

*San Joaquin Valley
Civil War Round Table
P. O. Box 5695
Fresno, CA 93755*



To make Dinner Reservations for our Thursday, May 26th, meeting please notify our secretary, Phyllis Mann, at 229-3778 [afternoons or evenings please] no later than Wednesday, May 25th

Among the customary articles not found in this issue for reasons detailed elsewhere are "From the President's Desk" by Brian Clague and the "After Action Report for the April meeting by Ron Vaughn. We look forward to these in our June newsletter.

Please note that our September 22 meeting featuring General and Mrs. Grant will be held on Thursday, October 6, 2005, so as to coincide with their appearance at the Civil War Revisited at Kearney Park on Friday, October 7, through Sunday, October 9. Please invite everyone you know. This will be our major fund raiser in 2005 for preservation.

The 19th Annual West Coast Civil War Round Table Symposium is a go for November 4-6, 2005. The conference will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Building, northeast corner of 6th and Hughes, in Old Town Clovis. Our featured speakers will be Dr. Jerry Thompson, Regents Professor of History at Texas A&M International University, the authority on Confederate General Henry Hopkins Sibley and the Civil War on the Texas-Mexico border, and Mr. Ed Cotham, author of books on the Battle of Galveston, the Battle of Sabine Pass, and other engagements along the Gulf Coast. Cost of the conference including five meals catered by the American Legion Post 147 is \$150.00. Registration before September 1st is only \$125.00

To our readers:

This month's issue of Bugle Calls is not up to snuff due to the illness of its editor, Bob Quist. Bob underwent major abdominal surgery late last month and in mid-May he was forced to return to hospital at UCSF due to complications from a bacterial infection. We miss you Bob and pray for your speedy recovery! -Best wishes from your friends of the SJVCWRT.

“Music of the Civil War Era” is the topic of our meeting on Thursday, May 26, 2005. As customary we are meeting at the Ramada Inn, Shaw at Highway 41 in Fresno, California. Our guest speaker is Raymond Silvia, aka “Harmonica Ray”, supervisor of the California History and Genealogy Department of the Downtown Fresno County Public Library. He has Masters Degrees in English from California State University, Fresno, and in Library and Information Science from San Jose State University. His interest in history began during his years growing up in the historic San Joaquin Valley town of Gustine, founded by Cattle King Henry Miller and named for one of his daughters.

Ray has always had great interest in the defining moments or eras in American history, including the Civil War. Since he is Azorean Portuguese, and since his father arrived in America in 1910, Ray has no ancestors who fought in the Civil War. Nevertheless, Ray, inspired by his father, has been playing the harmonica for 35 years, and has always enjoyed music from that era, such as Stepehn Foster's “Jeannie with the Light Brown Hair.”

Last summer, Ray was asked by the Fresno City and County Historical Society to do a combined talk and concert on music of the Civil War for the Civil War Revisited last Fall. While researching for these presentations, which drew crowds of 55 and 75 persons, - very large for that venue - Ray gratefully discovered a fascinating story that pretty much told itself, which is the type of story that Ray likes. He titled the program, therefore, “The Harmonica and the Music of the Civil War.”

He has since expanded the 30-minute program written for the Kearney Park re-enactment to be one-hour in length. Two months ago, he gave this longer presentation at the Sanger Library. He is scheduled to give it at the Squaw Valley library in June. (He will still be giving a revised and shortened presentation at the Civil War Revisited this coming Fall). Ray feels honored to be here this evening to give the presentation, “The Harmonica and the Music of the Civil War,” revised especially for the May 26th meeting of the San Joaquin Valley Civil War Round Table.

The Annual Summer Potluck will be held on Saturday, June 25, at the scenic foothill community of “Tivey Valley”, east of Sanger. Neil Kuykendall and family have graciously agreed to be our hosts at their “ranchito”. Also attending will be many members of the members of the Civil War Re-enactment Society who will bring their rifles for a live shoot.