

# Calendar

## Secession

### Civil War Reenactment and Encampment

**I** call myself 'Terry Ann' rather than 'Terry' during reenactments," says Terry Hollaway of Escondido. "'Terry' wasn't a common woman's name during the Civil War era. It was much more often a man's name."

Hollaway is a member of the Southern California Reenactors League and an organizer of a reenactment scheduled for this weekend. "A good number" of female reenactors disguise themselves as men and participate in the battles, she says. "They find that for them the soldier's part is the most interesting one to play. Most of them try to conceal the fact that they are women, just as they would have done back then. But my role at the

#### LOCAL EVENTS

upcoming event will be much more like what traditional women's roles

were at the time. As part of the Georgia Hospital and Relief Association I will look after the generals" — i.e., Robert E. Lee and Ulysses S. Grant — "and I will see to the physical welfare of the soldiers."

If you've read *Confederates in the Attic*, Tony Horwitz's best-seller of a few years ago, your impression may be that all reenactors are compelled to be so-called "hard core," smearing their beards with bacon grease and starving themselves gaunt. But Hollaway says reenactors decide for themselves how far and in what direction they want to go in the name of authenticity.

Hollaway, for her part, designed her own period-correct dress — brown with black stripes on the sleeves and across the bust and hemline. "It's a style worn by big supporters of the

military — a very patriotic dress."

Reenactors invent all sorts of personae and activities, depending upon their talents, fantasies, and personal circumstances, says the 47-year-old high school special-education teacher. The surgically inclined may want to see limbs. Photographers may want to shoot pictures rather than guns, à la Mathew Brady. The displaced-citizenry slot can work out nicely for parents. "An infant was brought to a recent reenactment," Hollaway recalls. "It's a family hobby, so children come, too. During the war, there were families who had to leave home, because battles were being fought close by. And in order to find safety, they might stay at the army's camp, because that would have afforded them some protection."

Like regular actors, reenactors use props. "Many soldiers will carry a haversack, and some will unpack the contents for you or already have it laid out on their bedroll. And inside they will have what would most likely have been found in someone's haversack at that time — things like a pocket testament, hand-carved pipe, leather pouch of tobacco, some wooden matches, a daguerreotype of a loved one, money, a letter from home. And they'll use the items to tell you about themselves."

California isn't considered an ideal place for reenactments, being limited by its lack of authentic battlefields and often by its flat terrain. One option is to settle for recreating a generic battle. This Saturday and Sunday, however, in North County, some 200 participants will reenact scenes from Gettysburg, complete with cavalry.

"The event falls on Gettysburg's anniversary [July 1-3, 1863]," Hollaway notes. "That's one reason why it was chosen. The second scenario on Saturday, for example, will be the portion of the battle known as Little Round Top, and we'll use the little hill that's at the site to our advantage. We'll have the Union soldiers up on the hill, and the Confederates will try to take over that position."

How does a reenactor decide which side to be on? "If you like very military, regimental, regular-army strictness, then you may want to be a reenactor for the North. And if you are a more individualist kind of person, you may want to be for the South." Only Southerners, after all, can legitimately whoop the infamous rebel yell, invented in 1861 by Stonewall Jackson at the First Battle of Manassas



Civil War reenactors

(called Bull Run by Yankees).

Hollaway has a foot in both camps, literally. "I belong to the 10th Georgia Volunteer Infantry. But I also belong to the 6th U.S. Regulars, which was stationed in San Diego in the beginning of the Civil War and then got transferred to Washington, D.C. I began reenacting with the [latter] group, and my 19-year-old son, Eric, still reenacts with them. But my 17-year-old son, Ryan, reenacts with the 10th Georgia, because we do this for the love of history, rather than any political motivation."

This weekend's reenactment is expected to draw a crowd of 3000 spectators. The noise may surprise first-timers. "There are several artillery batteries. Oh, yes, it's very loud. In fact, people who have never been to a reenactment don't realize that the sound and shock of the artillery will set

off their car alarms."

So as not to spoil the 19th-century illusion, cars will be parked off-site. People will be shuttled to the battlefield in hay wagons.

— Jeanne Schinto

**A Civil War Reenactment and Encampment**  
**Saturday and Sunday,**  
**June 30 and July 1**  
**10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**  
**Live battles: Saturday,**  
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Terry Hollaway (far left)

**Local Events**  
*page 57*

**Classical Music**  
*page 72*

**Art Museums & Galleries**  
*page 74*

**Theater**  
*page 75*

**Pop Music**  
*page 81*

**Restaurants**  
*page 117*

**Movies**  
*page 126*