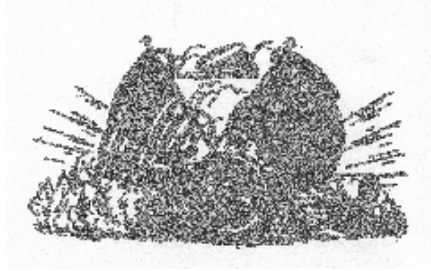


# ~THE CALL TO ARMS~



## Newsletter of the Comstock Civil War Re-enactors

22<sup>nd</sup> Edition ~ Fall, 2008

### Preserving American History One Re-enactment Season at a Time

The CCWR held three remarkable events in 2008. We began in June by bringing the American Civil War epic to Carson City's Rendezvous. This annual celebration has a long history in the community and has much civic and commercial significance. Until this year the Rendezvous had been plagued with Civil War representation that was small in size, narrow in scope and boring as heck. The CCWR changed all that in a big way. We put together a robust civilian town and two military camps bristling with combatants. For the first time in several years, a battle was fought on the green, with artillery barrages rocking the entire eastern portion of Carson City. Not only did the people of Northern Nevada have plenty of history to see, they were engaged in much lively dialogue with our enthusiastically garrulous members.

Our Event Coordinator (The Widow Clark/Sunny Spencer) did a splendid job in re-establishing Civil War action-history in Carson City. Based upon past events, City Fathers can be excused if they were dubious about our seriousness of purpose and attention to safety. Though they felt it necessary to put some restraint on our portrayals, they were pleased

beyond their wildest imaginations with what we were able to produce. It is hoped that a sense of trust has been established and that we will be able to bring cavalry back to the Carson City Rendezvous in 2009.



Over Independence Day weekend, the CCWR once again staged the Civil War for residents and tourists in Graeagle, California. This was a particularly trying year for everyone in the Northern Sierra since so much of it was aflame. Indeed, most of those who attended had driven through smoke blanketed roads to get there. Miraculously, the little valley in which the event was run was an oasis in the regional inferno, with clear air and a temperate climate. Towns-people, tourists and reenactors all were open to the serendipity of the season as evidenced by the whimsical integration of Victorian and Rock cultures that occurred at the Graeagle Street Dance. A new and entertaining precedent may have been established. Part of that whimsy involved members of the California

Consolidated Fife and Drum Corps. We were privileged to have a large contingent of martial musicians on hand and as a result, both Confederate and Union men were “piped” into battle in splendid form. Of particular note, the community organizers of the July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend provided generous compensation for the club, enough to cover our expenses and add some funds to our savings. We owe our deepest respect and appreciation to event coordinators Major and Mrs. (Izabella) Eaves for their hard work and brilliant planning.



The finale for the CCWR re-enacting season was our 5<sup>th</sup> annual Civil War Days at Virginia City. This year was one to test the mettle of all the men and women in our club. Little did we know we would have to overcome the vagaries of both nature and bureaucracy in order to survive. As the first members arrived in V.C., we discovered we had no tenting grounds. With the help of the fine people of the Ramada, we were able to set up on and around their property. However, never before have so many tent spikes been driven into such solid stone. We will also remember V.C. of 2008 as “The Year of the Big Blow”. A few acres of canvas and tent poles were turned into rags and match sticks and hurled onto the hotel roof by localized tornadic activity, otherwise known as a wind-witch or dust-devil. Add to that excitement was the outdoor Victorian Ball during which the ambient temperature fell by almost 40 degrees. It was, indeed, a most challenging endeavor.

This year was a particular delight for all on account of the presence of the H.L. Hunley and its crew of traveling historians. We were privileged to sponsor this educational opportunity for school children of surrounding counties as well as the tourists and people in Virginia City. *Desperate times call for desperate measures* and we all learned about the brilliant engineering and human bravery that attended an

historic attempt to relieve the blockade of Charleston Harbor.



Like the intrepid generation we emulate, the CCWR was able to overcome a long list of hardships and mount a series of splendid train battles, variously attacking and defending the magnificent steam engine-drawn train of the Virginia and Truckee Rail Line. In addition to local reporters and photographers, journalists from the Railroad Historical press were present and our Labor Day Weekend event is coming to the attention of a National audience.

We can take great pride in how we endured all to fulfill our mission. By reliving history we provided 4 days of color and élan to the local Virginia City economy, culminating in the finest “Battle for C-Street” we have ever fought. Again, we owe profound thanks to Major Jack and Mrs. Izabella Eaves for coordinating this increasingly complicated and demanding event.



### **What’s next?**

Parades!!! Don’t forget the Nevada Day Parade on November 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be mustering at the Robert’s House (same place as last year) and everyone is required to be there at 10:00 AM. The Sparks “Hometown Christmas Parade” is scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup>. We will finish in Sparks in time to dash up the hill to Virginia City for their “Parade of Lights” that kicks off at 5:00 pm. Call Toni Van Cleve for directions and other particulars (720-0205)

Planning for other annual Christmas

Festivities is well underway. On December 13<sup>th</sup>, we will once again hold our celebrations at the Boomtown Casino. Doors will open at 5:30 pm. Don't be late because the sumptuous buffet dinner begins at 6:00pm. The Grand March starts at 8:30pm. Members of the CCWR will exercise their vital first amendment rights by voting for their 2009 club officers. Finally there will be opportunities to bid on exciting items in the Silent Auction. Cost is \$35 each. Children below 8 years of age are half price, toddlers under 2 are free. You can send your checks and reservations to our P.O. Box.

Those who travel from some distance to attend the ball will be happy to know that Boomtown is offering us a discount on rooms for club members. There will be a code word to use when making reservations. *A word to the wise:* When reserving your room, you may want to remain vague on the number of people who will be occupying it. If you choose not to announce, for example, that 4 people are staying in the room, you will be charged for only two.

On December 19<sup>th</sup> CCWR members will have an opportunity to give back to our community in the true Spirit of Christmas. We will be doing our annual bell ringing for the Salvation Army. At the current time, we anticipate being in front of Trader Joe's (McCarran and South Virginia) from 10AM to approximately 2PM.

The President's Christmas Party will begin at 4PM following our bell-ringing and carol singing. The party will be held at the home of Jeannette McHugh (4073 Royal Sage Lane in NW Reno.) Come and enjoy good food and great company. Hoist a glass and toast the end of another successful reenacting year.

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