

P.O. Box 1372
Doylestown, PA 18901

Meets 7:30 P.M. 2nd Wednesday of Month American Legion Post 210 315 North Street Doylestown, Pa.

EDITOR - BOB SCHAFFER

COMMANDANT - BUDD PEARCE

**VOL. 7 NO. 8** 

NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 1994** 

### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE JULY DETACHMENT MEETING

Sixteen members were present including all officers except the Judge Advocate.

One visitor, Tony Parzanese, a former member, was present.

Past Commandants Don Parzanese and Frank Yohe were recognized.

Applications for membership were received from Paul Caprio and E.W. True, both from Hatboro. A vote was taken and both applicants were accepted as new members. Their initiation ceremony followed.

Minutes of the previous meeting and the paymasters report were approved. The Paymaster's records for the past year were audited and a report will be presented at the August meeting.

#### CORRESPONDENCE

A letter was received from the State Commandant that New York has now replaced Pennsylvania as #1 in memberships. They beat Pa. by eighty-four registrations. The unfortunate part is that at the present time Pa. has over 1000 delinquent renewals which would have easily kept Pa. on the top. If you know of anyone who is behind in their dues, give them a call, and see if you can get them up to send it in. It could be enough to put Pa. back on top.

The Detachment received a check for \$121.52 from Genuardi's Market as the rebate for cash register receipts. This is such easy money to earn so collect as many as you can from family and friend. They can be turned in at the meetings, given to another Detachment member or mailed in to MCL Central Bucks Detachment, Box 1372, Doylestown, Pa. 18901

#### SR. VICE - DON GEE

At the present, the Detachment strength is 65 members (41 Regular; 14 Life; and 9 Associate. There are 11 delinquent as of this meeting.

#### VAVS

Later in July, the Pendelphia Detachment and the Central Bucks Detachment will co-sponsor a boat ride on the Delaware for veterans from the Philadelphia VA Hospital. Motion was made and passed to send a donation to help with the expenses.

#### STATE CONVENTION

All incumbent Department of Penna. officers will continue in office for 1994-95.

Central Bucks Detachment received the following awards:

1st Place Category II for Newsletter

1st Place Category II for Newsletter Editor (Bob Schaffer)

2nd Place Category II VAVS (\$150.00 cash Award)

3rd Place Category II Americanism (Scrapbook) 1994-95.

Received a '94 Streamer for Detachment flag for attending convention

#### JR. VICE - (Mike Waldron)

The 45th Reunion of the 2nd Division Association will be held at the Valley Forge Convention Plaza from September 12th to 18th.

Mike Waldron extended the Detachment' sincere congratulations to our own Jr. Vice (Don Gee) for the fine job that he has done in the past year as Editor of the Keystone Leatherneck, (the State newsletter). Best wishes also are in order since he was reappointed for his second hitch at the recent State Convention.

The Young Marines are graduating their first female recruit, Melissa Sheetz, since Walt Roach took over as Commandant. From what we hear, she keeps the guys running to stay up with her and is one of the best to come through the program. Way to go...Melissa.

#### ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

The next clean-up for our section of highway will be on Saturday, August 27th . If you want to have breakfast first, we all meet at Okie's Restaurant, in Furlong, Pa. (0800).

#### NEW BUSINESS

A motion was made and passed to make our quarterly donation to the Young Marines Detachment.

The New Hope Auto Show is being held the Delaware Valley College this year on August 13th and 14th. The Detachment will have table set up with a display of medals and ribbons courtesy of Don Gee. and donations will be accepted in return for free miniature American flags. Also, there will be literature available about the MCL and applications for prospective members. Help is needed to man the table with at least two members for each shift. If you can spend a few hours out there for the Detachment, please contact Mike Waldron at 672-7095.

#### GOOD OF THE LEAGUE

The Toys For Tots will be handled within the Detachment, same as last year unless other arrangements can be made with Willow Grove NAS.

Bill Haas will handle the turkey donation for the holidays after final details are decided upon. There will be a sign up sheet for canned goods and other holiday items. There will be more discussion on this matter at the coming meetings.

THE NEXT REGULAR DETACHMENT MEETING WILL BE 10 AUGUST 94 (1930) AT THE AMERICAN LEGION HOME ON NORTH STREET IN DOYLESTOWN, PA.



From The Desk Of BUDD PEARCE, Commandant Central Bucks Detachment, Marine Corps League

Marines,

Thanks to everyone that turned out for the July 4th parade. It was a long hot march, but Central Bucks came through with shining colors. There were a few familiar faces missing, but we still managed to have a good turn out. The Young Marines marched in the parade this year also. They marched directly behind us and this added to the parade and made us look even better. I want to thank Walt Roach and his staff for turning out for this one. We have some changes in mind for next year. These should make us look even sharper.

Don Gee gave a report at the July meeting about the happenings at the Convention. Central Bucks Detachment was awarded 1st place in the newsletter and 3rd place in the Americanism competition. Our newsletter editor, Bob Schaffer, was awarded the Newsletter Editor 1st Place award. Our Detachment flag was on the floor at the Convention, thus giving us another streamer for our flag. The award plaques and certificates will be on display at the August 10th meeting. It will be announced at that meeting that our hwy. clean up will be on Sat. 27 August.

At the July meeting we signed up two new members and got the names of a few new rifle team hopefuls. We now have 1 full team and the better part of our 2nd. With any luck we might end up with three teams. For anyone wishing to be a part of one of the teams, contact Bill Rosenberger or me as soon as possible. Remember, we can fire the 03 Springfield, the M1 Garande, the M14 or the M16. If you have any of these weapons and can't be a part of the team, the loan of any of these would be greatly appreciated.

There isn't very much else to say in this month's letter so I'll cut this short. I hope to see all of you at the August meeting. We always have a good turn out for our meetings, but I would like to see a GREAT turn out for a change. Don Gee tells me that he has quite a surprise for refreshments lined up, so come out for that, if nothing else.

Commandant

#### ACTIVITIES OF YOUNG MARINES

ON JUNE 18 & 19 THE YOUNG MARINES ATTENDED THE AIR SHOW AT THE WILLOW GROVE N.A.S., WHERE WE SET UP AND MANNED A YOUNG MARINE RECRUITING AND INFORMATION TABLE.

JUNG 26TH THE YOUNG MARINES GRADUATED ANOTHER CLASS OF RECRUITS INTO THE REGULAR RANKS. I AM PROUD TO SAY THAT MY DAUGHTER MELISSA WAS SELECTED BY HER SERGEANTS AS THE HONOR RECRUIT.

JULY 3RD THE YOUNG MARINES LED OFF THE 4TH OF JULY PARADE AT SOUTH HAMPTON AND PRESENTED COLORS AT THE FIRE DEPARTMENTS FIREWORKS DISPLAY. JULY 4TH WE MARCHED WITH THE DETACHMENT IN THE NEW BRITAIN PARADE.

JULY 13TH DRILL WAS HELD AT THE 157TH ARMY RESERVE CENTER AT WHICH TIME WE PICKED UP FOUR NEW "BOOTS" WHICH BRINGS OUR RECRUIT CLASS UP TO SEVEN AT THIS TIME.

JULY 17TH THE YOUNG MARINES ATTENDED THE CHANGE OF COMMAND CEREMONIES FOR MAG 49 AT WILLOW GROVE N.S.A.

SEMPER FI LAWRENCE F. SCHEETZ LIAISON

### MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## CENTRAL BUCKS DETACHMENT

## ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY PROGRAM

NEXT CLEAN-UP DAY AUGUST 27,1994

8:00	AMBREA	KFAST	AT	OKIE'S	(DUTCH	TREAT)
	YORK	ROAD	2	EDISON/F	URLONC	ROAD
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9:00 AM.....OFF WE GO TO HIGHWAY 313 (SWAMP ROAD)
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(ABOUT 1.7 MILES)

10:00 AM.....ALL NON-LIVING ITEMS PICKED UP

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# AMERICA'S FREEDOMS

## "The Star-Spangled Banner"

This patriotic song, whose words were written by Francis Scott Key on Sept. 14, 1814, during the War of 1812 with Great Britain, was adopted by Congress as the U.S. national anthem in 1931. For many years before Congress made this choice, the song was popular and regulations for military bands required that it be played for ceremonies.

Though Key wrote the words during the British bombardment of Fort McHenry at Baltimore, the melody was an English tune well known in America by the 1790s. It was the music for a poem, "To Anacreon in Heaven," written about 1780 as the official song of a British social and musical organization, the Anacreontic Society. In fact, Key had used the music in 1805 to accompany another poem he wrote to honor Commodore Stephen Decatur.

## **Key Detained While Negotiating**

Key was a well known 34-year-old Washington, D.C., lawyer-poet. The British had captured Washington and taken William Beanes, a physician, prisoner. They were holding him aboard ship in their fleet off the Baltimore shore. Friends of Beanes persuaded Key to negotiate his release. Key went out to the British fleet and succeeded in gaining Beanes' release but, because the British planned to attack Baltimore at that time, both were detained.

During the night of Sept. 13-14, Key watched the bombardment of Baltimore from the deck of a British ship. Although rain obscured the fort during the night, at daybreak he could see the American flag still flying from Fort McHenry. The fort still stood after the British had fired some 1,800 bombs, rockets and shells at it, about 400 of

them landing inside. Four defenders were killed and 24 wounded. Key drafted the words of a poem on an envelope. The American detainees were sent ashore, the British fleet withdrew, and Key finished the poem and made a good copy of it in a Baltimore hotel the next day.

#### Poem an Instant Hit in Baltimore

According to some accounts, Key showed the poem to relatives of his wife in Baltimore and these people had it printed immediately and distributed throughout the city on a handbill, entitled "The Defense of Fort McHenry." Within a couple of weeks, Baltimore newspapers published the poem, it gained instant popularity and was renamed "The Star-Spangled Banner." An actor sang it to the popular British tune at a public performance in Baltimore.

Only with the start of the Civil War did "The Star-Spangled Banner" become a nationally popular song.

During World War I, a drive began in Congress to make it the official anthem of America's armed forces. There were other contenders for the title, including "America the Beautiful" and "Yankee Doodle." Maryland legislators and citizens were among the most active groups and individuals who pressed to get Francis Scott Key's words and accompanying English tune ratified into law as the country's first national anthem. That finally happened when President Herbert Hoover signed legislation on March 3, 1931.

The anthem has four verses, each ending with the line, "O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave."



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