



# WHITESMOKE SUN / COURIER

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## "2ND SERGEANT'S KAOS"

2nd Sergeant Michael Bazzo

Let me thank the men of Company E for their consideration and confidence in voting me as 2nd sergeant. I will discharge my duties to the best of my abilities and uphold the flag of the great State of Louisiana. Now my monthly article - **Living on Southern Kindness**

In 1868, former Union Army sergeant Gilbert H. Bates, determined to prove to a friend that Southern hospitality and kindness surpassed any deep seeded anger that the southern people felt after the war toward Unionists. He resolved to March through the south carrying a rather large American flag, alone, and without a weapon. So convinced was he of his former enemies' duty of charity to others that he carried no money or food and planned to depend solely on the kindness and patriotism of southerners for food and lodging. Beginning in Vicksburg, he marched for three months across the ravaged and scorched land that had succumbed to Sherman's march. Everywhere he went, Bates recorded that he was met with kindness and compassion. Many families took him into their homes. In town after town, children, their schools recessed for the occasion, had strewn his path with flowers. Farm girls prepared and brought with them sumptuous meals and waited long hours on isolated country roads for his passing. Thousands of Confederate Army veterans traveled many miles to meet him and shake his hand. His celebrated journey culminated in a triumphal parade through downtown Richmond. He successfully proved that southern kindness would triumph over all. He recorded his journey in a pam-

phlet published in June 1868 titled *The Triumphal March of Sergeant Bates from Vicksburg to Washington.*