

SONS OF UNION VETERANS OF THE CIVIL WAR

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO / WYOMING

Vol. 9-1

Spring 2017

WESTERN

TRIBUNE



Sons of Union
Veterans
of the Civil
War

MARSHALL HOPE AWARD Western Tribune Best Department Newsletter 2014

Department of CO/WY

2722 Rincon DR.,
Grand Junction, CO
Brewer62@bresnan.net

OFFICERS

Department Commander

Garry W. Brewer, PDC Camp 7
2722 Rincon DR.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
Brewer62@bresnan.net;
970-241-5842

Senior Vice Commander:

William Buvinger, PCC Camp 7
706 Willow Creek Rd
Grand Junction, CO 80105
billbuvinger@bresnan.net
970-263-9183

Junior Vice Commander:

David O. Haake, CC Camp 7
2979 Brookside Dr.
Grand Junction, CO 81540
Suvcwlow7@gmail.com
307-655-7144

Secretary

Eric D. Richhart, PDC Camp-1
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com
801-250-7733

Newsletter Editor

Walter Weart
6813 Swadley Court
Arvada, CO 80004
303-9558167
wlg@nilenet.com

Dear Brethren of the Department of CO/WY

We wish to welcome our new brethren back into our department and tell how much we have missed their presence from our circle of comrades in our encampments, thanks to the hard work of past commanders, and their staff members, our friends are home again. No longer is there chairs vacant at our tables.

As your Department Commander I ran across a quote the other day, it was from the Revolutionary War and Ben Franklin and those a poke a bit of fun of our nation in the beginning.

At a toast in the Court of France the members lifted their glasses and on said: "I give you the King of France, and I will call him the Sun; and then I give you the King of England, and call him the Moon; and then turning to Ben Franklin, they said: "What will you do for a toast, with the Sun and Moon already engaged?"

Franklin raised his glass, and said: "I cannot give you the Sun, or Moon, or the Stars, nor call my country such, but I give you the United States, and call them Joshua, the son of Nun, who made the Sun and the Moon and the Stars to stand still as long as he pleased. "

Brethren

On this upcoming Veterans Day, May God the United States of America, and those who served and protect us from Harms Way.

F, C, & L

Garry W. Brewer PDC
Commander
Department of CO/WY



The Department's Resolution is voted favorably at 136th National Encampment

By Walter Weart

On June 17, the Department voted to submit a resolution to the 2017 National Encampment after Idaho, which had previously been part of our Department since 2012, was transferred to the newly formed Department of Columbia without our consent. The Commander in Chief at that time moved Idaho without consulting us and our Department had no opportunity to contest this decision.

After originally being added to our Department, the members living in Idaho were attached to the Capt. Lot Smith Camp No. 1 and the Brothers from that camp visited the Brothers in Idaho. Efforts were being conducted to form two separate Camps and a monument in Idaho falls was restored at this time. In addition, Grave Registration work was also conducted by the Brothers in Idaho.

This petition was filed for consideration by all the Brothers at the National Encampment and was brought up for a vote on Saturday, August 12. Our petition was granted by an overwhelming majority of the voting Brothers so Idaho is now returned to our department.

We will contact the Brothers in Idaho to discuss with them what are their wishes. We will continue to keep the department members advised as to future action. We are quite pleased with the result of this petition and shows that our position was correct.

Willis Savage Whittlesey III(1936 - 2017)

Longtime Department Chaplain Willis Whittesley passed away 2 October 2017. Brother Willis (Bill) was born on September 18, 1936 in Torrington, CT, the son of Willis Savage Whittlesey, Jr. and Mary Alice Johnson Whittlesey. He graduated from U.S. Naval Academy in 1959 and married Judith Van Dusen shortly afterward.. Bill worked for 54 years in a variety of mechanical, instrumentation and process-control engineering positions mainly in the mining, power, water-treatment, chemical, food, and petrochemical industries. His work drew him across the continental U.S. and to places as far-reaching as Siberia, Germany, Alaska, and Canada until he "retired" at the age of 74.



Bill was a gifted and avid athlete who ran over 45 marathons including the Comrades 56-miler. He played varsity baseball at the Naval Academy and was #1 on the plebe squash team; he played for the Rhodesian (Zimbabwean) National Baseball Team from 1971-1976, minor-league hockey, loved racquetball and golf, and even had a stint caddying for Gary Player's son, Wayne Player. Bill always enjoyed singing in various choral groups including the University Glee Club of New York City, served as Scoutmaster many times and remained involved with the Scouts throughout his life, and he was a proud member of the Sons of the American Revolution. His eligibility for the SUVCW was through Pvt Samuel S. Whittlesey Co. I, 22 CT Vol Inf He is preceded in death by his daughter, Anne (Mark) Sheffield and survived by his wife Judy, daughters Sarah Garcia, Margaret (Bryant) Freer and Elizabeth, sisters Jane and Alice (Peter) Duston and brother Peter, and ten grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

A Visit to Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall & Museum

By Walter Weart

During the 136th SUVCW National Encampment, a tour of the Grand Army of the Republic, Michigan Department, James B. Brainerd Post #111 was offered.

The Post is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan with a mission to bring informative and educational exposure to the history of the post-Civil War Grand Army of the Republic (GAR). The building is listed in the National Register of Historic Places and houses over 3,000 historical artifacts and records relating primarily to the Grand Army of the Republic and the Allied Orders of the GAR. All of the historical artifacts have been donated or loaned to Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall and Museum for the purpose of fostering the memory and preserving the artifacts of the GAR in an original historic setting.

On March 14, 1883, Civil War veterans requested and were granted a charter by the Michigan Department and the National Organization of the GAR to create the James B. Brainerd GAR Post #111. In addition, on July 20, 1886, the National Organization and the Michigan Department of the Woman's Relief Corps (WRC) granted a charter to Eaton Rapids' WRC Corps #38. By the end of 1886, a building had been constructed for the use of GAR Post #111 and WRC Corps #38 on South Main Street. This building served as the GAR, WRC, and, for a time, the Phil Sheridan Sons of Veterans USA Camp #47 meeting until the post disbanded in 1929.

The building is an Italianate two-storied red brick structure, which originally had a balcony. Above the second story windows and door is a recessed brick area where the painted letters "GAR Post #111 Meeting Hall" could be read and "G A R" can still be faintly seen. The building's interior floor plan is simple with the first floor originally having been largely open and rented out to merchants to support the GAR Post and WRC Corps. Uses included a drug store, milk packaging plant, a hardware store, the local Grange Hall, bowling alley, and a dance school. The GAR-WRC meeting room and the WRC Parlor occupied the second floor and is still maintained as a classic GAR meeting room.

The building eventually became vacant and was purchased by long-time GAR memorabilia collector, Don Limpert, in 2012 and then deeded to the Museum non-profit corporation. The Museum opened September 2013. On May 14, 2004, a historical marker was unveiled recognizing its connection to the Lt. James B. Brainerd GAR Post #111

The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month, patriotic holidays and by appointment. The Museum also can be opened any day and time for meetings and tours by contacting the Museum ahead of time and arranging a date. Admission to and use of the Museum are free, but tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Also, different levels of annual tax-deductible sponsorships are available to the public to help defray the costs of operation.

Michigan's GAR Memorial Hall and Museum is the only such museum in the state that is solely dedicated to ensuring that the memory and accomplishments of the Grand Army of the Republic and its members in Michigan are not forgotten.

The Museum is open the first two Wednesdays of each month, patriotic holidays and by appointment. The Museum also can be opened any day and time for meetings and tours by contacting the Museum ahead of time and arranging a date. Admission to and use of the Museum are free, but tax-deductible donations are greatly appreciated. Also, different levels of annual tax-deductible sponsorships are available to the public to help defray the costs of operation.

The Museum can be contacted by visiting their website: www.garmuseum.com.weebly.com or e-mail: garmichigan@gmail.com.



The entrance to the GAR Hall building.



The commemorative plaque recognizing the historic nature of the GAR Hall.



The Meeting Hall looking much as it would have in the 1880s.



The Alter laid out as it would have been for a GAR meeting. The swords are quite historic as well.

National Encampment Report
by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

The 136th National Encampment was held in Lansing, MI 10-13 August 2017. Brothers Jim Barker (PDC), Gene Cheney (PDC) and Wally Weart (PCC), all of Camp 100, comprised the Department's delegation.

Major Actions by the Encampment:

- Rescinded the action of the previous encampment changing our official observance of Memorial Day to the legal holiday and reverted back to May 30th.
- Added the ROTC Medal Program to the duties of the National Patriotic Instructor.
- Adopted a new policy on Battle flags and Civil War Memorials.

- Approved our Department's resolution returning the State of Idaho to CO & WY.
- As usual numerous changes were made to the Constitution & Regulations. An updated version of that document should be available on the National website.
- No definitive action was taken as yet on the proposal to remove Department & Camp website from the National Organization's server.

Other Actions:

- Brother Eric Richhart (PDC) was appointed National Aide in recognition of his recruiting efforts. The National Council of Administration also approved his appointment as National Expansion Officer.
-
-

Future Encampments. The following sites were approved for upcoming National Encampments: 2018 – Boston, MA, 2019 - Ohio

New Officers Elected:

Commander-in-Chief – Mark Day of the Dept of the Chesapeake

Sr. Vice Commander-in-Chief – Donald Shaw of the Dept of Michigan

Jr. Vice Commander-in-Chief – Edward Norris of the Dept. of MA

Secretary – Jonathan Davis of the Dept of Ohio

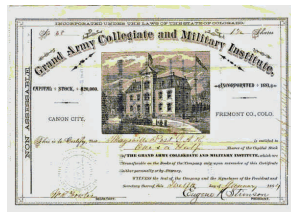
Treasurer – David McReynolds of the Dept of Tennessee

Quartermaster – Danny Wheeler of the Dept. of NY

Grand Army Collegiate and Military Institute in Canon City

by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

The Colorado Collegiate & Military Institute was established in Canon City in 1881. A short time later the GAR Department of Colorado & Wyoming received a gift of stock in the institute which was still in the organizing stage. As a result of this gift, the Department Council of Administration voted to have the Grand Army assume the management of the college, undertaking to endow it with a fund of \$100,000, the interest of which was to be devoted to the education of children of veterans.



Stock Certificate for shares in the Grand Army Collegiate & Military Institute signed by Gen E. K. Stimson, GAR Department Commander

The college was to be rechristened the Grand Army Collegiate and Military Institute. The following comrades of the Grand Army were subsequently added to the existing board of college trustees: General E. K. Stimson. Department Commander; Hon. John A. Coulter, of Georgetown, Department Judge Advocate ; General A. T. Bohn, of Leadville, Junior Vice Commander, Garfield Post, No. 9; and Rev. Dr. T. E. Palmer, of Boulder, Department Chaplain. On the first anniversary of the laying of the corner-stone of this institute, the school was opened and at the same time rededicated with its new name. General E. H. Sawyer, president of the college, introduced General Stimson as the orator of the day who delivered an eloquent and scholarly address. Other addresses were made, and a choir rendered some excellent music. The exercise concluded with an appropriate parade.

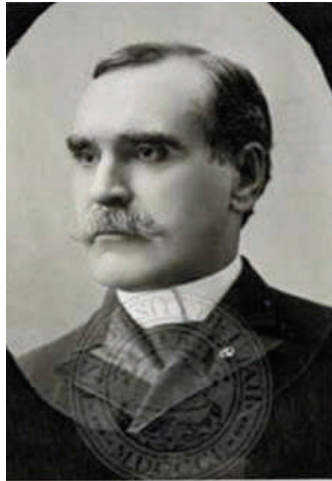


Laying the corner stone of the Colorado Collegiate & Military Institute in Cano City, 1880.

John W. Donnellan, Third Comrade to Lead the Grand Army in Colorado & Wyoming

by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

John W. Donnellan served as Department Commander for two terms – 1880-81 & 1881-82. He followed PDC (Dr.) F. J. Bancroft and PDC Andrew Taylor. He was the first and only elected Commander of the permanent Department of the Mountains.



The Department of the Mountains replaced the earlier Provisional Department of Colorado in 1875, and was made permanent in December 1879. It was redesignated as the Department of Colorado in July 1882 and as the Department of Colorado & Wyoming in August 1889. Comrade Donnellan was born 8 June 1841 in Ireland and emigrated, at an early age, with his parents to the United States. The family settled in Cincinnati, OH. During the Civil War he enlisted as a Sgt in Co. C, 83rd OH Inf. He was later appointed LTC (Commanding), 27th Reg, USCT.

After the war, he married and moved to Laramie, WY in 1869. A banker by profession, he assisted in the formation of the Rogers Bank and was appointed the first Wyoming Territorial Treasurer, serving until 1872. At this point he probably moved to Colorado as his two middle children were born there in 1873 and 1876. He was back in Laramie by 1878. He was the first member of Laramie's Custer Post No. 1 (organized from an earlier post at Fort Sanders). During this period, he was connected with the Laramie National Bank and was a Trustee &

Treasurer of the Laramie Electric, Gas Light & Fuel Co.

In 1889, the Donnellan family moved to Salt Lake City. John assisted in the organization of the Commercial National Bank, becoming its Cashier and Manager. His successful business career made him one of the most influential men in Salt Lake City. In addition to his banking business, he was a member of the Board of Regents of the Utah School of the Deaf, a member of the Board of Regents of the University of Utah, Treasurer of the Wonder Gold Mining Co., and a member of the Alta Club of Salt Lake City. By 1910, he had moved to Sacramento, CA. The 1910 city directory listed him as self-employed. He became a naturalized citizen in 1913. He died 26 Jun 1917, in Sacramento and is buried in the Sacramento City Cemetery.

Comrade Donnellan was an original member of MOLLUS (OH Commandery) and his name is inscribed on the African American Civil War Memorial in Washington, D.C.



Department Elects new Officers at 89th Annual Encampment

by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

The Department's 89th Annual Encampment was held 17 Jun 2017 at the Masonic Lodge in Midvale, UT. The meeting was called to order at 8:40a pm by Department Commander Garry Brewer. Twelve Brothers attended representing Camps 1, 7 and 100.

Moving to new business, the Encampment passed a resolution asking the National Encampment to reverse Commander-in-Chief Campbell's decision to attach Idaho to the Department of the Columbia and restore it to our Department. The James E. Jewell Awards for the outstanding recruiter went to PDC Eric Richhart of Camp 1. The A. V. Bohn Award for the outstanding Camp went to Centennial Camp 100.

There being no further business, the encampment nominated and elected officers for the year. The following Brothers were elected or appointed for 2017-18:

Department Commander – Garry Brewer, PDC, Camp 7
Senior Vice Department Commander – Bill Buvinger, PCC, Camp 7
Junior Vice Department Commander – David Haake, CC, Camp 7
Secretary – Eric D. Richhart, PDC, Camp 1
Treasurer - James M. Barker, PDC, Camp 100
Council Member - James Davenport, PDC, Camp 12
Council Member - L. E. (Gene) Cheney, PDC, Camp 100
Council Member - Gary Parrott, PDC, Camp 7
Patriotic Instructor - L. E. (Gene) Cheney, PDC, Camp 100
Chaplain - Willis S. Whittlesey III, Camp 1
Graves Registration Officer - Craig A. Ayler, PCC, Camp 100
Civil War Memorials Officer- James M. Barker, PDC, Camp 100
Historian - James M. Barker, PDC, Camp 100
Eagle Scout Coordinator - Gerald Mosely, PDC, Camp 1
GAR Highway Officer - Gary Parrott, PDC, Camp 7
Department Organizer - Eric D. Richhart, PDC, Camp 1
Newsletter Editor - Wally Weart, CC, Camp 100
Webmaster - Eric D. Richhart, PDC, Camp 1
Asst. Webmaster – Thomas Zink, Camp 100
Counselor – John H. Culley, Camp 100
Genealogist - Eric D. Richhart, PDC, Camp 1
Jacob Metro – Color Bearer
Mark E. Brewer – Guard
David Bouley - Guide

All incoming officers were then installed by Brother Donald Martin, National Commander in Chief.

Thomas Custer, Two time Medal of Honor Recipient

by Jim Barker, PDC
(Camp 100)

Thomas Ward Custer was a two-time recipient of the Medal of Honor for bravery during the American Civil War. He was a younger brother of George Armstrong Custer and died along side with him at Little Bighorn in the Montana Territory.



He was born in New Rumsey, Ohio, in 1845. He enlisted in the Union Army, in September 1861, at age 16, and served as a private in the 21st Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He saw action at numerous battles, including Stones River, Missionary Ridge and the Atlanta Campaign. He mustered out in October 1864 as a corporal. He was later commissioned a second lieutenant in Company B of the 6th Michigan Cavalry, he became his brother's aide-de-camp and accompanied him throughout the last year of the war.

During the war, Tom Custer was brevetted to captain, major, and lieutenant colonel, although he was barely 20 years of age when the Civil War ended. He was awarded two Medals of Honor. He was the first soldier to receive the dual honor, one of only four soldiers or sailors to receive the dual honor during the Civil War, and one of just 19 in history.

Both actions that earned Custer the Medal of Honor involved capturing Confederate regimental flags (2nd North Carolina Cavalry flag at Namozine Church on April 3, 1865, and again at Saylor's Creek on April 6, 1865). Battle flags were a source of pride to the unit and served as a rallying point during battle. As such they were

heavily guarded and capturing one was a highly dangerous deed.

Custer earned his first Medal of Honor for actions during the Battle of Namozine Church on 3 April 1865. Custer leaped his horse over a barricade coming under fire as his troops attacked the Confederate line. As the Confederates fell back, he saw a color bearer. He raced forward, seized the flag of the Second North Carolina cavalry and commanded those around him to surrender. He took three officers and eleven enlisted men prisoner.

In a similar action during the Battle of Saylor's Creek, he raced his horse toward the enemy barricades through a line of rifle fire, leapt the barricade only to be surrounded by the enemy. He fired his pistol to both sides, scattering the enemy. He noticed a color bearer rallying the enemy and charged.

Colonel Capehart related the story to Libbie Custer. *"I saw your brother capture his second flag. It was in a charge made by my brigade at Sailor's Creek, Virginia, against General Ewell's Corps. Having crossed the line of temporary works in the flank road, we were confronted by a supporting line. It was from the second line that he wrested the colors, single-handed, and only a few*



WRITE AN ARTICLE!

We need your articles for publication in the Western Tribune.

Photographs, etc., accompanying articles are much appreciated.

Send your articles & photos to the Editor at: wq@nilenet.com

paces to my right. As he approached the colors he received a shot in the face which knocked him back on his horse, but in a moment he was upright in his saddle. Reaching out his right arm, he grasped the flag while the color bearer reeled. The bullet from Tom's revolver must have pierced his heart. As he was falling Captain Custer wrenched the standard from his grasp and bore it away in triumph."



In 1948, a U.S. Army book on Medal of Honor citations incorrectly listed the date of his first Medal of Honor action as May 11, 1863. The error was repeated in publications of the U.S. Senate in 1963, 1973, and 1979.

Following the war, Custer was appointed first lieutenant in the 7th Cavalry in 1866. He was wounded in the Washita campaign of the Indian Wars, in 1868. He later served on Reconstruction duty in South Carolina and participated in the Yellowstone Expedition of 1873, where he fought in the Battle of Honsinger Bluff, and the Black Hills Expedition of 1874. He was appointed captain in 1875 and given command of Company C of the 7th Cavalry. In 1874, at the trading post at Standing Rock Agency, Custer participated in the arrest of the Lakota Rain-in-the-Face for the 1873 murder of Dr. John Honsinger.

During the 1876 Little Bighorn campaign of the Black Hills War, he served as aide-de-camp to Lt. Col. George A. Custer and died with his brother on June 25, 1876. Lt. Henry Harrington actually led Company C during the battle. Younger brother Boston Custer also died in the fighting, as did other Custer relatives and friends. It was widely rumored that Rain-in-the-Face, who had escaped from captivity and was a participant at the Little Bighorn, cut out Tom Custer's heart after the battle; though the chief later denied it during an interview. Custer's remains were identified by a recognizable tattoo of his initials on his arm.

Tom Custer was buried on the battlefield, but exhumed the next year and reburied in Fort Leavenworth National Cemetery. A stone memorial slab marks the place where his body was discovered and initially buried.



Theodore Augustus Penland – Last GAR Commander-in-Chief

by Jim Barker, PDC (Camp 100)

Theodore Augustus Penland was born in New Paris, Indiana (Elkhart County) and was a resident of Portland, Oregon at the time of his death in nearby Vancouver, Washington at the age of 101. He was the last Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic. At the time of his death, there were only eight other surviving Union Army Veterans. With two wives, both named Elizabeth, he had ten children, and at the time of his death had almost fifty living descendants.



Theodore enlisted in the Union Army in early 1865 and served in Company A, 152nd Indiana Infantry. He served guard duty along the Potomac River and was discharged later that same year. While his service was fairly short, his family's contribution to the war was extreme. His father, John died on 4 January 1863 at age 45, as a result of wounds received in the Battle of Stone's River Campaign, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. Two of Theodore's brothers were imprisoned at Andersonville Prison and died shortly after the end of the war.

After the War, Theodore was involved in farming and railroad work, but the lure of adventure drew him repeatedly to the American West. In 1868 he walked from Indiana to California. He lived briefly in Cheyenne, Wyoming, Sacramento, California and Nevada. He was working on the Union Pacific Railroad in the Sierra Nevada Mountains through 1869 when the Golden Spike completed the transcontinental line at Promontory Point. He is buried in the GAR Cemetery in Portland, Oregon.

A couple note of interest: His image was used on both Civil War Commemorative Postage Stamps -- one for the Union and one for The Confederate States.



Also, according to a receipt in the Department archives, Comrade Penland's Commander-in-Chief's badge in the collection of the Pioneer's Museum in Colorado Springs. It was donated by Colorado Springs Post 22 before it dissolved. How it came into the Post's possession is unknown.

Department Officers 2017-2018

Department Commander:

Garry W. Brewer, PDC Camp 7
2722 Rincon DR.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
Brewer62@bresnan.net;
970-241-5842

Senior Vice Commander:

William Buvinger, PCC Camp 7
706 Willow Creek Rd
Grand Junction, CO 80105
billbuvinger@bresnan.net
970-263-9183

Junior Vice Commander:

David O. Haake, CC Camp 7
2979 Brookside Dr.
Grand Junction, CO 81540
Suvclow7@gmail.com
307-655-7144

Secretary

Eric D. Richhart, PDC Camp- 1
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733

Treasurer

James M Barrker, PDC Camp100
5715 Eldora Drive
Colorado Springs, CO 80918
719-593-2061
Barker944@msn.com

Department Council:

James J. Davenport, PDC Camp 100
901 Garrison Dr.,
Cortez, CO 81321
Jimjanie_2@q.com;
970-565-9225

Gary E. Parrott, PDC Camp 7
2960 Great Plains Dr.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
birdmanofmono@aol.com;
970-243-0476

Lorraine E. (Gene) Cheney, PDC Camp 100
16305 Wright Rd.,
Monument, CO 80132;
waddie@aol.com;
719-481-2866

Patriotic Instructor:

Lorraine E. (Gene) Cheney, PDC Camp 100
16305 Wright Rd.,
Monument, CO 80132;
waddie@aol.com;
719-481-2866

Captain:

Dick P. Marsh Camp 100
POB 49397
Colorado Springs, CO 80949
Dickp.marsh@q.com
719-265-9391

Graves Registration Officer:

Craig A. Ayler, PCC Camp 100
4200 Upham St.,
Wheat Ridge, CO 80033;
caayler@att.net ;
720-231-4327

Historian:

James M. Barker, PCC Camp 100
5715 El Dora Dr.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80918;
barker944@msn.com ;
719-593-2061

Civil War Memorials Officer:

James M. Barker, PCC Camp 100
5715 El Dora Dr.,
Colorado Springs, CO 80918;
barker944@msn.com ;
719-593-2061

Eagle Scout Coordinator:

Gerald F. Mosley, PDC Camp 1
6570 South 2600
East, Salt Lake City, UT 84121;
candlespike@att.net;
801-943-0664

GAR Highway Officer:

Gary E. Parrott, PDC Camp 7
2960 Great Plains Dr.,
Grand Junction, CO 81503;
birdmanofmono@aol.com;
970-243-0476

Department Organizer:

Eric D. Richhart, PDC,
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;
801-250-7733

Newsletter Editor:

Walter Weart, PCC Camp 100
6813 Swadley Ct.,
Arvada, CO 80004;
wlg@nilenet.com; 303-955-8167

Webmaster:

Eric D. Richhart, PDC, Camp 1
3844 South Danbury Cir.,
Magna, UT 84044;
refoals1@msn.com;