

NEWSLETTER

Work Begins on Sally Port

A contractor has begun work on the sally port to restore the area to its original look. The wooden sides of the old boathouse will be removed, the walls on the eastern side will be restored and refurbished, the second story floor will be replaced, and the whole structure will be given greater seismic strength. The work is expected to take at least one year. Already there are panels and protective sheets on both sides, and a scaffold has been erected on the west side for access to the second story. For now, visitors can still see the cannon in the west side room, but there will be a time when the rooms will need to be closed, and even - for a short time - the entire sally port to waking traffic. Naturally, this will impact the usual route of the Fort Alcatraz tour, which at times will now have to be routed through Building 64 and into China Alley. However, this will give us a chance to point out some of the interesting features in that area of the building and the "1854" date carved into the stone door frame leading out of the building. You will receive periodic updates about the progress of the work during the year.

**The Civil War Comes
to San Rafael**

Last month the upper grade teachers at a K-8 school in San Rafael scheduled a day to learn about the Civil War, and they invited various re-enacting groups to visit the school that day to talk about different aspects of the war. The editor was contacted through John Nevins by one of the teachers who had seen our website, and he joined members of the National Civil War Association and the Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War in giving a presentation. The field of the school had cannons, a telegraph station, a medical tent, a weapons display, and a variety of uniforms to look at. The students came to school in costumes, as well as the teachers, and the school band played some Civil War tunes prior to the presentations. It was a memorable day, and Venetia Valley School and its teachers are to be commended for their efforts to include hands-on learning in the teaching of the Civil War.



Sergeant Johnson of FOCWA speaking to students about the various uniforms of the Civil War. Notice the students are in homemade costumes.

FOCWA Member John Fitzpatrick Gives Talk on Lincoln

As many of you know, member John Fitzpatrick is a certified guide at Gettysburg National Park and is a well-known lecturer about President Lincoln. John has kindly offered to give a talk about Lincoln on June 11 to the staff on Alcatraz, and of course all FOCWA members are invited to attend. Please plan to come on the staff boat, which leaves the Pier 33 promptly at 8:20 a.m. Please call 415-561-4900 to let the rangers know you are coming. John's talks are always interesting and illuminating.

Dates to Remember

June 11 - Lecture on Lincoln by John Fitzpatrick

June 21-22 - Civil War Days on Angel Island

July 27 - Fort Point Brass Band plays on Alcatraz

August 16 - Fort Point Living History Day

October 4 - Living History Day on Alcatraz