

commentary

from other pens...

Civil War divides West Point graduates

When Robert E. Lee, a former superintendent of the U.S. Military Academy, hurled a Confederate division at the Union lines in Gettysburg, Pa., scores of former West Point cadets commanded troops on both sides of the battle lines.

The July 3, 1863, attack was led by Confederate Gen. George E. Pickett, Class of 1846. Pickett's Charge was repulsed with historic consequences by the Army of the Potomac, commanded by Gen. George Gordon Meade, Class of 1835.

The Civil War as combat between graduates of a single institution is one of many war stories in a new exhibit, "West Point in the Making of America, 1802-1918," at the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of American History.

It celebrates the academy's bicentennial, focusing on the years up to World War I and highlighting the role of West Pointers in exploring, mapping and building the new nation.

More than three years in the making, the exhibit was conceived long before the current policy dispute over the possible invasion of Iraq, a potential conflict in which graduates of West Point and other military academies would play leading roles.

Exhibit highlights include the chairs Lee, Class of 1829, and Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant, Class of 1845, used when they signed the terms for the surrender at Appomattox Court House, Va., on April 9, 1865.

Near the exhibit's end is a recreation of the war room maintained by Gen. John J. Pershing, Class of 1886, at Chaumont, France, as he commanded the American Expeditionary Force in World War I. Filling one wall is the situation map showing the final positions of U.S. and German forces on Nov. 11, 1918, the day the armistice was signed.

The exhibit is as much about nation building and the varied pursuits of early academy graduates as about war and combat.

"From mapping the American West to building the Washington Monument to mobilizing troops for World War I, West Pointers have shaped the America we know," said Marc Pachter, the museum's acting director.

The Washington Monument appears as a model, slender and sharp-pointed. It's there because Thomas Lincoln Casey, Class of 1852, took over the long abandoned project in 1877. He redesigned the monument, rebuilt its foundations, supervised its construction and personally capped it off with a block of aluminum.

The exhibit chronicles the use of West Pointers in major engineering and construction projects including highways, aqueducts, railroads, bridges and the Panama Canal and the Capitol dome.

Maj. Gen. Gouverneur Kemble Warren, Class of 1850, is featured for drawing in 1859 the first complete map of the United States west of the Mississippi. Artifacts from Plains Indians that Warren collected during his explorations also are shown.

The exhibit includes the fringed buckskin coat worn by George Armstrong Custer, Class of 1861, who fought Indians on the Great Plains before he and much of his command were killed at the Little Big Horn.

Further along in time is a Thompson submachine gun, "the Tommy gun," described as "the gun that made the twenties roar." Its designer: John T. Thompson, Class of 1882.

Less assertive is a copy of Robert's Rules of Order, a manual for the conduct of orderly meetings. It was issued in 1876 by Henry Martyn Robert, Class of 1857.

The Civil War section points out that 151 Confederate and 294 Union generals were West Point graduates and that former cadets commanded both sides in 55 of the war's 60 major battles.

That the conflict was a West Pointer's war is driven home by U.S. Grant's commission as an Army captain issued early in his career.

The document is signed by Jefferson Davis. The future Confederate president was then the U.S. secretary of war. Davis graduated from West Point in the Class of 1828.

EDITOR'S NOTE — Lawrence L. Knutson has reported on Congress, the White House and Washington's history for 35 years.

Jimmy Carter wins Nobel Peace Prize...



Congress gives Bush war powers...



October 11, 2002...



... a day that will live in irony.



October is pizza month

Among food service circles October is known as pizza month. The crust is the closest thing to "personality" a pizza has. The following two recipes are from Fleishmann's Yeast.

CHOOSE-YOUR-OWN-TOPPING PIZZA

- 3 to 3 1/2 cups all purpose flour
- 1 envelope Fleishmann's RapidRise Yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 cup very warm water (120 to 130 degrees)
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- toppings of your choice

In a large bowl combine 1 cup flour, undissolved yeast and salt. Add water and oil to the flour mixture. Beat 2 minutes at medium speed with an electric mixer, scraping bowl occasionally. Stir in enough remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic, about 8 to 10 minutes. Cover and let rest 10 minutes.

Roll dough to 14 inch circle. Place on 14 inch pizza pan that has been brushed with olive oil. Prick dough randomly with a fork. Let rest 10 minutes. Partially bake at 400 degree for 5 minutes. Remove from the oven and top with your choice of toppings. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 minutes or until crust is golden. Serve warm.

Topping choices

Sauces: homemade or prepared pizza, tomato or spaghetti sauce, pesto, salsa, barbecue sauce,



pat schiefen

• postscript

hoisin sauce

Cheeses: mozzarella, Cheddar, Swiss, Monterey Jack, Parmesan, Brie, feta, Muenster, blue, fontina
Meat/Seafood: pepperoni, salami, ham, cooked bacon or sausage, smoked turkey, roasted chicken, anchovies, clams, shrimp

Vegetables: tomatoes, bell peppers, summer squash, onions, mushrooms, olives, carrots, broccoli, artichoke hearts, jalapeno peppers. To prevent soggy pizza, slice vegetables thinly and don't overload pizza. Also lightly cooked, drained vegetables can be used.

Seasonings: garlic, basil, rosemary, oregano, thyme, fresh parsley or cilantro, crushed red peppers

DEEP DISH HAM AND ONION PIZZA

- 3 to 3 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 envelope Fleishmann's RapidRise Yeast
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried rosemary, crushed
- 1 cup very warm water (120 to 130 degrees)

- 2 tablespoon olive or vegetable oil
- 1 large egg
- 3/4 cup prepared pizza sauce
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1 cup (4 ounces) shredded provolone or Swiss cheese

Ham and Onion topping

- 1 pound yellow onion, sliced
- 1 tablespoon olive oil or vegetable oil
- 1/2 cup (3 ounces) cooked ham strips (Cook onions in oil for 5 minutes, stirring and add ham. Cook 5 to 10 minutes until onions are tender.)

In a large bowl, combine 1 cup flour, undissolved yeast, salt and rosemary. Gradually add water and oil to flour mixture. Beat 2 minutes with an electric mixer for two minutes at medium speed, scraping bowl occasionally. Add egg and 1 cup flour and beat two minutes on high speed. Stir in enough of the remaining flour to make a soft dough. Knead on lightly floured surface until smooth and elastic about 8 to 10 minutes. Cover and let rest for 10 minutes.

Roll dough on bottom and 1 inch up the sides of 13 x 9 inch pan that has been brushed with oil. Spread sauce evenly over dough and sprinkle with cheeses. Top evenly with Ham and Onion topping. Cover and let rise in warm and draft free place for 20 minutes. Bake at 400 degrees for 20 to 25 minutes or until crust is golden. Serve warm.

Blue Cross decision Sebelius' campaign cornerstone

BENNINGTON — At 53, John Ellis sports a ponytail, plays bass guitar and acknowledges his politics lean toward the liberal side, though he may sometimes vote Republican in local elections.

Preparing recently for a jam session at this small town's senior center, in a converted white clapboard United Methodist Church, he declared that he'll probably vote for Democrat Kathleen Sebelius in the governor's race.

He liked Sebelius' decision in February as insurance commissioner to block the proposed sale of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, the state's largest health insurance company, to Anthem Insurance Companies Inc., of Indianapolis, which has about 10 million policyholders in nine states.

The companies have criticized Sebelius and said she is blocking a proposal designed to keep Blue Cross financially healthy. In June, a Shawnee County judge declared that Sebelius had no valid legal reason to block the sale, saying she based it on "mere speculation."

But Sebelius has made her ruling an important part of her campaign for governor, arguing that it shows she has the courage to stand up to powerful special interests.

"She's putting up a good fight on that," Ellis said. "That's getting down to the common man."

Sebelius has mentioned the decision repeatedly while campaigning against Republican nominee Tim Shallenburger and in her television advertising.

For example, one ad, "Real Difference," showed a headline praising her decision while an announcer intoned: "One leader's made a real difference for the people of Kansas."

"I think it's playing very well," said Democratic State Chairman Tom Sawyer. "It definitely picks her up votes."



john hanna

• ap news analysis

Blue Cross actively sought the sale, arguing its long-term survival depended on new markets and greater access to capital.

Anthem planned to pay \$190 million to acquire the Kansas company, and Blue Cross would have distributed at least \$142 million of Anthem's funds and \$131 million of its existing reserves to policyholders, who own the Kansas insurer.

Blue Cross has 45 percent of the Kansas health insurance market, with 172,000 group and individual policies covering 400,000 people; another 315,000 people work for employers who self-insure but have their plans administered by the Blues.

The possibility of Kansas Blue Cross' conversion into part of a publicly held, out-of-state corporation drew opposition from many Kansas doctors, hospitals and nurses, as well as an advocacy group for poor and working-class families.

In Bennington, about 100 miles west of Topeka, Ellis, a Blue Cross policyholder, was most concerned that his insurer would become part of an out-of-state firm. He spoke about politics as he and other members of the Kansas Country band set up for an afternoon performance.

"I think we need local hometown insurance," he said.

Sebelius concluded that premiums for people insured by Blue Cross would have increased too much if it were purchased by Anthem. But District Judge Terry Bullock said Sebelius' reasons weren't

good enough under Kansas law.

She appealed to the Kansas Supreme Court, which isn't likely to rule until after she leaves the commissioner's office in January.

Shallenburger hasn't criticized her decision, though recently he suggested her motives were political.

"I'm not sure it was for the right reasons, and I'm not sure her legal arguments will hold water," Shallenburger said.

Other Republicans acknowledged that Sebelius' decision had enough popular appeal to ward off attacks.

"I think the voters liked that decision," said Sen. Sandy Praeger, R-Lawrence, chairwoman of her chamber's Financial Institutions and Insurance Committee and the GOP nominee for insurance commissioner.

Praeger added: "I don't think there's anything to be gained politically by disapproving of her decision."

In Bennington, Ellis' opinions support Praeger's assessment.

He said of Sebelius: "I like the way she stood up to Blue Cross-Blue Shield."

AP Political Writer John Hanna has been covering politics and state government for the Associated Press since 1987.

berry's world



"HEY — WOOLLY BEAR CATERPILLAR, WHAT KIND OF A WINTER ARE WE GOING TO HAVE?"

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