

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

January 2013

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, [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: James Green and Earnest Hubbard, both Jan. 2nd, Fay Clement, Jan. 9th; G.M. [Boots] Brice, Jan. 30th.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 2013. Weather: OVERCAST, WINDY, TEMPERATURE 58°, Attendance: 12.

President Pixler called the meeting to order at 11:07 AM. He shared a few facts from Coffee Time. The invocation was offered by Chaplain, Rev. James Pixler. Sgt-at-Arms, Troy Jones led the pledges to the flags.

President Pixler asked if all present had received the newsletter, which included the minutes from the 8 December, 2012 meeting, all had received them. A motion made by Bill Stallings, 2nd, Jim Rau to suspend the reading of the minutes. All were in favor, motion passed.

President Pixler presented a printed financial report, in the absence of Secretary/Treasurer, Blanche Howerton. Motion to accept the report, as written and presented was made by Steve Porter, 2nd, Troy Jones, all in favor, motion passed.

Sick call, birthdays, and anniversaries were next, shared by the phone committee. Pixler shared he had left a message for 5 of the members as a reminder of the meeting, Frank Borello, down around Houston, is doing OK. No aches or pains to speak of, still bowling, beat his average, Thursday. A concern about Ernest and Helene

Hubbard, left a message but have not been able to contact them, since the December meeting. We hope they are well. Jim Rau shared Merle Timblin was back home after being in the hospital with pneumonia. He is doing better. Steve Wingo is doing fine. Jim is still working on having him available for the CCC Day at the FWNC&R in March. Jim mentioned James Green, to invite to the event. Bill Stallings shared information on the members he contacted, Janet Ketter is doing OK. Jack Bragg has his good days and bad days and sent a new poem with Bill to share with the chapter. Bill Had Christmas dinner with Bob Nettles; he's doing OK. Tony Rodriguez had a previous commitment. Pat Mann shared information of the members he had contacted. Allen Wilkerson would like to attend the meetings, but is unable because of his wife's health. Pat shared he attempted to contact others, but they had not returned his call.

There were no anniversaries. No members present had a birthday in January. We'll have to sing for Tony, 1 January, next meeting.

Old business. President Pixler shared the current membership numbers of the chapter to be 89 and at national to be 53. The chapter roster is being updated and should be complete by next meeting, 9 February, 2013.

New business. A letter of resignation was presented from Secretary/Treasurer, Blanche Howerton. Following the reading, the chapter members present, refused to accept the letter, as written, would not vote to accept, because of the effective date being improper and not accurate, that being, Dec. 23, 1912. President Pixler, by executive decision, permanently tabled that letter.

Program. A briefing of the initial meeting held 8 January, 2013, concerning the major event of CCC Day at the FWNC&R followed. The basic agenda was shared. Suzanne Tuttle, chapter member, and the Manager of the FWNC&R, was present to answer questions concerning the Nature Center. Members present at the meeting were: M. Pixler, J. Rau, P. Mann, M. Doherty, and S. Tuttle. It was shared that many items had been discussed, with actions required prior to the follow up meetings. As the times and requirements were listed, Bill McKee made a donation in support of the event driver. Thanks Bill. One of the items discussed and then summarized by Jim Rau during the event is "Ask a Member." More to follow. The next event meeting is tentatively, 7 February, 2013, 1:00 PM, at the Hardwicke Center.

Pass the Can and the drawing were next. Wanda Jones won the door prize and donated it back to the chapter. Thanks Wanda.

Thank you Kitchen Committee, Ruby Pixler and Wanda Jones, for the preparation of the lunch. The blessing was given by Rev. James Pixler.

A motion to adjourn was made by Troy Jones, 2nd Bill Stallings, all in favor, motion passed. We adjourned at 12:07 PM.

A wonderful meal was enjoyed by the CCC Legacy Chapter 123 family and friends present. It always is.

Respectfully submitted,
For Secretary/Treasurer
Mike Pixler, President

President's Corner, 12 January, 2013

The subject of this corner is: A Happy New Year?

Happy New Year! Yeah, right - at least it is a new year. Happy? We'll see. Wait a minute. That does not sound like me. What's wrong? I don't know. I guess that's just the way it seems to me that people are, nowadays. Actually, if you think of all that is good with the chapter, it is a time to be happy. So let me say it again and mean it, HAPPY NEW YEAR! Now, I feel better.

The year of 2013 is very special to, not only CCC Legacy Chapter 123, but to the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is the year of the 80th anniversary of the CCC, 1933-1942. There are activities scheduled by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department throughout the "Lone Star State." Thanks to TPWD, and all of the supporters of the CCC. The major celebration event will be on 6 April, 2013, at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Looks like a chapter road trip to me. I don't want to be the only representative from the chapter there. This may be the last chance for some of us to be involved with an event at the state level. We'll talk about that a bit later.

Do any of the members remember Sally or Willis from the White Rock Lake, Dallas, CCC Reunion, 2006? I think they may be going. How about Suzanne Tuttle, Manager, with staff, at the FWNC&R? She may go and we will all have displays. Perhaps, I should contact Janelle Taylor, everyone knows Janelle, and ask about a combined display. Wait, maybe not. Things are getting a bit fuzzy now.

Let's see; TPWD, City of Dallas reps, maybe, the FWNC&R, Rick Shephard and company of the FONC, City of Fort Worth officials, like the Mayor, officials and friends from the surrounding towns and various departments in the area. Support from various organizations, Oh and us! No, I didn't forget CCC Legacy Chapter 123.

You've got be kidding. Hey, I just described part of the groups and activities that are part of Civilian Conservation Corps Day at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. As part of the 80th anniversary of the CCC, Chapter 123 with support from FWNC&R and the FONC, as well as others, will conduct the event on 30 March, 2013. Folks, this is the only chance we will have to celebrate the 80th anniversary. CCC Legacy Chapter 123 has not been in the forefront of an event, to date. That's about to change. There are many people working to make the event a success. We all need to do our part, and not just attend, volunteer. We all can do something. Just sit and talk to the people. Share a little history. Go on the tours. No, let's not go there yet.

Sure would like to see as many members as possible at the FWNC&R, ON 30 March, 2013, and come go to Palo Duro Canyon SP on 6 April, 2013. But perhaps more importantly, need to see you all at the next chapter meeting, 9 February, 2013.

Yes, it is a Happy New Year!

Yours in Service,

Mike Pixler, President

CCC Legacy Chapter 123

NEWS OF A MEMBER

In our last newsletter we told of correspondence from a gentleman in France who has been doing research on member Norbert Gebhard and one of the aircraft that he flew in WW II. We failed to pass along the good news that Mr. Gebhard's surgery for bladder cancer was successful and tests show he is now free of the disease. We apologize for the delay and wish Norbert and Betty a truly Happy New Year!

OUR JACK BRAGG HAS GIVEN US A NEW POEM FOR A NEW YEAR – 2013

THE OLD IS NEW

YES WE WERE GREENER THAN GRASS
NOT QUICK ENOUGH TO HEAD THE CLASS
BUT YOU KNOW WE DID PASS
IN GREAT NUMBERS IN MASS.

OUR WORLD WAS BRAND NEW
EVERYTHING WAS A PRETTY BLUE
SUN SHINING BRIGHT ADDED TO
THE LOVE BREAKING THRU.

WON'T FORGET THE PEOPLE I MET
MANY HUNDREDS I WILL BET
FACES THAT ARE HARD TO FORGET
GREAT MEMORIES TO LET.

THEN I THINK OF YOU
YOUR FACES COME IN VIEW
EVERYTHING IS AGAIN NEW
IT'S THE OLD THAT IS NEW.

SPECIAL ARE FRIENDS OF OLD
WORTH MORE THAN GOLD
REMEMBER THE STORIES TOLD
WAITING FOR LIFE TO UNFOLD.

JACK BRAGG

OK CLASS, GET OUT YOUR PEN AND NOTE PADS; IT'S TIME FOR A GEOGRAPHY LESSON.... TEXAS GEOGRAPHY THAT IS.

Are you a sun lover?

Sun City, Texas 7628
Sunrise, Texas 76661
Sunset, Texas 76270
Sundown, Texas 79372
Sunray, Texas 79086
Sunny Side, Texas 77423
or Tesnus, Texas [sunset spelled backwards; a flag stop on the old Southern Pacific Railway]

Hungry?

Bacon, Texas 76301
Noodle, Texas 79536

Oatmeal, Texas 78605
Turkey, Texas 79261
Trout, Texas 75789
Sugar Land, Texas 77479
Salty, Texas 76567
Rice, Texas 75155
Pearland, Texas 77581
Orange, Texas 77630
.....And top it off with: Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Want to travel to other cities? Why leave the state?

Detroit, Texas 75436
Cleveland, Texas 75436
Colorado City, Texas 79512
Denver City, Texas 79323
Klondike, Texas 75448
Pittsburg, Texas 75686
Newark, Texas 76071
Nevada, Texas 75173
Memphis, Texas 79245
Miami, Texas 79059
Boston, Texas 75570
Santa Fe, Texas 77517
Tennessee Colony, Texas 75861
Reno, Texas 75462
Pasadena, Texas 77506
Los Angeles, Texas 78014

....Or travel outside the country?

Athens, Texas 75751
Canadian, Texas 79014
China, Texas 77613
Dublin, Texas 76446
Egypt, Texas 77436
Ireland, Texas 76538
Italy, Texas 76538
Turkey, Texas 69261
London, Texas 76854
New London, Texas 75682
Paris, Texas 75460
Palestine, Texas 75801

Oh well, you say, I'll just head for West, Texas. Then you find that it's not in West Texas! Quiz Friday.

WE NOW BEGIN THE STORY OF ONE OF OUR NEWEST MEMBERS: LARKIN G. DILBECK.

Larkin G. Dilbeck was born September 29, 1918, on a farm between Glover and Golden, Oklahoma, near Idabel in the far southeast corner of the state. Larkin was the youngest of five boys in the Dilbeck family, and when he was just a year and a half old, their father left and abandoned them. As a result, Larkin has no memory of his father, but the oldest brother, Alvin, who was ten at the time, did remember him. Larkin thinks that his father was not a bad person, just very irresponsible. This event forced them to move in with their mother's parents near the community of Big Fork, Arkansas, in west central Arkansas. This was for six months. It was just the first of a number of moves the family had to make in order to make a go of it. Their mother only had an elementary school education, and so had few skills or knowledge to become the head of the family, but she kept them together. Years later Larkin remembers his mother [nearly 80 by then and starting to have memory problems] being almost constantly obsessed about how she was going to provide for her boys; how was she going to keep them fed.

Their next move was to a house in Big Fork that was just across the road from a big sawmill that employed quite a few men. Their mother began making a living by taking in washing and ironing for these men. It was a life saver for them. They had to build a fire for the wash pot, and she had two tubs; one to use with a wash board to scrub the cloths, and the other to rinse them.

Larkin was age seven when a man from Mena, Arkansas, gave them permission to live on a forty acre farm he owned that was about 5 miles away back in the hills from Big Fork and 5 miles from Opal, Arkansas; both very small communities. The farm had a pretty good house and barn on it. The agreement was it would be rent free for them if they kept the brush from taking the farm. They gradually acquired a few cows for milk, two mules to help plow with, chickens for eggs, and some needed farm implements. Alvin, the oldest, had finished the 8th grade by this time [the farthest he went], so he was old enough to handle a plow and to do other farm work. The second older brother had polio at a very young age and was an invalid most of his life. They cleared enough land to begin raising some cotton and corn. Larkin and his other brothers did what they could to help; chopping weeds out of the cotton and corn, etc. Cotton was the only cash crop available at that time, but they could only raise enough for about one bale, which brought from \$25 to \$40, depending on the market. The corn was used as feed for the stock. With the money the family could buy a few clothes and shoes to wear to school. They got shoes mail order from Sears, Roebuck & Co. When the shoes wore out, they returned them to Sears saying that the shoes were unsatisfactory! It wasn't exactly the right thing to do, but Sears always honored their warranty and sent new shoes as replacements. For the Larkins it was just one of the things they had to do to survive. They only wore shoes in cold weather; summer meant going barefoot, including to school. When asked if they experienced any of the dust storms of the Thirties, Larkin says not much, but that a severe drought in 1930 was hard on them.

They were able to raise much of what they ate. Breakfast usually consisted of biscuits and gravy, sometimes oatmeal, and occasionally some sausage in the fall and winter when they would kill a hog. Another source of meat was hunting, usually squirrel or maybe rabbits. They had a .22 rifle and a 12 gauge shotgun. Using the shotgun on squirrels meant you had to pick a lot of shot out of the meat. Larkin got to be a pretty good shot with the .22, and by aiming for the head, the bodies were unaffected. The main reason the boys were successful with squirrel meat, was that they had one of the best squirrel hound dogs around. Her name was "Red" and she was a natural squirrel tracker and loved her work. She not only smelled them, but she looked up and could follow them visually through the trees; something a lot of dogs could not do. One of her pups became nearly as good as she was, so they made a good team. "Red" would often take off and go hunting on her on, so one time

when she did not come home for a few days, Larkin and the boys didn't think much of it. It turned out that two brothers living in the area were out hunting and came up on the dog. They began hunting with her and fell in love with her because they were so successful with her. She followed them home, they fed her, and thought how lucky they were to find such a good hunting dog. A day or so later, a neighbor happened by, and the boys showed off their new dog. The man recognized the dog and told them, "That dog belongs to the Larkin boys and they might kill 'ya for taking their dog!" When telling this, Larkin smiles and says he didn't think he and his brothers had that rough of a reputation, but those two brothers did not know that, and the next day brought the dog back to the Larkins.

The boys had chores to do before breakfast and school. Larkin was the first up and had to build a fire in the main room and then in the kitchen. To attend school the boys had to walk about 3 ½ miles each way, and had to cross two creeks to get there, all by 8:30. Their mother usually fixed them a syrup bucket of biscuits and sausage for lunch. Logs were usually placed to cross the creeks with, but when it rained, the water running off the hills would wash out the logs and they had no way of crossing the creeks. With this, and catching colds and the flu due to exposure, and having to help on the farm; Larkin lost a lot of school time. It should be mentioned here that the rural schools of that time worked their semesters around spring planting and fall harvesting because the students had to help out on their family farms. Larkin explains that their spring semester ended in early April for planting; the fall semester did not start until late October for harvesting, and they went to school in July and August. By the time he was age 14, he was still just in the 5th grade. There were only 3 left in his class, so at mid-term their teacher promoted them to the 6th grade. Right after this, the family had to move again, this time to Potter, Arkansas. Larkin's next older brother by two years had been staying with their grandparents at Big Fork, and was in the 6th grade there. The teacher at their new school at Potter, not having any of their records, asked which grade they were in. The older brother told of being in the 6th grade, and when Larkin was asked, he said he was also in the 6th grade. His brother blurted out, "You are not! You are in the 5th grade." So Larkin, already two grades behind, repeated the 5th grade again. By the time he got to high school, he was just days shy of his 18th birthday. The family was living in Hatfield, Arkansas, then and lived about two miles from town. They had three cows by then and sold cream to make a little extra money. They saved the cream in 50 gallon cans, and took it to town in a wagon. Larkin remembers that by then, the cream was sour and smelled awful. In his last two years in school there, a neighbor ran a school bus of sorts for the school. Larkin described it as, "A truck with a chicken coop in the back." They had to leave extra early because the driver had to drop them off and make another loop in the opposite direction. By the time that he finished high school [and he was the only one of the brothers to do so], he was almost 20 years old; and there were only nine left in his class. Larkin tells everyone that he graduated in the top ten of his class! They are suitably impressed.

Even before he graduated Larkin joined the CCC in April of 1939, served one six month term, and then went back to school for his last semester in the fall. He then re-enlisted in the same CCC camp which was a U.S. Forest Service Camp F-4 in Ouachita N.F., Company 742, and called Camp Shady. It was seven miles over the mountains from Mena, Arkansas. The camp had been built several years before his arrival; including Shady Lake which is still a popular place to visit. Larkin was paid \$30 per month, \$7 of which he could keep. That \$23 that went home to his mother was a big help because there were two boys still at home, including the invalid son. Larkin's first job, working with another boy, was splitting and cutting logs to make benches that were put around Shady Lake. They also cut roads through the forest, created recreation areas, and cut wood for their use in camp.

Most of the boys in camp were from the same county. There were about 100 boys in camp; sleeping about 30 to each wooden barrack. They slept on cots, not beds. There was a dusty road next to the barracks, and during inspections, if a blanket was found to be dusty, that boy was put on the wood detail for the weekend. They stood

reveille in their khakis; then went to breakfast. After breakfast they changed to dungarees, and trucks took them to their work assignments. Lunches were taken to them in the field. They had to dress for evening meals. The camp did have a small library but no education program as some camps did. Some of the boys had to stay in camp on the weekends to be available to fight forest fires. Not long after his return to the CCC, Larkin learned that by transferring to the CCC camp near Monticello, Arkansas, he could go to school in the mornings to extend his education. He had a choice of taking credit classes at the nearby college, or signing up for a business course. He wanted to learn how to type and take shorthand, so he elected the business course. They were required to do their regular CCC work in the afternoons and on some Saturdays. This Monticello CCC camp was Co. 3794-C, a Soil Conservation Service camp, SCS-15. This area is in the southeast part of Arkansas, and is much flatter than where his previous camp was. The work involved laboring for area farmers such as pulling up trees to cut up for the wood. It wasn't long before Larkin was put to work in the CCC office doing filing and typing because of his class work. He was never fast enough taking shorthand to be useful at it.

Larkin's total of two years in the CCC [the most allowed then] was up and he was discharged on December 6, 1941. He started home on the bus, and had to change buses at Texarkana, where he learned of the attack on Pearl Harbor. When he got home to his mother's in Hatfield, Arkansas, he found there were no jobs available, not even for a nickel an hour. He had no transportation to go anywhere else, and he got quite depressed about his prospects.

Larkin then got a letter from his aunt who had a 20 acre farm in Portales, New Mexico, and she offered to pay him \$20 a month to come help her on the farm. She said that he could go to the local college, now Eastern New Mexico University, in the mornings. He took her up on the offer, and finished the spring and summer semesters of school there. He had just started the fall semester, when he got his notice to appear at his draft board. He went home and was told to report for the U.S. Army at Shreveport, Louisiana, on 3 December, 1942.

There is much more to Larkin's story, so stay tuned.

A SPECIAL POEM BY JACK BRAGG

IN MEMORY OF LILLIE PAYNE, KNOWN TO FRIENDS AS DEE, A FINE LADY AND A LOYAL MEMBER OF CCC CHAPTER 123 FOR A GREAT NUMBER OF YEARS, THIS POEM I WROTE FOR HER. SHE ASKED THAT IT BE READ AT HER FUNERAL.

DEE

SHE JUST WANTED TO BE KIND

BROUGHT HOME EVERY DOG AND CAT SHE COULD FIND

NAMED THEM WHATEVER CAME TO HER MIND
COONS AND OTHER DID NOT GET LEFT BEHIND.

EVERYBODY WAS HER FRIEND
WAS THE MESSAGE SHE WOULD SEND
COLOR DID NOT MATTER SHE COULD BLEND
HER KINDNESS NEVER SEEMED TO END.

SHE LOVED TO BAKE ROLLS AND BREAD
EVERYBODY'S RECIPES SHE READ
OH! THEY ARE SO GOOD IS WHAT THEY SAID
HAPPINESS TO HER WAS TO GET YOU FED.

SHE LOVED PLANTS HER THUMB WAS GREEN
HER FLOWER GARDEN THE BEST YOU HAVE SEEN
HER FAIR AWARD A LARGE DISPLAY SCENE
SHE KNOWS ALL THE LATIN NAMES MAKING HER A DEAN.

LEST WE FORGET THE BIRDS AND BUTTERFLIES
SHE LOVED THEM DEARLY AS THEY FILLED THE SKIES.

JACK BRAGG

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

The CCC Legacy Chapter 123 Newsletter, 3412 Pleasant Run Rd., Irving, TX 75062. 972-255-7237