



INCORPORATED

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TAMALPAIS BRANCH NO. 47



TAMAL TALK

A SIR PUBLICATION

A Non-Profit Public Benefit Corporation of Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.

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Luncheon Meeting:
McINNIS GOLF CENTER, SAN RAFAEL
Fourth Tuesday of the month
Happy Hour at 11:00 am, as always

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MARIN COUNTY

APRIL 2020

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BIG SIR'S MESSAGE

IMPORTANT NOTICE: DUE TO COVID-19 (The Corona Virus) SIR LUNCHEONS AND ALL SIR ACTIVITIES ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.

I hope you are all coping with the Corona Virus mandatory shutdown, social distancing and shelter-in-place requirements and are also able to keep your personal stress levels in check. My only suggestion is to follow the advice of our medical professionals and leaders as best as you can. Avoid trying to pay too much attention to all the “advice” you hear from well meaning friends, email or the various web sites. Call your friends, family and old friends you might not have talked to in years. This is a great time to reconnect. Also, walkabouts are a good way to get in some exercise; appreciate our beautiful Marin County and be with a friend or two (at 6’ apart).

You should have received a call (or will soon) from one of our board members to say hello and to confirm that all is okay. Please feel free to reach out to any of our board members in the event you need assistance during this time. We are all part of the SIR 47 family.

My wife and I completed a 1,000 piece jigsaw puzzle over the past 6 days. I learned that my wife approaches jigsaw puzzles as a “contact sport”. It was fun and certainly consumed some time.....

Our SIR Branch 47 will remain inactive until we are given the “all clear” to begin operations again.

Keep safe and well.

Doug Twitchell, BIG SIR BRANCH 47

Galen Durham- Feb. 25,2020 Speaker Review

BACKGROUND: Galen Durham is a 35-year Member of National Civil War Association (NCWA), the first and largest Civil War Assn. west of the Mississippi, which reenacts Civil War Battles for the public. For 20 years, Galen has been providing Civil War presentations to schools, libraries, and civic organizations. Galen spoke on the following topics:

The Civil War was considered to be the first "modern war" as it was the first to use telegraph for communications, hot air balloons, photography, weapons with rifling, metal-hulled ships, submarines, field hospitals and triage centers..

The soldiers were in camps roughly 9 months a year, but were required to relocate, to build new sites, move equipment, etc. The **bayonet** was rarely used in hand-to-hand combat, but used more as a universal tool e.g. as a BBQ skewer for cooking raw meat, a main part of th

eir ration. The soldiers generally were given meals and 3 **hard tack** biscuits a day. Although the hard tack has been given a "bad rap", the men saved them for snacks when traveling until the next meal came.

Calvary vs. Infantry. The Calvary wore jackets vs. the long length coats used by the infantry. The infantry had only one rifle with a bayonet, whereas the Calvary had three weapons (a saber, a Colt 44 caliber revolver with six chambers, and a Sharp carbine which fired 5 times as fast as what the infantry had. (Note the Cavalryman had to purchase his own Sharp carbine.) The Calvary were used mostly for observation, but were also used as reinforcements, by dismounting to fight in battle. Because the horses were small and had to carry much weight, the Cavalrymen needed to be smaller men.

Injuries were generally of two types - those you "live through" like injuries to the arms or legs vs. those you "die from" like injuries to the head or body. As such, the surgeons would treat the arm / leg wounds first maybe with amputation, but these soldiers generally lived. The latter were often left in the field of battle, generally without treatment to die. So you might find this group huddled under the shade of a tree to escape the Southern heat. Both Union and Confederate troops may have huddled together in their last moments of life.

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Women's contribution to the war effort was significant as they made the uniforms, ammunition and preformed nursing. They also hand cut, numbered and dated the money needed to support the war. A few women did fight with the men. But when discovered, they were sent right back home

The soldiers' haversack may have a sewing kit called a "House Wife", a prayer book, a picture or letter from home, and some money to use a needed.

The Battle of New Market or "Battle of Lost Shoes" occurred between 147 VMI students and Union troops in this Civil War battle. Volunteering for battle when there were no Confederate troops to fight, the students lined up, fired their rifles and then charged the Union troops with bayonets. As they ran through a muddy field, most lost their shoes in the mud. When the Union soldiers realized that they were just fighting students, the Union retreated. Hence, the VMI students were declared the winners and the legend of the Battle of Lost Shoes became history.

Kurt Heilman

SIRs Birthdays – April

<u>Badge #</u>	<u>LAST NAME</u>	<u>FIRST NAME</u>	<u>DAY</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>AGE</u>
120	Bodtker	Eric	25	1940	80
46	Brown	Gene	30	1949	71
86	Davis	John	28	1946	74
31	Lewis	Chris	9	1932	88
79	Nelson	Ron	11	1944	76
67	Thomas	Al	7	1941	79
67	Wickley	Bill	21	1940	80
87	Young	Eric	18	1949	71
88					

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Summary:

Actives - 115
Gains: 1 0
Losses: 0 0

SIR Br 47 May Party Tuesday May 12, 2020 Luncheon at the Marin Country Club

**11:30 am social time and 12:00 for lunch
Please invite your spouse and friends to join us.**

The cost is \$36 / person for a 3-course lunch which includes spinach salad, rolls & butter, and choice of main course:
(1) Mushroom & Goat Cheese Stuffed Chicken, (2) Grilled Salmon or
(3) Gnocchi Gorgonzola. Also brownies & ice cream, coffee and tea. There is a no host bar, for those interested.



How many of you remember giving and receiving May Baskets?
Join us to celebrate the coming of summer with good friends.

**Please make check payable to SIR Branch 47 and send to:
Kurt Heilman, 457 Fieldstone Dr., Novato, CA 94945.**

**<< Payment must be received by noon Friday, May 8.
Cancellations will not be honored after 48 hours
in advance. Contact Kurt Heilman @ 1-415-892-2460
or heilmanfour@comcast.net. >>**

You can buy your tickets at our Mar. 24 and Apr. 28 luncheons

