

From: [Michael Ramirez-Mares](#)
To: [Ramirez-Mares, Michael;](#)
CC:
Subject: Randsburg
Date: Monday, April 07, 2008 8:40:04 AM
Attachments:

From: MICHAEL T JOHNSON DDS
Sent: Monday, April 07, 2008 12:04 AM
To: Michael Ramirez-Mares
Subject: Re: Randsburg

Mike-

Was very interested to receive your email. I pass through Randsburg from time to time, and always like to drive by the plaque to kind of check on it and see how it is faring. I always point it out to my passengers, whether Clampers or not. I do have clear memories of the dedication, because it was the first time I ever got to speak at a Clamper event. I didn't know beforehand that I was going to, and was asked at the very last minute to do so. I was very, very nervous but managed to get the job done. I still think that getting to speak to the assembled Clampers at a doins is one of the very neatest things that I have ever gotten to do in Clamperdom. I'm Clamphistorian now and have written a ton of articles since then, but at the time I was just the new kid and kind of an unknown quantity. Sid is listed as editor, but he had nothing to do whatsoever with the history. He spoke at the dedication, but did not touch at all on the actual history. Him being listed as "editor" is the price that had to be paid by anyone new being allowed to speak in place of the more exalted persons in the chapter, but that was fine with me because it got my foot in the door for getting to write other history articles and speak at plaque dedications. I submitted the article and they printed it just as I had sent it to them, there wasn't any "editing" done to it at all.

We camped right in the city dump, which is now replaced by a facility with a bunch of dumpsters for the locals' trash, but then was just a dirt field with old washing machines, etc. scattered all over the place. I also remember that nobody knew how many pins to order for a four-way event and they didn't want to run out,

so they ordered literally 3 times too many. We tried for many years to sell the pins at a reduced price, but could never get rid of them all. I was storekeeper during some of that time, and I tried combining them with other pins as a "set" and all kinds of other stuff to sell them, but never finally got rid of them until Smitty (Mike Smith) and I gave the last ones away for free at Grand Council. I always joked about making a boat anchor out of them, we had so many. The concrete part of the monument is now painted a sort of reddish brown color, not just gray cement color, and to my way of thinking looks nice and neat. It looks like the locals take good care of it, because it always looks clean and shiny. I don't have anything at all in the way of photos, and was sort of taken back in time by seeing the picture of the pin. Those four points were sharp and I moved mine around on my vest several times before I got it somewhere that it didn't poke me all the time! I pulled out my old copy of the keepsake, and the printing and design is pretty basic. We've come a long ways since then and they look a lot nicer now, but this was back when I just barely had a computer, and wrote the article with the Lotuswork program. The computer program didn't have any font selection at all, the tractor-feed printer had 5 or 6 different fonts to choose from, so all those early articles that I wrote all look pretty much the same. I had never even heard of saving something on a disk, just printed a copy and the printers made copies of that.

Anyway, hope at least some of that is of interest to you. I kind of have a special place in my heart for that plaque and article, it was when I was very first getting involved in my chapter after joining in 1980. Let me know if I can ever be of any assistance, and thanks for the heads up. It brings back lots of old memories. I look forward to speaking with you face to face somewhere down the Clamper trail.

Clampfraternally,

Mike Johnson

This email contained active HTML components (links to some website) which were disabled as a precaution against the spread of unwanted spam and viruses.