The background features a large, faint circular seal. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CCC ALUMNI" in a serif font. In the center of the seal is a stylized illustration of a tree with a person standing beneath it, possibly representing a CCC worker or a conservationist. The seal is rendered in a light green or yellowish tone, matching the overall color scheme of the cover.

Third Biennial Convention of the National Association of CCC Alumni

Eagle River, Wisconsin

September 20-23, 1983

***Commemorating the 50th Anniversary
of the Civilian Conservation Corps***

50th ANNIVERSARY — 1933-1983

OF THE

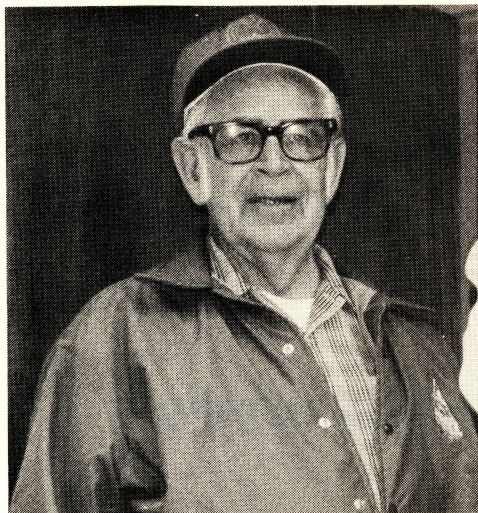
CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS



WE REMEMBER . . .

PREPARED BY DON PRESSER,
NICOLET COLLEGE JOURNALISM STUDENT

A Word From The President of Hosting Chapter 23, William Wolff, Jr.



I would like to thank all the good CCC buddies who contributed a part of their CCC lives to make these pages a memorable part of our Golden Anniversary Year. The stories, the pictures, and your monetary contributions have been a most heart warming part in planning for the convention in Eagle River. If perhaps, your picture or story did not make it in these pages, I trust you will understand that the number of pages had to be limited, and the committee had to select from hundreds of contributions.

I would also like to thank the officers and members of Chapter 23 from the Rhinelander, Eagle River, St. Germain, Three Lakes, Woodruff and Star Lake areas. You are to be commended for the contribution of time and energy expended for nearly two years to make, not only this book, but more important, our 50th Anniversary celebration a never to be forgotten event.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to a multitude of other organizations that helped make this event possible:

To the U.S. Forest Service, without whose assistance this commemorative event may very well have been impossible. I'd especially like to thank the district and headquarters offices of the Nicolet and Chequamegon National Forests.

To the Eagle River Chamber of Commerce, the student and faculty members of Nicolet College, the U.S. Army representatives, the Wisconsin Christmas Tree Growers Association, the Wisconsin Association of County Forests, the Wisconsin Forest History Association, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources and the Society of American Foresters. Chapter 23 is richer for having your friendly participation, guidance and cooperation.

To Trees For Tomorrow, a special salute must go to their staff for their continued support in hosting the semi-annual reunions of Chapter 23, their cooperation in registering convention delegates, for the publicity they have provided, and the invitations they sent to our State of Wisconsin Representatives.

To the Chamber of Commerce, Park and Recreation Committee, and the business community of the City of Rhinelander for their help in making our dreams of a Wisconsin CCC Museum become a reality, and to radio stations WOBT and WXPB, grateful acknowledgement is extended for their promotional activities.

To the Rhinelander Stamp and Coin Club, for the artful and nostalgic Cachets produced for this Forest Service/CCC Anniversary Year. They will be treasured by all who have an opportunity to obtain them.

To the director, the instructors, and the trainees from the Blackwell Job Corps Conservation Center. Our special thanks for your assistance in building our Wisconsin CCC Museum.

To Representative Jim Holperin, we wish to express our sincere appreciation for the time you have given us from your busy schedule. Your efforts have resulted in Governor Earl proclaiming:

"1983, The Year of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the State of Wisconsin"
Your efforts are recognized by the more than two million CCC veterans still among us throughout America.

To the Vilas County News-Review and the Rhinelander Daily News, we cannot thank you enough for the honest and accurate reporting of our Anniversary Planning events.

If one had to point to one unique element in planning to make this 50th Anniversary Convention a success, it would have to be that eight out of ten of the fine people who have worked with us these past nine months were not yet born when the CCC program was founded in 1933. The interest and appreciation you have demonstrated for what we, as CCC "boys" left behind 50 years ago, is a fine tribute to your generation, and we, now Senior Americans, love you for what you have done for us.

Thanks — for helping us with the memories.

William "Bill" Wolff, Jr., President
Wisconsin Chapter 23, NACCCA

OATH OF ENROLLMENT

(Upon entering the CCC, each enrollee subscribed to the following oath. It is a contract between the enrollee and the U.S. Government, and should be lived up to in each respect.)

I, _____, do solemnly swear that the information given above as to my status is correct. I agree to remain in the Civilian Conservation Corps for the period terminating at the discretion of the United States between _____ unless sooner released by proper authority, and that I will obey those in authority and observe all the rules and regulations thereof to the best of my ability and will accept such allowances as may be provided pursuant to law and regulations promulgated pursuant thereto. I understand and agree that any injury received or disease contracted by me while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps cannot be made the basis of any claim against the government, except such as I may be entitled to under the act of September 7, 1916, and that I shall not be entitled to any allowances upon release from camp, except transportation in kind to the place at which I was accepted for enrollment. I understand further that any articles issued to me by the United States Government for use while a member of the Civilian Conservation Corps are, and remain, property of the United States Government and that willful destruction, loss, sale or disposal of such property renders me financially responsible for the cost thereof and liable to trial in the civil courts. I understand further that any infraction of the rules or regulations of the Civilian Conservation Corps renders me liable to expulsion therefrom. So help me God.

From: "Your CCC Handbook For Enrollees" Happy Days Publishing Co., Inc., Washington, D.C.

Ken Elliott — One of a Kind



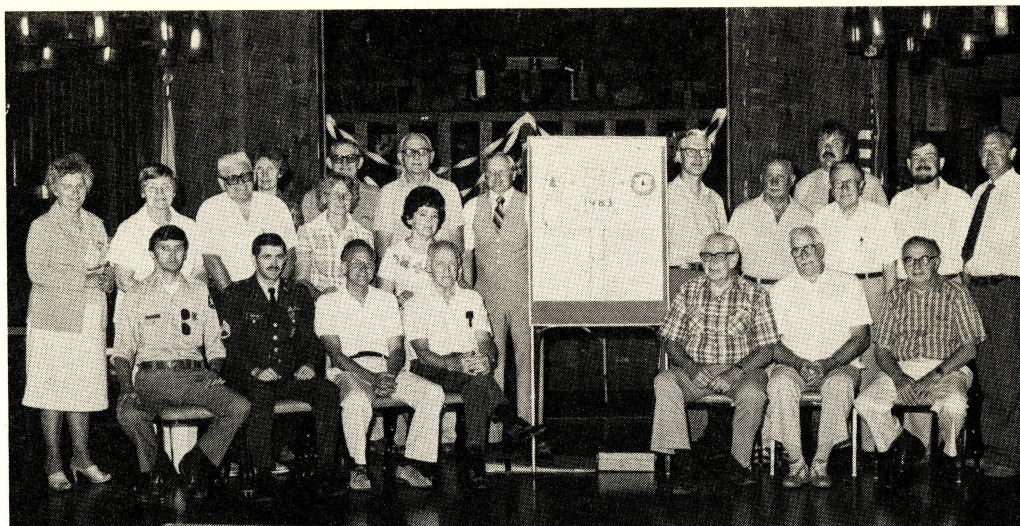
1908-1982

If retirement is really anything like Ken Elliott knew it, none of us would ever want to retire. During his thirteen years of retirement from the U.S.D.A. Forest Service, Ken was as energetically active as ever. What most of us would call work, Ken would accept as life, and enjoy every bit of it. Whatever he tackled, he conveyed that enthusiasm and vibrant interest which motivated others.

He was tireless in his efforts to support the cause of forestry, the Forest Service, the CCC's, the Forest History Association, and Trees For Tomorrow. He died while working on the Rhinelander CCC Museum.

Ken was never an actual enrollee in the CCC's. Yet he pursued the interest of the CCC alumni with full dedication and devotion. Few people remember that he was a Forest Service foreman during the CCC's days. To Ken, that was close enough to being right in there, and hence he supported the program 100 percent.

The goals of the CCC and the goals of Ken Elliott paralleled each other so closely, that it was only natural the two should have met. After his retirement, he sought to further the goals by making sure the next generations wouldn't forget the accomplishments of the CCC. His selfless activities will be long remembered.



Back row, left to right: Nancy Pophal, Herman Smith, Walter Goldsworthy, Harry Lee, Al Barden, Randy Riley. Second row, left to right: Carol L'Herault, Katherine Lehor, Lorraine Stelzel, Grace Applin, Joe Ustymowicz, Rev. Gerritt Mouw, Dave Wester, Sym Terhune. Front row, left to right: Frank Haubry, Sgt. John Swinford, Frank Stelzel, Roland Applin, William Wolff, Jr., Robert L. Moore, Frank Soraci.
50th Anniversary Convention Committee



The Trees For Tomorrow group, whose help has made the 50th Anniversary of the CCC and U.S. Forest a success. Standing left to right: Mark Peterson, Art Belter, Sharon Gebhardt and Mark Fries. Seated from left to right are: Tony Lukasko, Klaus Neumann, Erica Peterson and Henry Haskell.

NACCCA OFFICERS

The members of Chapter 23 salute the elected and appointed officers, the National Headquarters staff, our Alumni founders and Chapter Presidents, for their letters of encouragement and offers of help. To Vice President Wayne Foster, who was named by President Vermette to act as special convention coordinator, our special thanks for all the assistance you gave us in true CCC tradition.



Marcel Paul Vermette — President



Wayne Foster — Vice President



John Kakales
Treasurer



Allen Rossel
Chairman of the
50th Anniversary Convention Committee



John Graves
Legislative Director



George Emery
National Museum Chairman



Herb Valentine
NW Regional President



Duane Trusley
NC Regional President



John H. Ulrich
SW Regional President



James L. Ratcliff
SC Regional President



John Meszaros
NE Regional President



Steve Knoll
SE Regional President

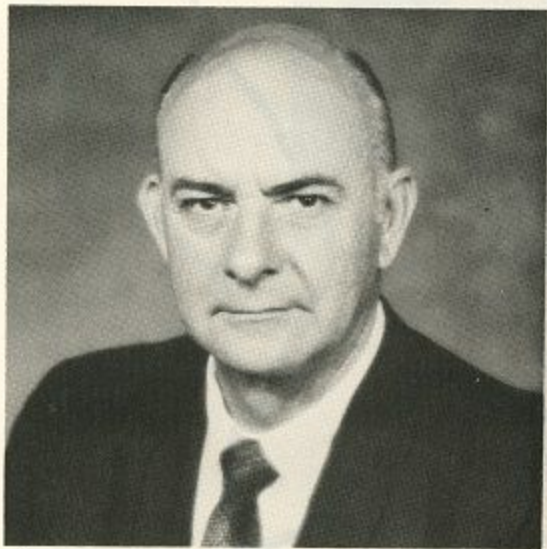
Past Officers



**Robert Griffiths — Co-Founder
and Past President**



**Jack Vincent
Co-Founder**



Joe E. Griggs — Past President



**Allen Rossel
Past President**

From Headquarters



William Bajczyk
Editor



Marie Britton
Executive Secretary



Donna Britton
Files/Mail Clerk



Linda Mills
Records Secretary



The beginning of the CCC, FDR signing the Emergency Work Act of 1933. Photo cont. by Eugene C. Jurkowski.

From the beginning

In 1933, the newly elected President Roosevelt faced a nation bankrupt in both money and morale. He found himself responsible for a country of endless soup lines, countless unemployed, and innumerable homeless families. The nation needed, and received, a president equal to the task of combatting the Great Depression.

During his first hundred days as president, FDR produced many programs that were designed to assist a desperate people in their fight to survive the troubled economic times. On March 21, 1933, he delivered a message to Congress saying, "I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. I call your attention to the fact that this type of work is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great financial loss, but also as a means of creating future national wealth."

Within ten days, FDR signed the Emergency Work Act, which created the Civilian Conservation Corps, (the CCC or the C's as its enrollees referred to it). He immediately appointed Robert Fechner, a labor union leader, as its director and instructed the departments of Labor, War, Agriculture, and Interior to cooperate with the new director. Together, they recruited millions of young men for a peacetime army to build truck roads, develop parks, fight fires, plant trees, and generally work on any task asked of them.

Today, the CCC is recognized as one of the most successful depression day programs initiated by President Roosevelt. From the program's conception in 1933, to its end in 1943, it enrolled close to three million young men, WWI veterans, native Americans, and locally enlisted men. These men came from across the country, ready and willing to work.

The CCC was established without the creation of any new government agencies. The Department of Labor was assigned the task of administering the enrollment of youths into the program. Enrollees were locally selected by their county supervisors or by a local organization, and then were referred through their State Selection agent to the War Department.

The War Department then gave the necessary medical examinations. Those who were rejected received their fare back home. Those who were accepted were organized into companies, clothed, fed, and conditioned for manual labor. As the program progressed, the Army filled these needs at the enrollees' assigned camps. The Army was also assigned to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the work camps.

The Departments of Agriculture and Interior were charged with the direction of work projects. They also coordinated work projects on state and private lands. The U.S. Forest Service, a division of the Agriculture Department, performed work on National Forests, coordinated and checked work done on state and private lands, and assisted the Tennessee Valley Authority. It was also responsible for work done in the territories of Alaska and Puerto Rico.

The National Park Service executed work on National Parks and Monuments, and supervised projects on Hawaii and on state parks. The U.S. Veterans' Administration selected veterans for the CCC and the Department of Treasury, through the Bureau of Health, looked after the enrollees' health.

The governmental departments' major concern was to provide the men with an opportunity to work, and thus, with an opportunity to earn an income. As most of the men were from the cities, and as the peer group atmosphere of the camp was often tough to survive in for the weak or the inexperienced, an enrollee who arrived at camp as a boy, usually left camp a man.

Today's generations owe a debt of gratitude to these young men of the CCC. The hard working CCC crews gave them forests, campgrounds, bathhouses, trails, roads, beaches, and the CCC Spirit. From the ranks of the CCC came future governors, civil representatives, and citizens that helped make America what it is today.

These men, instilled with pride for their country back in the 1930s and 40s, remember that their country came to help them when they were hungry and looking for work. They remembered their country when it asked them to risk their lives and fight in WWII; and fifty years after the birth of the CCC, they stand again, ready to serve their country in any way that they can.



The military setting of a CCC camp, typified by Camp Reedsburg, Calif., was the scene early rookies of the CCC found upon arriving at camp. Photo contributed by Edwin W. Jastrow.



Introduction and Orientation, Fort Sheridan, IL — 1933. As many as 2,000 men per day were processed here. Photo contributed by Walter Graichen.



Upper photo: The CCC "boys" of Camp Pine River, Wis., line up for retreat. Photo contributed by Raymond Staral.
Lower photo: The men of Company 1709, Pittsburg, Kansas, demonstrate the World War I surplus clothing they were given. Notice that some of the men had not yet received their complete uniform. Photo contributed by Brian W. McMains.



Together we lived

In order to fully comprehend the lifestyle of a CCC camp, one must have experienced it. History of this sort is better related by an enrollee than by anyone else.

Donald J. Farrar, a former member of the Moose River Camp, Glidden, Wis., related his story for use in this book:

The year was 1933, in the heart of the Great Depression, when I graduated from high school. Prior to the Depression, most children had only an eighth grade education. With no jobs for men, how could a 14-year-old expect to get a job? As a result, we were sent to high school. Things looked dismal for months following graduation until Franklin Delano Roosevelt initiated the Civilian Conservation Corps for unemployed young men. I applied and qualified, and with great anticipation, this city boy was sent out into the woods of northern Wisconsin. The camp I went to, Moose River Camp, was the second camp established in the state. Upon arrival, we found that the camp barracks were not completed. Two hundred and four of us slept in tents through November waiting for the barracks to be completed.

We were issued clothing that was World War I surplus. It included heavy woolen coats and outerwear that was warm and durable. Each man was responsible for the care and laundering of his own clothes. We used water that was carried from a nearby spring in wooden buckets. These buckets also served as washtubs and bathtubs until the completion of our permanent buildings.

Salaries were \$30 per month, of which \$25 went home to help the family and \$5 was given to each fellow as his spending money for the month. With this \$5, we bought shaving supplies, toothpaste, stamps, an occasional candy bar, and cigarettes. That didn't leave much for an infrequent ten mile trip into town. An old, beat up truck got us to a Saturday night dance or a Sunday church service. At the dances, the girls were the minority, and they could pick the fellows they wanted to dance with. Needless to say, most of us were broke long before the next \$5 was due. It was a good lesson in economy and budgeting.

As time passed and our barracks were completed, our camp took on the odors of kerosene, sweaty woolen clothing, and wet boots. Bunks lined the barracks' walls and we were each given one. We had straw mattresses on our bunks and woolen blankets that would send up a cloud of dust with each movement. Under each leg of the bunks we put a Mason jar lid filled with kerosene. The kerosene was used as a trap for the bedbugs that were on their way up or down the legs of the bunks. During one night, a violent storm occurred. The roof over my bunk leaked so badly that I was forced to abandon it and sit on a bench the rest of the night. That miserable night, however, was rewarded with the best breakfast that I ever ate: eggs, bacon, fried potatoes, pancakes, bread and butter, coffee, milk, cake, and pie.

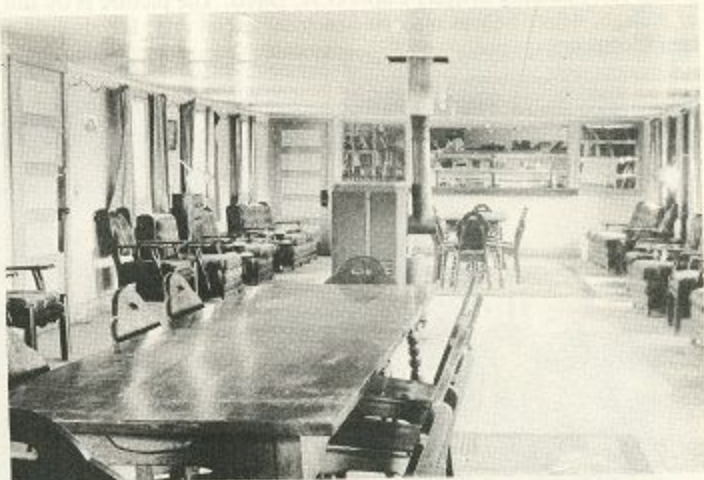


Upper left: Enrollees by barracks at camp near Redding, Calif. Photo contributed by Herron V. Dawson.

Upper right: The inside of the barracks at camp. Photo contributed by Raymond Staral.

On right: The Camp Redding recreation area. Photo contributed by Herron V. Dawson.

Bottom: Inside the mess hall of Camp Estabrook. Photo contributed by Mrs. A. Kerman.



The fondest memories of camp life are often memories of the camp mess hall. A number of former CCCers sent in copies of menus and described what their meals were like. One former CCCer wrote:

I remember my first breakfast (April 1934) in CCC company 734, located then on top of a hill at Big Springs State Park. We had fried eggs for breakfast. They had a thick crust of soot on them and I was still scraping the soot off when the work bell rang. But the chow got better. I don't remember seeing, or knowing of, anyone who had ever skipped chow.

Life in a CCC camp wasn't just working and eating. Enrollees were given the opportunity to further their education, learn leathercraft, and practice a variety of vocational skills.

For many of the young men, the CCC was a place to practice skills they couldn't afford to pursue any other way. Below is an example of CCC art, drawn in 1934, of the original Mountain Camp commanding officer, Capt. G.A. Davis. The picture is by Bill Lange, who had to drop out of college, where he was majoring in commercial arts. He also did all the artwork for the Mountain Camp newspaper.



The camps also taught the young men how to live and cooperate with other men. As with any history, the camps were not always the law abiding, peaceful camps that history text books remember. In Perry H. Merrill's book, "Roosevelt's Tree Army", he relates the story of a North Carolina enrollee:

Three very vivid experiences stand out in my mind while at this camp:

1. The bedbug invasion that swept the camp in 1933. No one was exempted from this and it took about two months of extensive fumigation of both humans and buildings to clear up the problem.

2. The near lynching of the Mess Sergeant when it was discovered that he was buying spoiled meat that was crawling with worms and serving it at meals. It took the xxx county sheriff force to stop this uprising.

3. The invasion of the camp on Saturday nights by the 'ladies of the night' from the 'red light' districts of xxx and xxx.



A Kangaroo court prepares to levy justice on a misbehaving CCCer. Photo contributed by U.S. Forest Service.

Discipline for the camps was provided by a trial juried by fellow camp members. If an enrollee refused to proceed with the trial, it was sometimes up to the camp commander to levy punishment. The following excerpt is from a March, 1934 newspaper, the Green Bay Gazette:

Claiming they were dishonorably discharged yesterday without a fair trial, 34 Civilian Conservation Corps workers from Camp Mountain, about 75 miles north of here, arrived here at 6 o'clock last night and voiced their grievances while waiting for the midnight train which would take them to Chicago, where a number of them live.

That they were dishonorably discharged was confirmed today in a telephone conversation with Lieut. D.M. Parkis, commandant at Camp Mountain. He said, however, that the youths were given the chance of a trial, the controversy hinging on the matter of working in allegedly bad weather, but that they had refused, giving the commandant no other course of action.

Enrollees were taught first aid, safety with tools, housekeeping, how to plan a diet, and other essentials for living in society. Many went on after the CCC to enlist in a military branch and served their country during WWII. To this day their work and lives have been a benefit to all Americans.

The CCC's Prayer

The First Week In Camp

Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep.
Grant no other C.C. take
My shoes and socks before I wake.
Lord, guard me while I snore,
And keep my bed upon the floor.
May the springs not sag nor break,
And let me down before I wake.
Keep me safely in your sight,
And grant no fire-drill tonight.
And in the morning let me wake,
Breathing scents of sirloin steak.
God, protect me in my dreams,
And make this better than it seems.
Grant the time shall swiftly fly,
When myself shall rest on high,
In a snowy feather bed,
Where I long to rest my head.
Far away from all these scenes,
From the smell of half-done beans.
Take me to my home once more,
Where my girl waits at the door.
Where the cold wind never blows,
And the women wash the clothes.
Take me back, I'll promise then,
Never to leave home again.

Six Months Later

Our father, who art in Washington,
Please, dear father, let me stay,
Do not drive me now away.
Wipe away my scalding tears,
And let me stay a couple of years.
Please forgive me all my past,
And let me stay here to the last.
Do not spurn my humble pleas,
But let me stay in the CCC's.

By Robert "Rosy" Pullen,
Written in April, 1937.

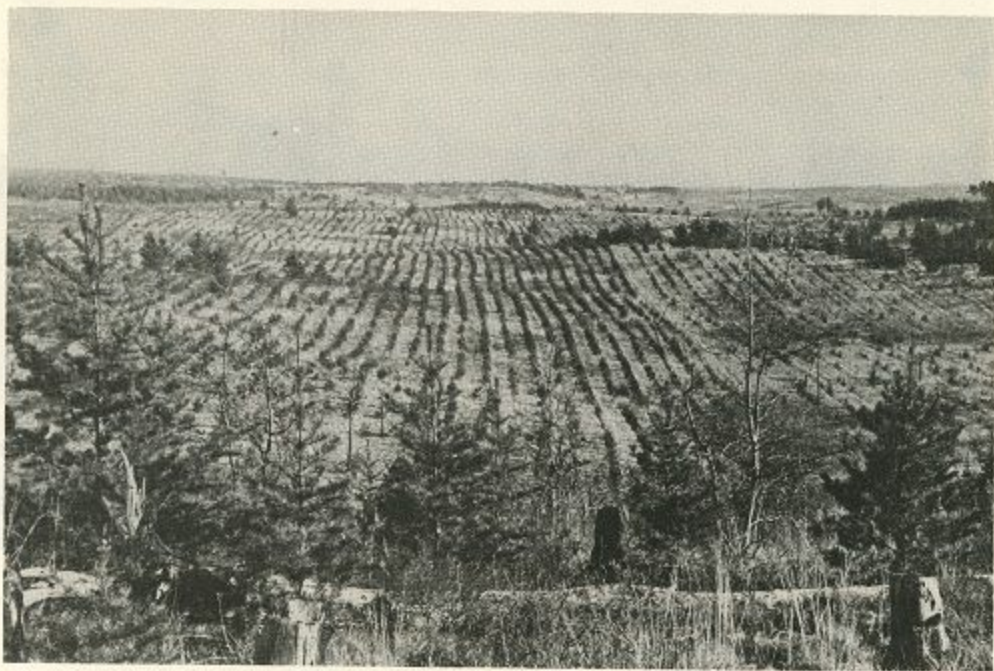


Upper photo: The entrance to Camp Pine River, Wis. The camp was located near Three Lakes. Photo contributed by Raymond Staral.

Lower photo: The CCC camp near Elmsport, Pa. Photo contributed by Edward B. Stevens.



We worked,



View of 1934 plantation, north of Indian Springs Campground, Wis. Photo contributed by U.S. Forest Service.

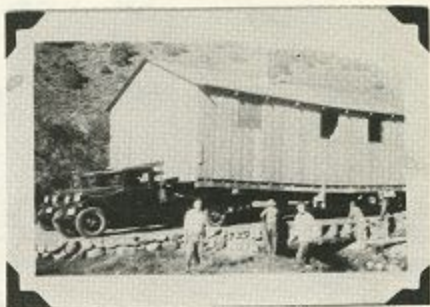
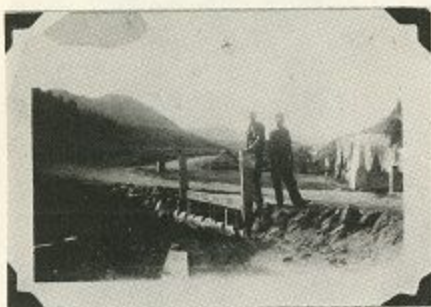
The men of the CCC were required to do varied work. For them no job was too big or too small. They fought fires, built roads and bridges, constructed bathhouses, mapped park trails, laid power lines, planted trees, stocked fish in lakes and streams, battled insects and performed hundreds of other necessary tasks. Carl F. Lohrengel relates the work of his company, #726 of California:

The work of Company 726 was varied: rodent control, building tourist campsites, widening roads, which sometimes called for blasting out rock and tree stumps. Among our senior foremen were prospectors and miners who really knew how to handle dynamite.

We started building a house for the local forest ranger. We had to stop on the house to move our camp 50 miles up the highway to Colesville. In order to move the bathhouse we had to widen a bridge to accommodate the two trucks which towed the house.

We cut 12" pines to provide the beam the house rested on. An old two-wheel trailer (with solid tires) supported the rear of the house. The front rested on two trucks. The truck drivers did a terrific job of maintaining an even speed.

The bathhouse was safely moved and set in place. We were fortunate enough to have good springs in our area. At the ranger's house, we boxed in a spring on a hillside and brought a two inch pipeline down to the house. Up until then, they had used a well. Likewise, at both campsites we were able to box in springs and run two inch pipelines with plenty of pressure for our needs.



The men from camps 726 and 727 of California, widening a road to accommodate the extra width of two trucks. The picture on the right shows the companies moving bathhouse over bridge. Photo contributed by Carl F. Lohrengel.



A truck convoy heads out of Redding, Calif. Photo contributed by Herron V. Dawson.



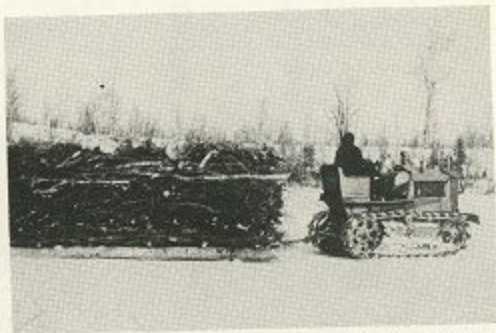
"The forest fire which started at our sawmill (left) in the Rockford, S.D. camp. We got it under control after some of us almost lost our lives when the wind changed."
--Albert B. Hopkins



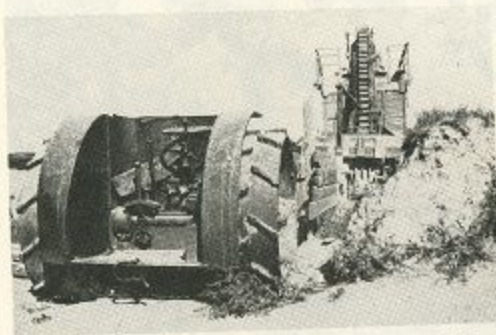
"Our CCC boys at work on the big syphon we built to connect two irrigation canals in the Bell Fourth irrigation system, near Bell Fourth, South Dakota. This concrete syphon replaced an ancient one of wood. I'm in the picture — someplace."
--Albert B. Hopkins



The CCCers of northern Wisconsin often found themselves checking water depth and placing fish shelters in the bountiful lakes. Photo contributed by Art Bird.



The men from Company 1601, Woodruff, Wis., had the advantage of "modern machinery" to assist them in the laying of fish shelters. Photo contributed by Warren Burrett.



Left: A gravel crusher used by the men in Crystal Lake Camp. Contributed by Joe T. Miotek.
Right: Sometimes work just wouldn't go right, as these men found out. Photo contributed by Howard Krueger.



Members of the CCC at work planting trees. Photo contributed by U.S. Service.



Work crew planting trees while stationed at Camp 787, Chippewa National Forest, near Schley, Minn. Photo contributed by John A. Allen.



Forest educational group with one of the CCCs counting annual rings in an increment borer specimen. Photo contributed by John A. Allen.



A U.S. Forest Service truck on its way to the field. Photo contributed by U.S. Forest Service.

Bob Hancock tells his story as a truck driver:

In the brief year that I invested in the CCC, it seems that there was a lifetime of experiences, all interesting and new to me. One of the most enjoyable was as a truck driver, hauling a truckload of enrollees 45 miles to San Diego on a Friday night for their weekend at home. It was uncomfortable riding in the back of those trucks but the only complaint on these trips was that the truck speed was governor-controlled and wouldn't go faster than 35 m.p.h. and was slower than that up hills. The complaining was minimized by the fact that most of the trip toward San Diego was downhill.



No Badge for "Kitchen Police"

In order to maintain a CCC camp, it is necessary that some enrollees perform special duties in addition to the work on the project on which that camp is engaged. Such duties include those needed for operation of the camp kitchen in the preparation of food and the maintenance of cleanliness and sanitation in the kitchen and the mess hall.

In some camps, enrollees are assigned to such duties permanently. In other camps, all enrollees stand "kitchen police," as duty in the kitchen has been termed, for short periods of time, each enrollee getting his turn. Other special duties include such work as repairing or maintaining barracks, keeping the camp grounds clean and sanitary, working as night watchman or latrine orderly. Supervision of such work falls to leaders and assistant leaders who perform this job under direction of the company commander.

From: "Your CCC Handbook For Enrollees" Happy Days Publishing Co., Inc. Washington, D.C. (Balloon Comment — W. Wolff.)



Photos from upper left hand corner, clockwise: Michigan CCCers fighting a fire about 60 miles west of Rapid River. Photo contributed by Frank H. Munger.

CCCers resting at the Mirror Plateau Fire at Pelican Cove, Yellowstone Park. Photo contributed by Bill Wolf.

Smoke — the first warning of a forest fire — was the subject the CCC towermen looked for. Photo contributed by U.S. Forest Service.





CCC forest fire fighters battling a blaze in the Medford District, in the Chequamegon National Forest. Photo contributed by U.S. Forest Service.

An article, reprinted from the **Three Lakes (Wisconsin) News**, May 25, 1936, describes the CCC's role in forest fire fighting:

CCC Furnishes Eyes for Woods

One hundred feet above the ground, CCC boys now act as the eyes of the U.S. Forest Service. Boys from farms and city streets have been placed in lookout towers to give the first warning when any sign of a forest fire is seen.

Two boys are usually placed together for lookout duty and take turns in the towers watching for smoke to appear above the tops of the trees.

When a "smoke" is first seen, that may have resulted from a carelessly thrown cigarette or an abandoned camp fire, the CCC boys in the tower determine its direction and locate it on their map. Two minutes are allowed to do this, and to report to the ranger. The boys on the other nearby towers are telephoned, who in turn endeavor to sight the smoke and report the exact location.

As long as the smoke can be seen, the towermen send in frequent reports. They keep the ranger's office informed as to the color of the smoke, the spread of the fire, and the direction of the wind. They know that their line (of fellow CCCers) with tools and water pumps are arriving on the fire scene. These boys are their camp mates and they depend on the boys in the tower to see and report the fire before it reaches large proportions.

Five minutes after a CCC camp is notified of the forest fire, the boys are required to be in trucks that are ready to leave. The fighting of a forest fire has become as systemized as the work of a city fire department.

Joe Mauceri, Brooklyn, N.Y., submitted this article from the *Happy Days 1936* that relates the feeling felt across the country for the CCC boys' contributions in forest fire fighting:

Last week records in the office of ECW Director Robert Fechner revealed that the CCC had expended nearly 3,000,000 man-days of labor fighting forest fires during the three years and three months of their existence. Since then, one of the worst fires of recent times kept hundreds of CCC men busy in the Lake States forests, not to count those in California and the south who were on the job a good share of the time.

This week's news says that these Michigan and Wisconsin and Minnesota men are headed back to their camps, the fires are out. But, this week too, brings word of forest fires in Glacier National Park, the first, it was thought, in its history. The report to Washington says, "All available CCC enrollees are working on the blaze." When this fire is over, we are sure, there will be reports from Glacier similar to reports from Isle Royale and the woods of Minnesota, "They are the best fighters on the line!"

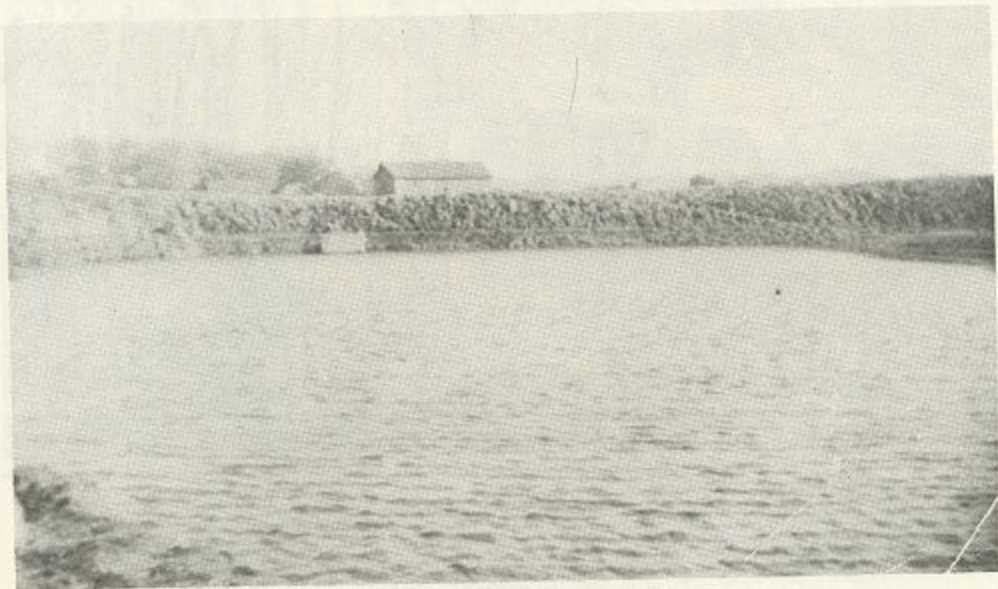
Naturally, CCC men, new to the forest do not at first, have the technique of forest fire fighting displayed by those men of the communities who make a living of fighting forest fires, at so much per hour. But the CCC has a willingness and enough zest for the excitement that they more than make up for their lack of experience. Fire fighting to them is not so much money per hour, as it is to the many who are paid, hired fighters. Fire fighting to the average CCC man is quite a serious job, as serious as marching through France was to the thousands of men of their age in 1917.



The St. Croix Sand Pit shows another of the CCC's varied work programs. Photo contributed by Howard E. Krueger.



The upper photo is Mondovi, Wis. area before the CCC worked on the soil erosion problem. The bottom photo is the same scene after the CCCers of Camp Gilmanton corrected the erosion problem. Photos contributed by Sam Greshay.



The work projects that the CCC did last today, as seen in this excerpt from the Devils Lake Wisconsin State Park brochure:

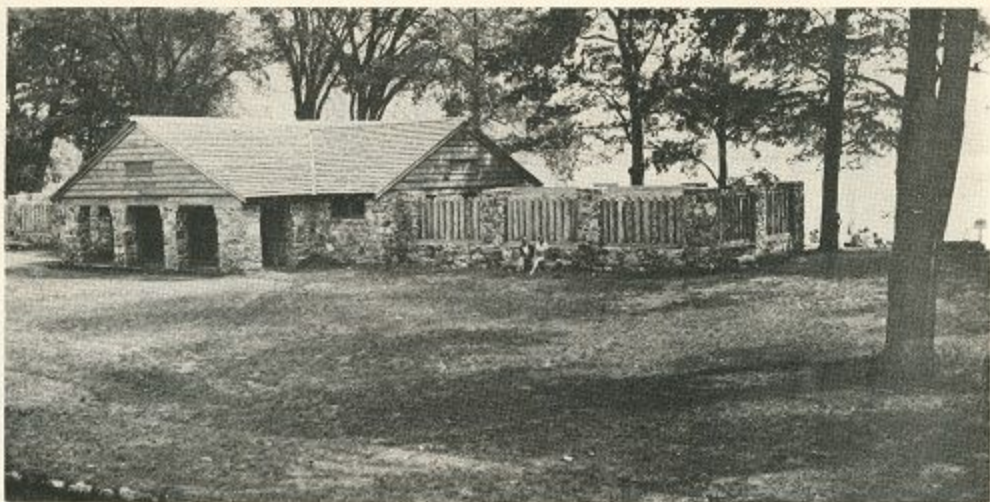
Devils Lake State Park was purchased by the State of Wisconsin in 1911, the fourth area designated as a state park for the use and enjoyment of its people and, although many improvements were made, the popularity of the park increased much faster than the construction of park facilities. Therefore, when the CCC Camp Devils Lake was established in July, 1935, a work program was set up which involved the reconstruction of existing and the construction of many new park facilities and structures.

A review of some of the work accomplished to date, together with a few of the outstanding events which took place, indicates that Camp Devils Lake and its enrolled and supervisory personnel had led an active and pleasant life, resulting in many park improvements, and in the moral, physical, and personal edification of the personnel themselves.

During the year of 1936, the following projects were completed: January, National Park Service garage, tool room and repair shop; April, construction of public campgrounds on north end of lake started; May, construction of bathhouse started. This building was the first large structure approved for construction by the CCC in Wisconsin State Parks, and was opened for public use in June, 1937.



Devils Lake State Park bathhouse on the lake's north shore as it was being constructed and as it stands today. Photo contributed by Myrlen C. Knuteson.



Upper photo: The completed bathhouse at Devils Lake State Park.

Right: A CCCer helps move rock from a park trail.

Bottom: The laundry building at Devils Lake. Photos on this page contributed by Myrlen C. Knuteson.





At Camp Starved Rock, Company 1609, they had to haul logs and timber by barge to the bridge that they were building. Pictures from upper left as described by Edwin W. Jastrow, their coordinator:

1. Entrance sign to our camp, of which we were very proud.
2. Here we are taking logs to the bridge we were building.
3. The bridge we built over Small Canyon.
4. The barge had sunk on us and we were getting it to float again.



We remember,



Shelter that Company 1609 built in Starved Rock State Park, Ill. Photo cont. by Edwin Zastrow.

The accomplishments of the CCC are many. Yet, in 1942, the program was halted as America became involved in WWII. After the war the CCC became unnecessary as the country was prospering. In tribute to the men of the Civilian Conservation Corps stand the fire towers, the parks, the forests, and the countless other projects that they completed. What remains are the memories of learning, fraternity, working and accomplishment. In the pages to come are anecdotes former CCCers remember about the Corps.

Bartholomen R. Scott, formerly of Co. 3202, Sherburne, N.Y., wrote:

I have always considered the one year that I spent at Sherburne, N.Y., as one of the best periods of my life. I started as an enrollee with a pick and shovel in a gravel pit. I soon became a steady K.P.: Army and Forester Orderly, K.P. chaser, and eventually I was sent to cooking and baking school. I received instructions for duty as first cook, assistant baker, and mess steward. I functioned in my own camp as a second cook. Later, I saw detached duty at Fort Dix, N.Y.

I learned a trade in the CCC, which in my early years served me well, both in civilian life and when I enlisted in the U.S. Merchant Marines during WWII.

While in the CCC, I received discipline, worked hard, learned how to get along with others, developed a personal pride, knew patriotism, and broadened my life in many other ways. The CCC did a lot for me and for my country.

Colonel Walter Killilae, U.S.A., Ret., formerly of Co. 2335, Waynesboro, Pa., wrote:

In the summer of 1939, I was a 24-year-old First Lieutenant in the Army Reserve, just completing my first year of command. The command was of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Co. 2335 at Camp SCS-4, Waynesboro, Pa. I enjoyed my work. It was dif-

ferent from the year I had spent with the regular Army, there were no weapons — just shovels, saws, and other tools. Nor were there any articles of war and the consequent court martials. Discipline was maintained through personal effort rather than by rule or law. As company commander, I was responsible for the administration of the company including pay, clothing, housing, food, and generally looking after the welfare of the two hundred men under my command.

The using service in the camp, the Soil Conservation Service, actually worked the men five days a week. The Army District Commander, a regular Army Colonel, rarely visited the camp, but his representative, a reserve Captain, inspected the company once a month to see that records were kept properly, that funds were expended in accordance with regulations, and that everything in general was in order. Visits by the inspector were not viewed as pleasurable experiences.

I left the CCC in the summer of 1940, and went back on active duty with the Army. In 1941, I was commissioned in the regular Army. The administrative experience, as well as the leadership techniques I learned in the CCC, served me well in the Army and I look at my three years in the CCC as a very worthwhile period of my life.

Jack M. Tauf, formerly of Camp Germfask, Company 3626 wrote:

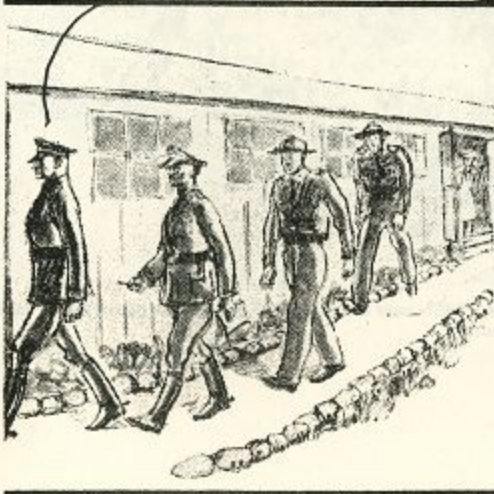
One night in the winter of 1937-38, after lights out, our fire guard was making his rounds. He was attending to the stoves in the barracks and checking to see that all was well.

When he left, however, he didn't pull the door hard enough to latch it. Suddenly, someone saw two red eyes coming into the barracks and let out the yell, "WOLF!"

The lights were turned on and there, standing in the center of the room, was a huge, gray, timber wolf. No one had to say a word — we all jumped for the rafters and started to yell.

Mike, our camp's pet shepherd, came running in, took one look at the wolf and went after it. The wolf took off out of the barracks and went across the ice of the Manistiquie River.

"Use a fine tooth comb — We need help on the woodpile and in the kitchen this week-end."



What About Inspections?

You may get an idea that CCC camps are the most inspected places you've ever been in. You'll probably be correct. There are daily inspections by company officers of barracks, equipment and machinery. There are other inspections each week by company officers, of clothing and personal equipment. During the month there may be inspectors from sub-district or sector, from district headquarters, from corps area headquarters, or from Washington. The purpose of these inspections is to maintain each camp in the "pink" of operation and maintenance.

The technical services have their own inspectors, who check up on the progress of the conservation work being done, on equipment and on their field personnel. Inspectors working personally under the director of the CCC also visit the camps at intervals. The director, his assistants, and Washington officials of the War Department and the various technical services also visit the camps.

From: "Your CCC Handbook For Enrollees" Happy Days Publishing Co., Inc., Washington D.C. (Balloon Comment — W. Wolff.)

Roscoe Mosteller, formerly of Co. 3409, Salisbury, N.C., wrote:

This story stands out big in my memories, and I would like to share it with others. I have sent a copy of the story as it appeared in the CCC monthly journal, in 1937:

Rabbit Quest is Good for Crew, but Tough on Foreman

A quest after scampering rabbits that wasn't exactly futile ended painfully for Foreman Craver, Co. 3409, Salisbury, N.C. Craver watched at first as his crew abandoned work in favor of hunting rabbits by hand. Finally, carried away with the excitement of the chase, Craver joined his men.

For upward of an hour, and all through the lunch period, the bunnies took a beating. Then back to work went the hunters. The foreman thought it over from the shade of a hickory tree and finally decided that there'd be no harm in giving the men another half hour, after work, and before the trucks went back to camp.

After all, they might even catch enough of the fleet-footed carrot-eaters to treat the whole company. These men entered the plan wholeheartedly and the chase was on once more. The bunnies seemed to multiply right beneath their eyes. They ran with such fervor that when a final checkup was made, 27 rabbits were counted. Which was good for the mess but still tough on Foreman Craver.

He fell over a pile of rocks chasing an especially fat one and broke his leg.



The CCC men sometimes took advantage of the abundant wildlife near their camps to help spruce up the dinner table. Photo contributed by the Rhinelander, Wis. CCC Museum.

Archie Moore, formerly of Camp 3760, Poplar Bluff, Mo., and former light-heavyweight champion wrote:

The word motivation itself signifies action, and action is a stimulant, when applied. Action was the personification of the greater portion of activities at our camp in the Depression years. Forestry work, building roads, sports, and character building made the months fly; boys grew into men.

Captain Ralph Parks, the commanding officer of our company, fined me two dollars out of the five dollars, my enrollee wage per month. Also the Captain, aware of my gladiatorial potentials, promised to fine me 50 cents, if he saw me fighting other camp workers. I had recently struck one of my camp buddies over a trivial matter. This man I remember well, he was Harry Chitwood who, a few days back, sent me a most handsome photo. The lovely letter stated they were well and indeed prosperous, but above all, they appeared very happy. However, Harry did not mention our small dispute in 1934.

The three C's was and still is, in my humble opinion, one of the greatest youth concepts devised by the government. Far more effective than the dozen or so on-going programs of today, some of which took the E out of effort, the C out of care, and the R out of responsibility.

Edward I. Rosen, formerly of Co. 1273, N.J., wrote:

After being assigned to this agricultural unit, I noticed that most Polish-American boys were hard working. From this hard work came their physical strength. I was the company clerk in our CCC outfit. Ray came to me for advice and help. I encouraged him to stay in the kitchen, with the idea of striving for the First Cook's job. Ski (Ray) listened somberly. Sure enough, the youngster began his climb up the ladder. Step by step, promotion after promotion, Ray finally reached the top as the Senior Cook.

Our New Jersey CCC orchard was plump with apples and cherry trees. Ski loved making pies for the enrollees, after they had picked the fruits. His apple pies were unforgettably delicious.

When WWII arrived, our boss cook was the first leader to be drafted. Ray had vowed, once in the Army, he would stay out of a kitchen forever. That was over 30 years ago.

Three full decades later, I was casually strolling through Radio City. I had a job nearby. My work for the day was completed. A new Mexican restaurant somehow caught my eye. It appealed to my eating adventure. The waiter seemed extraordinarily polite and very persuasive. I obliged him and ordered the chef's special. I attacked it ravenously. Delicious, I thought, but very familiar. Where had I tasted this food before, I didn't recall. Then the apple pie arrived. At the first bite, I swallowed very hard. The pie had barely gone down when, with great excitement, I shouted, "SKI!"

Raymond emerged from his kitchen — grinning from ear to ear. Then he laughed. Despite that interval of about 30 years, my old CCC buddy had recognized me as I was entering his establishment.



The "boys" from Camp Crystal Lake, Wis., sawing wood by hand. Photo contributed by Joe Miotek.

Raymond Burr, the actor, wrote:

I'm glad to be here with all of you from the old CCC days. I'm happy to be a part of this gathering, a gathering of one of the most unique groups in America's history, the alumni of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

I'm proud to say that I think the C's, during the time I was in it, gave me my first real direction in life and probably all of the opportunities that came to me throughout the last 40 years.

I know that you, too, are proud to be from the CCC. This pride unites all of us. This pride unites all of us in just one common bond. The bond that brings back memories of old friends, memories of strange times, interesting times, and good times.

Of course, the Civilian Conservation Corps has given us the common bond of sharing one of the most profound working ideals that ever touched America's soul and its land. This idea took young men out from all walks of life and united them as one. Today, it could take young men and women and unite them in friendship and in work.

It taught us the meaning of hard work and pride of achievement. Combined with hard work, this ideal produced everlasting monuments, tributes to the men of the CCC.

Mid-America, Chapter 11 Remembers the CCC

Besides the numerous letters with anecdotes, we received countless notes from around the country indicating that the men of the CCC do remember. From Minnesota, David Beazell, Co. 784, Bimiji; Jerome Bellinger, Co. 1765, Cass Lake; Merl Dopp, Co. 1741, Grand Marais; Henry Holsapple, Co. 4709, Deer River; Herschel Tracy, Co. 1742, Bena; did a lot of general forestry and soil erosion work, built fish dams on the Cascade River, surveyed lake beds and spent a lot of time on Blister Rust Control work, and they pulled a lot of gooseberry bushes in the White Pine areas.

And in California, Bill Loehr, Co. 4739, Fouts Springs, fought fires and did reforestation work in what is now a primitive area. Carl Lohrengel and George Wilhelm were with Co. 726, Bridgepost, when they built Forest Service living quarters and put in water supply systems, they were also engaged in gopher control work. Dallas Wilkerson, Co. 3780, Big Sur and Point Lobes, built trails in such a way as to prevent mud slides in a state park.

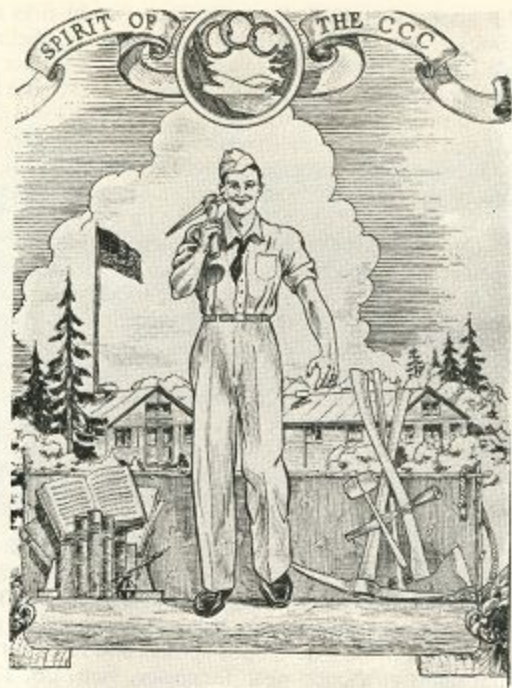
In Missouri, Roy Bass, Co. 1713, Roaring River, remembers that they built fish hatcheries, shelter houses, and restored many other features at this well known Missouri Recreation Area. Co. 1741, Mound City, built one of the finest duck and goose hunting areas in the world, The Squaw Creek Refuge, and Robert Carrol is proud of that project as he worked on it. Jerry Copeland was an educational adviser with Co. 3732, Mt. Vernon; the boys he had in his classes saved hundreds of farms in the area from soil erosion. Big Springs, near Van Buren, is now a National Park and has the largest single spring in the U.S., Co. 734 built trails and fire towers around the park and our NACCCA Vice President, Wayne Foster, took part in the project. Al Sneller picked a lot of pine cones for seed with Co. 732, Bosse.

In Idaho, Chapter 11 president, Lloyd Nielke, was with Co. 1994 at Priest River reforesting areas burned off in the great fires of 1910 and 1926. John Renko was also at Priest River with Co. 3353, where he personally planted 12,935 of the 551,550 trees planted in this rugged mountain country. Ed Moore was Emmitt, he can't remember his company number, but he remembers that they did soil erosion work and built stone fences. Herman Drechsler was with Co. 736 when they built the Howard Eaton Trail in Yellowstone National Park. Richard Corliss worked in supply and recruitment with Co. 120 at Fort Devens, Mass.

John Denham was with Co. 563, Cumberland, Ky., where they built rock walls which are standing today. Mike O'Connor, Co. 2622, Drummond, Wis., in Indian Head country of northern Wisconsin, where they stocked a lot of trout streams and lakes on the Chequamegon National Forest. Willis Turner, Co. 2731, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, where they built rock bridges at the fort. George Vinz, Co. 765, Boyes, Mont., developed springs and reservoirs for controlling grazing, and Charles Twiss built dams at a camp near Tecumseh, Neb. Co. 1741 lived in two story house boats on the White River near St. Charles, Ark. Harold Allen remembers that and the building of lookout towers in the area.



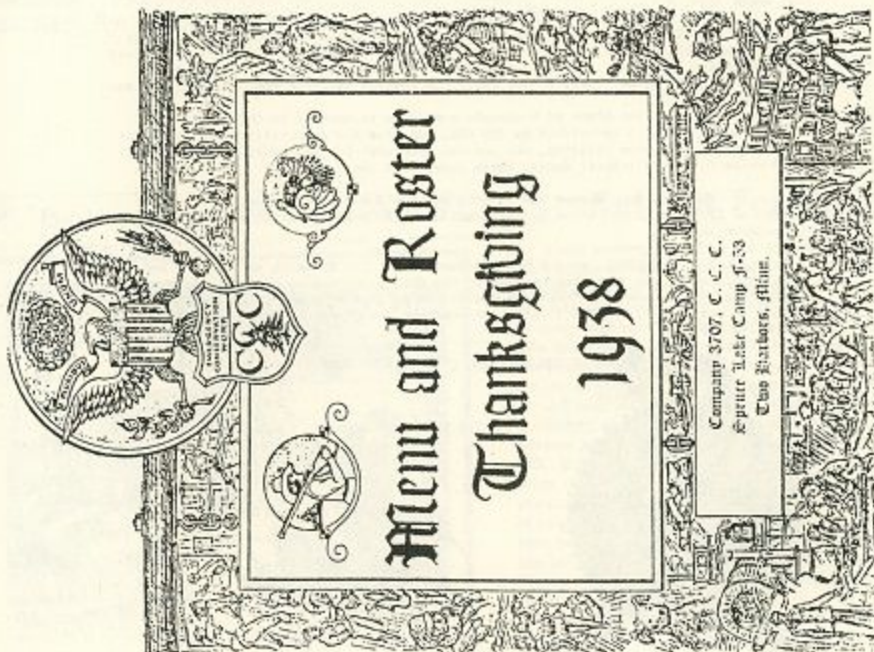
CCC Road Construction crew in Mohawk State Forest, Connecticut 1937, Camp Toumey, 173rd Company, State Forest Camp #2181. (Photo contributed by Edward Zaleski.)



The Spirit of the CCC. Contributed by Gordon Sorenson.

This monument (on right) was dedicated in 1937 by Company 4727, St. Paul, MN. It was built entirely by CCC personnel in memory of the CCC men who died while in the service of the CCC. The monument is made of stones collected from every CCC camp in the U.S. and its territories. Stones were also contributed by the Secretary of Interior. Also a stone from the White House was contributed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. This monument stands in Phalen Park, St. Paul, Minn., where Chapter 33 holds a memorial service annually with full color guard and appropriate programs.





Steve Spanovich, Co. 3907, Spruce Lake Camp, Two Harbors, Minn., sent his favorite memory, the menu and roster of Thanksgiving Dinner, 1938.



Menu Thanksgiving Day



MENU

THANKSGIVING DAY

Hearts of Celery
Oyster Soup
Creamy Sauce
Sweet Pickles
Oyster Crackers
Roast Young Turkey
Gibbed Gravy
Crowned Pear
Caudled Sweet Potatoes
Whipped Cream Fruit Salad
Pumpkin Pie with Whipped Cream
Tutti Frutti Ice Cream
Mixed Nuts
Candy
Cigarettes

COMPANY 3707, C.C.C., TWO HARBORS, MINNESOTA

ARMY PERSONNEL

1st Lieut. Herbert B. Herold, FA Sec.
2nd Lieut. John K. Kittinger, Inf. Sec.
Dr. A. Ignatius
Earl B. Kellards
Commanding
Adjutant
Camp Surgeon
Educational Advisor

TECHNICAL PERSONNEL

R. S. Donaldson
William J. Cameron
Ralph G. Ballard
Jack L. Dabson
Allen P. Swayer
John Aime
Clifford Stocking
Camp Superintendent
Construction Foreman
Cooking Foreman
Technical Foreman
Technical Foreman
Machine Operator
Shovel Operator

ARMY OVERHEAD

Paul M. Severn
Ralph G. Ballard
John T. Swayer
Frederick J. Welch
Jack L. Dabson
Russell O. Sulick
Rene J. Lach
Vernon J. Johnson
Albert Carrier
Donald V. Balgask
Paul G. Gaudet
Senior Leader
Supply Steward
Company Clerk
Company Clerk
Company Clerk
Hospital Attendant
Hospital Attendant
First Cook
First Cook
Second Cook
Second Cook
First Baker
First Baker
Assistant Educational Advisor

And are honored.



WHEREAS, one of the most successful of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal programs, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), was enacted 50 years ago on March 31, 1933; and

WHEREAS, over nine years the CCC reversed this nation's neglect of its natural resources, and helped end the despair of its human resources by putting some four million young men to work improving millions of acres of federal and state lands; and

WHEREAS, CCC members at 2,650 camps in every state planted 1.6 billion trees, built 97,000 miles of roads, constructed 3,470 fire towers, controlled erosion on more than 20 million acres, fought fires and floods, built dams, stocked fish, improved streams, created parks and camping areas, and reclaimed thousands of acres of waste land; and

WHEREAS, Corps membership gave 40,000 illiterates an opportunity to learn to read and write, gave special job opportunities to 225,000 World War I veterans and 80,000 Native Americans, and added millions of dollars annually to the domestic economy as Corps members sent \$25 of their \$30 monthly paycheck home to families; and

WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin continues to benefit to this day from conservation projects undertaken by the CCC, and from the good citizenship of former "CCC boys," now senior citizens, who learned good work habits, civic responsibility and pride in accomplishment during their years with the corps; and

WHEREAS, many former CCC members are now members of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni which is holding its annual convention in Wisconsin in 1983;

NOW, THEREFORE, on the 50th anniversary of the founding of the CCC, and in recognition of the contribution made by the CCC in reclaiming our natural resources, rebuilding our economy and restoring confidence and self-respect to Depression-era youth of America, I, ANTHONY S. EARL, Governor of the State of Wisconsin, do hereby proclaim 1983 the

YEAR OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

in the State of Wisconsin.



IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Wisconsin to be affixed. Done at the Capitol in the City of Madison this 20th day of April in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred eighty-three.

Anthony S. Earl
ANTHONY S. EARL



The signing of the Wisconsin proclamation that proclaims, "1983, The year of the CCC in Wisconsin." Pictured are (left to right) Henry Haskell, Mrs. Haskell, Rep. Harvey Stoider, Gov. Earl, Rep. Jim Holperin, Bill Brakken, and William Wolff, Jr.

By the light -- of the Silvery Moon

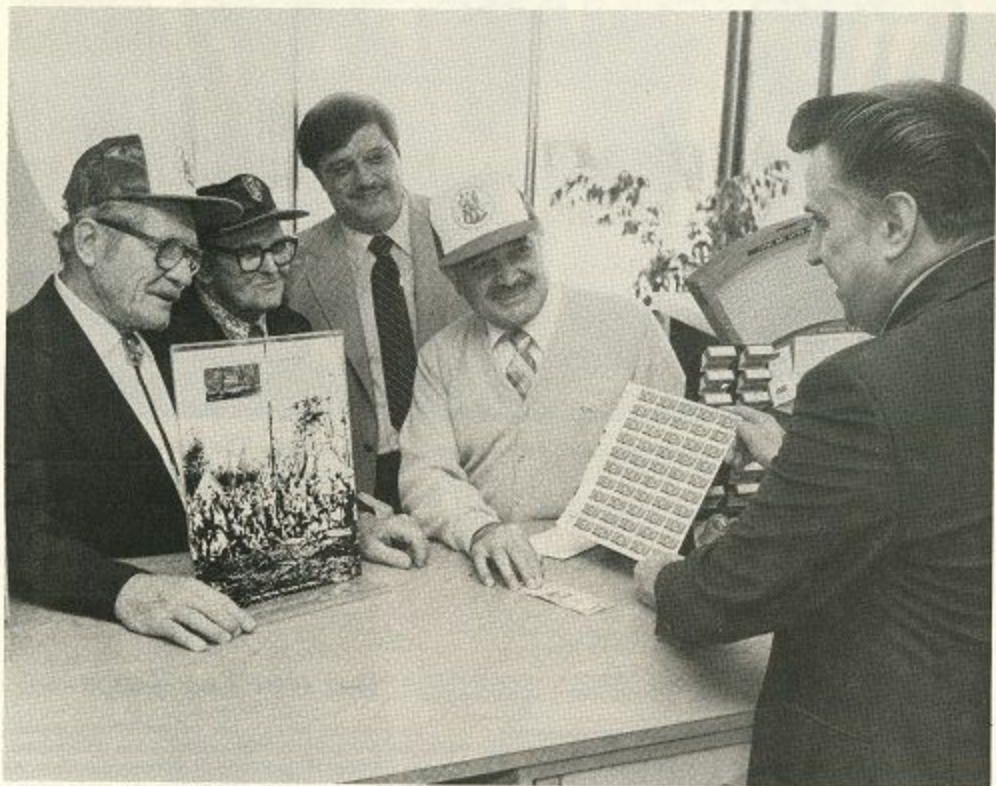


But Not For Keeps

Upon entering the CCC, you are outfitted with clothing, toilet articles and such other individual equipment as is necessary. Certain articles of clothing become your personal property. As they wear out through usage, while in camp, they will be replaced by other clothing. The Army knows, through experience, how long such clothing should wear. If through neglect, you permit this clothing to become lost or damaged, it will be replaced, but the cost of such replacement is charged against your pay.

All other individual equipment which is issued to you, such as blankets, sheets, pillow cases and the like, do not become your personal property but are given you to use while you are in the CCC. It remains government property, as is everything else within camp, the beds in which you sleep, the tools or equipment which you use on the job, the barracks in which you live and the books in your camp library. This property, while in your possession, must be protected and cared for without negligence. If it is not, you are responsible for that part of it which is damaged or lost. Disposing of government property is a criminal offense and is punishable as such.

From: "Your CCC Handbook For Enrollees" Happy Days Publishing Co., Inc., Washington, D.C. (Balloon Comment — W. Wolff.)



Commemorative postal stamps honoring the 50th anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) are on sale in post offices around the country. Above, Postmaster Richard Hickey (far right) sells some of the limited edition stamps to Eugene Sadus, Chicago City Commissioner in charge of the Forestry Department, and local residents who served in the Corps, which was organized during the Depression to provide jobs for young people and at the same time improve the environment. Purchasing stamps (from left) are Casimir Ogieglo, Clarence Sheldon, Sadus, and Cosmo Cosentino.



Eugene Schmit, Jr., president of the Wis. County Forests Assn., presents a plaque to Wisconsin Chapter 23 of the National Association of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni., in commemoration of the Corps' 50th anniversary and the work they accomplished on the county forests.

The plaque, together with other CCC memorabilia, is to go on public display at the newly constructed CCC Museum in Rhinelander's Pioneer Park.

The inscription on the plaque reads: "The Wisconsin County Forests Association, in an expression of gratitude for work done on county owned lands by the Civilian Conservation Corps, presents this plaque listing those accomplishments as tree planting, fire fighting, surveying, forest mapping, park development, land and stream improvement, construction of roads, fire lanes, bridges, ranger stations, and fire towers. The presentation of this plaque will serve as testimony to future generations of the CCC's meritorious achievements."

A sincere thank you for those Chapters that contributed money to make this book possible:

Chapter 73
Fox Valley, WI

Chapter 54
Waupaca, WI

Chapter 55
San Diego, CA

Chapter 62
Ellsinore, MO

Chapter 76
Calumet, IN

Chapter 42
Bloomington, IL

Chapter 52
Revised, AL

Chapter 21
Salinas, CA

Chapter 18
Colorado Springs, CO

Chapter 28
Lewiston, ID

Chapter 50
Hawaiian Gardens, CA

Chapter 29
Grand Rapids, MI

Chapter 2
Carpinteria, CA

Chapter 30
Sherwood, AK

Chapter 11
Kansas City, MO

Chapter 3
Jacksonville, FL

Chapter 33
Fridley, MN

Chapter 37
Fort Smith, AR

Chapter 24
South Amboy, NJ

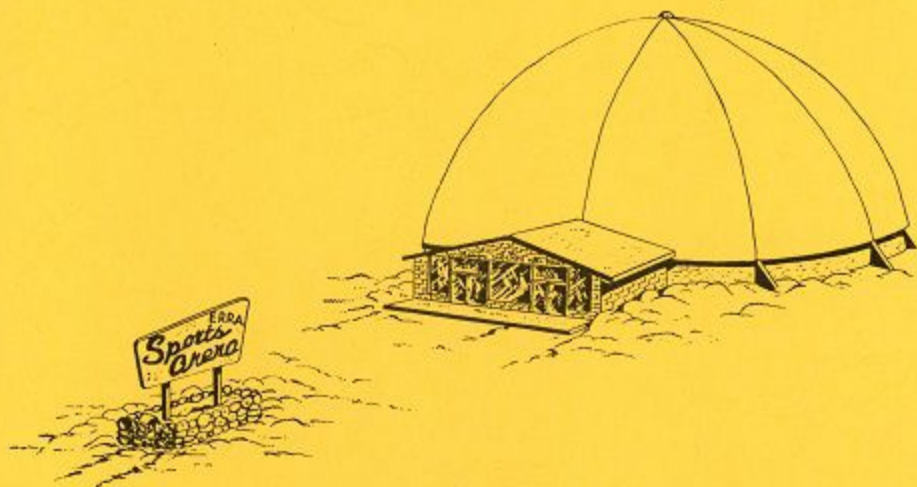


From: "Your CCC Handbook For Enrollees"
Happy Days Publishing Co., Inc., Washington D.C.
(Balloon Comment — W. Wolff.)

CCC Museum



Pioneer Park — Rhinelander, Wisconsin



Site of 3rd Biennial Convention — NACCCA