

CACTUS COUNTRY CRIER

SPECIAL CCC 75TH

ANNIVERSARY EDITION

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 44 -WINTER, 2008

March 2008 marks the 75th anniversary of the creation of the Civilian Conservation Corps by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. Though it was part of a larger group of agencies and programs collectively known as the New Deal, the Civilian Conservation Corps stands alone as the single most popular and arguably most successful of the relief and recovery programs of that time.

Forged in a time of desperation, when the American people clambered for someone to take action against a crippling national depression, the CCC set out to accomplish two immediate aims: the rebuilding of American youth and the rebuilding of America's natural resources. In the end these aims were met as a generation of young men toiled on the land, gaining life skills and work skills training even as they contributed to the welfare of their own struggling families; a tremendous turnaround for a segment of America's youth who, just a few years earlier, had believed life held no promise for them.

In addition to its benefit to American's land and it's young men, the years since 1933 have shown us that myriad other benefits sprang from the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps. When the CCC was created, American's military ranked about 17th in the world, and it was in no shape to help fight a world war. The CCC program with its voluntary activation of reserve military officers, provided nearly a decade of leadership skills training to thousands of lieutenants and captains in the camps as well as organizational skills training to field grade officers who might otherwise have been offered training only at weekend drills and annual summer encampment. Add to this the millions of young men who, because of their CCC experience, were accustomed to working and living in groups of 200 men. This cadre of CCC boys rightfully took their place at the head of a wartime military to become a part of what is now referred to as "The Greatest Generation."

The Civilian Conservation Corps was responsible for incalculable collateral jobs creation as a result of the many services it relied upon to operate the camps efficiently. An army, even a civilian Forest Army, moves on its stomach and estimates are that the existence of a CCC camp meant as much as \$5,000 to the economy of any nearby town. In addition to the bread, eggs, milk and meat purchased nationwide, consider the other goods and materials required or desired for use in a CCC camp. From foot powder to chewing gum, souvenir postcards to shaving kits, if it didn't come from leftover World War I supplies it had to be manufactured by someone and supplied to the camps and the production of these extra items and supplies created jobs, which in turn meant someone outside the CCC was taking home a paycheck, too.

Finally, we have the stone and timber, concrete and steel legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps. The infrastructure improvements made by the CCC are in wide use even today at places like Grand Canyon, Shenandoah, and Yellowstone National Parks, Gettysburg and Vicksburg Battlefields and in hundreds of state and national forests from one end of our country to the other. The true impact of the CCC will never be fully known, for even as we gain new knowledge of its value, some other aspect of its history slips through our fingers. Personal stories and reminiscences are often taken to the hereafter, little shared with family and friends and remnants of camp buildings and projects slowly slip into disrepair, or are gradually reclaimed by the forest, forgotten or ignored by local or national government agencies.

So today, let's celebrate that which we know to be true and to share it with others who may not be inclined to dwell on things like a national program called the Civilian Conservation Corps, that put 3 million young men to work some 75 years ago.



Grand Canyon to Celebrate CCC Anniversary

On March 31, 1933 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed legislation creating the Civilian Conservation Corps and on May 29 the first CCC boys arrived at the Grand Canyon. The Grand Canyon Association and Grand Canyon National Park will mark this seventy-fifth anniversary with an exhibit and a symposium titled "Saving the Park and Saving the Boys, the CCC at Grand Canyon, 1933-1942." The exhibit, May 31-October 31, will be at South Rim Village Kolb Studio and free and open to the public. A formal opening reception will take place the evening of May 30. The exhibit will start with a symposium featuring scholars, a panel of CCC enrollees, and history walks, May 31 and June 1. Registration for the symposium will begin January 31 by going to the parks website: <http://www.nps.gov/grca/historyculture/ccc.htm>

Exhibit goers will learn about the despair of the Great Depression, the fear of a possible 'lost generation' of young men and the feeling of hope that the CCC brought to poor unemployed young men and their families. Many historic photographs and artifacts, never before viewed by the public, will be on display. Attendees will learn about the many things the CCC accomplished at the Grand Canyon and the positive changes it brought to CCC boys and their families.

The exhibit has been in the planning stages for over two years and is funded by donations from the Grand Canyon Association. Exhibit team members include Bob Audretsch, James Schenck, Pam Frazier, Pam Cox and Michael Anderson. For more information contact Audretsch at bob_audretsch@nps.gov or 928-638-7834.

National Park Service historian John Paige said the CCC advanced park development 10-20 years during the program's first two years. Some have called the 1930s the 'golden years' of the park

service in large part due to the almost unlimited labor pool provided by the CCC. Grand Canyon National Park had as many as four companies with 200 boys each working simultaneously. Ultimately seven different companies worked at Grand Canyon: 818, 819, 847, 2543, 2833, 3318 and 4814. The most significant CCC accomplishments at Grand Canyon include trail building, the South Rim Community Building, the beautiful stone wall in the Village, the trans canyon telephone line and trail shelters.

If you have questions, please contact Bob Audretsch by email at: Bob_Audretsch@nps.gov or by telephone by calling: 928-638-7834

Other scheduled events.....

March

There is a tentative plan to have a CCC anniversary gathering in Washington DC in mid-March.

April

The town of Vail, Arizona, near Colossal Cave Mountain Park will host a community event in honor of the New Deal on April 26th.

May

Colossal Cave will host a CCC recognition on May 3rd. More information will be released as it is received.

September

National Reunion tentatively scheduled for Prince William Forest Park, Virginia.

Arizona Statue Status: Good News Coming!!

Although some of the details have yet to be ironed out, we're thrilled to report that Gerald Johnson, our original statue campaign benefactor, has stepped forward to provide the additional funds necessary to purchase a CCC Worker Statue for Arizona!

Full details of the generous donation will appear in the next issue of the Crier, by which time we hope to have identified where the statue will be placed. It takes 3-4 months to make each statue so our hope is to get the details worked out quickly so that we can dedicate Arizona's statue during the 75th anniversary celebration. Watch for details in the next issue of your Cactus Country Crier!

CCC Memories: Mackie Clark

Enrolled February 4, 1942, Hickory, NC
Company 3415 and Company 6447 at Ft. Bragg
Discharged July, 1942

Born in rural western North Carolina, without benefit of doctor or midwife, Mackie remembers his father working the farm and in the WPA to help make ends meet. An older brother worked in the CCC and when he was old enough, Mackie presented himself at the local selection board, "but the lady at the recruiting office kept telling me to come back 'next Tuesday' week after week."

Mackie asked a friend who was in the CCC camp at Hickory, North Carolina if he would introduce Mackie to the camp commander. Mackie's friend agreed and the very next time Mackie was turned down for enrollment in the CCC, he boarded a bus for Hickory and the promised introduction was made. Mackie explained the difficulty he'd been having with the local enrollment office. The lieutenant promptly took Mackie back to town where he was enrolled and returned to camp.

The lieutenant admired Mackie's spunk, and asked him if he'd be his orderly. Mackie took the job and served as the lieutenant's orderly at Company 3415 until the camp closed and the enrollees moved to Company 6447 at Fort Bragg. Mackie recalls, "I remained at Ft. Bragg building rifle ranges until that camp closed on July 14, 1942."

Upon his discharge from the CCC, Mackie returned home briefly before joining the Army Air Force. He served in Mississippi, California, Colorado, Texas and then the South Pacific where he was assigned to the 5th Air Force. He was on the island of Ie Shima when the Japanese delegation arrived to attend the first peace talks with General MacArthur. Ie Shima is the island where journalist Ernie Pyle was killed, just three days before Mackie's arrival. Mackie served with the occupation troops in Japan before returning to the States in February 1946.

Mackie settled in Denver, married and worked in the theatre business before attending graphic art school. He worked in graphic art, then for a brick and tile company for over 18 years, then as a manufacturers representative in hot water and steam heating for another 16 years before retiring in 1987. Mackie moved to Sun City, Arizona with his wife Audrey in June of 1987.

CCC Memories: William H. Millard

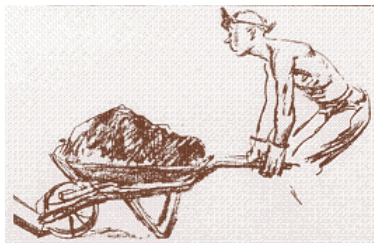
Enrolled October 1, 1938, Sandusky, MI
Company 3603

Bill enrolled in the CCC's in Sandusky, Michigan, along with a group of about 20 enrollees. They were transported by train to Mackinaw City, then put on a ferry to cross the straits of Mackinaw. The new enrollees eventually arrived at their camp near the small town of Sidnaw, which consisted of 30 or 40 homes, a gas station-grocery store combination and a small restaurant bar. Company 3603 was assigned to a camp about 12 miles from Sidnaw.

The first project involved clearing a parcel of ground to create a state park site. Bill remembers it was hunting season and enrollees wore large red patches on their backs. One day while on the way to the job site in the back of a truck, a shot came through the canvas cover, wounding two enrollees. Bill doesn't know what happened to the careless hunter, but thinks he must have been very stupid to shoot at a moving truck. Next, Bill nailed cedar shingles on several cabins built for the park, and he recalls that they also build a large lodge with a nice fireplace.

The cabin and lodge finished, Bill was put in charge of a survey crew to survey townships and record the types of trees and shrubs in the area. Bill learned how to snowshoe while surveying because the snow was often 4 to 6 feet deep. Next, Bill moved to camp maintenance where he basically patrolled the camp all day looking for small repairs that needed to be made. Bill spent a year in Camp Sidnaw.

Bill's next enrollment was in spring 1940. He was sent to Camp Luzerne on the Upper Peninsula. Headquarters sent a request for anyone interested in becoming a radio operator and though he didn't know what a radio operator was, Bill signed up. Not long afterward the CO ordered Bill to report to him immediately. Bill had been chosen to attend radio school at Camp Silver Creek. Bill learned the International Morse Code and 4 or 5 operating signals. Upon graduation, Bill was assigned to a Veteran's camp where he took over the station with just two days orientation. Bill served the rest of his time as radio operator at this camp with call sign WUEH and was discharged from the CCC in 1941. Bill used his CCC radio experience in a career with the U.S. Navy, retiring in 1963 as a Chief Radioman after 22 years of service.



Research Material Now On the Net!!

In a timely move, John Salmond's The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study has been posted online nearly in its entirety (only the index is been omitted). Salmond's book is a recognized cornerstone to the structure that is CCC research and scholarship. In the 1960s John Salmond did first what few (if any) have done better: he wrote the life history of the CCC.

Admittedly short on the personal narratives seen in so many books and articles today, Salmond's book is a study of how the CCC came to be and how it grew, evolved, flourished and eventually fell into decline as the U.S. was nudged closer and closer to participation in a world war. Without Salmond's initial important research and documentation of the program, most of today's oral history and personal narrative on the CCC would simply be interesting documentation of life experiences, lacking important context. Though published in 1967, Salmond's book is nearly a primary source document for those seeking an organizational history of the CCC.

Another important CCC history now available on line is the U.S. Forest Service history The Forest Service and the Civilian Conservation Corps: 1933-1942. Published in 1986, this government publication is especially interesting reading for CCC researchers whose interest is with the work done for the Forest Service. Original copies can be found for sale but usually run to over \$100; having this detailed piece of CCC scholarship available online for free is a huge boon, not simply for people researching the CCC but also for people with a general interest in the U.S. Forest Service.

John Salmond's Book can be viewed and downloaded here:

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/cc/salmond/index.htm

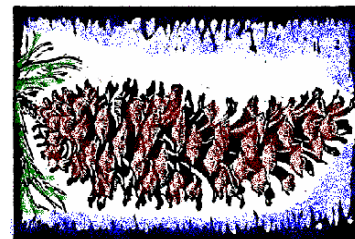
The U.S. Forest Service book can be viewed and downloaded here:

http://www.nps.gov/history/history/online_books/cc/ccc/index.htm

75th Anniversary Writing Contest

Response to our 75th anniversary writing contest was somewhat lighter than we might have hoped. In all, 13 entries were received from five 7th graders and eight 8th graders. Entries were copied and mailed to our judges and as of press time, we had scores from all but one of the judges. The final score sheet is expected in within the week; then we'll be able to announce a winner.

At the most recent Chapter 44 meeting, it was decided that the prize money should be split out amongst the winners with \$75 going to the first place winner, \$30 going to the second place winner and \$20 going to the third place winner. Additionally, the Chapter has voted to buy medals for the top three winners and recognition ribbons for all entrants. Special 75th anniversary certificates are available through CCC Legacy headquarters and a request has been made for three such certificates for the winners as well. Finally, a special thank you is in order for Carol Kruse, a ranger at Walnut Canyon. Carol provided a set of National Parks patches and a copy of "My C.C.C. Days" by Frank C. Davis for us to use as prizes. We are also hoping to receive additional donated prizes in the weeks leading up to the announcement of winning entries.



Flagstaff Engagement Cancelled

We have been discussing a lecture and presentation that Jane Jackson was going to give at Riordan Mansion the first weekend in June and a couple of you have signed on to participate as guest speakers to assist Jane. Word is that, due to a number of extenuating circumstances, this event will not go off as planned. We've assured Jane that when she needs a few CCC fellows for a presentation, we'll do our best to be there for her. Jane reports that she has scheduled to lead a hike to the Schultz Pass camp later in the year and would love for any of the guys to join in on that, by either speaking to her group at the trailhead or making the hike.

The News As It Was

If you were in a CCC camp, and that camp had a camp newspaper, it might have looked something like this. Often printed on mimeograph machines by enrollees with an editorial or artistic bent, camp newspapers were the enrollees' way of keeping up with events in camp. Happy Days, the national CCC newspaper awarded prizes to the best camp papers and often enrollees could send a copy home for an extra nickel or less.

For old time sake, here are some interesting tidbits taken from camp newspapers from 1933 to 1942.

PAINTING UP

The canteen floor and merchandise shelves received a new coat of paint. The library is completely remodeled. It is now one large room with bookshelves along the walls and a reading table in the middle of the room. Off to one side of the room is the librarian's den.

PROFANITY

There is a character of speech which in all respects has never gained an individual any amount of praise from his fellow men. This is known as profanity or in plain English, cussing or honest goodness swearing.

This is not acquired through heredity but through a habit picked up mainly by association with persons who seemingly have no regard as to what they say, or where or when they speak their mind.

Profanity can well be dropped from your vocabulary fellows. Let's try it, it will make a noticeable change in your standing here and on the "outside."

ARMY AMBULANCE ADDED

With the assigning of Capt. E.C. Murray to this company, an ambulance was also assigned here. Capt. Murray will be taking care of three camps in this Sub district and will have to use the ambulance for travel. At the present our army driver, Arden Tripp is doing the driving for Doctor Murray.

Axe Safety

Single bitted axes should never be used in place of a sledge hammer, since this spreads the eye and thus ruining the axe.

Ode To the Goldbrick

A Goldbrick is a mighty man
With muscles large and fat
And neck that's very husky too
From looking where the leader's at

Mesa Verde Plateau

The east end of the Mess Hall was converted into a theater when Mr. Monroe, a former U.S. Park Ranger at Mesa Verde National Park, portrayed on the screen some interesting views of the Mesa Verde Plateau of Colorado.

Many and diversely colored slides concerning the architecture of the extinct civilization of the early Basket Weavers and Cliff Dwellers were flashed upon the screen to the enjoyment of all. The slides pictured the Rocky Mountain grandeur, its streams, and cliffs, In all their brilliant hues.

Summer Issue

Enrollees of Camp Greene were given the first half of their summer clothes on Sunday, May 20th. Lightweight shirts, underwear consisting of a few pairs of long-john drawers and breeches.

The latter articles were donned with gusto by some while some misgivings were in order with other members of the camp. Although many of the fellows have canvas leggings, very few were to be found by looking at the lower limbs of the gang.

It has been heard said around camp that if brown stockings and campaign hats were thrown in, the Boy Scouts would have to look to their laurels, they would have enviable competition from C.C.C.ers in daily good deeds, heroics and knot tying.

California CCC Statue Campaign

Robert "Griff" Griffiths reports notable progress toward acquiring a CCC Worker Statue for California. Griff has undertaken nearly a single-handed campaign to raise funds to purchase and place a statue in California, writing to state elected

officials, forestry divisions, prominent citizens and members of the print and television media.

Word is that Griff has placed an order for the statue, which means that California will be placing a CCC Worker Statue during this 75th anniversary year! In addition to a successful fund-raising effort, Griff is amassing a useful database for membership recruitment to help insure that the CCC Legacy continues long into the future. Griff is a co-founder of the original NACCCA organization and it seems fitting that he would successfully undertake a statue campaign for California. Great work Griff!

Unfinished Business

After the last issue of Cactus Country Crier went out, it was pointed out that some names had been left of a list of recent donors to our Arizona CCC Worker Statue campaign. The editorial staff apologizes for the oversight and will include the missed names in the current list of recent donors. Due to the volume and variety of donations rolling in, it is becoming more and more difficult to track the names of donors so future lists will not likely be published. Recent donors include:

John and Thelma McLeod
Barbara Huffman
Carol Kruse
Mackie and Audrey Clark
Gerald Johnson (see related article)

CCC Legacy Chapter 44, Phoenix, Ariz.

Michael Smith, President 623-780-8279
& CCCL Interim Board Member
Jack Duncan, Vice-President 623-388-2059
Audrey Clark, Secretary 623-974-5739
Fred Garcia, Treasurer 623-878-7007

Chapter 44 is a local representative of CCC Legacy, based at Jefferson Barracks, Missouri and Edinburg, Virginia. Our mission is to promote the history of the CCC through outreach and research.

A Friend In Deed, A Friend Indeed!

Mackie Clark's barber very graciously placed a CCC Worker Statue donation jar in his shop and helped us raise funds toward our statue. As a thank-you, Mackie drew up a nifty placard, which we've used here as an advertisement. If you're in the Sun

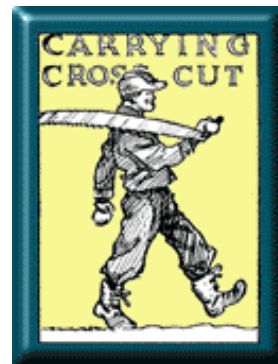
City area and find that your locks have become a bit shaggy, stop by the Scissor & Comb Barber Shop.



Scissor & Comb Barber Shop
107th Avenue & Grand, Sun City, Arizona
Phone 623-977-4469

Your CCC Stories Needed!

To make this 75th anniversary year more special, we're asking for your CCC experiences. You've probably already noticed stories from Mackie, Bill and Lou in this issue and we hope you enjoyed them. We also want to hear from you! Submit your CCC story and we'll do our level best to run it in an upcoming issue of the Crier.



Why do you suppose the cross cut man always had to walk at the rear of the column?

CCC Memories: Lou Linxwiler

Lou moved to Arizona with his family in 1935 when his father, a newly minted Army 2nd Lieutenant, received orders to report to Clarkdale, Arizona. The family traveled from Newton, Kansas in a Model A along unpaved Hwy 66 to Flagstaff. They lost a fan belt in Oak Creek Canyon but a

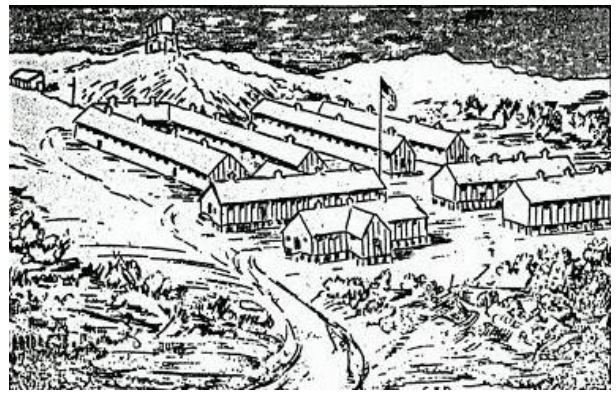
donated replacement from a truck in the Sedona CCC camp allowed them to continue on their way.

Lou's dad was assigned duties as second-in-command at the Petrified Forest camp and soon he was promoted to camp commander. Lou recalls that not long after he'd "graduated" to using the men's outhouse by himself, a stiff wind blew the structure over and he was relegated to using the women's outhouse again, which he describes as a tough blow to a 5 year-old's ego.

Next, Lou's dad was assigned to Superstition Mountains camp. Though the family lived in Mesa, Lou recalls staying at the camp 3 or 4 days at a time. In camp he made fast friends, especially among the cook staff, one of whom held young Lou over the stove so he could pick out which pieces of bacon he wanted for breakfast. Taxidermy was a popular craft activity and Lou recalls seeing many a desert creature being "stuffed."

After about a year, the Superstition Camp was ordered torn down and moved to Phoenix Papago Park. During the approximately 18 months that Lou's father commanded the Papago Park camp, the family lived near what was then Arizona State Teacher's College. In February 1937, the area received an uncharacteristic snowstorm and Lou's father took him to the camp to play in the snow.

In 1938, the family moved back to Kansas because Lou's mother wanted to escape the Arizona heat. The worst Kansas winter in over 50 years occurred during their stay, prompting the family to return to sunny, Safford, Arizona in 1939. Lou's dad was promoted to Captain in 1941 and was made the Sub-District Commander, presiding over 8 Northern Arizona camps. With Sub-District H Q in Phoenix, Lou's dad first worked out of an office at Papago Park, then at South Mountain Park. Lou's CCC days ended with the end of the CCC, but Lou recalls them fondly. "Although I was not a true CCC boy, I spent more time in the camps than most and probably had a lot more fun and less work than any of them. It was a great way to grow up – I wouldn't trade that experience for anything!"



City Budget Woes Lead To Curtailed Events

Late word from City of Phoenix is that the hoped for CCC anniversary event at South Mountain Park will have to be cancelled due to massive budget cuts. You'll recall that we had hoped to have a tree-planting event and an awards ceremony at the park some time in late March or early April.

South Mountain has indeed been a second home for us, hosting events and serving as a home for many of our CCC exhibit materials. It seems sad that just now, as the CCC celebrates a milestone anniversary, the park would see curtailed hours and services. Hard times invariably hit the libraries and parks departments first and we all hope that once the economy begins its upturn, the future will quickly brighten for our friends at South Mountain and in the Parks department as a whole.



**Be Proud of Your Past!
JOIN CCC LEGACY!**

Useful Web Links:

<http://ccclegacy.org/>

<http://www.cccalumni.org/>

<http://forestarmy.blogspot.com/>