

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

May 2012

Chartered: Nov. 1, 1985. **Past Presidents:** *Nelson Oats, *Harold Ballard, *W. O. Mullin, *Verle Oringderff, *Harold Trammell, *William Oakley, Frank Polenta, *S. L. Baker, *George Payne, *Harry Steinert, & *Al Clement. *deceased. **Current Officers:** President-Mike Pixler, phone contact: 817-929-1557, First Vice President-Jim Rau, phone contact: 817-367-3343, Second Vice president-Pat Mann, phone: [info later], Secretary/Treasurer-Blanche Howerton, phone: 817-578-6542, Sergeant at Arms-Troy Jones, Chaplain-Rev. James Pixler, Kitchen Committee, Lillie Payne, Historian-Ruby Pixler, Reporter at Large & Newsletter Editor-Bill Stallings, phone contact: 972-255-7237.

Monthly Meeting is held on the **second** Saturday of each month from 10:30 AM to 1PM at the North Side Multipurpose Center, 1801 Harrington [North], Fort Worth, TX 76106. Dues are \$10 a person annually and are effective from Oct. to Oct.

Directions: Interstate Hwy 30 runs east & west. It accesses the downtown Fort Worth area from the south. Exit north on Henderson St. After a couple of miles it crosses a fork of the Trinity River and becomes State Hwy 199 which goes to Lake Worth, and the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. When you reach the traffic light at the intersection of 18th St. NW, turn right [east] and go up the hill four blocks to Homan St. Turn left [north], and go a block to the Y. Stay right and continue into the **Center's rear parking lot.** Our meeting room door with the CCC sign is to the right as you approach the building. Bring a friend & enjoy fun, fellowship & food. Sign the register for you may win the \$10 door prize.

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WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: Jim & Marga Lyde, May 28, **73rd Anniversary!** Congratulations
HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Mike Pixler, Jr. and G.C. Murray, May 1st; Helene Hubbard, May 7th; Joe Minshew, May 10th;
Mike Pixler, May 20th; and Bob Nettles, May 26th.

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, ON SATURDAY, May. 12, 2012, Weather: Cloudy – Temp. 72° ; Attendance: 13.

Vice Pres. Pat Mann opened the meeting at 11 AM. Bill Stallings, Newsletter Editor, gave the invocation. Troy Jones, Sgt.-At-Arms, led the pledge to the flags.

V.P. Pat Mann called for a motion to table last month's minutes until our meeting next month, June 9, 2012. Steve Porter made the motion, seconded by Bill Stallings, motion carried. He then called for a motion to table the financial report for last month. Troy Jones made the motion, seconded by Bill McKee, motion carried.

Quite a few people had May birthdays. We all sang happy birthday to all. We remembered our dear Lillie Payne, who is ill. We miss her and Jack Bragg, who is ill also. Faye Clement had a sister who passed. Our heart goes out to her.

V.P. Pat Mann and Marcia Doherty told the group about their trip to Fredricksburg. There is a museum there which is a "Must See." Pat and Marcia made a donation to the Chapter.

Questions and comments were made by the membership. Ruby Pixler passed the donation can. Bill Stallings won the door prize and gave it back to the Chapter. Troy Jones blessed the food. He then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ruby Pixler, motion carried.

Pres. Mike Pixler, V.P. Jim Rau, and the bus driver showed up to have lunch with us before loading for a field trip to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. Our Newsletter Editor, Bill Stallings, has more to follow about our trip.

Respectfully Submitted,
Blanche Howerton, Sec./Treas.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

The Subject for This Corner is: **Thanks to the "Kids."**

It's never too late to thank someone for what they did, will do, or have done to help in the growth of the CCC Legacy. The "boys" certainly did their part.

There is a reason they are known as the "Greatest Generation." Because of the actions of the government, in land grants for cultivation, the land was devastated and ripped of vegetation. That, in itself did not cause the dust bowl, but it certainly helped to cause it. Anyway, thanks to FDR, and the "New Deal," which included the WPA and CCC, this nation was able to work its way out of the depression, and bring the land back to life with the help of the Soil Conservation Service, [SCS]. What does this have to do with "Thanks to the kids?"

It's simple, really. Thank you to the kids who keep the ideas and ideals of the CCC alive and well and always moving forward. The kids are the children, who had their dad in, or associated with the WPA and CCC. I know I will miss someone, like the "kids" that did not have a dad in one of the programs; maybe an uncle, or maybe just knew one of the boys, or maybe just want to help make sure a "Grateful Nation" remains just that, Grateful to the "boys." To all of the kids who work hard in support of the CCC Legacy, I would like to just say, "Thank you." All of your hard work is appreciated and will not be forgotten.

We at CCC Legacy Chapter 123 would like to say thank you for stopping by at this year's "Buffalo Boogie" at the FWNC&R on 12 May. Jim and I met not less than 10 people who knew someone associated with the CCC. It was shared, that everyone who attended the tour of the nature center enjoyed it. Perhaps we can do it again in the future. Thank you, Jim and Bill. I hope to see the people we met at the 9 June, 2012, meeting. Remember, bring a family member, or bring a friend, if you can't bring a friend, bring an enemy, but bring someone.

Members, if you can attend, do so. It's more than just the money. It's part of your extended family. The CCC is Forever!

Mike Pixler, President, CCC Legacy Chapter 123

Chapter Eternal

We received word that Joy Rastal, wife of R. H. Rastal, long time members of Chapter 123, died on 16 May, 2012. Services were held on Tuesday, 22 May, 2012, at Mountain View Funeral Home, Joshua, TX 76058. We extend our sympathies to the Rastal Family.

Report on Our Members

We recently learned that Faye Clement's sister passed away. We offer condolences to Faye. Her address is 2741 Ridgewood, Irving, TX 75062.

Jack Bragg has had a stroke recently, but he is at home now. He would appreciate hearing from you. His address is 3024 Amber Lane, Farmers Branch, TX 75234.

We now have the information where you can write Lillie Payne. Her address is Good Samaritan Denton Village Nursing Home, 2500 Hinkle Drive, Denton, TX 76201. She would enjoy hearing from you.

Note: This is in north Denton. There is another Good Samaritan facility in Denton also, but it is in the south side of town.

G.C. Murray gave us a call recently. He said that he was 92 on May 1 as noted above. We had a good conversation. He told of his time in the CCCs in Colorado outside of Pueblo. He became the camp night watchman, which he said was the best job going. He had the run of the place, and no one bothered him. When he came back home, he took an aviation instructions course taught by the Government at Dallas' Fair Park, and then got a job on the assembly line of the North American Aviation plant in Grand Prairie. He worked his way up to an assistant foreman's job, and he was responsible for a group assembling B-24 ailerons. His unit got so far ahead in the number of ailerons built, that they took all the men under him and put them in other departments. This left him without a crew which basically took away his draft deferment. Sure enough, his number came up and he went into the army.

G.C., 92 now, and his wife, now 86, get up at 5:00 AM three days a week, and she drives him to a neighboring town for his dialysis treatments. With all that, he still has a good outlook on life!

We visited with Bob Nettles the other day. Bob is doing OK; he uses his electric cart to get around at his retirement home, and enjoys visiting with his friends there. We had a good talk about his time in the CCC at Mother Neff SP, Brownwood SP, and the NYA which was at Inks Lake SP near Burnet. He also shared memories of his time in the Navy on a Destroyer in the Atlantic and Mediterranean. Bob was instrumental in establishing a CCC Company 817 Reunion Group that met at Mother Neff SP for a number of years.

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Our Poet Laureate's Latest

TIT FOR TAT

The rat and cat went tit for tat
Blow for blow the cat would not scat
Neither would the fat rat
Biting, clawing and all of that.

A scowl will signal fear
The hissing might bother your ear
Whatever you do, don't get near
These two – never friends in any year.

Billy bulldog showed his face
Said I am in charge of this space
I guard and protect this place
You two stop, you are a disgrace.

The rat and cat laughed at that
They gave Billy bulldog a little pat
They should not have done that
You can say goodbye to the rat and cat.

Jack Bragg

[We received this just before Jack's recent stroke]

The History of Mother's Day -with Thanks to Curtis Greer for this article.

The majority of countries that celebrate Mother's Day do so on the second Sunday of May. On this day, it is common for Mothers to be given presents and special attention from their families and loved ones. In the U.S. on May 10, 1908, the first official Mother's Day celebration took place at Andrew's Methodist Church in Gafton, West Virginia. Two carnations were given to each mother in attendance. Today, white carnations are used to honor deceased mothers, while pink/red pay tribute to living mothers.

Elmer Burkett, U.S. Senator from Nebraska, proposed making Mother's Day a national holiday at the request of the YMCA. The proposal was defeated. By 1909 forth-six states were holding Mother's Day services.

Chapter 123's Recent Excursion to the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge

Since The Nature Center's Annual "Buffalo Boogie" fell on the same date as our May monthly meeting, we decided to participate in both. The "Boogie" is an organized event for runners and walkers to help raise funds to support the Buffalo herd at the Nature Center. They have let us have a booth at the event before to promote awareness of the CCC Legacy, and that the CCC was the reason for the park's existence. Since the genesis of

Chapter 123 dates from member Janet Ketter's bringing together some of the original "boys" of Company 1&6 who worked at the Lake Worth State Park site which became the Nature Center, our group has gradually become more involved with the park to encourage restoration of some of the work of the CCC. With some trepidation we decided to organize a bus tour of the park and remnants of CCC structures for our members – many of which were not familiar with what is there. We were fortunate to contact the private tour company that the Nature Center uses. They proved to be a great help to us; providing a 24 seat mini-bus with a very accommodating young lady driver. On Saturday, May 12, we had an abbreviated meeting at our regular location, followed by our usual great lunch meal. We had invited the bus driver to join us for lunch, and she gladly accepted.

Mike Pixler and Jim Rau [our President and Vice President] had made a very early start to the day by manning the Chapter 123 booth at the "Boogie." They managed to make contact with and recruit an amazing number of visitors at the event who had connections in one way or another to the original CCC. Mike and Jim made it back in time to eat and go on the tour with the rest of us. We then boarded the bus and headed for our first stop at the Nature Center, namely Broadview Park, a large CCC site with a number of structures.

We have to stop here and acknowledge our thanks to our Official Weather Coordinator, Troy Jones, aka our Sgt.-At-Arms. When we are really in need of special weather conditions, Troy is our go-to guy. This day proved to be perfect for our needs; overcast skies but no rain, with a gentle breeze and a perfect temperature for our outing. Members making the tour were: Blanche Howerton, Ernest & Helene Hubbard, Troy & Wanda Jones, Bill McKee, Mike Pixler, Ruby Pixler, Steve Porter, Jim Rau, Bill Stallings, and Merle Timblin. Merle, along with a friend of his, drove and met us at Broadview.

At Broadview we met up with Suzanne Tuttle, Director of the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge, who had gladly agreed to accompany us as our tour guide. Our bus driver took us as close as she could to outlying structures – many that were hidden by trees and undergrowth, and most of us walked the rest of the way. We visited the Broadview Shelter that is a prime candidate for restoration, a hidden pump house with beautiful CCC rock work, two solidly built concrete water tanks over 75 years old, numerous concrete picnic tables, a drinking water fountain built with a child-access step, and a group picnic area.

Our next stop was the combination Bison Range and Prairie Dog Town. Much of the time the Park's small Bison herd likes to hide out in the trees, but since it was a cool day, we got to see them, along with several new Bison calves. Suzanne told us of the interesting history of their herd. They are descendants of the original group of the last survivors taken from Wyoming to New York City's Bronx Zoo soon after 1900. So that makes the Fort Worth herd one of the few that is genetically "pure." The prairie dogs are just a short 50 yards or so walk from the road down a tree-shaded path. Here you look over a field pock marked with small holes, and, at first, see nothing. Then on closer watch, you start seeing here and there, little furry ground squirrels darting about. In several areas you will see a guard "dog" standing alert by his mound acting as sentry for his family or group. He "barks" warnings for his clan to dive for their holes if danger nears. This area is ready made for families with kids or grandkids to spend some fun time just observing.

Our next stop was the Hardwicke Interpretive Center built on a heavily wooded bluff that is near the Trinity River [but obscured by the trees]. It has some very interesting displays including a number of animals native to the Park. It was a short work from the parking lot, but Suzanne provided two golf carts to shuttle members up to the building. We got to see the large granite marker telling the CCC story of Company 1&6 building the park.

We then stayed on our bus and took a driving tour on Shoreline Drive where you can experience just how large and varied the scenery is: from thick forests of tall trees to open views of Lake Worth and Greer Island. Our driver got us back to our Community Center on time, and one and all expressed to having a good time. Now we know that we can do this after all, we hope to schedule another excursion some time. We want to say again our deep appreciation to Director Suzanne Tuttle and her Staff for helping make this such a good experience!

Just a few days ago just to illustrate that the word "Refuge" at the end of the Parks' title does have meaning, two fishermen boating on Lake Worth were startled to see a large Alligator swimming directly at them. It scared them so, that they shot it. It proved to be ELEVEN AND ONE HALF FEET LONG. Unfortunately for them, the men have to pay a stiff fine for killing the protected animal. A moral of this story is: skinny-dipping at Lake Worth is strongly discouraged!

A Report of a CSI Meridian [Texas] Investigation

{This story supplied by Bob Nettles, is from an original member of CCC Company 817, Everett Ritchey.}

In 1934 Everett was in charge of 50 men that were sent to Meridian, Texas, to finish up a camp that was started by World War I Vets. While there they began supplying kitchen garbage and grease to a local farmer to feed his hogs. The farmer had a crippled pig that was a pet to one of his children. Some of the boys in the camp stole the pig and carried it about two miles from camp where they killed it, butchered it, and then ate it.

Ritchey did not know anything about this until the County Sheriff asked him to come to his office. He was informed as to what took place and given the names of three of the boys involved. He then asked one of them if the Army was not giving him enough to eat, whereupon the boy turned as red as a beet and confessed. He told Ritchey that it took them two or three nights to eat all of the pig. The investigation was closed when the boys settled with the farmer by giving him \$6.00 for the pig.

The Civilian Conservation Corps Legacy is a non-profit organization dedicated to research, preservation, and education to promote better understanding of the CCC and its continuing contribution to American life and culture. *"I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, more important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work."*

--FDR, 1933

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