Two

NEW BUSINESS

5. REPORT ON THE COLOR GUARD.

President Roger E. Robertson reported that our Color Guard represented the California Society, S.A.R. at the National Congress in Valley Forge. It was manned entirely by Californians: Arthur Wm. Barrett of the Long Beach Chapter, and State Vice-President; Paul H. Davis of the San Diego Chapter and State Treasurer; William Taylor, President of the Fresno Chapter Roger E. Robertson, and Donald Norman Moran of this Chapter. The Guard participated in all the ceremonies and in each case led the combined Color Guards of Massachusetts, Maryland, New Jersey and, of course, California!

6. REPORT ON THE NATIONAL CONGRESS

President Roger E. Robertson reported that the Congress was a success and all there enjoyed it very much. Of particular interest to the Chapter is that our own Compatriot Berni K. Campbell was honored by being presented the Bronze Membership plaque. Compatriot Charles Pitchford received his membership certificate from President-General Clovis Brakebill during the opening ceremonies and later President Robertson presented him with his War Service medal (World War II). The Chapter turned the tables on National by presenting National with the Certificate of Appreciation from Veteran's Administration.

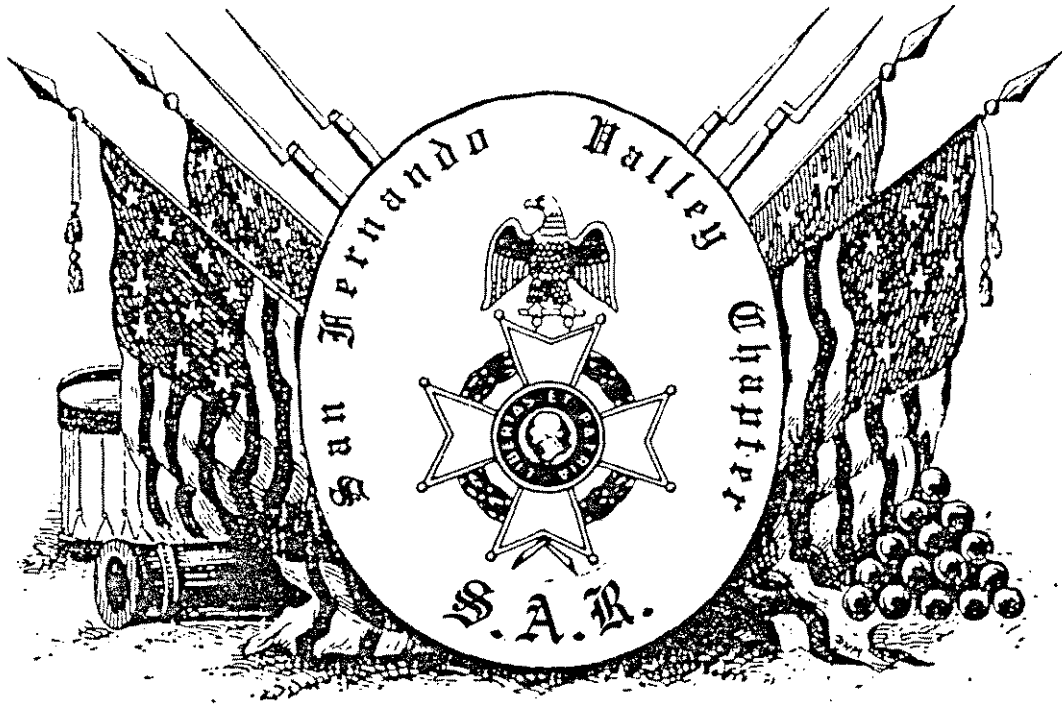
Much was learned and we have instituted a new effort regarding the Nations History books. A resolution was introduced on the floor to prevent certain eastern states from dropping the test requirements on history for the period prior to 1860. (Sound familiar). A special task force is being set up by the Historian General, James Westlake of Georgia to investigate the extent of the problem. You will be hearing much more on this very important topic.

PROGRAM

State Vice-President, Arthur Wm. Barrett addressed the Chapter on a variety of topics, including the establishment of an S.A.R. "LIVING HISTORY SPEAKERS BUREAU". Which was well received and a strong possibility that this chapter might undertake such a program in the near future.

THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS before the San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R., President Robertson declared the meeting adjourned.

DONALD NORMAN MORAN, Secretary
SAN FERNANDO VALLEY CHAPTER, SAR



San Fernando Valley Chapter, S.A.R.
1248 Herzl Avenue, Lancaster, Ca. 93535

To:

First
Class

Dated Material

