

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

August 2014

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- 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: James & Linda Pixler, 08/08, their 50th!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Farris Brewer, Camden Coberly, Joe Kleinbrook, 08/01; Steve Porter, 08/31; and Michael Smith, 08/___.

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, August 9, 2014

Weather: Sunny, Temp 90°, Attendance 12

President Mike Pixler called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM. The Invocation was offered by Merle Timblin. The Pledges to the US and Texas flags were led by Sgt-at-Arms Troy Jones.

President Pixler reminded members present of the purpose of CCC Legacy.

The minutes of the July 2014 meeting were printed in the newsletter which all members present had received. A motion to accept minutes as printed was made by Steve Porter and 2nd by Tony Rodriguez. All in favor motion passed.

The printed financial report was made available to members present by Steve Porter, Secretary/Treasurer. After review a motion to accept was made by Troy Jones and 2nd by Bill Stallings. All in favor, motion passed.

Members with birthdays in August are Michael Smith, Farris Brewer, Camden Coberly, Joe Kleinbrook and Steve Porter. Happy Birthday was sung by members present.

Discussion of the CCC Legacy reunion in St. Paul, Minnesota on 24-27 September, 2014, was made, and a motion by Larka Tetens for the chapter to set aside \$700 to assist with expenses of members who attend the reunion to represent Chapter 123. Motion was 2nd by Troy Jones, all in favor, motion passed.

CCC Legacy election of Directors and bylaws was pointed out for members eligible to vote. Deadline is September 12, 2014. President Pixler appointed 1st Vice President Jim Rau as Election Committee Chair for CCC Legacy Chapter 123 election, 2014. Jim will choose two [2] additional members to be on the committee and advise Pres. Pixler of his choices. Offices for election are president and 2nd vice president. President Pixler, following a discussion with Jim Rau, stated his intent to run for another term as president if not in violation of guidelines in the bylaws.

The President also advised that Chapter 123 has 3 reserved seat tickets for the September 12, 2014, meeting in Austin to celebrate Americorp's 20th and OnaStar's 10th anniversaries if any member wishes to attend. Larka Tetens showed members how to add photos to our Facebook website.

An informative video of The CCC in Texas compiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife was shown.

Evelyn Timblin won the \$10 door prize drawing and returned it to the chapter. The Can was passed for donations.

The Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Rau and 2nd by Mike Pixler and the meeting was adjourned at 12:23 PM.

Merle Timblin offered the blessing before the always plentiful and delicious meal was served by the members.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Porter, Sec./Treasurer

REPEATING THE INVITATION TO THE MEETING IN AUSTIN ON SEPTEMBER 12, 2014

President Pixler has extended an invitation to join him in going to Austin to help celebrate the 20th anniversary of Americorps and the 10th anniversary of OnaStar on September 12, 2014; both organizations carrying forward with the work started by the original Civilian Conservation Corps. Mike will be leaving on Thursday, Sept. 11 and returning the evening of Sept. 12.

A CALL FOR HELP FROM A SISTER CCC LEGACY GROUP IN UTAH

Ken Baldrige, a member of CCC Legacy of Utah, is appealing for donations to assist in ordering and installing a "CCC Boy" statue to be installed at the site of a CCC camp at St. George, Utah. Utah had a number of camps, but due to having a relatively small population and up until now, has not been able to obtain funding to acquire one of the CCC statues for Utah. Ken and others, along with an anonymous donor with matching funds, have their

sights on acquiring same. President Mike Pixler is proposing for our Chapter 123 to donate \$100 to their cause. The Executive Committee has agreed to this donation, and this will be voted on by members at our next meeting on Saturday, September 13, 2014. Anyone may also donate on their own by mailing it to:

CCC Legacy, P.O. Box 341, Edinburg, VA 22824.

CHAPTER 123 MEMBERS ATTEND THEIR WW II UNIT REUNION

Members Larkin Dilbeck, daughter Larka Tetens and grandson Josh Tetens and family this past August 29-30 attended Larkin's 740th Tank Battalion reunion in Grapevine, Texas. About 10 veterans with their families were able to make the trip and enjoyed re-uniting with their buddies who were involved with The Battle of the Bulge in Europe 1944-45.

If any of our members have recently been to a reunion of their WW II units or other groups, we would like to hear from you, or just any stories you would like to tell, please tell us!

A PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE FROM MEMBERS OF CHAPTER 123 ON OCTOBER 4, 2014

Two different events both occurring on Saturday, Oct. 4th have brought pleas for help from our group. Meridian State Park, a CCC built state park, is celebrating its' 70th anniversary on October 4th. Meridian S.P. is on state route 174 38 miles southwest of Cleburne, Texas. Erica Chrisson, a supervisor at the park, has asked Pres. Mike Pixler to man a booth at the celebration to explain the CCC story for visitors. Mike has agreed to be there, and he would really like at least one of us to come help him. He will be going down the day before, and he says cabins are available.

That same day, Oct. 4th, is the date for the Buffalo Boogie Celebration at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge at Lake Worth. First V.P. Jim Rau will be in charge of Chapter 123's participation in the event. We will need to man a tent and table to help tell visitors of the CCC and Co. 1816's story of building the park in the '30s. It has been several years since this event has been held, so we hope to make an impact. Jim has lined up several guys to help him in building stone walls just as the CCC boys did. It has become a real pull to bring the kids into the experience. They really get into it and have a lot of fun laying stones, and learn something at the same time. We will need some help in manning the booth, etc. We will discuss these two projects at our Sept. 13 meeting.

A LOOK BACK [Part 2]

If you remember, last April we did an excerpt from a little book entitled "IN THOSE DAYS, 1907 - 1914" by a Mr. Alf Allen, published in 1997 when he was age 97. He grew up on a farm in Kaufman Co., Texas, with his widowed mother and one brother. In that excerpt he wrote about his, "Picking Cotton." We will let him continue now talking about, "Marketing Cotton from the Farm."

“I must tell you now that this story is about marketing baled cotton, and that it is not about loading cotton bales with mechanical lifts onto a truck, many bales in a load, and whisking them off to a local market or loading them on a rail car. It has nothing to do with modern techniques of cotton marketing, but marketing from the farm in the early 20th century. Remember that what I tell you is through the eyes and ears of a child as remembered over the long years in between. It originates from a Texas farm twelve miles from a county seat town where cotton is sold. The cotton picked is described as seed cotton, in that the cotton seed was still in the cotton. When the cotton was ginned, the seed was separated out. The remaining cotton was called the “lint,” and resulted in a bale of a little over 500 pounds, and the seed weighing at 1000 pounds or more. At the gin the lint was bound with a covering called bagging and then bound with strong steel bands called ties. The cotton was then pressed to form bales longer than wide and flat on two sides. The bales were brought back from the gin to the farm, and put on the ground, in a barn, or under a shed, awaiting the appropriate time to sell. That is waiting for the right price. If the bales were on the ground, they made a great place for children to play; jumping from one to another was great fun.

On the evening before the decided day to take the bales to market, neighbors were invited to come help load the cotton; the children would play, the women talked while the men loaded the cotton on the wagon. If several bales were involved, one would be placed to be used like a platform to move other bales into the wagon. Timbers would possibly be used to slide them onto the wagon, so the more men you had, the easier the job was. After the loading, there was time to talk, usually about the price of cotton [nearly always too low], the usual family problems, or what the latest farm news was.

Well before daylight the next day, the family was up preparing breakfast, feeding and watering the mules or horses [“the “team”] and making other preparations for the long looked for trip to town. When all was ready, the team was hitched to the wagon, the adults climbed aboard riding in the spring seat, and the children up atop the cotton. If it was a cool morning, old quilts were used to wrap up in. It usually took about two hours to arrive at the town square, the family would stay on the wagon, because it was believed the merchant doing the buying may offer a better price if he thought he could sell the family needed merchandise; such as school clothes, school books and supplies, and maybe groceries. Remember this was before the time of free textbooks.

Cotton buyers would climb aboard, cut the bagging on each bale, and remove a sample from each. The samples were examined to determine the grade of the cotton, and then a bid would be made. One buyer might offer 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ cents a pound for two bales and 9 cents a pound for two other bales. A store owner might consider the size of the family and make an offer of 9 cents a pound for all four bales hoping to make some back. When the sale was made, the buyer gave the owner a writing showing the price; then instruct him to take the cotton to the public weigh station. There it was weighed, the cotton unloaded, and receipts given the farmer. The farmer then took the team and wagon to the wagon yard where they were parked. The team would be unhitched and tied to the wagon, and the yard keeper would be paid about 50 cents or so to feed and water them.

While this was going on, the wife and children would go to the store with the buyer. When the farmer came in, he would be paid, or maybe a bank would be involved in the settlement, perchance a note may be owed at the bank, so payment may be made or further arrangements made. Then it was time to settle up at the store; paying for new shoes, clothes, books, or etc. Then when it was lunch time, it might be a rare chance to “eat out” at a town restaurant; a real treat for children. The team would then be hitched up, driven to the store, and purchases loaded. A real treat would be the purchase of a bunch of bananas, usually about 15 cents a dozen in those days and this was a once a year treat.

When all the goods and the family were aboard, the trip home was begun. This time there was no rush, so a leisurely pace was set, mules and horses walk about four miles an hour, so it would take about three hours this time. This time the children could sit at the back of the wagon with their feet dragging in the sand – what fun that was.

At home the things were unloaded. What a delight were the new clothes and especially the new shoes. The shoes were so shiny and would remain so until after the first few days of school. If you wonder why the shoes were not shined after they were scuffed, well, shoe polish was just something that could be done without. There was a substitute for it, but a poor one. A biscuit could be broken and brushed over the shoes. The grease in the biscuit could make them somewhat presentable to wear to Sunday School. Another delight was getting new school books. They would have a nice “new smell” to them.”

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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