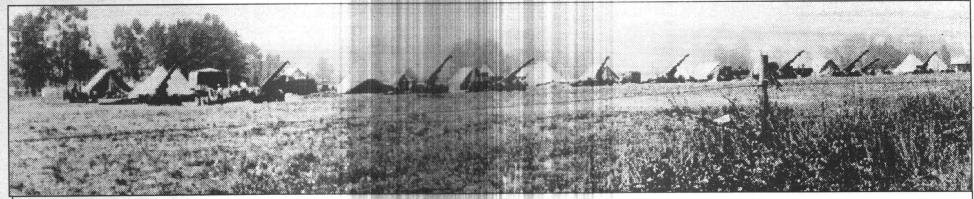
Firing at Camp McQuaide



An artillery military reservation — a very unusual sight in Santa Cruz County, or for that matter in the state of California.

Photo provided by Richard Nutter

by Carolyn Swift

ichard Nutter of the Soquel Pioneer Historical Society recently brought the Capitola Museum a rare photograph of the artillery guns at the summer encampment of Camp McQuaide in Capitola.

Evidently, the 63rd Coast Artillery Regiment had first set up an anti-aircraft battalion on

Delaware Street in Santa Cruz in the fall of 1924. The site was so bad the Army told Mayor Fred Swanton it wouldn't be from Hihn's Field, the eventual back unless he could find a bet- site of the Capitola Airport. ter field.

base on the California coast came to Capitola in 1926, first McQuaide, and was the only as the 63rd Coast Artillery and then as the 250th Coast United States to be so named. Artillery.

summer encampment were built County, McQuaide was born in along Park Avenue, near El 1867, and was a graduate of

Salto Resort, Every summer, the guns would fire at targets attached to airplanes that flew

Camp McQuaide was evi-So the only anti-aircraft dently named for a National Guard Chaplain, Joseph P. military reservation in the According to Donald T. Clark Permanent barracks for the in Place Names of Santa Cruz

Santa Clara University who served both in the Spanish American War and World War I. He died March 29, 1924, about the time the encampment was founded.

Camp McQuaide stayed in Capitola every summer through 1936, when the announcement was made that it had worn out its welcome. Piqued, the Santa Cruz Sentinel slapped the wrists of local poultry ranchers who had complained.

"Poultrymen in the Capitola region who used to complain that the noise of the big guns kept their hens from laying and frightened the chicks nearly to death, can rest without fear of further demoralization of their feathered flocks," it announced in a September issue.

In 1938, Camp McQuaide moved to a new site between Manresa and Sunset beaches on San Andreas Road, and is today the home of the Monterey Bay Academy.