

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

October 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- 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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:** Merle & Evelyn Timblin, Bedford, TX, 10/27, No. 68! I am afraid we left Allen & Kitty Wilkerson of Fort Worth, TX, 9/30, No. 58, off the September list again! Our sincere apologies to them.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Doris Minshew, Perrin, TX, 10/6; William "Bull" Ellis, Edna, TX, and Troy Jones, Everman, TX, 10/17; and Blanche Howerton, Weatherford, TX, 10/21.

MINUTES OF MEETING OF CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, ON SATURDAY, October 12, 2013. Weather: Cloudy, Temp. 74, Attendance: 19.

President Mike Pixler opened the meeting at 11:00 AM. He welcomed everyone to the meeting and read a few jokes from the Senior News.

The invocation was offered by Rev. James Pixler.

Troy Jones, Sgt- at- Arms, led the pledges to the flags.

Pres. Pixler reminded the members the purpose of this meeting was the continued education of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942, and the election process for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Secretary/Treasurer of CCC Legacy Chapter 123.

Motion to accept the minutes, as written in the newsletter, made by Tony Rodriguez, 2<sup>nd</sup> Troy Jones, motion passed.

A written financial report was made available for review, motion to accept as written by James Pixler, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larka Tetens, motion passed.

Sick call/ birthdays/anniversaries were next with the phone committee reporting following. Bill Stallings shared an update on CCC Boy Hermon Elliott that fell and broke his shoulder. Update: Hermon has been placed in the Veteran's Care Center, Olen Teague, 1901 Veterans Memorial Drive, c/o Community Living Center, Room 1A121, Temple, TX 76504. Our prayers and a speedy recovery go out to Hermon and his family. Information on Jack Bragg was shared. Jim Rau shared about CCC Boy, Richard Crooks, and wife Jerriene. Information about Steve Wingo's friend in Springtown was shared. It was reported that Steve's daughter is now living with him. CCC Boy, Bill McKee attended the meeting from Abilene. He was accompanied by his daughter, Robbie M. Warner, and daughter, and new member, Kathy Mann. Welcome to the McKee family. Good to see you. Birthdays were next. Blanche Howerton, 21<sup>st</sup> Oct., we sang happy birthday to Troy Jones, 17<sup>th</sup>, and Wanda Jones, the 25<sup>th</sup>. We then sang happy anniversary to Merle and Evelyn Timblin – their 68<sup>th</sup>.

Old business followed with a reminder of the CCC Legacy Reunion/Gathering in Tucson, Arizona, 24-27 October, 2013. We have at this time 3 members planning to attend, with CCC Boy, Merle Timblin to lead with author, and chapter new member, Sharon Hunt.

New business was CCC Legacy Chapter 123's election. Thanks for your service goes to the Nominating Committee Chair – Bill Stallings and member Troy Jones. First was for chapter officer, Vice President. Bill Stallings took the lead and shared the nominating recommendation and ballots received. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion to close nominations was made by Merle Timblin, 2<sup>nd</sup> Troy Jones. It passed. President Mike Pixler made a motion for Jim Rau to be reelected by acclamation to continue to serve as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Larka Tetens; motion passed. Next was for chapter officer, Secretary/Treasurer. Bill Stallings shared there were no nominations from the ballots, via mail. Larka Tetens agreed to continue to serve if no one else would. In nominations from the floor, Jim Rau nominated Tony Rodriguez; Tony refused. Tony Rodriguez nominated Steve Porter, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merle Timblin; Steve agreed to serve. Motion was made to close nominations by Jim Rau, 2<sup>nd</sup> Bill Stallings; motion passed. Prior to written ballots being passed out for election of Secretary/Treasurer, current Sec./Treas., Larka Tetens withdrew from the election, with Steve Porter being the remaining candidate for the office, motion made by Larka Tetens, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Troy Jones; that Steve Porter be elected as Secretary/Treasurer by acclamation; motion passed. Congratulations to Jim Rau, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Steve Porter, Secretary/Treasurer. Formal installation of officers will be during the 9 November, 2013, meeting.

A reminder of the CCC Legacy Reunion, Tucson Arizona, 24-27 October, 2013, was announced by President Mike Pixler. He asked who was planning on attending. A brief description of the agenda was discussed and the cost associated with the event. It was motioned that the chapter help fund the trip by support in the amount of \$700 to be made available to Pixler. Following a lengthy discussion on how the funds be divided between Merle Timblin, who declined the support; he will be staying with his daughter; Bill Stallings declined the support; he flies for a reduced rate and will be staying with Pixler in the "chapter room." A motion was made by Bill McKee, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Merle Timblin that funding in the amount of \$700 be made available for fuel, room, registration and other

associated cost with representing the chapter in Arizona. Motion passed. This action was followed by an announcement from 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Jim Rau that he would like to personally donate \$100 for the trip. 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Pat Mann immediately spoke up and matched the amount. The amazing support from our chapter will be shared in Arizona. Receipts will be provided for accountability of funds. Thank you.

The program was a pictorial review of the Dedication of the Memorial Wall and Interpretive Center in Edinburg, VA, 15 September, 2013, by President Pixler.

Pass the Can followed with Jim Rau winning the \$10 door prize. The money was divided between our new members, Kathy Mann, \$5 and LaDell Locke, \$5, both who immediately donated it back to the chapter. A number of special Halloween gifts were won by the members. Larka really liked hers!

Questions and Comments were short with the announcement that it was past time to eat, so the blessing was offered by Rev. James Pixler, followed by a motion to adjourn by Troy Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tony Rodriguez; motion passed. We adjourned at 12:09 PM.

A wonderful meal and social time was shared by the membership. Next meeting is 9 November, 2013. Not enough mention is made to our ladies who prepare for the meal at each meeting. Thank you for all you do.

Respectfully submitted for,

Steve Porter, Secretary/Treasurer, CCC Legacy Chapter 123

Mike Pixler, President, CCC Legacy Chapter 123

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### **A Note From Jack Bragg**

We received a nice note from Jack Bragg enclosed with his dues for 2014. He tells us that he has proudly completed all the requirements and in a ceremony received his Masonic 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree. He says after that he needs a little rest. We send along our congratulations to Jack!

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### **A First Report on Our Chapter 123 Participation in the 2013 CCC Legacy Reunion in Tucson, Arizona**

On Thursday, Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>, national members of the CCC Legacy gathered in Tucson for the four day event. There were six CCC "Boys" present for the whole event plus two others came on one day. Our Chapter 123 was well represented by members Pres. Mike Pixler, CCCer Merle Timblin, Bill Stallings, and also Kathy Smith made the journey. There was a reception that Thursday evening on the hotel outdoor patio [Tucson weather is great this time of year!] hosted by the Southwest Conservation Corps. On Friday the real convention began with a full day of meetings and talks.

The first session was on "CCC Impacts in Arizona" presented by three historians who have been doing research on the CCC in Arizona. One was on the CCC in Northern Arizona presented by a former Ranger at Grand Canyon National Park. Another talked on the work done in the Mogollan Rim Country in the eastern part of the

state, and a third presented on work done in Southern Arizona and the Sonoran Desert. The next session was a panel discussion on the value of the work done by the CCC from the view points of the National Park Service and the creation of Saguaro [*pronounced sah-war-oh*] National Park just outside Tucson; the National Forests in particular Coronado National Forest in building roads and fighting forest fires; and the Department of Agriculture and the work done for the Soil Conservation Service in erosion control on both public and private lands.

During and after lunch, there were talks on the work of the Southwest Conservation Corps and the 21<sup>ST</sup> Century Conservation Service Corps who are continuing the type of work done by the original CCC of 1933-1942. We heard from several young men and women who have gladly followed in the footsteps of the CCC Boys doing important work in the great outdoors building trails in parks, clearing brush, removing invasive plant species, and planting trees. If you think the spark is gone that the CCC Boys provided, then just spend a little time with these young people and you will realize that the country may be in good hands after all.

The afternoon session included a very interesting talk with impressive historic pictures on the involvement of the CCC in the snow blizzards of 1936-1937 in Utah, Arizona, and Colorado. A number of times the CCC Boys formed rescue trains of trucks carrying food for people and livestock. Each train was led by one or two bulldozers pushing through drifts of six to ten feet high to get to several cut-off towns, mining camps and isolated ranches. They saved many lives and thousands of cattle, sheep and goats were saved from starvation.

It was then the turn of the CCC Boys present to give their side of things. Each made a short presentation of where and what they did during their enlistment. Of course our Merle Timblin made one of the best talks, naturally. He told of how he got started in the CCC in his home state of Pennsylvania, but got his wish of getting away from the family farm and winding up in Arizona. He became a truck driver and was sent to Southern Arizona outside of Nogales near the Mexican border helping to build roads in the National Forest there.

On Saturday we boarded a bus to visit the Sonoran Desert Museum west of Tucson. It was a beautiful day, and the museum displayed various living desert plants and animals in a natural setting. We were met there by the Tucson Area's Congressman, Raul M. Grijalva, who gave a short talk on the importance of the CCC to our country. It was well received. At the evening dinner our speaker was a writer and college professor who spoke on "Dollar a Day Boys: Remembering the Civilian Conservation Corps." He told of his father who grew up rather poor and lived his entire life in New York City in Manhattan; that is except for his time in the CCC when he was sent to Idaho and California. It had a profound effect on him. This was unknown to his son because the father died at a relatively early age, and had never spoken about his experience. It wasn't until the son found the love letters that his father had written to his mother, that he learned of his life in the CCC. Based on this, the author researched and interviewed many CCC Boys and saved their stories in writings and a CD to honor his father.

On Sunday morning we again boarded a bus, this time to travel to the Saguaro National Park, also to the west of Tucson. We were met by a U.S. Park Service Ranger who came with us on the bus to give a guided tour of the park. This park is dedicated to preserving the mountains and the odd and interesting Saguaro Cactus that is characteristic to the area. The ranger took us to various points in the park, but his specialty is the CCC and its contribution to the park. His personal mission is to preserve and bring attention to what the Boys of the CCC built there. He had discovered on his own the original camp site of the CCC. Not much is left there; some concrete foundations, a few adobe walls, and some rock work, but he is trying to help keep the memory and the pieces remaining to help tell the story before it is lost. That's our job too!

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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