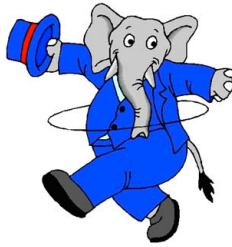


President's Message  
April, 2011



### Annual Animal, Vegetable, Mineral Members' Forum

This was the fifth annual AVM forum and member participation was at a high point. It was evident from the start that the presentations were inspired and very clever. Each year seems to bring some of the most interesting subjects to light. The only handicap to a subject is that it cannot be about a Civil War general, person or battle. The results are always interesting and intriguing. A summary of these informative nuggets is as follows:

167 momentous words that led to Civil War	Tom Lubas
Substitute gunpowder ingredient	Wally Lowry
Maggots and gangrene	Dr. Gospe
Two stage rocket design	Barney Hays
Confederate currency and vegetables	Dean Enderlin
Greenbacks	David Schleeter
Tomatoes	Vicky Seekamp
Trivia	Vern Gullickson
Niter or is it nitrate	Pam Seekamp
Frying Pan Market	Chuck Seekamp
West Point studies	John Anderson
The first heads	Bob Bissiri
Camels	Bob O'Connor
Salt	Judy Lubas
Mourning periods	Rebekah Thomas
Soldiers pets	Paul Sofranko

One could fabricate quite a tale using all these tidbits.

The Lawrence Cook Middle School contest is on! The teachers are preparing for the pre judging. As you know the round table pays for the cash prizes and the dinners for the students and their teachers. This year I am pleased to announce a donation from the "Friends of Alcatraz" to help subsidize this event. Their board of directors have generously agreed to a \$300 donation.

**We will meet one week later on May 25 to accommodate the students.**

The good news kept coming. Don VanAucker informed the membership of not only the "Friends of Alcatraz" donation but of \$200 he received from past member Frank St. Peter that had been misplaced in a storage box. Our thanks to Frank.

The final tally for the year shows we have grown in numbers; and that is a good thing. Keep your eyes and ears open for those you feel would be interested in our group.

We have had very successful raffles lately thanks in large part to Vicky the raffle lady and contributions from Don VanAucker, the Seekamps and the Hays'.

Those members that attended the private screening of the movie "The Conspirator" were treated to a fine movie and a Q and A held by one of the producers of this Robert Redford directed film. The film is based on the trial of Mary Surratt. She was convicted and hung as a participant in the Lincoln assassination. After the movie we felt obligated to dine at the Spinnaker in Sausalito. We are on the mailing list for future historical films.

Finally the table we hosted at the Santa Rosa Rural Cemetery Civil War Commemoration gave us some good leads for new members.

My thanks to the membership for making our round table the special group it is. I look forward to each month's meetings

Tom Lubas  
President  
North Bay Civil War Round Table