

THIS WAS THE CIVIL WAR

First Shot Fired in Civil War

By MERTON T. AKERS
UPI Correspondent

The Civil War started at 4:30 a.m., April 12, 1861, at Charleston, S.C., when Confederate batteries opened fire on Ft. Sumter.

War came like this: "And at last there was a quick flash, like heat lightning, off beyond the unseen marshland and a sudden red spark climbed up the black sky, seemed to hang motionless for a final instant directly overhead, and then came plunging down, to explode in great light and rocking sound that would reverberate across the land and mark an end and a beginning."

The target of that first shot of the Civil War—the bloodiest in American history—was Maj. Robert Anderson and his garrison of 85 federal soldiers, beleaguered since the day after Christmas in the pile of masonry that was Ft. Sumter which coked Charleston Harbor and had grown into the symbol of the Union—the Union which the South held to be divisible and the North held to be indivisible.

The shot marked the end of 30 years of suspense during which the two halves of the country snarled at each other over secession and the extension of slavery.

Beginning of Whole Nation

It marked, too, the beginning of a whole nation which in less than a century would lead the free world.

People who were there that chilly night in the hours before dawn tell the story of the bombardment of Ft. Sumter.

Brig. Gen. Pierre Gustave Toutant Beauregard, commander of the Confederate forces at Charleston, starts:

"The peaceful stillness of the night was broken just before dawn. From Ft. Johnson's mortar battery . . . issued the first—and, as many thought, the too-long deferred signal shell of the war. It sped aloft, and, bursting over Ft. Sumter, fell, with crashing noise, in the very center of the parade . . . Thus was 'reville' sounded in Charleston and its harbor. The eventful morning, in an instant all was bustle and activity. The citizens poured down to the Battery and the wharves, and women and children crowded each window of

the houses overlooking the sea—rapt spectators of the scene . . .

Mary Boykin Chestnut, wife of Col. James Chestnut, a former U.S. senator who was an aide to Beauregard, wrote that morning in her diary:

"I do not pretend to go to sleep. How can I? If Anderson does not accept terms at four, the orders are, he shall be fired upon. I count four. St. Michael's bells chime out and I begin to hope. At half past four the heavy booming of cannon. I sprang out of bed, and on my knees prostrate I prayed as I never prayed before . . . I put on my double gown and a shawl and went . . . to the house top . . . the shells were bursting . . . I knew my husband was rowing about somewhere in that dark bay and the shells were roofing it over . . . The women were wild on the housetop. Prayers came from them and imprecations from the men . . . Somebody came in just now and reported Col. Chestnut was asleep on a sofa in Gen. Beauregard's room."

Capt. Stephen D. Lee, another aide to Beauregard who, with Col. Chestnut, had demanded the surrender of Sumter an hour before, carried the word to a Confederate battery at Ft. Johnson to fire the first shot. With him was Roger A. Pryor, Virginia congressman, who earlier had made a speech in Charleston demanding action against Sumter. Lee picks up the story:

"Capt. George S. James, commanding the battery at that point . . . was a great admirer of Pryor, and said to him: 'You are the only man to whom I would give up the honor of firing the first shot of the war'; and he offered to let him fire it. Pryor, on receiving the offer was very much agitated. With a husky voice, he said, 'I could not fire the first gun of the war' . . . Capt. James would allow no one else but himself to fire the gun."

Edmund Ruffin, fire-eating Virginia secessionist, had come down to see the fight. He often is credited with firing the first shot but he apparently was the second.

Anderson did not return the fire until the sun was up, well after 7 a.m.

Capt. Abner Doubleday, second in command at Sumter, wrote:

"When it was broad daylight, I went down to breakfast . . . Our party was calm and even somewhat merry . . . Our meal was not very sumptuous. It consisted of (salt) pork and water, but Dr. (Samuel) Crawford (the fort surgeon) triumphantly brought forth a little farina which he had found in the corner of the hospital . . . My company was told off in three details for firing purposes."

"In aiming the first gun against the rebellion I had no feeling of self-reproach, for I fully believed the contest to be inevitable. My first shot bounded off from the sloping roof of the battery opposite without producing an apparent effect . . .

The firing continued all through the 12th of April, without any special incidents . . . and without our making much impression on the enemy's works . . . The night was an anxious one for us, for it was possible the enemy might attempt an attack . . . but nothing unusual occurred . . .

"At 8 a.m. (April 13th) the officers' quarters were ignited by a shot heated in the furnace at Ft. Moultrie . . .

"By 11 a.m. the conflagration was terrible and disastrous. One-fifth of the fort was on fire . . .

"About 12:48 p.m. the end of the flagstaff was shot down and the flag fell." (It was refloated in a few minutes.)

Dr. Crawford describes the last hours:

"The formal and final terms were presented to Anderson . . . at 7 p.m. (April 13) . . . it was arranged that he should leave in the morning . . . The fort was a scene of ruin and desolation. For 34 hours it had sustained a bombardment from 17 10-inch mortars and heavy guns . . . With only four barrels of powder available the command at last yielded to the inevitable . . .

What of Lincoln's relief fleet which stood off the Charleston bar on the 12th and 13th?

Capt. Gustavus Fox, later assistant secretary of navy, accompanied the expedition and tells why the fleet did not help Anderson:

"As we neared the land, heavy guns were heard . . . Captain Rowan of the Pawnee (one of the expedition's vessels) . . . (declared) his intention of standing into the harbor and sharing the fate of his Army brethren . . . I informed him the government did not expect any such gallant sacrifice . . .

Confederate Gen. Beauregard again:

"Owing to unavoidable delays . . . (the fort's) formal transfer did not take place until 4 o'clock in the afternoon of Sunday, the 14th of April . . .

Maj. Anderson was permitted to fire a salute to his flag and then he and his men went aboard one of the ships in the fleet to return to New York and a hero's welcome. Tucked under Anderson's arm was Sumter's Union flag. He would raise it over the fort again in four years to the day.

The Confederates had fired 3,341 shots, the federals less than half that without any casualties on either side until the flag salute.

Then Pvt. Daniel Hough of Battery E, 1st U.S. Artillery, was killed by the premature explosion of a gun and five were wounded. Hough was buried on the Sumter parade ground with military honors, the first of the half million who would die. Pvt. Edward Galoway died five days later in a Charleston hospital, the second. The others recovered.

Gov. Francis Pickens of South Carolina made a full blown victory speech, ending on a note more prophetic than he may have realized:

"We perhaps may have just commenced the opening of events that may not end in our day and generation."

("From 'This Hallowed Ground' by Bruce Catton. Used by permission of Doubleday and Co., publishers.)

Medford police estimated crowds watching the parade between 7,000 and 9,000.

Hemingway. Following the parade, Hemingway said it was a "great and wonderful thing," and hoped that it would become "bigger and better," if possible, to an amused crowd he declared his future "possibilities were unlimited," considering predecessors to his job as parade marshal. The 1960 parade official was President John F. Kennedy. Both Hemingway and his wife were declared honorary members of the Pear Blossom Festival association.

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Math Students To Attend 10-Week Training Program

Portland — "Gifted" high school math students who wish to apply for the 10-week college level training program this summer must have applications in the mail by Wednesday, Dr. Robert W. Rempfer, who will direct the project, announced Saturday.

The project, made possible by a \$10,000 grant from the National Science Foundation, is sponsored by Portland center of the general extension division and Portland State college. About two dozen gifted high school students will be admitted, Rempfer said.

Following basic screening by high school officials, candidates will be given a highly competitive written examination by the college mathematics staff. Students applying must have completed sophomore or junior year by summer.

Receive Half of Expenses

Rempfer said that students admitted to the special course will receive approximately half of their expenses from the NSF grant. Some community groups are planning to supply the other half for outstanding students of their area, he added.

The successful candidates' key high school teachers will be invited to audit the course.

Others on the special faculty are Dr. Thurman S. Peterson, chairman of Portland State science division; Dr. Eleanor Lawry, instructor in mathematics for Portland center, GED; Dr. J. Richard Byrne, associate professor of mathematics, PSC and Portland center; Harold Hendler, high school math instructor from Valley Stream, N.Y.

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M. O. Walker, 2295 Crestbrook Rd., Med.
Arthur B. Polk, 1360 Quincy, Ashland
John P. Eaton, 936 S. Riverside, Medford
John M. Luttrell, 357 Sutter Ave., Medford
Donald W. Meadows, Coker Butte Rd., Med.
R. W. Zimmerman, 5923 Table Rock, Med.
Sam Jennings, 1605 Ridgeway, Medford
Mrs. Cora Chandler, 718 Sherman, Medford
O. R. Gonderman, 414 Alice, Medford
N. E. Judy, Jacksonville-Phoenix Rd.
G. C. Haptonstall, 503 Walnut, Ashland
Roland Myers, 1425 Dakota, Medford
Clifford Crosby, 370 Lozier Lane, Medford
Frances D. Fry Sr., 79 Reager, Medford
Osa E. Waggoner Jr., 203 3rd, Phoenix
Ralph A. Wiese, 2939 Madrona Lane, Med.
Homer Brown, Old State Rd., Central Pt.
Leroy F. Stuart, 315 Marie, Medford
Willard Mattson, 911 Queen Anne, Medford
Robt. C. Beatty, 1799 Myers Lane, Medford
James M. Burk, 340 1/2 N. Central, Medford
Clifford E. Miller, 1049 W. 11th, Medford
Richard E. Baird, 2780 Lone Pine, Medford
James A. Guss, 845 Manzanita, Central Pt.
Don D. Hennings, 813 Broad, Medford
Jack G. Sparling, 305 Beatty, Medford
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Pear Blossom Festival Parade Winners Listed

A complete listing of winners in the eighth annual Pear Blossom Festival parade Saturday have been announced by parade officials as follows:

Individuals — Mike and Mark Lamond and Tony Norris, first, \$10; Terry McLean, second, \$5; Molly Wilson, third, \$2.50; Mike Ponder, fourth, \$2.50; Susan Gifford, fifth, \$2.50; Joy Huntmann, sixth, \$2.50; Diana Lynn Davis, seventh, \$2.50; Shari Jewett, eighth, \$2.50; Tom Schmidt, ninth, \$2.50; and Patty Shute, tenth, \$2.50.

Animals and pets, Christine Hayes, Mike Bailey, and Shelley Hayse, first, \$10; Greg Graff, second, \$5; Norman F. Garrett, third, \$2.50; Royce Lull, fourth, \$2.50; Emily Corey, fifth, \$2.50; Laura Ann Fountain, sixth, \$2.50; and Marilyn O'dell, seventh, \$2.50.

Vehicle Decoration — Cub Pack 48, first, \$10; Brownie Troop 88, second, \$5; Nancy Bridenstine, third, \$2.50; Darcy Middleton, fourth, \$2.50; Sally Daniels, fifth, \$2.50; Susan Bullard and Linda Rombo, sixth, \$2.50; Cynda Williams, Kathy Glass, and Peggy Sheppard, seventh, \$2.50; Jeannette Bezzoff, eighth, \$2.50; Susan Kimbal, ninth, \$2.50; and Lynn Roethler, tenth, \$2.50.

Costumed Walking Groups — Jon Thurman, first, \$10; Carol Huntley, second, \$5; Charles Peterson children and Bruce Braten children, third, \$2.50; Betty Gay Coffman and Rebecca Morris, fourth, \$2.50; Sara Collins, fifth, \$2.50; Brownie Troop 4, sixth, \$2.50; Talent Campfire girls, seventh, \$2.50; Cub Scout Pack 4, eighth, \$2.50; Brownie Troop 43, ninth, \$2.50; and Colleen Hope Dance studio, tenth, \$2.50.

Organizational Floats—Cub Scout Pack 1, first, \$20; St. Mary's third-grade Brownie Troop 176, second, \$10; Class 6-Ma Jackson school, third, \$5; Cub Scout Pack 48, Den 1, fourth, \$5; and Medford Moose lodge, fifth, \$5.

Sweepstakes
Grand sweepstakes awards went to Mrs. Lorraine L. Johnson and Mrs. Genniel

Spurrl for the best theme portrayed, \$50; Brownie Troop 13 for the best float design, \$25; and to Krista Hord, Jason Hord, Victor Haas, and Kristen Casey, for the best comic entry, \$25.

All contestants also were awarded green ribbons for participating in the parade, according to Elliott Becken, judging chairman.

Judges for the affair included Mrs. Eleanor Hamilton and Mrs. Elsie Reneau, individuals; Bob Stedman, Bill Stoughton, and Miss Laura York, animals and pets; Mrs. Nita Birdseye and Mrs. Mildred Schwendener, vehicles; Mrs. Marjorie and Mrs. Della Weber, costumed walking group; Mrs. Margaret Nesheim and Mrs. Ruth Kaye, organizational floats; Warren Wolf and Mrs. Janet Trowbridge, grand sweepstakes.

There were no entrants in a sixth category previously announced for commercial entries.

Winner Again
Parade officials noted that the first place winner in the organizational division, Cub Scout Pack 1, was also the first place winner in the same division last year and was the grand sweepstakes winner.

Using a "Pears in Fantasy-Land" theme, this is the first year that entries were to be in the non-powered category, officials added.

Presentation of the awards was made during special ceremonies after the parade in Hawthorne park. Russ Jamison acted as master of ceremonies, and Arthur Wood, president of the Pear Blossom Festival association awarded the prizes. Reigning over the affair were the king and queen chosen earlier.

King of the parade and festival was Donald Emery, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald E. Emery, 112 Summit ave., Medford. Named festival queen was Teresa Lynn Stickley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Stickley, 509 Beatty st., also Medford.

"Great and Wonderful"
Parade marshal was the American Broadcasting system news commentator Frank



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