

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

March 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: Earnest & Lela Scarbrough, Broken Arrow, OK, 03/11, [#70!] Congratulations!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Houston Fruge, Sulphur, LA, 03/22, LaVaughn Greer, Crowley, TX, 03/23, Jim Rau, Fort Worth, TX, 03/20, and Ben Yung, Fort Worth, TX, 03/26.

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, ON SATURDAY, Mar. 12, 2012, Weather:
Rain – Temp: 57° ; Attendance: 19.

Pres. Mike Pixler opened the meeting at 11 AM. He read short excerpts from the Senior News. Everyone enjoyed them. Merle Timblin gave the invocation in the absence of our chaplain, Rev. James Pixler. Troy Jones, Sgt.-At-Arms, led the pledge to the flags.

Pres. Pixler read a letter from Curtis Greer on how he and LaVaughn are doing. He then recognized Steve Porter as the chapter's newest member of CCC Legacy National.

The previous minutes were read by Blanche Howerton, Sec.-Treas. They were approved by Merle Timblin, seconded by Bill McKee, motion carried. She then gave the financial report. Motion to accept the report as read was made by Troy Jones. Seconded by Bill Stallings, motion carried.

Pres. Pixler announced when the "Buffalo Boogie" is being held at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge. We will have a booth set up, manned by members of Chapter #123. Much discussion was made because this event takes place the same day as our monthly meeting. It was voted on that the meeting for May will be held at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge at 1 PM. Our booth will be that morning. See you there.

Several members including Jim Rau and Bill Stallings gave a report on people whom they had contacted. Pres. Pixler read an email from Walter Atwood. He had just celebrated his 90th birthday at Disney World in Florida with members of his family. We enjoy hearing from everyone.

Pres. Mike Pixler appointed Pat Mann to fill the vacancy of 2nd Vice President and Jim Rau, whom had moved into the vacancy of 1st Vice president due to James Green moving, will hold that office permanently.

1st VP Jim Rau gave a prize for who could answer a trivia question. The donation can was passed by Bill Stallings, newsletter editor. Drawings were held for door prizes. Food was blessed. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Steve Porter, seconded by Troy Jones, motion carried. A lovely meal and fellowship was had by all.

Respectfully Submitted by
Blanche Howerton, Sec./Treas.

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER 1-11-2011

The Subject for This Corner is: Lip Service.

Why such a title? Well, it's like this: Who do you believe? Gas companies, loan companies, politicians, the government. It's all lip service. Who can you ask, where can you go for the truth on a subject? I'm not getting into religion now. Seriously, who can you ask, where can you read the truth about a subject, what channel on radio or television or the internet, where someone just tells you the truth about a subject, without a bunch of lip service.

Why are gas prices so high? John Q. Public asked the question, but he doesn't have time to listen to a bunch of b.s. He works all week just for that little bit of pay on Friday, hoping it's enough to pay the bills, buy food, and now buys maybe a half a tank of gas for next week to get back and forth to work. He looks for the answer. The answer he gets, depends on who he asks, or what he watches or listens to.

We need to drill more wells. Drill Baby Drill! We have the wells needed, just pump more. We have plenty in surplus. The demand and usage levels have stabilized. What in the world does that mean? We need to build more refineries. The refineries we have are only at 60% production. There's unrest in the Middle East. Okay.

There's a higher demand from China, England, and other European countries, because of an increase in commodities and expansion. What? Who cares? He just needs the price lower to survive. The dollar has lost its value. Really? Doomsday is coming in December 2012. The President wants more bail-out money. That's okay, he wants more bail-out money too. Think he'll get it? Yeah, me too. They are too big to fail. Wonder who cares if he fails? Vote for me and I promise the prices will be lower. Really? Don't worry about it; we'll take care of it for you.

If the "powers that be" are so damn smart, oops, party affiliation aside, if "they" know what the problem is, JUST FIX IT!!! The vast majority of us are on a "fixed income," that includes a salary. Enough of the lip service, already. Well, it's just a thought. What do you think?

Hope to see you all on the 14th of April for the CCC Legacy Chapter 123 meeting. The CCC is forever!

Mike Pixler, President, CCC Legacy Chapter 123

Reports on Our Members

Curtis Greer tells us that LaVaughn has been eating well lately and feeling better because of it.

Tony Rodriguez reports he was not able to attend this month's meeting due to celebrating his son's birthday.

Steve Wingo is doing OK, but would not be able to attend the meeting.

When Jim Rau called Jim Lyde, he spoke with his grandson, but heard Mr. Lyde say in the background that he was doing fair, and still has hopes of attending soon.

Lille Payne is still not able to drive from Denton, mainly because of her eyes.

We spoke with Jack Bragg who comes to the meetings with Lille so was unable to attend also, but he said that he would send along his latest poem and we are glad he did.

We talked with Betty and Norbert Gebhard recently and she said that Norbert was having some hearing problems but was OK otherwise.

Chapter Eternal

We regret to inform of the passing of one of our members and a "Boy," Mr. Stanley Kana of La Grange, Texas. Stan passed away on March 5, 2012, at the age of 88 years. He served in 1940 and 1941 in CCC Company 2898, SCS-42-T at Seguin, Texas, just east of San Antonio. Like a number of our CCC "Boys," Stan drove a truck while in the Corps. He only had good things to say of his time in the CCC; that it improved his life in many ways.

Members Merle and Evelyn Timblin to be Honored at a Presentation in Arizona

March is National Recognition Month and we have just learned that Merle and Evelyn have been invited to attend an event honoring him as a representative of the CCC and its work in the Tucson, Arizona, area on the 31st

of March. There are two sections to Saguaro National Park [named for the tall, distinctive Saguaro Cactus of that region]: one east of Tucson, and the other on the west side, near "Old Town Tucson," where many westerns have been filmed. The event will be at the west park because there was a CCC camp in that area.

Merle has long been concerned that little recognition has been made of the CCC's work in that part of Arizona, so when Mr. Walter Atwood, former president of CCC Legacy National, visited with us a few months ago, he brought the subject up with Mr. Atwood. Walter told him that he would look into it. As a result Mike Smith, President of the Phoenix Chapter of CCC Legacy, recently contacted Merle inviting him to attend this event. Merle agreed to go and also to supply some material on where he served in the Nogales area on the border due south of Tucson. It will be a good excuse for the Timblins to spend time with their daughter who lives in Tucson. Merle says there is almost nothing left of their camp in the Nogales area, or of the work they did in Coronado National Forest along the U.S./Mexico border. However, Merle has given a number of items and photographs from his time in the CCC to the CCC Museum at Colossal Cave Mountain Park which is about 22 miles SE of Tucson. It contains 3 separate caves, the largest being Colossal Cave. It was originally a ranch headquarters dating back to the late 1800s. At some point the ranch opened the caves to tourists and sightseers, and then became an area park. In 1934 the CCC entered the picture. Enrollees began work in the park hewing huge limestone blocks, milling lumber, and laying flagstones for the Colossal Cave Project. They laid out the tour route in the cave, built bridges, and installed handrails and lighting. Roads, picnic areas and tables were also constructed. A number of handsome buildings that the CCC boys built are still in use, including the limestone headquarters building and the adobe park service office. The cave was originally formed by water action, but the cave is now dry and has a constant pleasant temperature of about 70°. The other two caves are still growing with active water action. We look forward to a report on the event from the Timblins.

A New Poem by Our Poet Laureate

Jack Bragg has not been able to be with us lately due to transportation problems, but he has sent his latest poem for us to enjoy. It should bring back good memories.

THE LIGHT

Out of the darkness of the night
there came a tiny light
yet it was really bright.
What is it? Should I take flight?

No sound do I hear
the presence of it is near.
Still nothing comes to my ear
nothing seems to arouse fear.

Are my eyes playing a trick on me
May be a reflection is what I see
How could all of this be
to know could set me free.

Things get worse the more I try
my senses have failed – My Oh My.
Not knowing has reached a high
yet the truth here is a fire fly.

Jack Bragg

We Talk with One of Our “Boys” from Northeast Texas

We recently received an email from Anna Crawford of Blossom, Texas, which is just east of Paris, telling us that her father, Claude Tyler, had enjoyed our recent item on Mr. G.M. Brice. She gave a quick rundown on Claude's time in the CCC and in the U.S. Army in the Pacific. We decided we needed to know more, so we called Mr. Tyler, and he gladly spent some time telling his story.

Claude Tyler, the oldest of eight children, was born in 1920 on a farm in Lamar County, northeast of Paris, Texas. His father, like some of our parents or grandparents, did share-cropping and they moved around several times. Being the oldest and needed to help on the farm, Claude did not get to attend school as much as his brothers and sisters. In 1937 when he was sixteen, he enrolled in the CCC and he was sent to Death Valley National Monument in California. Quite a change of scenery! Their job was building roads in Badwater Basin which is the lowest spot in the U.S. The roads were covered with a mixture of oil and gravel and then machine rolled. Their camp was 30 miles from the work area so they were trucked back and forth. The temperature rarely got below 120° by midday. At the start of the day their water would be heavily iced down in containers that were then wrapped with towels, but by noon, it would be almost too hot to drink. However, by lights out at 9:00 at night, the temperature would drop enough that they slept under blankets. Claude was here three months, and then was sent to Lassen Volcanic National Park, in Northern California. So within 7 days, he went from 120° to snow still on the ground in June. Most of his time here they built hiking trails on and around the volcano – and it was, and still is, an active volcano. They made about 12 or 14 trips to the top to build trails around the rim, where you could see about 12 steam vents going, along with bubbling mud pots on level ground in the area called The Devils Kitchen. Their camp was at the base on the north side of the mountain. They would go by truck up to about the 8000' elevation, and then hike up to the 10,000' level, carrying their rakes and shovels with them. One memorable trail they built was the one to Broke-Off Mountain. Claude enjoyed his time here, and one interesting job they had was building ski runs and a ski jump that was to be used for a California Ski Event. It was here that his six month enrollment was over, and he re-upped for another period.

Claude was then sent to Northern Oregon to a CCC camp near the old Oregon Trail. Here the men cut timber and bulldozed a road up a mountain to a forest lookout tower. In cutting the timber he said that they cut notches in big Douglas fir trees and installed “springboards” through the tree, and with a man on each end, used a 10 foot saw to saw off sections to fall to the ground. His next assignment was to Cody, Wyoming, not far from Yellowstone National Park, to a CCC camp on the Shoshone River. When cold weather came, the river completely froze over. Their main job here was to “bug” timber; that is to cut timber to control beetle infestations.

In 1938 when his enlistment was up, Claude returned home. He wanted to continue his schooling, and he also helped his father on the farm. Their principal crops were sweet potatoes and peanuts. They also raised a few hogs and some chickens, mainly to help feed the family.

In 1939 Claude decided to re-enroll in the CCCs, and as before it was for two six month periods. This time he was sent to Arizona, namely to a camp near the town of Duncan which is in the SE corner of the state just across the state line from New Mexico. The camp was near a large open-pit copper mine, and it was here that Claude met Al Clement, our former president. They were in the same company and became friends. Their job here [and this will sound familiar to member Merle Timblin] was to build fences for ranchers. Claude in particular set corner and stretch posts. They constructed about five miles of fencing, going up and down over the hills and mountains.

In his last hitch Claude, still in the same company with Al, was sent to Northern Arizona near the Utah line to a camp outside of Fredonia, Arizona. Here the men were assigned to cut wood, but Claude's principle task was to sharpen saw blades. The area was largely high desert country, and in their off times there was not much to do. On weekends they were able to go over to the small town of Kanab, Utah, a few miles north of their camp, where dances were held and some of the men could get a drink. On one such occasion they were returning from Kanab in the evening, when a tire on their truck blew out. Claude saw that there was plenty of manpower to change the wheel, and since he was sleepy, he lay down off to the side and went to sleep. When he woke up, he noticed right off that it was very lonely out there. They had gone off and left him, and it was a long walk back to camp. He got there about midnight. On top of all that, Claude is sure that Al Clement was driving that truck.

Claude returned home again in 1940 and remained there until the fall of 1942 when he got an invitation that he could not refuse. Stay tuned for the story of Mr. Tyler's and the U.S. Army's time together.

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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