

The Assembly Call

The Newsletter Of the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry
Post Camp 2005

Dear Campers,

What a great time! Crusin' on the good ship O.V.I. with palm trees swaying, big bands playing and games for all ages! It was nice to see such a good turn out this year. Kudos to the 4 Son's & Daughter's Presidents, Diana Leitch, Darlene Grubaugh, Kim Dravenstott, and Sally Carter, who put together a wonderful week.

The meals were outstanding. The new meal ticket options meant I paid once for my "captain's ticket" and didn't have to bring money to any meals. There were several other new meal ticket options this year: allowing you to choose options that best suit your plans for attending meal times. I would like to recognize a great job in the kitchen by Polly & Jim Albrecht, Todd & Heather Bemis, and Leslie & Jerry Popiel. Also, what wonderful Patriotic, front end Mess Hall support by Jenifer Bemis and her crews donning their star spangled aprons. Mike Dravenstott and Eric Wagner filled in the eating options with lots of goodies at the Candy Stand, making for a typical ship-board pleasure, providing a continuous supply of food at any hour of the day or night! I also want to thank the volunteers, lead by Brian Smith and Jay Stull, who fixed benches and did some needed painting. Helpers included Tom Eley, Charlie Beedle, David Drake, and others.

Your Board of Directors this year has one new member, Julie Piazza. The remaining officers are Jim Albrecht, First VP, Ruth Hines, Grounds, Howard Hines, Buildings, Delight Greenberg, Secretary, Diana Leitch, Treasurer, Roy Grubaugh, Stock Secretary (he is no longer a board member, but is keeping this important job) and Tom Eley, Lease Secretary. Laura Beedle, Jen Bemis, Kim Dravenstott, Carl Ford, Darlene Grubaugh, Howard Hubbard and Mary Peters make up the rest of the board.

YOU, the great membership of the 103rd OVI, with your approval at the Stockholder Meeting along with your generous donations, have made it possible for us to PAY OFF THE LOAN on the new Mess Hall more than a year early! This will save us all some interest on the loan and allow us to move on to our next major projects. While we won't have a lot of extra cash this year, we will be getting cost estimates and prioritizing several projects for the upcoming year. This includes the repair of the pier and driveway; repair of the broken parts of the sidewalks, top filling and restoring the grounds, removal and replacement of some beloved but dangerous trees, and perhaps the most important one, the lifting of the Dance Hall and repair of the dance floor and roof. There is also a volunteer committee, lead by Jen Bemis and Diana Leitch, which will be raising money to improve the looks and comfort of the lounge. As we gather information, I will post the projects and cost estimates on the www.103ovi.org web site.

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In July I made the trip to Frankfort, Kentucky, where the 103rd O.V.I. Regiment was honored for the part it played in the defense of this state's capital. A pathway in the Fort Hill Park was named after *General Casement*. I am sure you will be reading more about this event later, so let me just say it was a remarkable experience. Pictures will be posted on the web site as soon as I pull together a presentation.

Best wishes for Fall, **Nancy Yahraus**

President

103rd OVI Company

Fort Boone Dedication

I had the pleasure to join with 25 members of the 103rd OVI in July for the dedication of the Casement Trail at Fort Boone in Frankfort Kentucky. The 103rd spent time in Frankfort during the Civil War. During their time in Frankfort they built Fort Boone which still stands today overlooking the city of Frankfort. Following is the proclamation by the Frankfort officials before the unveiling of the trail marker honoring Colonel Casement.

We are gathered here to pay homage to the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry's Colonel John "Jack" Casement. Casement had a career in the railroad business both before and after the service in the Civil War.

Described as being a practical, commonsense sort of man, Casement always looked after the welfare of his troops and studied hard to learn military tactics from field manuals. He was always on duty when occasion required it and prompt in carrying out all assignments and duties. He was said to have a merry laugh and delighted in telling "merry jokes", and on occasion drinking a bit more than he should. He was the classic example of a self made man, of humble roots, having little formal education, becoming a successful businessman, and marrying into a family of social prominence and wealth. He had a loud commanding voice which was essential in directing troops in the field.

Casement took command of the 103rd OVI as lieutenant colonel August 11, 1862. In addition to garrisoning Frankfort, Casement was ordered

to repair the railroad trestle here in Frankfort, dispatch a detachment to guard bridges at North Benson Station and garrison the town of Lawrenceburg. Fort Boone was constructed under his direction March 12 and finished April 4, 1863. The trail sign we are about to unveil points to the path that leads down to the fort and the Frankfort overlook.

After the war Colonel Casement served as President of the Sons and Daughters Associations' annual reunions for the 103rd. Today that association lives on through their descendants. A museum in Sheffield Lake, Ohio is devoted to the 103rd complete with Casement Hall so named in his honor. Today we are happy to have family descendants of the 103rd Ohio Volunteer Infantry with us for this special occasion.

And now we officially designate this trail the Casement Trail.

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103rd O.V.I. Company
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Editors' Corner

I have enjoyed working on the Assembly Call but regret I will no longer be able to continue as Editor. I feel very strongly the Assembly Call is very important for the health of the 103rd. It is the only way we communicate to many members who are not able to attend the reunions or make a visit to the grounds during the year. It is for that reason I am stepping aside as I am not able to keep the necessary deadlines for publication due to my schedule at this time. I am pleased to announce the Board of Directors have appointed Leslie Popiel as Editor. Remember to pass along OVI news, family news, including births and deaths so we can all stay in touch during the year. Please send information to:

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