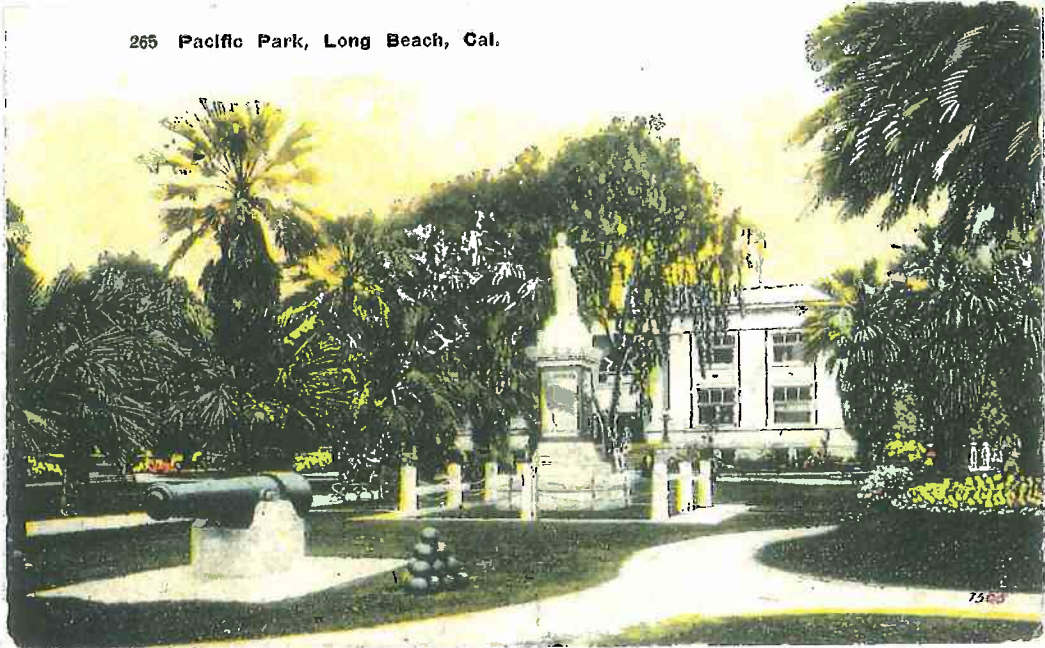


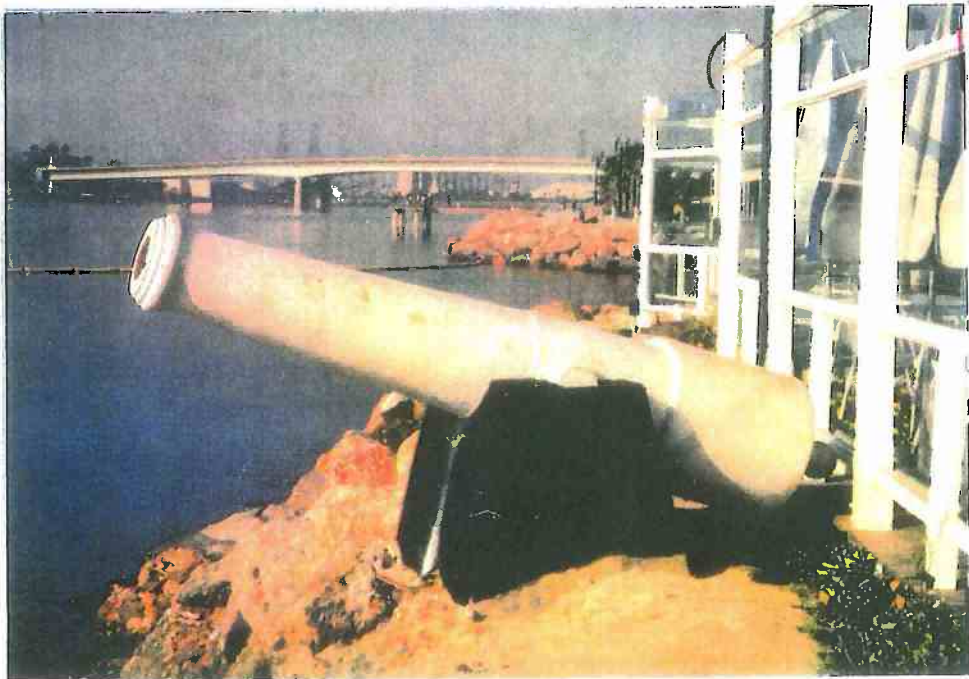


?

265 Pacific Park, Long Beach, Cal.



1917



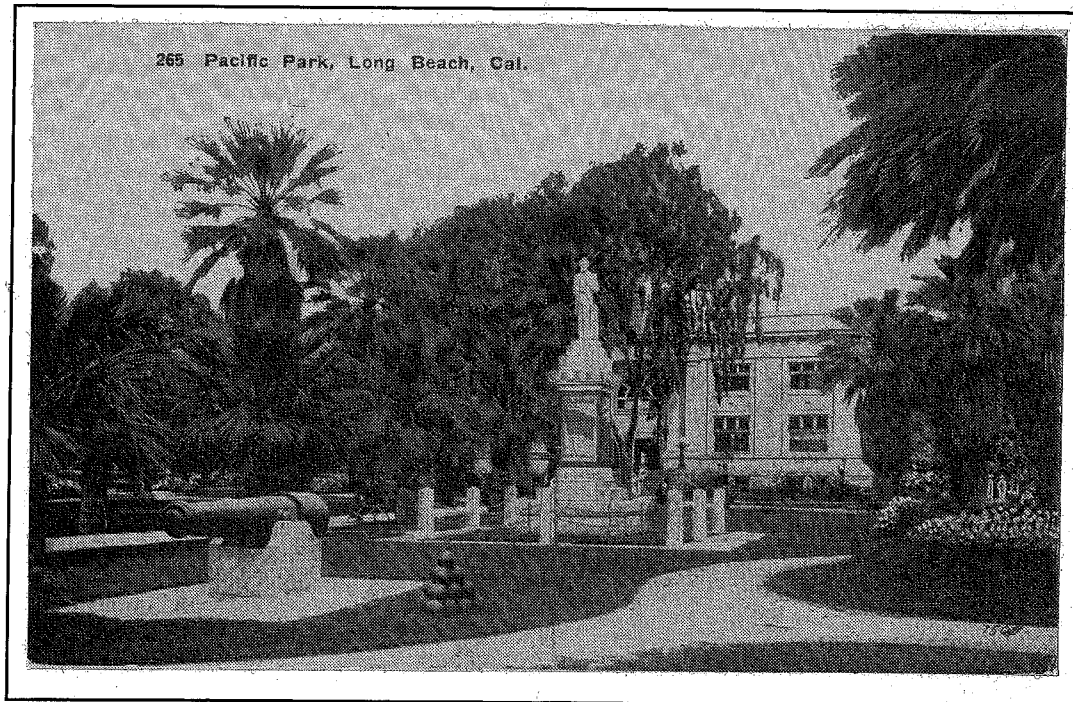
1991

# THE CIVIL WAR CANNON

by Dave Denevan

Do you remember Long Beach's Civil War cannon? It rested peacefully in Lincoln Park near the statue of President Lincoln for nearly sixty years as part of a Civil War Memorial. Do you recall climbing on its cold iron barrel or having your picture taken beside it? Have you ever wondered what happened to the old cannon?

The ten-foot-long cannon, a 7-inch muzzle-loading rifle weighing 9,461 pounds, is of the Parrott type, converted from a 42-pounder smooth bore, model of 1841.



*Lincoln Park was originally called Pacific Park.*

Through the untiring efforts of James R. Milner, Adjutant, G.A.R. (Grand Army of the Republic), Post 181, a Long Beach Civil War veterans' group, the historic old monument of Civil War days and forty 8-inch cannon balls were acquired and placed in the park in December, 1915. A letter to Milner from the Chief of Ordnance, at the War Department, emphasized that the gun "is not considered safe for firing." The Southern Pacific carried the shipment for free from the Benicia, California arsenal.

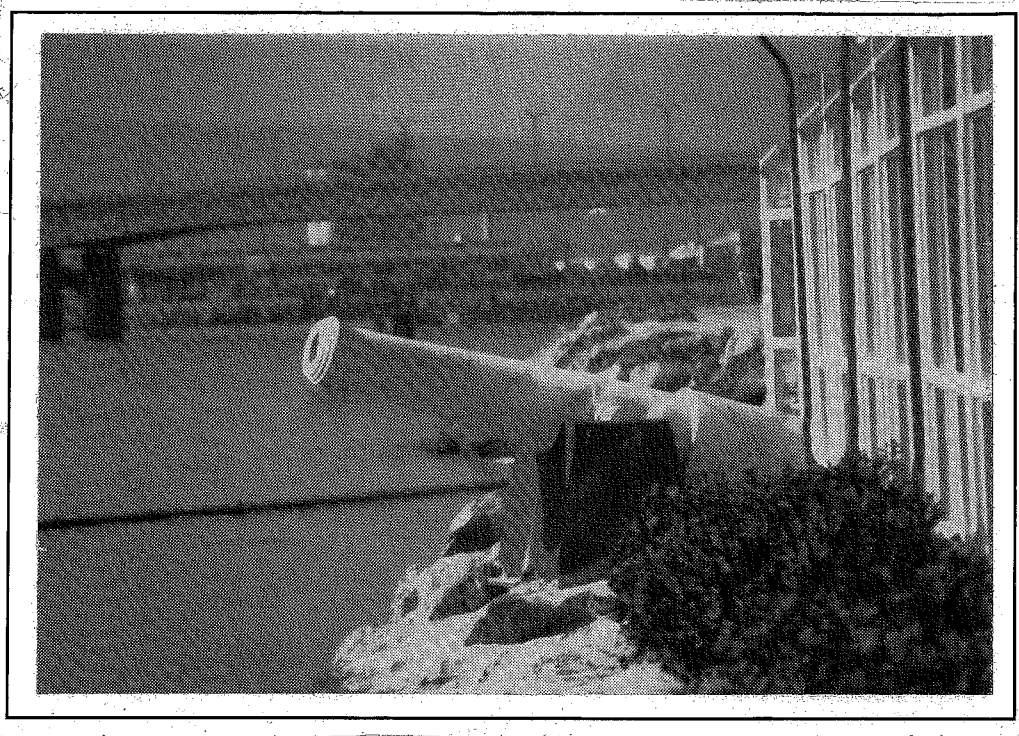
When the new library was being built at Ocean Boulevard and Pacific Avenue, the cannon, along with the Lincoln statue, were trucked off to a City storage yard. In the late 1970s, the statue of the martyred president was returned to what little remained of Lincoln Park, but the whereabouts of the cannon and shells became a mystery.

After a long search, and with the help of 7th District Councilman Ray Grabinski, I found the cannon behind Shoreline Village, where it was pointed menacingly at the Queen Mary. I was relieved that the gun had not been sold as scrap iron or auctioned off because it is highly valuable in today's bull market for



Civil War relics and priceless in its association with the veterans and City's early history. The cannon shells, which had been cemented together in two pyramids, are still missing. If you know of their whereabouts, please contact me.

The Union Civil War vets, some of whose tombstones at the old cemetery at Orange and Willow are proudly inscribed with the letters G.A.R., probably would be upset if they could know that their gift to a once-grateful City was all but forgotten, relegated to the landscaping behind a private development and painted gray to match the adjacent restaurant.



True, the gun is on public land, but for all practical purposes, it is meant to serve as atmosphere for Shoreline Village, which borrowed it; yet, even in that regard, it is terribly underutilized by being nearly hidden behind Parker's Lighthouse. Public access to the artillery piece is limited to a narrow path between the restaurant's glass panelled fence and a rock seawall. While the cannon is visible from boats, marina and parts of the restaurant, it is mostly wasted in its present location. Few people notice it; fewer yet would guess at the cannon's significance to the City and nation.

We need to reclaim our Civil War cannon now, before it is forfeited to the owners of the adjacent village complex, or it falls from its rocky perch during a storm or earthquake. Let's honor veterans and the City's past by putting the monument back in Lincoln Park where it will be properly cared for, safely displayed, is accessible and is once again part of a hallowed memorial. The City of Long Beach, which owns the cannon, reserves the right "to demand" that the gun be returned upon giving 90 days written notice. City staff determined "that from a structural point of view the paved area between the Lincoln statue and the Pacific Avenue sidewalk would be the most appropriate location." I believe that Veterans of Gettysburg, The Wilderness, and Chickamauga would be pleased with the site.

# **BENEFITS OF RETURNING CIVIL WAR CANNON TO LINCOLN PARK**

- **Restoration of Civil War Memorial**
- **Honor Veterans**
- **Accessibility to public**
- **Education**
- **Link with past**
- **Protection of valuable city heirloom**
- **Stunning park feature**
- **Community pride**
- **Civic Identity**
- **Promote Downtown**
- **Can be featured on postcards\***
- **Another reason to return to Downtown**
- **Tourist attraction**
- **Popular landmark (once again)**

\*Much loved Civil War Memorial, including cannon and Lincoln statue, was featured on several old postcards.



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE

2760 N. Studebaker Road, Long Beach, CA 90815-1697

(562) 570-3100 • FAX (562) 570-3109

[www.lbparcs.org](http://www.lbparcs.org)

October 3, 2007

David P. Denevan  
4322 Charlemagne Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90808

Subject: Lincoln Park Civil War Cannon

Dear Mr. Denevan:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about the Lincoln Park Civil War Cannon and for your efforts and perseverance in this matter. The City of Long Beach sincerely appreciates citizens, like you, who partner with us as stewards of our facilities. The effort to restore Lincoln Park, and to meet the recreation and open space needs of the growing downtown Long Beach residential population, is being held in abeyance at this time. Since the Parks and Recreation Commission met to recommend a conceptual plan for the restoration of Lincoln Park on October 19, 2006, a report on the performance of the City Hall building during a seismic event has been completed.

Investigations of the situation have indicated that repairs to the building would be difficult to make, and that while the repairs were underway, the entire building would need to be vacant. The cost of the repairs, and the logistical problem of trying to relocate all of the City staff housed in City Hall while repairs are made, lead to the discussion of alternatives. The alternatives include building a new City Hall building within the Civic Center, moving all City Hall functions into the new building, and either removing or repairing the old City Hall.

Meanwhile, plans were proceeding with the problem of the leaking in the Main Library roof. The repair to the Main Library roof was the first step in the Lincoln Park restoration, as construction staging for that work would have further damaged Lincoln Park. As the roof repairs alone approached \$10 million, and there are other difficulties with the Main Library, whether to repair or replace the Main Library is also worth considering in the context of the City Hall repairs.

In order to address how to deal with these problems, a task force was created to envision what the new Civic Center could be like. As that task force is still working, and the idea of removing the Main Library from Lincoln Park is included in the discussion, the restoration concept approved by the Parks and Recreation Commission may be

largely irrelevant, due to changes in the context and even the space available for the park. Thus, it has not been logical to proceed with any work on the restoration plan, and premature to seek grants for any foundations.

Specifically, related to your questions:

1. We have not contacted Shoreline Village relative to the reacquisition of the cannon, so no progress has been achieved on that action.
2. We have not obtained an estimate of the cost necessary to install the cannon in Lincoln Park. As the configuration of Lincoln Park may change significantly, such action seems premature.
3. Finished engineering drawing will be necessary to obtain building permits for the reinstallation of the cannon. The City will obtain those drawings.
4. Building permits are necessary and the City will acquire the necessary permits.
5. The determination of whether the cannon should be flush with the pavement of the plaza, or raised and surrounded by flowerbeds or hedges should be determined by the final design for the Lincoln Park restoration.

✓ Please be assured that the Parks and Recreation Commission is fully determined to see the restoration of Lincoln Park with the historic Civic War Cannon as a prominent part of that restoration. Unfortunately, until clear direction is developed on the fate of the entire Civic Center, possibly including Lincoln Park, it is premature to proceed with the reacquisition and restoration of the cannon.

If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development Bureau, at (562) 570-3130.

Sincerely,



Harry Saltzgaver, President  
Parks and Recreation Commission

PTH:dle

P:\ActionItems\07-152 Lincoln Park Civil War Cannon.100307.doc

cc: Parks and Recreation Commission Members  
Phil Hester, Director of Parks, Recreation and Marine  
Dennis Eschen, Manager of Planning and Development Bureau

# Civil War Cannon Project

January 22, 2014

Long Beach City Council  
333 West Ocean Boulevard  
Long Beach, California 90802

Dear Members of the City Council and Mayor Foster,

As part of the new Civic Center, include the Civil War cannon. That would restore a monument to Abraham Lincoln and the veterans of the Civil War - a war that ended in the freeing of four million slaves, and sadly in well over a half-million military deaths.

HONOR VETERANS. Those who are put in harm's way deserve to have their monuments preserved, be they my seemingly invincible artillery operations officer who was killed near Phu Loi in 1965 - leaving behind a beautiful family - or Civil War veteran and Long Beach civic leader Major John S. Hair. A Springfield musket was used as a model for the carving of a stack of rifles on the monument near the Main Library. That musket was captured by Major Hair from a Confederate soldier in hand to hand combat at the Battle of Perryville in 1862.

When the present Civic Center was being built in the mid 1970's, the cannon was moved from Lincoln Park to a storage yard, then to the Armed Services YMCA in the West Beach area. In 1983 the cannon was loaned to Speciality Villages. At present, it is adjacent to Parker's Lighthouse Restaurant and pointed at the Queen Mary. So much for Major Hair and other long-dead Civil War veterans who had acquired the donated cannon from the War Department in 1915, intending that it be displayed in a prominent place of honor.

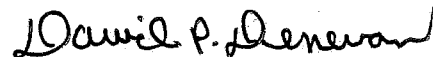
The City Council can correct this wrong by informing potential developers up-front, and the public, that the City is fully determined to see the cannon as a prominent part of a new Civic Center.

Please note that if the City plans to build a dock near the cannon at Shoreline Village, move the cannon first, as a barge and crane will need to get in close to move it.

Attached, please find documentation - and a letter of support from the Parks and Recreation Commission.

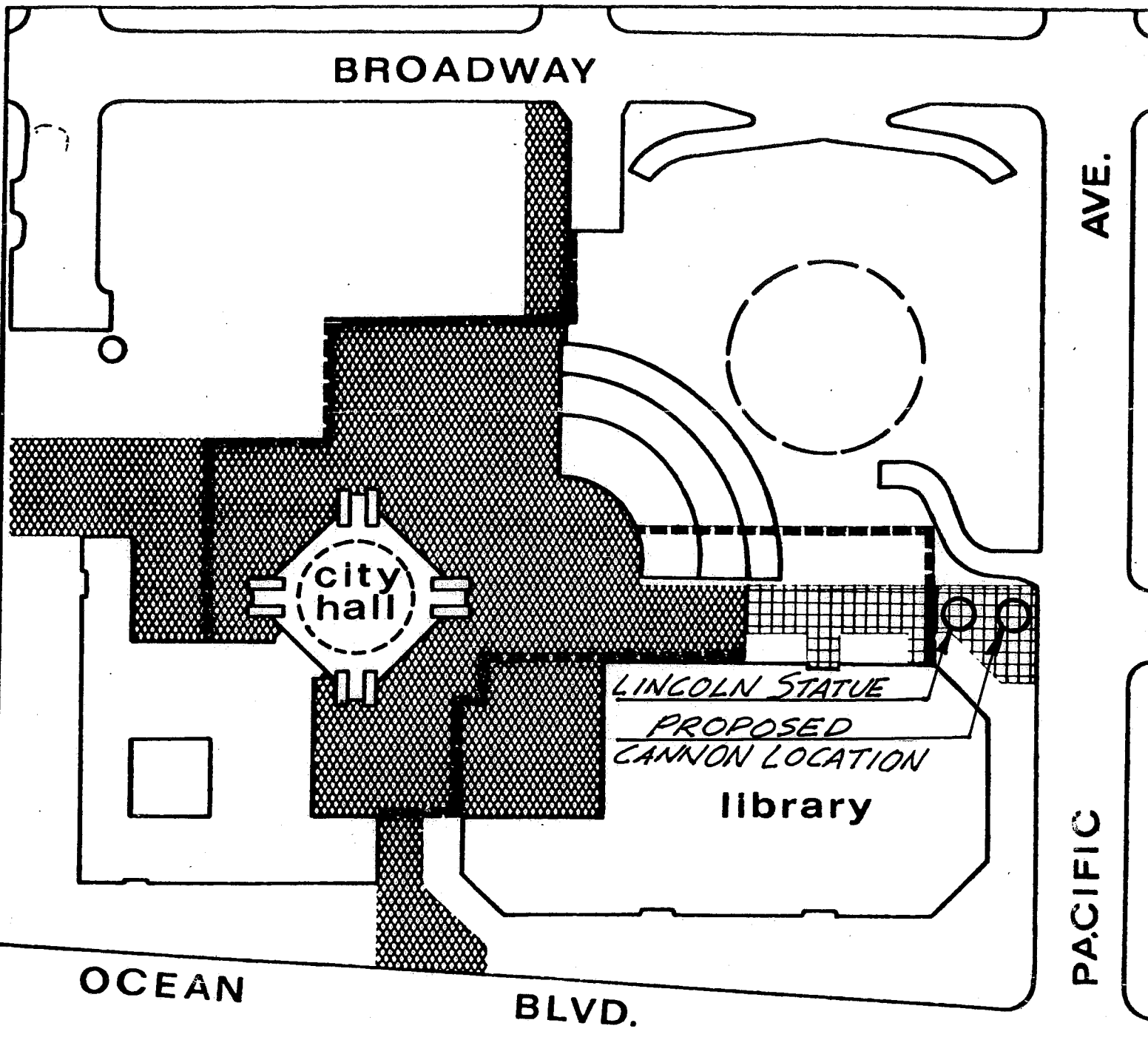
Reply requested.




Sincerely,



David P. Denevan  
4322 Charlemagne Ave.  
Long Beach, California 90808-1409  
(562) 425-9910

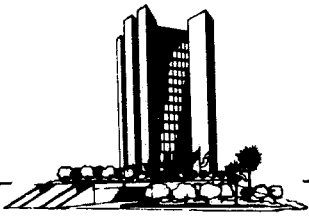
cc. Parks and Recreation Commission  
Planning Commission



-  — TYPE "A" SECTION · 100 LBS PER SQUARE FOOT = LIGHT TRUCK / PICKUP
-  — TYPE "B" SECTION · 250 LBS PER SQUARE FOOT = FIRE TRUCK
-  — LIMITS OF OPEN AREA BELOW SURFACE

**CITY HALL / MAIN LIBRARY**  
**Allowable Vehicular Traffic Patterns**





# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

333 W. OCEAN BLVD. • LONG BEACH, CA 90802 • (213) 590-6383

March 28, 1990

Mr. Dave Denevan  
4322 Charlemagne Avenue  
Long Beach, CA 90808

Dear Mr. Denevan:

Subject: CIVIL WAR CANNON LOCATION

This is in response of your letter dated March 13, 1990, seeking help in finding an appropriate spot for a 9,468 pound Civil War Cannon.

You specifically asked:

Could the cannon be located on the paved area between the Lincoln statue and the Pacific Avenue sidewalk?

Could the cannon be located on the grassy knoll just northwest of the Lincoln statue?

After doing research and field investigations we feel that from a structural point of view the paved area between the Lincoln statue and the Pacific Avenue sidewalk would be the most appropriate location. The cannon there could be supported by a simple concrete foundation placed in natural soil.

The other location on the grassy knoll would rest on the underground parking structure. It was not designed for this type of loading condition. A special design would be needed if it could be done at all.

Feel free to call Art Andrew at 590-6386 if further information is needed.

Sincerely,

EDWARD T. PUTZ  
CITY ENGINEER

Edward J. Aldridge  
Senior Civil Engineer

EJA:ARA:gm  
A:9-16(gm)

cc: James C. Hankla, City Manager  
Ray Holland, Director of Public Works  
Robert Paternoster, Director of Planning and Building  
Ralph Cryder, Director of Parks and Recreation

AIRPORT BUREAU  
4100 DONALD DOUGLAS DR.  
90808 (213) 421-8293  
FAX (213) 496-4981

ENGINEERING BUREAU  
333 W. OCEAN BLVD.  
90802 (213) 590-6383  
FAX (213) 436-2260

PUBLIC SERVICE BUREAU  
1601 SAN FRANCISCO AVE.  
90813 (213) 432-8904  
FAX (213) 436-7135

SOLID WASTE BUREAU  
120 HENRY FORD AVE.  
90802 (213) 495-2666  
FAX (213) 436-6940

WAR DEPARTMENT  
Office of the Chief of Ordnance  
Washington

August 3, 1915.

Mr. James R. Milner,  
Adjutant, G. A. R. Post #181,  
143 Pine Avenue,  
Long Beach, California.

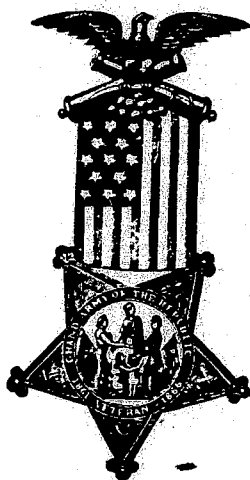
Dear Sir:

I am in receipt of your communication of the 21st ultimo (O. C. 400.355), and note therefrom that the members of your Post have decided to accept the 7-inch muzzle-loading rifle, now at the Benicia Arsenal, offered your Post in letter from this Office dated May 6th last. Accordingly, the Commanding Officer of the Benicia Arsenal has this day been instructed to turn this gun over to you, or on your order, for your Post, together with 40 obsolete 8-inch cast-iron shell, and to communicate with you in regard to route of shipment, payment of transportation charges, etc., as under the law the United States must be at no expense in connection with this donation.

The gun referred to herein is not considered safe for firing.

Respectfully,

Brig. Gen., Chief of Ordnance,  
U. S. A.



The G.A.R. Badge was a bronze star hung on a ribbon. The star shows a soldier and sailor shaking hands in front of a figure of Liberty.

The society founded to strengthen fellowship among men who fought to preserve the Union, to honor those killed in the war, to provide care for their dependents, and to uphold the Constitution. Membership was open to honorably discharged soldiers, sailors, or marines of the Union armed forces who served between Apr. 12, 1861, and Apr. 9, 1865. The Grand Army had 409,489 members in 1890. Its last member died in 1955, and the organization was discontinued in 1956.

The society founded soldiers' homes, and was active in relief work and in pension legislation. The G.A.R. started the celebration of Memorial Day in the North by a general order issued by John A. Logan. The Woman's Relief Corps began as an auxiliary to the G.A.R. CORA E. GILLIS

See also MEMORIAL DAY; UNKNOWN SOLDIER; WOMAN'S RELIEF CORPS, NATIONAL.

# TELEGRAM

High Quality  
Low Cost  
Number 7100 and Number 7101

TEN PAGES

PRICE 7 CENTS

FRIDAY AFTERNOON, DEC 6, 1915.

# ANCIENT CANNON ARRIVES

## And with Its Shot Will Be Mounted Near Lincoln Statue

The cannon and cannon balls donated by the government to Long Beach Post of the G. A. R. have arrived in this city and the cannon will be in place shortly on the base recently built for it in Pacific park, just south of the Abraham Lincoln memorial statue.

Offered their choice between a seven-inch muzzle-loading rifle and a 32-pounder Howitzer, the local G. A. R. selected the former. The whole length of the piece is 129 inches and its weight 8465 pounds. It is a gun of the Parrott type, converted from a 42-pounder iron gun, of the model of 1841.

Other details as to dimensions of the piece follow; distance from rear of base ring to rear of trunnions, 43.2 inches; diameter of base ring, 24.2 inches; distance between rim bases, 22 inches; length of trunnions, 6.5 inches; diameter of trunnions, 7 inches; distance from axle of trunnions to face of muzzle, 70.3 inches.

Forty cannon balls, of the eight-inch cast-iron type, were sent with the cannon, these being sufficient for two pyramids, and instructions for permanently piling them has been received.

The cannon and balls are both described officially as "obsolete" and the gun is "not considered safe for firing," government officials advise, but the exhibit will be one of much interest and the G. A. R. members are highly gratified that the project has been carried through. As the government has no carriages available for mounting obsolete cannon for ornamental purposes, a neat pedestal was constructed, in accordance with a plan sent by William Crozier, Brig. Gen., Chief of Ordnance.

Moreover, the government incurs no  
(Continued on Page Two.)

## ANCIENT CANNON, ETC

(Continued From Page One.)

expense for the delivery of such pieces, and a small sum of money for packing had to be raised here and sent to the Benicia, Cal., arsenal, whence the pieces was shipped. The Southern Pacific carried the shipment free and the City Transfer Company will deliver it without charge.

This money, amounting to \$13.75, was contributed by members of the G. A. R. and allied women's organizations.

J. R. Milner is the G. A. R. member who has kept at the cannon project until its successful consummation and to his untiring efforts the coming of the gun and cannon balls is due. It was with much pleasure that Mr. Milner today announced the arrival of the piece. It was at the Southern Pacific freight house this afternoon, and, it was said, will be put in place at once.

The donation of the piece and cannon balls is pursuant to the provisions of an act of Congress approved May 22, 1896.

Beng Brothers built the pedestal and Foreman Collins is to furnish a small amount of concrete to place under the gun when it is put in place. He left the top of the pedestal unfinished, for this purpose.

*Partes Limain*

LONG BEACH PUBLIC LIBRARY  
GUN PEDESTAL

L. B. COLL  
MAY 1950

1915

3' x 3' x 42"

Reinforced with  $\frac{1}{2}$ " twisted steel rods.

Cost

Excavation

2 cu. yds. Get a volunteer	
1 cu. yd. concrete @ \$7.00--7.00	
2 cu. yds. " @ \$6.50-13.00	
17 lbs steel @ .05	20.00
Washers	1.85
	<u>.15</u>
	\$22.00

Concrete

1 part cement  
2 parts sand  
3 parts gravel

1 cubic yard

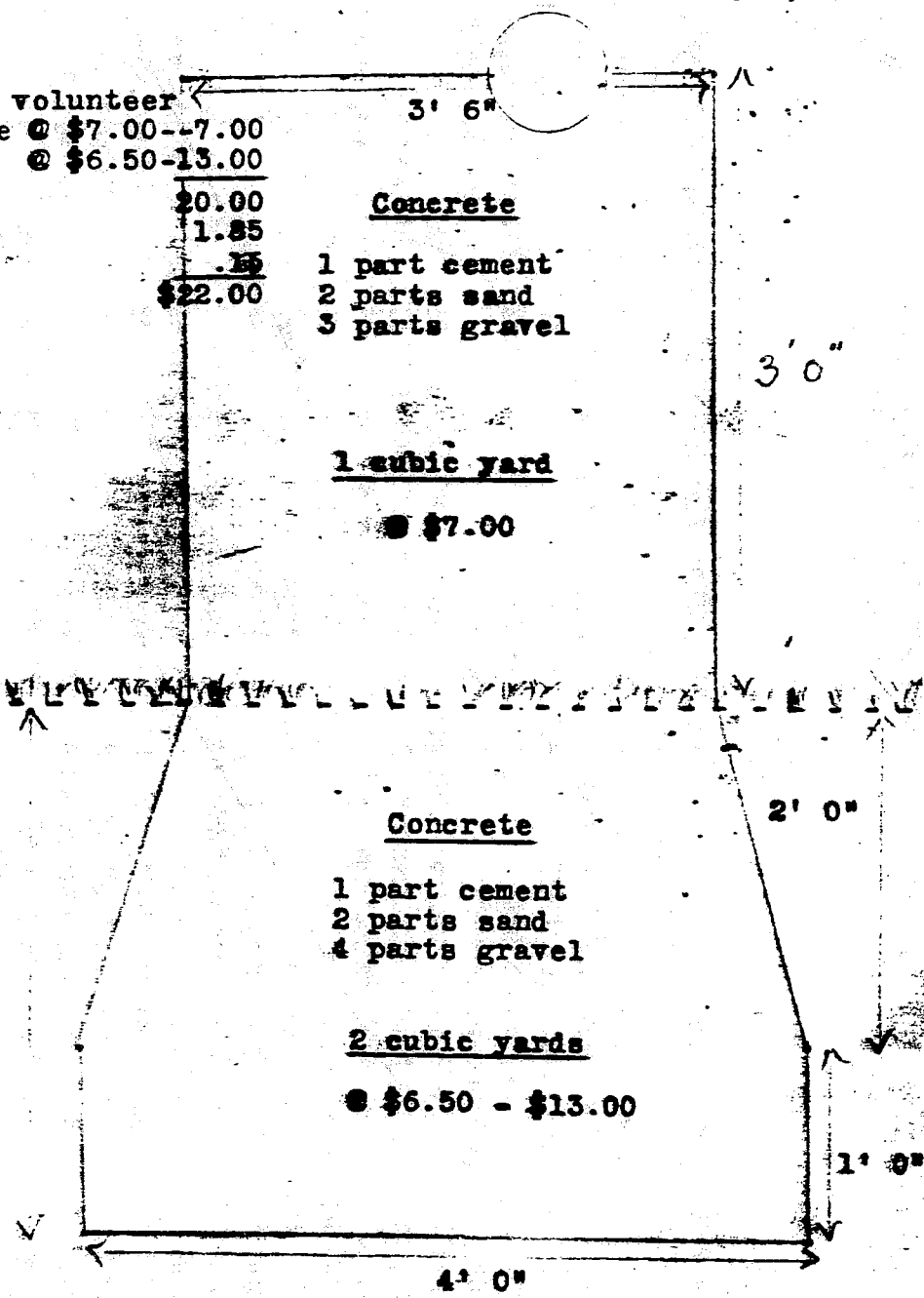
● \$7.00

Concrete

1 part cement  
2 parts sand  
4 parts gravel

2 cubic yards

● \$6.50 - \$13.00



Foundation 4' 0" square on bottom  
 " 3' 0" " " top  
 " 3' 0" deep



This old cannon, cast in 1837, now rests peacefully in the park amid varicolored blossoms of salpiglossis, a little known but hardy annual bearing delicately veined, trumpet-shaped flowers.

1974 Parks - Lincoln  
**Monumental plan**

What happened to the statue of Abraham Lincoln and the cannon that used to be in front of the old Main Library? Are there any plans to place them in the new civic center? B.B., Long Beach.

The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Monument and the Civil War cannon, which were donated to the city by Civil War veterans' organizations in 1915, were removed by the city public service department for the construction of the new civic center. They are currently being stored in the public service department maintenance yard. The Abraham Lincoln statue will be placed in the park plaza area planned for the top of the civic center's new Main Library building. The cannon will be relocated in front of the Armed Services YMCA, 151 Queens Way, in the West Beach area. The Lincoln statue is a facsimile of famed American sculptor Augustus St. Gauden's original which stands in Chicago's Lincoln Park. The cannon, which weighs 9,461 pounds, is an authentic Civil War artillery piece dating back to 1841.

Ind. Oct. 25 A-3:1



KONRAD F. SCHREIER JR.  
1639 MANDEVILLE CANYON RD.  
LOS ANGELES, CALIF. 90049

7 June 1991

Mr. Dave Denevan  
4322 Charlemange Ave.  
Long Beach, CA 90808

(213) 476-1430

Dear Dave,

I had heard about your "Long Beach Civil War Gun", but until your dope on it I had no way of putting 2 and 2 together to make six--- or better.

First: what it properly is: It is a 7-inch James Banded Rifle made from an existing 42-pounder Siege and Seacoast Gun Model of 1831. (The reason the Benecia Arsenal called it a M1841 is that the 1861 Ordnance Manual they undoubtedly used did NOT list the M1831 which is practically identical to the M1841.)

Next you will find your questionair filled out. It and my *ENCLOSED* article on ~~James~~ Charles Tillinghast James will explain what he did, etc.

Second: This banded James rifle was probably converted wherever it was-- in a depot or in a fort-- in 1862-1863 for seacoast defense use. It probably came to California after the Confederate raiders did so much damage in the Pacific cl863 along with a number of other guns shipped west at that time.

Next you will find three coppies of computer print-out things which refer to that specific gun. Note that it was NOT known until your submission that the gun was banded, a very important, interesting fact.

Next you will find a reference to how this gun should be marked. I think ~~un~~covering the trunion ends and muzzle marking would be a very worthwhile project. It would positivly prove the gun is what I believe it is, and this is important since it is aparently the only survivor of its kind.

Lastly about mounting the gun-- or remounting it. Incidental information on these guns in California leads me to believe it was not mounted here-- the gun was obsolescent when it was sent here. Second there were several carriages for the 42-pounder/7-inch Banded James rifles, and in California the barbette type would have been probably used. (See enclosed carriages from 1863ARTILLERYIST'S MANUAL.) However, in my opinion it should be mounted as it origianlly was in Lincoln Park, and painted the proper color as it was-- Black. (With a linseed oil-graphitd-carbon black paint as used at the time.)

FASCINATING-- Another careful check--by you-- finds enough data to correct the identification of a Civil War gun.

Get back to me when you have digested the above.....

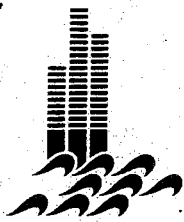
Yours very truly,

*Konnie*

KNOWN SURVIVING CIVIL WAR ARTILLERY  
BY GEOGRAPHIC LOCATION

08/29/86

ST CITY OR SITE	TYPE & MODEL	MIL GRAVS FOUNDRY	REBR	INSP	FDY#	YR	WEIGHT	COMMENTS & NPS#	WES#
CA 777777?	2.9-in Parrott Rifle, M1841	I	3RH WPF	23	RPP	61		Yeagy report from Switzik - not in Roloc	
Columbia	12-pdr Mountain Howitzer, M1835 BR		Alger	106	LABW	510	53		
Copperopolis	6-pdr bronze gun, M1835	BR	Alger	6		37	731	weight also on left trunnion	
Dos Polos	4.5-in Ordnance Rifle	I	9RH PPF	95		63	3590	American Legion - not in Roloc	DEL
Dos Polos	4.5-in Ordnance Rifle	I	9RH PPF					American Legion - muzzle photo not clear	DEL
Downieville	12-pdr Mountain Howitzer, M1835 BR		Alger	105	LABW	53	223		
Downieville	12-pdr Mountain Howitzer, M1835 BR		Ames	97	ABD	93	63	224 (Russell)	
EI Cirrito	12-pdr Dahlgren boat how-light BR	BR	USNY	43	JAD	57		privately-owned - George Repaire	
Ft. Point NHS	6-pdr bronze gun, M1841	BR	Ames	777		51			
Ft. Point NHS	12-pdr Napoleon	BR	Alger	99	TJR	1114	62	1215	
Ft. Point NHS	24-pdr flank howitzer, M1844	I	SMCH	45	SCL	119	64	1490	
Ft. Point NHS	24-pdr Coehorn mortar, M1838	BR	Alger	19	TJR	1059	62	163	
Ft. Point NHS	10-in Rodman	I	Alger	112	JGB	2117	66	15110	Parade Ground
Ft. Scott	6-pdr bronze gun, M1841	BR	Ames			45		reamed 4.62-in smoothbore	
Ft. Scott	6-pdr bronze gun, M1841	BR	Ames			45		Officers' Club	
Ft. Scott	6-pdr bronze gun, M1841-rifled BR	15RH	Ames	253	AM	112	63	885	rifled 4.2-in - possibly James Type 1 ??
Ft. Tejon	2.9-in Parrott Rifle, M1861	I	3RH WPF			47			
Long Beach	12-pdr bronze gun, M1841	BR	Alger	13		54		1750 for sale by C. Abshire per MLA	
Long Beach	42-pdr SC gun, M1831	I	Columbia	63	JWR	39		*8595 Lincoln Park	
Los Alamitos	10-in Rodman sived to 8-in rfi I	I	Alger	118	JGB	2133	66	13110 40th Inf Div HQ, CANG - SRF No. 17/CB/1876	
Los Alamitos	10-in Rodman sived to 8-in rfi I	I	SBF	40	CB	77		16010 40th Inf Div HQ, CANG - from L.A. Expo	
Mare Island	12-pdr Dahlgren boat how-heavy BR	BR	Alger					Marine Barracks	
Mare Island	12-pdr Dahlgren boat how-heavy BR	BR	Ames					Marine Barracks	
Mare Island	24-pdr Navy gun - model ??	I	Columbia	31		24		Bldg H-1 - ringknob	
Mare Island	24-pdr Navy gun - model ??	I	Columbia	52		26		Alden Park	
Mare Island	24-pdr Navy gun - model ??	I				26		Alden Park	
Mare Island	32-pdr Navy gun of 42 cwt	I	Alger	4	ASW	42		4770 USNY	
Mare Island	8-in Shellgun of 63 cwt, M1841 I	I	WPFA	26	ASW	41		7058 Bldg H 1	
Mare Island	8-in Shellgun of 63 cwt, M1841 I	I	WPFA	27	ASW	41		7135 Shipyard	
Mare Island	8-in Shellgun of 63 cwt, M1841 I	I	WPFA	28	*ASW	41		Shipyard	



# CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING & BUILDING

333 WEST OCEAN BLVD. • LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90802

19

93 APR -7 PM 6:14  
RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK  
LONG BEACH, CALIF.  
(310) 590-6651  
(310) 590-6753

April 13, 1993

HONORABLE MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL  
City of Long Beach  
California

SUBJECT: New Loan Agreement with Shoreline Village Associates,  
Concerning Certain Items of City Property. (3)

It is requested that the City Council request the City Attorney to prepare a new loan agreement with Shoreline Village Associates regarding items of City property currently on loan at Shoreline Village, including a Civil War cannon, which are not included in the existing loan agreement with Shoreline Village Associates.


BACKGROUND

It recently became known that certain items of City property, in particular a Civil War cannon, were located at Shoreline Village by virtue of a 1983 Loan Agreement between the City and Specialty Villages. Because of a subsequent transfer of ownership of Shoreline Village, this agreement is no longer valid. It is desirable to execute a new agreement with the same stipulations as the earlier agreement, in order to remove the current uncertainty concerning responsibility and liability for City property.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL:

Request the City Attorney to prepare a new Loan Agreement with Shoreline Village Associates regarding items of City property currently on loan at Shoreline Village.

Respectfully submitted,

  
ROBERT J. PATERMOSTER  
Director of Planning and Building

RL:EZ:lm

APPROVED:

  
JAMES C. HANKLA  
CITY MANAGER

# LOCAL NEWS

Press-Telegram / Tuesday, September 3, 1991 ★



**TOM  
HENNESSY**

## Civil War vet was L.B. man of iron

He drove an electric wheelchair, and was knocked clean out of it one day when it was hit by a car in downtown Long Beach.

Witnesses were sure Charley was dead. But he rose, barely dazed, and allowed that he was "strong as a bull."

And, God's truth, he was. Even then, at age 97.

Another time, he fell from a tree. By then, he was 102. Nobody seems to know how — or why — he got into the tree.

Newspapers said that he was taken to a hospital, and that he spent two days in it, sputtering his disdain for doctors and everything that comes with them.

A month later, he stormed into the Long Beach police station to report that some unknown villain had thrown a rock through his window.

Charley, a veteran, was livid. "We didn't stand for any mischief during the war, and I don't like it now. Cost me \$4 to fix that window."

The war to which he referred was the Civil War.

It was 1864, when, at 17, he enlisted. A year later, as Pvt. Charles L. Chappel, Co. B, 10th New York Infantry, he stood picket duty at Appomattox, Va., as Robert E. Lee surrendered to Ulysses S. Grant.

And it was Sept. 20, 1949, when Charley died at age 102, the last Civil War survivor in Long Beach.

All I know of Charley comes from old news stories assembled by a Long Beach friend, Dave Denevan. But the stories read well; you can almost look through them and see the glint in Charley's eyes.

"Let me show you something," he snapped at photographers, who showed up on his 102nd birthday.

Brushing aside friends who were holding him up (or thought they were), he stepped forward and raised his arms in a triumphal pose. The photogs loved it.

After the war, he took up farming in Kansas, then Oklahoma. He came to Long Beach in 1920, outlived three wives, lost count of his great-great-grandchildren, and went to his grave (in Westminster) without ever having bought a pair of glasses.

On July 7, 1947, about 2,000 people showed up in Bixby Park to celebrate what Charley called his "first 100 years."

To them, he said, "I ain't give up yet. Every two weeks I get out the tub and do my own laundry. I tend my own garden — corn, beans and tomatoes." He said some more, mostly about living alone and liking it, then added: "They'll have to carry me out feet first."

As time and Civil War veterans passed on, Charley's stature rose in the ranks of the Grand Army of the Republic. He was a fixture at its national conventions — or encampments, as they were called.

In 1949, he became the GAR's national senior vice president. But with only six members attending that year's encampment in Indianapolis, the group voted never to meet again.

The decision broke Charley's heart. It meant he would not realize his ambition of becoming national president the following year. Swallowing his pride, he made a request: If he could not be national president, could he, just one time, stand before the group and hold the gavel?

The remainder of the organization — five one-time boys in Union blue — agreed. Charley Chappel had his moment. And the Grand Army of the Republic, for all practical purposes, ceased to exist.

Seventeen days later, Charley was rushed to the Long Beach Naval Hospital ... well, sort of rushed. Being Charley, he initially refused to go — even after suffering a heart attack. But a second attack, hours later, convinced even him.

That night, Long Beach's oldest Civil War veteran slipped off to one last encampment.

Where, just maybe, they gave him the gavel.