

# *Cactus Country Crier*

NACCCA Chapter 44 Winter, 2006 Edition

## *You Get What You Deserve*

Some wise fellow said that, "Democracy is the form of government that insures we shall be governed no better than we deserve." Having received no nominations for Chapter officers, it would seem you all are stuck with me as your president for another year. Additionally, it seems I am blessed to have **Audrey Clark**, **Fred Garcia** and **Jack Duncan** as my Secretary, Treasurer and Vice-President respectively, although none has been formally asked and none have formally accepted. We all performed our usual duties at the January meeting so I guess it's status quo.

The coming year can either be a year where we sit back and accomplish little or nothing, or it can be a year when we seek out new tasks and challenges. NACCCA President Walter Atwood has asked me to sit in on a reorganization committee to discuss the future of NACCCA and the future of NACCCA's museum collection. I am also in discussions with a book publisher to put together a small 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary book about the CCC. Finally, we've got the CCC worker statue as an ongoing task. I'd say my plate is full and by that, I mean "our" plate is full. One task we can each take on in the new year is that of recruitment. I'm asking you all to bring someone to our monthly meeting any chance you get. Furthermore, if you become aware of a member or non-member who isn't attending because they lack transportation, make a commitment to help them out, even if it's only every other month. Finally, I'd like us to consider a monthly "pocket change" drive during the meetings to pass a hat for spare change that will go into the CCC worker statue fund. Give this some thought and think about whether you want 2006 to be a "do-nothing" year or a year full of new tasks and challenges, leading to a new sense of accomplishment. --- **Michael I. Smith, President**

## **New Items in our Collection**

At our November 2005 meeting, **John McLeod** donated a wonderful collection of items from his CCC service in Camden, Maine. Included in the items were his assistant leader stripes, the uniform insignia from his baseball jersey, a first aid plaque and John's bunk tag. Also included were a number of terrific photographs that will be laser copied and added to our traveling exhibit.

Of particular interest are the insignia from the baseball jersey and the leader stripes. Cloth items related to the CCC are becoming somewhat rare and these items will make an especially nice addition to our collection.

The first aid plaque has already been put to good use, having been added to the South Mountain Park exhibit as part of a special collection of items marking the Thanksgiving and Christmas Holidays. Our hat is off to you John for your generosity.

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## **Meeting Highlights for January**

We had perhaps our best turnout in months at the January meeting. We were privileged to have Louis Linxwiler, Jr., son of Captain Louis Linxwiler who commanded CCC camps in Petrified Forest, Superstition Mountains and Papago Park to name a few. Mr. Linxwiler was joined by his son, also named Louis and it is our hope they'll join us again. Also in attendance was Mr. Carlos Rodriguez, who like Mr. Linxwiler, saw an article about Chapter 44 that was run in the East Valley Independent. Carlos served in camp F-35-A in Arizona. Bob Brisson who was in a CCC camp in Superior National Forest was also a new visitor to the Chapter. Incidentally, we have **Faye Weber** to thank for getting that article in the paper in the first place!

Not much Chapter business was undertaken as we simply enjoyed the time by renewing old acquaintances and making new friends.

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Did you know that some savvy camp commanders paid their enrollees with silver dollars? Why? Local merchants, seeing the silver dollars in their cash registers would realize the nearby CCC camp was a benefit and treat the enrollees accordingly.

## Quilt Raffle Nets \$\$\$

One highlight of the January meeting was the Treasurer's report, wherein **Fred Garcia** reported that, through the quilt raffle and the sale of caps and pennants left over from the 2004 NACCCA reunion, we raised \$529 for our statue fund. This brings the total statue fund up to \$3,131 and change. It was decided at the January meeting to roll some other funds into the total and place the amount of \$3700 into a certificate of deposit where it will earn a slightly better interest rate for the next six months. Our thanks to **Jeannette Millard** for dreaming up the idea of a quilt raffle, and for making the quilt for the quilt raffle, and for helping out so diligently, along with so many others to sell raffle tickets. This was the shot in the arm our statute campaign needed.

By the way, the quilt was won by Ellen Hewitt of Circle City, Arizona. Ellen just happens to be the sister of your Chapter president. (I assure you the drawing was not a "fix" as I was hundreds of miles away when the drawing took place!)

## Meeting Highlights for February

Again, it was a wonderful surprise to see the high turnout for our monthly meeting! **Mackie Clark** and **Jean Duaine** are to be thanked since it is they who make the phone calls to remind folks in the days leading up to the third Saturday of every month. I counted about 25 in attendance!

We touched on a number of items of old and new business, the most noteworthy being the proposed CCC picnic in Payson and discussion of plans to improve the facilities at Papago Park. Lou Linxwiler, who joined us last month, was in attendance again and he brings us the encouraging news that there may be an interest in placing a CCC worker statue in Papago Park as part of the improvement efforts there. The statue might fit nicely in the area where the CCC built an impressive amphitheatre in the park.

Recently I have also sent statue information packets to Grand Canyon in response to a request they have put out for input regarding a plan to rebuild and reconfigure the Bright Angel Trailhead at the South Rim. Those in attendance were given pre-written letters to sign and send to the Grand Canyon staff as

well. Finally, a statue packet was also sent to Representative Jim Kolbe because he is "stuck" with about \$330,000 in campaign funds that he is not permitted by law to spend on himself. Hey Representative Kolbe! Send about \$20,000 of that money our way!

## What's In A Name? Part Two.

Fred Garcia is not simply our very able Chapter Treasurer; he is also something of an archivist. After the January meeting he provided me with a stack of Chapter 44 and 149 newsletters to use for research material in putting together this "new" and "updated" version. In looking through them, I'm afraid my endeavor probably won't match them for in depth coverage of Chapter activities, nor will this new edition come out as frequently, but I hope that an occasional newsletter will help keep you informed and entertained. For now, I think I might just call the newsletter something different each time it comes out.

## Payson CCC Recognition Picnic?

Shortly after the CCC story ran on Channel 8 last year, George Spires of Payson contacted me by email and explained their desire to host a picnic in honor of the CCC. The original date coincided with Zane Gray days so the schedule was shifted. I provided Mr. Spires with some ideas and people to contact for input and assistance and I didn't hear much after that until last week (February 16th).

Mr. Spires came down to Phoenix and met briefly with me at South Mountain Park during my lunch hour to discuss some specifics. Here is what I know to be for sure at the moment:

**Tentative Date: April 15, 2005**

**Arrive in Payson about 10:00 am**

**Picnic Lunch (free) at Noon**

I have offered to see about arranging bus transportation to the event. I have also agreed to bring our traveling exhibit up to Payson for display in their museum the day of the picnic. A sign up sheet was passed around at the February meeting to get a feel for how many might want to attend and we took down 16 names. Based upon that, and in accordance with a motion voted on at the meeting (*continued on next page, see "Payson Picnic"*)

*(Payson Picnic continued)*

I'm going to contact the bus company that transported us during the NACCCA reunion in 2004. I'll get a quote on what it would cost to transport 20 to 30 people up to Payson and back. The Chapter has tentatively agreed to subsidize the cost of the bus somewhat but those riding the bus will be asked to pay a nominal fare to help offset the expense. **IMPORTANT: If you were not at the February meeting and you want to be included on the bus list, please call Mackie Clark at 623-974-5739.**

We've got a short time to prepare for this, but thankfully there isn't too much we need to do as a group other than decide we want to go and figure out a way to get us all there. The Payson people are also exploring transportation options, too, including perhaps having a bus from the casino come pick us up.

If it comes together, the Payson Picnic will take the place of our regular April meeting. Also, the folks in Payson have asked if any of you would be willing to make yourselves available to answer questions in the museum at different times during the day. I hope you'll agree to do that, since nobody can tell your story better than you can tell your story.

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**Looking To The Future.....**

**March 2006**

What say we try to meet around the CCC plaque at the State Capitol's Wesley Bolin Plaza to honor the birthday of the CCC? If you're on the membership roster, someone will call you. If you're not on the membership roster call Michael Smith at 623-780-8279 to get the specific date and time.

**April 2006**

The Town of Payson is planning to have a CCC recognition day, including a picnic in honor of the CCC. More details have come out since the last newsletter and we discussed the event at February's meeting. See the article elsewhere in this edition for details.

**September 2006**

The 2006 NACCCA National Reunion is scheduled for September 28, 29 & 30, in Dallas, Texas. As the membership roll declines, it becomes more important that we attend the national reunion if we are able, physically and financially. Texas is steeped in CCC history so this reunion should be fun and informative. There is even talk that most of

the meals will be provided as part of the reunion registration! You can get information by calling Sally Rodriguez at the Dallas Parks Department: 214-243-2123.

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***Have you read?***

My Brush Monkeys by Albert W. Jernberg  
Published in 1941, this is an Army officer's account of running camps in Illinois and Michigan. Read this and you might understand why the camp commander frequently had a scowl on his face.

The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942 by John A. Salmond

Published in the 1960s and long out of print, this book represents the preeminent study of the creation and operation of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Duplicated but never surpassed!

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Did you know that the CCC built the rental cabins at Hualapai Mountain Park, near Kingman?

**We need a volunteer!**

We need someone to agree to take on the task of Sunshine Lady, or Sunshine Fellow. Helen McMahon did an outstanding job in this capacity but sadly we have lost Helen and her shoes may be hard to fill. The ideal candidate will send sympathy cards and get well cards when necessary, and provide a short account of their activities during the regular monthly meetings. The Chapter will reimburse all (reasonable) expenses associated with the effort.

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Be sure to pay your 2006 dues if you have not already done so. Remember, your dues are the fuel that keeps this flivver rolling.

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**NACCCA Chapter 44, Phoenix, Arizona**  
**Michael Smith, President** 623-780-8279  
**Jack Duncan, Vice-President** 623-388-2059  
**Audrey Clark, Secretary** 623-974-5739  
**Fred Garcia, Treasurer** 623-878-7007  
**Sunshine Representative** Vacant

**NACCCA SW Region Director** -----Vacant

## Our Newsletter, Past and Present

Fred Garcia very kindly handed over a stack of Chapter 44 and Chapter 149 newsletters and I'm in the process of browsing through them as time permits. The publication underwent a number of transformations between 1990 and 1997. In 1990, Chapter 44's publication was simply named "Chapter 44 Newsletter." In June of 1991 the newsletter started coming out as the "Central Conservation Courier." In 1995 it appears that the "Central Conservation Courier" was merged with the "Cactus Country Chronicle" produced by Chapter 149 in Tucson under a larger masthead that read "Arizona's CCC Magazine." The publication was more advanced, sporting a stapled fold.

The thing that is most striking about these back issues is how many truly active members there seemed to be back then. Naturally, the passage of time has meant that many of the names are simply fondly remembered friends whose good deeds echo back to us from events passed. Still others are names of people who some of us never met. In either case, we honor them when we strive to continue the work of heralding the accomplishments of the CCC.

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### "College Boy"

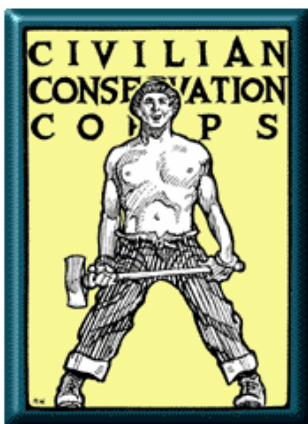
A bank manager noticed a new employee eagerly counting \$100 bills.

"You look like an industrious young man," the manager said. "Where did you receive your financial education?"

"Yale," replied the young man.

"Excellent," exclaimed the manager, introducing himself and shaking the new employee's hand. "And what is your name?" the manager asked.

"Yim Yohnson," the young man replied.



## Test Your CCC Savvy

### Rookie Level

The CCC was created by \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_.

FDR's many programs were called the \_\_\_\_\_ Deal.

### Assistant Leader Level

True or False. The CCC was originally called the ECW.

True or False. "Spike Camp" referred to the camp with the lowest rating in the District.

FDR appointed \_\_\_\_\_ as director of the CCC.

### Leader Level

True or False. CCC work projects always fell under the direct authority of the military.

\_\_\_\_\_ was the director of the CCC when it was disbanded in 19\_\_.

The official newspaper of the CCC was called \_\_\_\_\_.

As a camp designation, the letters "SCS" stood for what?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Our next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. On the agenda will be discussion of the pending Payson CCC Recognition Picnic and updates regarding our efforts at raising funds for a CCC worker statue. Please plan to attend.**

## News From National

You may have noticed in the most recent issue of the NACCCA Journal that their format is going to change to a bi-monthly edition. Financial constraints have forced the change, which is unfortunate, but facts are facts.

This shouldn't dissuade you from sending in your stories for publication. In years to come, back issues of the Journal may prove to be a research bonanza for any enterprising scholar seeking to write the newest chapter in CCC history!

### Address Correction Requested

National Headquarters is sending out address verification cards to update their files, according to the February issue of the Journal. If you get a card and there is no change to be made, simply ignore the mailing. On the other hand, if anything needs updating, let them know.

### A New Chapter!

A warm welcome to the members of NACCCA's newest state organization, Chapter 177, the Black Hills Chapter of South Dakota.

This chapter was formed out of a cadre of dedicated folks who helped make the 2005 NACCCA reunion a reality and they are uniquely situated amidst a number of CCC project sites including Custer State Park, Wind Cave, and Mount Rushmore. You'll find a listing of chapter officers and members in the latest issue of the journal. If you worked in South Dakota or if you simply have an interest in that region, drop them a note or give them a call.



### Research Information Requests

In the past month I've received two inquiries from professional's who are conducting site research on areas where the CCC worked in Arizona. In each case, I've shared what information I can with them; perhaps one of you Chapter members who've worked in Arizona has information to share.

Allison Cohen Diehl of Desert Archaeology is researching work done on the Coronado Trail north of the Clifton-Morenci area on what used to be Highway 666 (Now Hwy 191).

Allison Cohen Diehl  
Desert Archaeology, Inc.  
3975 N. Tucson Blvd.  
Tucson, AZ 85716  
(520) 881-2244

Mike Lindeman, also with Desert Archaeology, is doing research on a site called Oak Flat, near Superior, Arizona. There is a land swap underway and he is conducting research on historical features in the area, including numerous camping sites and erosion control features. Mr. Lindeman can be reached at the same Desert Archaeology address and phone number listed above.

### *Also seeking information.....*

Jane Jackson is seeking information on Camp Eldon in Flagstaff. She can be reached at 602-866-7653.

## **Late Breaking News.....**

### **CCC Anniversary Day**

My effort to put together a picnic event at the CCC monument in Wesley Bolin Plaza on March 31<sup>st</sup> is running into some snags.

The state wants a \$200 fee for us to have an “event” at the Plaza. They also want us to fill out a bunch of paperwork and secure insurance. I think their idea of a picnic and my idea of a picnic are two different things, and they haven’t responded to my request for clarification.

I hope to go to Wesley Bolin for a sack lunch on March 31<sup>st</sup>. Any of you who think you might like to do the same thing, please call me and let me know so I can look for you. We won’t make a big show out of it and we won’t invite a bunch of folks from outside the Chapter and hopefully the Capitol Police won’t arrest us for unlawful assembly.

### **Salt River Projects say “No Thanks...”**

Salt River Project (SRP) responded to my request for a donation to our statue fund by saying they are “unable to assist” us in our efforts to place a CCC worker statue in Arizona. That’s unfortunate, since SRP used CCC workers to improve their irrigation system during the 1930s – I guess they’ve forgotten. I’ll be sending them a follow up letter to remind them and ask them if they don’t feel some sense of obligation even after nearly 75 years!