

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

October 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: 817-307-0889, 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: Merle & Evelyn Timblin, Bedford, TX, 10/27, No. 69!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: William "Bull" Ellis, Edna, TX, and Troy Jones, Everman, TX, both 10/17; Blanche Howerton, Weatherford, TX, 10/21

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, October 11, 2014

Weather: Cloudy, Temp. 58°, Attendance 20

President Mike Pixler called the meeting to order at 11:05 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 the CCC Legacy as continued education of the Civilian Conservation Corps 1933-1942, and election of President and 2nd Vice president of CCC Legacy chapter 123.

The minutes of the September 13, 2014, meeting were printed in the newsletter which all members indicated they received. A motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Jim Rau and 2nd by Troy Jones. All in favor motion passed.

The printed financial report was made available to members by Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer. After review, a motion to accept the report was made by Tony Rodriguez and 2nd by Pat Mann. All in favor, motion passed.

Members with birthdays in October are Troy Jones, Wanda Jones, William Ellis, Blanche Howerton, Hubert Foster, and Dale Roberts. Merle and Evelyn Timblin celebrate their 69th wedding anniversary in October. The Happy Anniversary song and Happy Birthday were sung to those celebrating.

No old business was presented.

Jim Rau, 1st Vice President and Committee Chairman for the election of officers, President and 2nd Vice President of Chapter 123, presented their nominees Mike Pixler for President and Pat Mann for 2nd Vice President. No nominations were made from the floor and a motion was made by Merle Timblin, 2nd by Tony Rodriguez to close the nominations. All in favor, motion passed. Votes mailed by members and members present were counted and a motion to elect Mike Pixler as President and Pat Mann as 2nd Vice President by unanimous consent was made by Bill Stallings and 2nd by Troy Jones. All in favor, motion passed. Newly elected officers were installed.

The Program for today was CCC Boy Reunion and five members were present! Those being: Larkin Dilbeck, Richard Crooks, Bill McKee, Steve Wingo and Merle Timblin. Each of the "Boys" told a brief story of his memories of the CCC. President Pixler also presented slides of his visit to the 80th anniversary of Meridian State Park as well as his attendance at the CCC Legacy Reunion 2014 in St. Paul, Minnesota. A discussion was held as to the possible likelihood of holding the 2016 CCC Legacy Reunion in Texas. President Pixler has made contact with CCC Legacy officials and further research and discussion will be held at future meetings. The chapter voted to hold the event in the DFW area, 1st choice, and San Antonio, 2nd choice. Bob Crow of the Lake Worth Centennial Committee has contacted President Pixler regarding gathering and earmarking funds for the CCC Camp 1816 Monument Project and the Chapter will assist.

The can was passed for donations and the drawing for the door prize was won by Larkin Dilbeck. He donated the \$10 to the CCC Camp 1816 Monument Project.

Blessing was offered by Merle Timblin. Motion to adjourn was made by Jim Rau 2nd by Troy Jones. The meeting adjourned at 12:30 PM. The potluck dinner was delicious and enjoyed by all present.

Respectfully submitted by

Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer

CHAPTER ETERNAL

As many of you know by now, we lost a dear member this past month, Helene Emma Hubbard, who was the wife of Ernest Hubbard who passed away this last spring. She died on September 22, 2014, age 94, in San Antonio. Their son and daughter-in-law had moved her recently to San Antonio to be near them. Helene and Ernest were both a class act, and we will miss their loyal service. Helene was usually a quiet person, but when she had something to say, she wasn't afraid to speak her mind. An example: She told of the time she and Ernest first met at a dance, and she liked his tall good looks, but when asked if he was a good dancer, she said, "No!"

We also recently learned of the passing earlier this year of Betty “Kitty” Wilkerson, wife of member and CCC Boy Allen Wilkerson of Fort Worth. They had been married 58 years. She had been in ill health and confined to home for a number of years now. Allen has been her long time care giver. He served in CCC Co. 828 in several places in Arizona in 1941. We send our condolences to him and family.

THE 2014 ANNUAL CCC LEGACY REUNION IN SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA

This past September 25-27 Chapter 123 was represented by President Mike Pixler and member Bill Stallings at the annual reunion in St. Paul. There was a small but enthusiastic group in attendance including 4 CCC “Boys.” The event was hosted by the Minnesota & Iowa Conservation Corps and we were treated to a great program. Thursday morning, Sept. 25, we started out by visiting the Minnesota History Center, a beautiful building, where we learned of the CCC’s history in Minnesota, and got a very interesting demonstration of a program they have developed for school groups to learn why the CCC was needed and what it accomplished. We played the part of school children in a classroom while an instructor dressed as a CCC LEM showed us what a typical CCC work day was and this was projected on a screen in front of us, while at the same time he could see and hear us via remote TV hookup. He would ask us questions and would point to whoever raised their hand to answer. It was easy to see how kids would be actively involved in the process and thus have fun and remember what they saw and learned. The fascinating thing was that it can be used from this location to any classroom in the country.

Later that day we visited the State Fair grounds and went through a CCC built log building 186 ft. by 66 ft. and 40 ft. tall, opened in 1934 and still in use. It was a beautiful structure. Then it was on to the Phalen Park Monument at CCC built Lake Vadnais Metropolitan Park. This monument consists of a specially selected stone from every state and CCC related government agencies, and includes one stone that President FDR sent from the White House.

The next day, Friday, September 26, we made a 2 hour bus ride north up to Jay Cooke State Park just outside Duluth, MN in the far north of the state. It was a beautiful day and the fall colors were just starting to peak. We got to walk across an originally built CCC swinging bridge over the rock rimmed St. Louis River. Over the years massive floods have forced the bridge to be rebuilt three times, but the basic steel and concrete posts put in by the CCC had held. We declared the 2014 Reunion a great success thanks to the hard work of the local Minnesota & Iowa Conservation Corps members and the CCC Legacy National Staff led by President Joan Sharpe.

THE CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 AT THE MONSTER BASH OF 2014

October has proved to be a very busy month for our chapter, and none more so than at the re-incarnation of the Monster Bash at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge at Lake Worth this past October 4th. This event was brought back as part of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Nature Center. Monster Bash keeps the legend alive of the Lake Worth Monster in the form of a 7 ft. tall Goat Man that supposedly terrorized late night visitors to the lake in the early 1950s. The story goes that the goat man could throw a wheel and tire from the nearby ridge across to Greer Island; quite a feat! Anyway, our chapter was ably represented by Jim Rau, Grady Doggett, and Kirk Urice who were the rock-wall set up team, and Merle Timblin and friend Paul Simon, Pat Mann, and Bill Stallings to man our chapter booth. The event ran from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and it was a warm, beautiful day. If you remember from when we did this before, the idea of creating a small rock wall was to illustrate how the CCC boys built buildings and structures around the lake. Letting kids do the work of selecting

a small stone, putting mortar on it, then laying the stone would help them learn and hopefully remember something of the CCC and its mission. Letting the kids put their names on the stone was a kick to watch. Jim Rau, with the help of Grady Doggett and Kirk Urice, assembled approximately a half ton of cut stones, 5 sacks of mortar, tools, gloves, etc. It started slow but soon the kids were lining up 5 deep in two lines, and Kirk was mixing mortar as fast as he could, with Jim and Grady working with each kid; they didn't have time to even stop and take a sip of water. All told 130 happy kids got to lay a stone, and there were only 15 stones left. And Merle Timblin got to meet and talk with a number of visitors to our booth, including one lady who was from Pennsylvania, as was Merle. She also had had a relative that had been in the CCC. A busy day, but a good one! We want to thank Michelle Villafranca of the Nature Center Staff and Rick Shepherd of the Friends of the Nature Center for their very willing help and assistance!

WE VISIT WITH MR. ALBERT SCOTT OF TYLER, TEXAS

Recently one of our Chapter 123 Life Members, Albert Scott, wrote a very nice two-page letter to President Pixler and the chapter. In it Mr. Scott, a CCC Boy, tells of both he and his wife having health problems which have kept them from coming to one of our meetings. However he has recently had back surgery and is now pain free for the first time in years. He says his wife is due to have similar back surgery very soon, and if all goes well, they hope to be able to make a meeting. We certainly will be glad to have them.

Albert goes on in his letter to tell us in some detail of his service in the CCC in Alabama and in Oregon. However, this just whetted our curiosity and we decided to give him a call and ask for some more information. We did call him and found him an easy man to talk with, and he proceeded to tell us of his very eventful life!

Albert D. Scott was born in Alabama on February 3, 1923, and while he was quite young, the family moved to Mississippi. His father died when he was age 4 ½. This left just him, a younger brother and his mother to cope with trying to exist in the rural South. They moved back to Alabama when Albert was 12, and they lived out in the country but not on a farm. When he was age 17 and in the eleventh grade of school, he quit and joined the CCC so his mother and brother could receive the \$25 a month they were now eligible for. It was a Godsend for them. Albert was sent to CCC Co. 3490 in Bessemer, Alabama, just outside of Birmingham. The men at this camp built steel fire watch towers and strung telephone lines in the area forests. Albert however became a truck driver, and he was assigned to drive the only Army truck in camp. There were other trucks but they were CCC equipment and used to haul the men back and forth from their work. His job was to pick up clothing and food supplies [usually canned goods] from other camps or Army depots.

After being in this camp for about 5 months and now early 1941, the camp commander came around and asked for volunteers to go to Oregon. Albert didn't think twice; said that's for me. A number of the others were of a like mind, and so a good size group wound up being taken to the Birmingham train station for the long ride to Bend, Oregon. They then were trucked to Camp Frederick Butte, Co. 6416 at Brothers, Oregon. To call Brothers "a wide spot in the road" was something of a stretch. It was 41 lonesome miles southeast of Bend, Ore., on U.S. 20. The name Brothers supposedly came from viewing a range of small hills when looking to the west toward the distant Three Sisters Mountains. The "town" consisted of a service station/café, a red wooden school house, and a few old houses; all plopped down in the middle of high flat desert terrain with nothing but miles of sage brush in every direction. "Welcome to Oregon."

This camp was assigned to the U.S. Grazing Service, a very recent addition to the National Forest Service. Its job was to administer grazing rights to ranchers on Forest Service land. The men were assigned road graders, bulldozers, and other equipment to build roads, etc. to help the ranchers. Here again though, Albert drove the sole Army truck to pick up supplies. Now his driving area was greatly expanded; now covering a large part of the state. Often he made the run up through the city of Portland in the northwest corner of the state where he crossed the big bridge over the Columbia River into the city of Vancouver, Washington, and Fort Vancouver, an Army supply base. He would pick up rations and clothing; it was an all-day drive each way going up on Saturday, returning Sunday; spending the night at the fort. In July of 1941 Albert was promoted to assistant leader with an increase in pay. Each work day he drove the mail run using the Army truck, the 6 miles from the CCC camp to the Brothers Post Office.

With the events of December 7, 1941, and the beginning of WW II, rapid changes came about. The week after Pearl Harbor, Albert was making his supply run to Fort Vancouver. It was now winter and his route took him through the Cascade Mountain Range; the road going near Mt. Hood whose elevation was over 11,000 ft. Due to heavy snow he was forced to stop and spend the night at the CCC camp there and wait for the road to be cleared. When he finally got to the Columbia River Bridge leading into Vancouver, he was stopped and detained at the Army check point there. He had on his CCC fatigues but the guard was suspicious of him driving a U.S. Army truck. Finally he convinced them that he was who he said he was, and he went on to the supply depot. The next day he had to go through the same routine going back across the bridge. The war brought on restrictions to limit gasoline use, so governors to limit the speed to 35 mph were installed on all trucks. This added greatly to Albert's driving time, until someone taught him the trick of how to bypass the governor to increase his speed somewhat.

Fairly soon after his promotion, one weekend Albert was driving a load of CCC boys to Bend for a little R. and R. This was a popular run, up on Saturday; back on Sunday, because there was nothing at their camp in the way of entertainment. He went up a straight stretch of mountain road and going down the other side, he got to going pretty fast when the truck suddenly rolled off the road onto its side with men being scattered all over. Fortunately there were no serious injuries, but Albert quickly lost his promotion and had his driver's license pulled. After an inspection of the truck and its steering was made, it was learned that the large nut came off the shaft from the steering wheel to the front steering gear. Engine and road vibrations had probably caused it to come loose. This was before the automobile industry began to use safety wiring. It had been chiefly developed for use in aircraft construction. Safety wiring is where a hole is drilled through screw threads and the attaching nuts. Then when tightened, a stainless steel wire is run through the holes and tightly twisted, locking the two parts together.

In the spring of 1942 the camp near Brothers was closed and the men transferred to Camp Sherman in thick forests, about 140 miles west and 50 or so miles northwest of Bend, but it became known as Camp Sisters because it originally was to be near the community of Sisters, Oregon. When it was actually located, it was on the Metolius River in some clearings in tall pines of Deschutes National Forest, all in the Three Sisters Mountains. Anyway, the Sisters name stuck to the camp. During this relocation, Albert got his drivers permit back and began driving the Army truck again as before. It was now a Forest Service camp, Number F-110, and the other men of the camp worked as forest fire fighters and worked on roads and trails in the forests.

By the summer of 1942 the Sisters Camp was nearly empty due to men entering the service or leaving to do war work. Albert himself got discharged from the CCC and received a transfer to go back home. He figured there would be no work for him there, so he got a job in Bend, Oregon, working in a lumber mill. He was getting

pretty good pay, but the work was hard; man-handling heavy green lumber. He got a notice to report to the local draft board in Bend, but he got permission to go back to Alabama to register so he could see his mother again. On his own, he bought a bus ticket to ride clear across the country to his home. Albert remembers that this was anything but a fun trip. When he got home he found miscellaneous odd jobs around until after about 6 months in January 1943, he was inducted into the United States Army.

A few years ago Albert made a visit back to the site of Brothers, Oregon, and his old CCC camp nearby. Nothing is left of the original community except a roadside store/café and the ruins of one other building. At the camp site he found just a concrete slab where the shower/latrine building had stood, the CCC built rock wall around the camp, and the well and pump then in use by a rancher to water his animals.

Thus ends the time of Albert Scott in the CCC, but he spent 26 years in the U.S. Army so we will continue with his story next time. 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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