



Treasure Valley Detachment
Marine Corps League

Detachment No. 878

August, 2005

Editor: Ken Johnson, If you have questions or anything to add please call me at 208-440-0881

Semper Fi Gazette

Volume 13 Number 1

Picnic at Phillippi Park On August 28th

Detachment Leadership

Commandant:

Ken Ohls 208-344-4329

362 Rimview Dr.

Boise, ID 83716

Senior Vice Commandant:

Rich Erickson 208-562-0498

Junior Vice Commandant:

unfilled

Judge Advocate:

Bob Smith 208-939-2582

Adjutant/Paymaster

Ralph Elston 208-853-7344

Chaplain

Bill Johnson 208-384-1844

Regular Business Meeting for September will be held at 19:00 hours September 15th, The meeting is held at the Indoor Pavilion on Gowen Field

Happy Hour (10:00 AM) for all Marines, their wives and guests Come early and get a good seat, the 3rd Saturday of every month. This month will be August 20th, the rest of the Saturday's of every month is devoted to the Koffee Klatch at 8:30 AM for all Marines and their guests. Breakfast and Koffee Klatch is held at Mikes Restaurant: Hillcrest Shopping Center on the corner of OverLand and Orchard

Kudo's go out to Tony and Nancy Austin, Bill Johnson, Rick Erickson, Delbert Rupert, and Roy Jost, and all the

Young Marines and their families that was part of this years 4th of July Parade.

Gordon and Velma Williams have been selected as the Star Garnet Award recipients for 2005. This is the most prestigious award given by the Idaho Hospital Association.

Navajo Code Talkers in World War II (Part 1 of 2)
(From the Marine Corps History & Museums Division, www.history.usmc.mil)

The Marine Corps' Navajo Code Talker Program was established in September 1942 as the result of a recommendation made the previous February by Mr. Philip Johnston to Major General Clayton B. Vogel, USMC, Commanding General, Amphibious Corps, Pacific Fleet, whose headquarters was at Camp Elliott, California. Mr. Johnston, the son of a missionary to the Navajo tribe, was fluent in the language, having lived among the Navajos for 24 years. He believed that the use by the Marine Corps of Navajo as a code language in voice (radio and wire) transmission could guarantee communications security.

Mr. Johnston's rationale for this belief was that Navajo is an unwritten language and completely unintelligible to anyone except another Navajo and that it is a rich, fluent language for which code words, in Navajo, could be devised for specialized military terms, such as the Navajo word for "turtle" to represent a tank. With the cooperation of four Navajos residing in the Los Angeles

area, and another who was already on active naval service in San Diego, Mr. Johnston presented a demonstration of his theory to General Vogel and his staff at Camp Elliott on 28 February 1942. Marine staff officers composed simulated field combat messages which were handed to a Navajo, who then translated it into tribal dialect and transmitted it to another Navajo on the other end of the line. The second Indian then translated it back into perfect English and in the same form which had been provided originally. The demonstration proved entirely successful, and as a result, General Vogel recommended the recruitment into the Marine Corps of at least 200 Navajos for the code talker program. As a footnote, tests in the Pacific under combat conditions proved that classified messages could be translated into Navajo, transmitted, received, and translated back into English quicker than messages which were encoded, transmitted, and decoded employing conventional cryptographic facilities and techniques.

With the Commandant's approval, recruitment began in May 1942. Each Navajo recruit underwent basic boot camp training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego before assignment to the Field Signal Battalion, Training Center at Camp Pendleton. It should be noted that, at the outset, the entire Navajo code talker project was highly classified and there is no indication that any message traffic in the Navajo language - while undoubtedly intercepted - was ever deciphered.

Happy Birthday to the Ladies: Kathy Bonham, Kathy Erickson, and Jennette L'Abbe.

AUXILIARY NEWS
TREASURE VALLEY MARINE
CORPS LEAGUE AUXILIARY #408
TVDMCL Auxiliary Leadership
President: Sherry Meade
208-377-3806

Senior VP: Theresa Nakashima
208-672- 8642
Junior VP Virginia Sigety Smith
208-377-3806
Judge Advocate: Donna Schumaker
208-286-0680
Secretary: Theresa Nakashima
208-672-8642
Barbara Elston
208-853-7344
Treasurer: Barbara Elston
208-853-7344
Chaplain: Velma Williams
208-336-7740

Treasure Valley Marine Corp Auxiliary Meeting
No minutes available for May.

EVENT HORIZON

- Picnic, Phillippi Park 12:00 to 16:00 Hrs 28 Aug.
- Coffee Wagon, August 12th - August 14th

Koffee Wagon dates for this next summer are

August 12th - August 14th
September 9th - September 11th

Sign up now at the Koffee Klatch at Mike's on Saturday Mornings

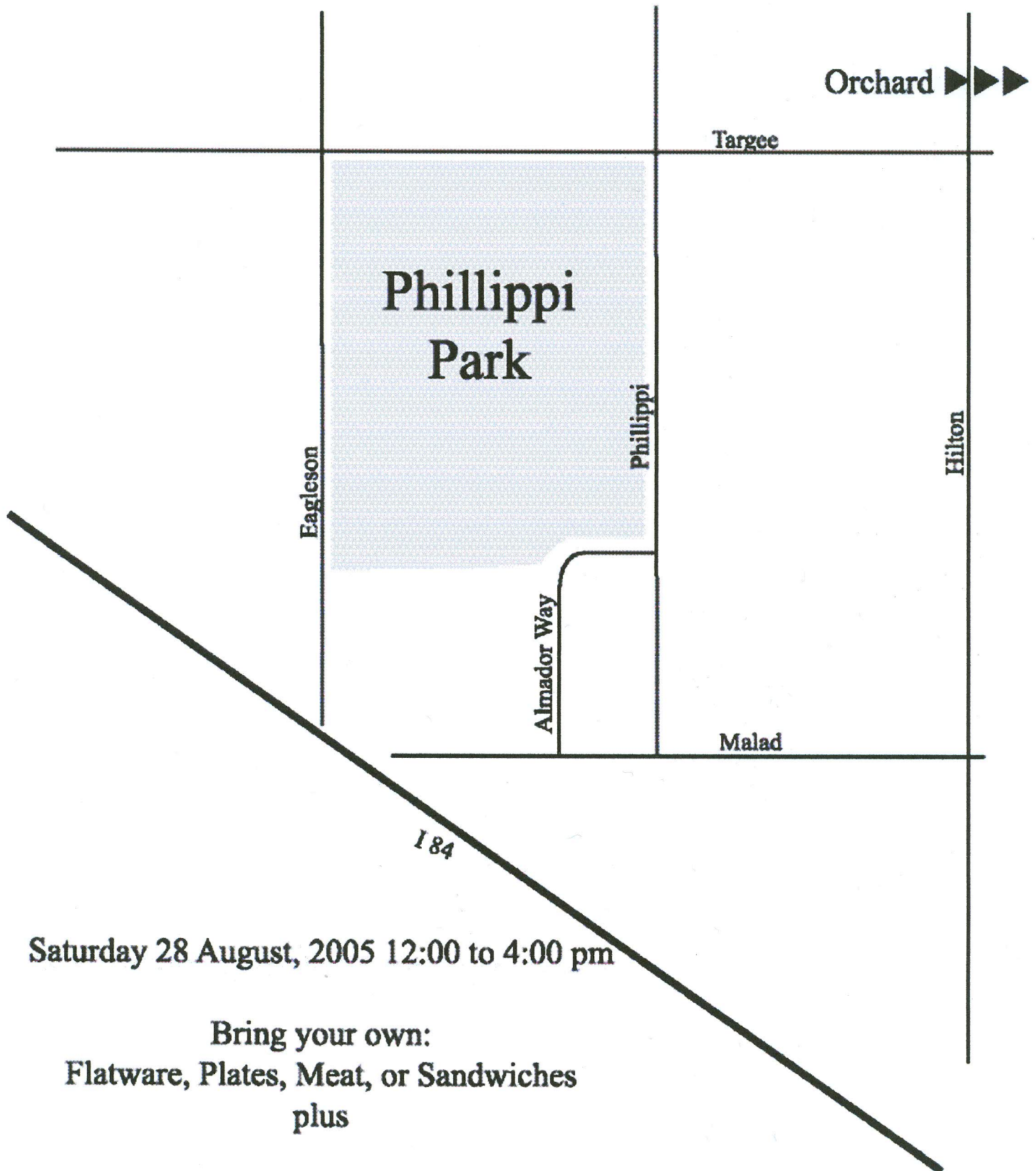
All Submissions to the newsletter must be received before the last Friday of the month. It must be typed or printed from a printer. If it is a clipping from a newspaper I need to know the name of the paper the date of the paper the article was published in, this is due to copyright laws. Please document your submissions so they can be verified.

"To our Marines fell the most difficult and dangerous portion of the defense by reason of our proximity to the great city wall and the main city gate. . . The Marines acquitted themselves nobly."

(Mr. Edwin N. Conger, U.S. Minister, in commending the Marines for the defense of the legations at Peking, China, in 1900.)

GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND IN GOD WE TRUST

Marine Corps League Picnic



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MARINE CORPS LEAGUE



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Caldwell, Idaho 83605

Semper Fi

Remember if you signed up for the
Coffee Wagon, please be there. It
will be at the West Bound Rest Stop
from the Aug. 12th, through the 14th.
And the Picnic on the 28th.