

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

March 2015

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: 817-307-0889, Second Vice president-Pat Mann, phone: [info later], Secretary/Treasurer- Steve Porter, phone contact: 817-244-6714, Sergeant at Arms-Troy Jones, Chaplain-Rev. James Pixler, Kitchen Committee, [Open], 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.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES: No anniversaries this month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: LaVaughn Greer, Crowley, TX, 03/23; Pauline Ellis, Edna, TX; Jim Rau, Fort Worth, TX, 03/20.

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, March 14, 2015

Weather: Sunny, Temp. 65°, Attendance: 12

The meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM by President Pixler.

The Invocation was offered by Jim Rau.

Pledges to the flags were led by Sgt.-at Arms Troy Jones.

President Pixler reminded members present of the purposes of the CCC Legacy to educate and further understanding of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its contribution to American life 1933 to 1942.

Secretary/Treasurer Porter read the minutes from the February 14, 2015, meeting of the chapter. Motion to accept the minutes as read was made by Troy Jones and seconded by Jim Rau. All in favor, motion passed.

The financial report was available to members present and motion to accept the report was made by Jim Rau and seconded by Bill Stallings. All in favor, motion passed.

Members with birthdays in March are LaVaughn Greer, Pauline Ellis, and Jim Rau. Birthday greetings were sung by the members to Jim, who was the only celebrant present.

Motion was made by Larka Tetens to recognize Kathy Mays Smith of Dallas, Texas, as Honorary Life Member of Chapter 123. Second was made by Troy Jones and all in favor, motion passed. Members were reminded of the chapter page on Face Book and how to access it. Jim Rau brought a new book by member Wes Culwell on the CCC activities of Camp 1816 around Lake Worth for members to view. Wes is still seeking contribution of stories about the area.

The Can was passed for donations and the door prize was won by Evelyn Timblin who returned it to the Chapter.

The blessing was offered by Merle Timblin. Motion to adjourn was made by Tone Rodriguez and seconded by Jim Rau. President Pixler adjourned the meeting at 12:16 PM. A delicious meal was served by the Kitchen Committee and enjoyed by all present. Our next meeting will be April 11, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer

A RED-FACED APOLOGY

We must apologize to long time Life Member Walter Atwood of Jacksonville, Florida, for missing his birthday in February. Walter celebrated his **93rd Birthday on Feb.13, 2015!** In checking, we did not have that in our records of him but now we do. He apparently hangs his hat there in Jacksonville only occasionally, because he had just returned from a visit to Disney World and before that on a Caribbean cruise. The Energizer Bunny has nothing on Walter.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER: WHILE PICKING UP MY SHOES, A HISTORY LESSON CAME TO LIGHT

A group of us consisting of Wes Culwell, Bob Crow, Gary [a friend], Jim Rau, and myself have recently been working on site preparation for the CCC Memorial Project at the grounds where the CCC Camp 1816 was located. We spent a long day laying out and marking off, and putting the forms where the concrete slab will be for the memorial marker. Jim Rau had gone over to the area where the camp had been, and was looking for more stones to use. He knew he was about where the flag pole had been, and while picking up loose stones he noticed some other buried stones. He started clearing dirt and roots off those stones and noticed as they appeared they seemed to be in a circular pattern. He then noticed there was another outer ring of stones; thus there were two concentric circles, and this proved to be the actually site of the flag pole. He came back over to us just as we

were finishing up, and really ready to call it a day. When we learned what he had found, we got our second wind and went over to check his find out. We forgot how tired we were, and started uncovering more stones in the pattern. We then knocked off for the day, and, being hungry, headed for a nearby restaurant noted for its Mexican Food. While enjoying the meal and good company, I remembered I had left my work shoes at the project site. When finished I headed back, and as I passed Sunset Park, I noticed several families enjoying the fine Texas weather. They were having a picnic, kids playing, just having fun. As I got back to the site, I noticed a small group of young kids in the area of the memorial. I pulled up, told them I was just here to pick up some forgotten shoes. Then I picked up my copy of noted author and Committee Member Wes Culwell's new book, "*Civilian Conservation Corps at Lake Worth*," opened it to the aerial photograph looking down on the Camp 1816, and moved toward the kids and asked them if they knew what they were looking at while pointing at the field in front of them? They were too young to know about the CCC, but I did share a bit of the story, and about CCC Company 1816, and this being the site of their camp. We walked over to where the flag pole had been, and I said that some of their grandfathers or great-grandfathers may have been in the CCC here. They seemed amazed at what I was saying, and I told them to enjoy the view and then left, with them still walking around. If I had not forgotten my shoes, this history lesson would not have come to life. I'm glad I forgot those shoes!

And while I am on the subject, the unofficial dedication date of the Memorial is 30 May, 2015. Tax deductible donations in any amount, #54-2046004, check or M/O; in the memo area write: CCC Legacy Chapter 123 Memorial Project, through CCC Legacy, Inc., P.O. Box 134, Edinberg, VA 22824, or CCC Legacy Chapter 123, 3505 Socorro Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76116.

Sincerely, yours in service,

Mike Pixler, President
CCC Legacy Chapter 123
3116 Indian Gap St.
Weatherford, TX 76087

HOMER G. COZBY AND THE CCC

We were recently going through our so-called "archives" and found a typed remembrance of a CCC "Boy" that we had somehow missed before. He begins:

Hi, my name is Homer Cozby, now living in Mineral Wells, Texas, after retiring. {This was written in 1990} I am 70 years old. My life includes military service and duty overseas in WW II; as a Letter Carrier for the United States Mails; and first of all, a hitch in the CCCs, the Civilian Conservation Corps devised by President Franklin Roosevelt in the early days of his first term as President.

During the long years of the Great Depression, young men from urban and rural America in their teens to forties were enrolled in the most famous conservation effort ever devised in history. As needy America stood in bread-lines or tramped the streets in poverty, hoboed from city to city, or rode the rails on freight trains across the country; those fortunate to be enrolled in the CCCs were at work.

Tree monkeys, soil soldiers, by any name we were the CCC of America. Enrolled in camps similar to our Camp Wolters [former Army camp outside Mineral Wells], we were grouped into numbers of about 400 men per camp.

Our parents and friends were feeling the pinch of the Depression years. Jobs were non-existent; factories and construction were at a stand-still. Thousands of men of my age considered ourselves lucky to be enrolled in the Three Cs. We were housed in well built barracks, clothed and well fed [naturally there was some argument about that, then!]. We wore denim fatigues as work clothing, heavy wool coats in winter and for dress, and army-type uniforms of khaki twill or wool olive drab.

Our work day was approx. 8 – 9 hours, starting with wake-up call at 5:00 AM, standing reveille formation for flag raising, then to mess [that's breakfast]. After that we marched to the Park Service buildings [this was at my camp at least] where we were dispersed to our job locations about the park. Out on the job, we were given sack lunches of sandwiches, fruit and cookies, etc. A about 4:00PM we were trucked back to quarters, shaved, showered and shined for dress formation of retreat [lowering of the flag]. Then we marched in columns to mess [this time supper] in the mess hall to be served cafeteria-style at tables and benches. After mess, we were free to visit the recreation hall, library, or the store/canteen until Taps by bugle [or lights out] at 9:00 PM.

That was 5 days a week. On Saturday, we cleaned house; cots were stripped and folded; bedding put out to sun if possible. Each week everything had to be scrubbed with soap and G.I. brushes. Our laundry came back and was put away in foot-lockers beside freshly shined shoes. On Sunday, you were free all day to attend chapel, ride the truck into town, play pool or laze inside barracks. Personally, my off time was spent exploring the CCC built hiking trails of the Chiricahua National Monument near Wilcox, Arizona. There were 148 miles of trails built by former members of old CCC Camp NP-09A.

All those things for our work and also paid 20 to 30 dollars per month; 8 dollars of which we received in store canteen taps. The remainder sent to our homes for those trying to keep the wolf from the door.

The CCC was the first of many National Government efforts devised by the Franklin D. Roosevelt administration. The WPA, the NRA, CPA, etc., were all working attempt to turn the tide of the Depression Years. All were, in a measure, beneficial to man and country.

This is by no means the end of our visit with Homer Cozby. This is just an introduction to his very interesting story which we will soon come back to. As they said at the end of the old "Lone Ranger" radio program: "Stay tuned!"

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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