

# Cactus Country Crier

CCC Legacy Chapter 44 Fall, 2007 Edition

## Random Ramblings...

This issue should be called “the late edition.” The Fall 2006 edition of Cactus Country Crier went out in October of last year, so I’m about a month late on this edition. Thank you for your patience!

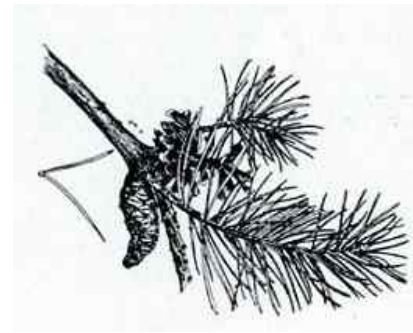
It has recently become clear that Chapter 44 has been concentrating on its statue fundraising almost exclusively, which has led to a noticeable decline in the regular funds in our treasury.

I’m asking any of you who receive our newsletter, or those of you who read the newsletter online, if you’re so inclined, we could certainly use a few dollars of your spare change to bolster our treasury funds and to keep this newsletter humming off the printer four times a year. In the 1930s, the CCC boys were allowed to keep about \$5 of their monthly pay in order to buy small items for themselves while in camp. Can you spare the equivalent of a CCC enrollee’s monthly take home pay? If you can, we’d sure appreciate it and we’d put it to good use, buying stamps or paying the printing cost for the newsletter, or perhaps for purchasing prizes to award the winners of our CCC Anniversary Writing Competition. Anything you send will be appreciated and will go straight into our Chapter 44 treasury.

The NACCCA/CRLF merger is nearly complete. Those of you who are members in good standing in either or both organizations should receive a copy of proposed bylaws along with slate of interim board members on which to vote. I hope you’ll check out the more detailed write up regarding this momentous change elsewhere in this edition.

I hope you’ll enjoy this issue of the *Crier*, including an old Christmas poem with a new CCC twist. God bless you always.

**Michael Smith, President Chapter 44**



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**NACCCA Chapter 44, Phoenix, Arizona**  
**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  
**Sunshine Representative** -----Vacant

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## Meeting Highlights for October

We had about 12 people in attendance for our October meeting, thanks in large part to **Mackie Clark**’s concerted effort to get the word out to everyone on his phone roster. Thank you Mackie.

At the outset it was announced that NACCCA no longer exists as an entity following the merger of NACCCA and the Camp Roosevelt Legacy Foundation. We are now “**CCC Legacy**.” Following some discussion about how to conduct the meeting, it was decided that we should continue to conduct our meeting under the usual format until we receive instructions from our organizational leadership regarding the status of local chapters. For now we’ll call ourselves “Chapter 44 of CCC Legacy.”

## Looking for Information...

Cecil Jasso is looking for anyone who served in Company 1912, Isabella, California. Cecil was there from 1937 to 1939 and he’s working on writing the story of his experiences. You can write to him at 2560 Kane Street, Klamath Falls, OR 97603.

**We need prize donations for the CCC Writing Competition. Gift cards, cash donations, anything!**

## Meeting Highlights for November

Turnout was a bit low, but we were all pleased to see **Norman Laughton** after an extended absence. We hope to see more of Norm at upcoming meetings. **Mackie Clark** brought a Japanese rifle, bayonet and saber that he sent home from the Pacific during the war; all are cold hard reminders of a time when we faced many foes around the world – a bit like today in some respects. Mackie, Norm, **Henry Guyer**, **Archie Fraijo** and **Fred Garcia** each shared some of their wartime memories; experiences that involved motorbikes, souvenirs and in one case a monkey that unfortunately, didn't make it all the way home.

Chapter business focused on the statue fund, the current bylaws vote, the organizational merger, the Christmas gathering and our annual donation to Maryvale Hospital.

### National Public Lands Day/Outdoor Recreation Festival 2007

Chalk us up for one more! Chapter 44 was ably represented during this year's National Public Lands Day at South Mountain Park. The event was moved from late September to a cooler date in November and combined with the Outdoor Recreation Festival.

Our crew this year included **Bill and Jeannette Millard** and **Jean Duaine** who fielded questions from passersby along with **Fred Garcia** who in the finest cavalry tradition arrived with nimble feet and a strong back to assist with packing the exhibit materials up at day's end. It typically takes an hour or more to set up the exhibit in the morning and to take the exhibit down in the afternoon.

Our thanks also to **P.J. Conover** and the staff at South Mountain Park who worked to make this event a success. It's quite a job to get our exhibit set up each year; imagine coordinating the efforts of dozens of exhibitors and visitors for such an event. Our hat's off to you folks at South Mountain Park.

Perhaps because the event was held on a Sunday this year, turnout seemed a bit low. Nevertheless, just like last year, our donation jar garnered \$30 for the Chapter 44 Statue Fund and once again we reached dozens, if not hundreds of people with our message about the CCC and what it has meant to this country.

## Christmas Is Coming!

It's hard to believe that another year has rolled around and Christmas will be here soon. We'll be having our annual Christmas festivities during the December meeting and, as has been our custom the past few years, we'll have a "loser's raffle" to give away some nice prizes.

For those of you who aren't familiar with the loser's raffle here's how it works: Every month, once the 50/50 raffle winner is drawn, we write our names on the backs of our losing raffle tickets and they are collected into a large can. No raffle tickets are sold at the December meeting; instead, we draw tickets from the collected loser tickets and simple prizes are awarded to each person whose name is drawn.

This year, with the Chapter coffers somewhat depleted, we may opt for fewer year-end raffle prizes. We'll be voting on this issue at the upcoming November meeting. In any event, there will still be some chances to win prizes and more importantly, we'll have an opportunity to gather without your having to listen to me jabber on for two hours!

### Vote Early, Vote Often

That old machine politics adage doesn't exactly apply to the current vote on the proposed bylaws and interim board for our newly created CCC Legacy, but it's a catchy headline!

By now you should have received a special edition of the Journal that includes a complete set of the proposed bylaws and a list of individuals who have agreed to sit on the interim board.

One big question that has come up so far is the question of life memberships. **Joan Sharpe** has explained that, while life membership is not spelled out in these new bylaws, current life memberships will stay intact. Life membership fees will be reevaluated for new life members but current life members will transition into CCC Legacy as life members in the new organization.

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**Reminder: Your \$10 Chapter Dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup>!**

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Another question involves the exact status and function of local Chapters. A national organization can only stand firm on a strong local base, so it's understood that chapter groups will exist in CCC Legacy in one form or another; the details have yet to be resolved. This is an area where everyone's input is encouraged, so if you have an idea in this regard, let your chapter president know or contact the national organization.

Finally, a single clause in the proposed bylaws seems to be getting a lot of attention. In the section dealing with board members, the bylaws include the statement that reads, "...a board member can be removed with or without cause." This is a customary phrase used in bylaws and is meant to be a means by which members in the organization can have a way to participate in their own organization. This clause is not meant to be the means by which individual vendettas or retribution will be exercised. The hope is that our board will be comprised of reasonable, thoughtful individuals who will focus on the greater good of the organization.

You are encouraged to give the bylaws a thoughtful reading and consider them before voting. The new organization CCC Legacy will still exist if the bylaws aren't approved, but eventually bylaws must be adopted for the organization to function properly. You should consider the bylaws to be an evolving document and not focus too much on aspects that may not appear to be covered in the current bylaws. As CCC Legacy grows and evolves, we may see the bylaws grow and evolve as well but what you have to vote on is the best first starting point for our new and improved organization.

As for the slate of interim directors, simply bear in mind that they will only serve through 2008, and then a new board will be selected by a vote of the members.



## **NACCCA/CCC Legacy National Reunion**

Cumberland Falls State Park Resort near Corbin, Kentucky played host to this year's NACCCA/CCCL reunion and board meeting September 27-29th. The weather and the surroundings could not have been nicer.

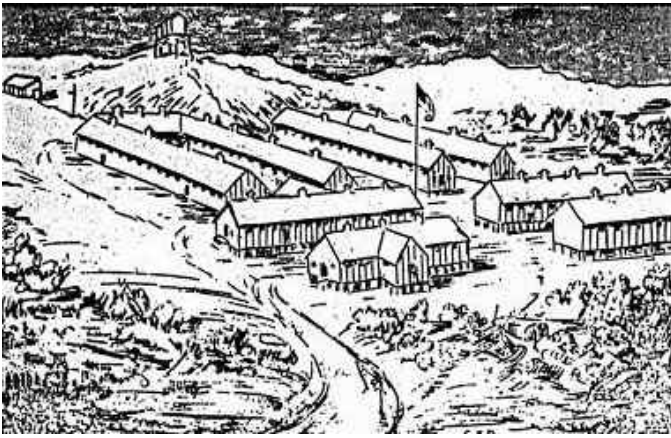
Our host was Ranger Brett Smitley who, along with the staff at the park worked diligently to make the visit a memorable one for all in attendance. An interesting slate of speakers was on hand to entertain and enlighten us regarding the history of CCC work in the area. Author and entertainer Bill Jamerson gave a screening of his documentary film *Camp Forgotten* and later entertained the crowd with songs and stories about the CCC.

Among the excursions were a visit to the falls for which Cumberland Falls State Park is so famous, along with a train ride and lunch at the historic mining community of Blue Heron. Having hosted a reunion here in Phoenix, we of Chapter 44 know what a project it can be and we salute Brett and all the people at Cumberland Falls who worked so hard to make us all feel welcome.

## **Thank you to the following for your recent donations to the CCC Statue Fund:**

Lou Linxwiler  
Joyce Smith  
Archie Fraijo  
Archimedes "Archie" Fraijo, Jr.  
Jean Duaine  
Jane Jackson  
Mackie Clark

**Remember, we're on the Internet now!** Joan Sharpe has very kindly placed our newsletter on the website of the Camp Roosevelt Legacy Foundation. Check them out at [www.ccclegacy.org](http://www.ccclegacy.org). Tell your friends and family members that they can keep up with Chapter 44 news on their computer!



## The Night Before Christmas

(With apologies to Clement Clarke Moore)

Twas the night before Christmas when all through  
the camp

The captain went strolling with a kerosene lamp.

The tools were all hung in the tool shop with care,  
In hopes that Kris Kringle soon would be there.

With the enrollees nestled all snug in their bunks,  
The Captain went prowling for raccoons and  
skunks.

The foremen in wool socks, the LEMs in their  
shorts,  
Were snoring away in a chorus of snorts.

When out by the flagpole there arose such a noise  
The captain was worried it might wake his boys.

Away to the mess hall he flew like a flash,  
Thinking some dog robber was sampling the hash.

The moonlight on a forest covered in snow  
Gave luster of midday to the camp below

When, what to the captain's tired eyes should  
appear,  
But a shiny stake bed truck rolling up in high gear!

With a little old driver, whose bells gave a jingle,  
The captain knew right away it must be Kris  
Kringle

Smoother than silk that little REO ran  
And Old Kris gave a chuckle and waved his gloved  
hand.

The captain couldn't be sure, but gazing from afar,  
Old Kris Kringle looked a bit like FDR.

Kris pulled the truck up to the mess hall in a slide  
Then bounded up the stairs and went inside.

The captain rushed up to peek though the door  
Naturally inquisitive, wanting to see more.

Kris didn't make a sound but kept his eye on the  
ball,  
As he expertly spruced up the camp mess hall.

Red garlands and green streamers he tacked up with  
care,  
Knowing that hungry peavies soon would be there.

A huge holiday feast he prepared in a flash,  
Turkey and dressing with no sign of hash!

And over it all Kris spoke a whispered prayer  
For the families back home whose boys wouldn't be  
there.

"Keep them safe and happy," Kris whispered with a  
sigh  
And with a gloved hand, wiped a tear from his eye.

Then, having completed an honest night's work,  
Kris turned toward the mess hall door with a jerk.

And back to the little work truck he dashed  
And lifting the clutch, the gas pedal he mashed.

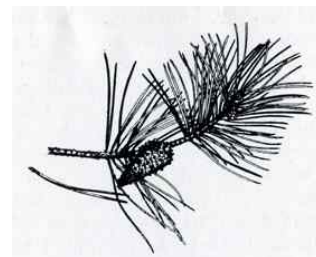
To see that truck speed through his camp was a  
sight,  
But the captain knew it would be a busy night.

Kris Kringle had to hustle and be on his way  
To visit all the CCC camps before light of day.

But the captain heard Kris exclaim with a flash of  
headlights,  
**"Merry Christmas CCC Boys and to all a good  
night!"**

\* \* \*

**Here's our wish that wherever this Christmas  
finds you, it finds you healthy, happy and aglow  
with the spirit of the season, and rich with God's  
blessing!**



## **Looking To The Future.....**

### **December**

Remember, this will be our Christmas gathering. There won't be an official meeting, just time to enjoy company and raffle off items in the annual "loser's raffle." Bring cookies, a pie or other goodies to share if you are able, along with an item to raffle if you've got one. But plan to attend in any event! Date: December 15, 2007

Also remember that your bylaws ballot must be postmarked by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

### **January 2008**

Chapter Dues are due January 1<sup>st</sup>. Help us keep the organization humming along. With our efforts focused on fundraising for the statue, we have neglected the Chapter coffers. Dues are currently \$10 but who knows what changes might come in the new year.

### **March 2008**

There is a tentative plan to have a CCC anniversary gathering in Washington DC in mid-March of 2008.

### **April 2008**

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 2008**

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

Grand Canyon National Park will open a 6-month exhibit in honor of the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the CCC. Scheduled to run in historic Kolb Studio, the exhibit will include items from the Chapter 44 collection and it is hoped that members of Chapter 44 will participate in the event.

### **September 2008**

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



## **What's to Become of Local Chapters?**

The new CCC Legacy bylaws include language that allows for local organizations, but the specifics are intentionally vague. We have the opportunity to reconfigure the current Chapter system to meet the needs of an evolving membership.

Of the ten NACCCA Chapters listed on the books for the Southwest Region, only four consider themselves to be active, three report having disbanded, and three have not responded to requests for information. Clearly the chapter system isn't working in its current form.

Perhaps as a starting point we should establish some baseline criteria for what constitutes a local entity affiliated with CCC Legacy. At the very least a local group should probably:

- Meet regularly
- Have a leader
- Provide Updates to the National Organization
- Encourage recruitment of new members

For its part, the national organization should provide support and assistance to the local groups to the extent possible. Up to now the relationship between the chapters and the national organization has at times almost been adversarial, cloaked in an air of suspicion. We have an opportunity to reinvent that relationship, making both the national and the local organizations stronger at the same time.

In the coming months, some of you may be asked for your input regarding how you think the local CCC Legacy groups should be organized and how they should function. In the future, will it be more sensible to have regional chapters with individual groups set up in various states? Please be thinking about this issue. The solutions you help develop will mean the survival of CCC Legacy long into the future!

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**Are your kids, grandkids or great-grandkids asking you what you'd like for Christmas? Are you stumped for suggestions? Tell them you want them to join CCC Legacy!**

[www.ccclegacy.org](http://www.ccclegacy.org)