

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

May 2015

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: None for this month.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Mike Pixler, Jr., May 1st; Joe Minshew, May 10th; and Mike Pixler, Sr., May 20th.

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, May 9, 2015

Weather: Cloudy, Temp. 72°, Attendance: 13

The meeting was called to order at 11:05 AM by President Pixler.

The Invocation was offered by Merle Timblin.

Pledges to the flags were led by Sgt-at Arms Troy Jones.

President Pixler reminded members present of the purposes of the CCC Legacy to educate and further understanding of the Civilian Conservation Corps and its contribution to American life, 1933 to 1942.

Minutes of the April 2015 meeting were available to all members in the newsletter. Motion to accept the minutes as printed was made by Troy Jones and seconded by Pat Mann. All in favor motion passed.

The Financial report was made available to members present by Sec/Treasurer Porter. Motion to accept the report as printed was made by Merle Timblin and seconded by Bill Stallings. All in favor, motion passed.

Members with birthdays in May are Mike Pixler, Sr., (5/20), Mike Pixler, Jr., (5/2), and Joe Minshew, (5/11).

Members sang Happy Birthday to Mike Pixler, Sr. There were no anniversaries in May.

Members were reminded to participate in election of board members for CCC Legacy Inc. See names and procedures for voting in the latest issue of CCC Legacy Journal. Also members were given location of various facebook and other internet websites to find information about the CCC.

The Chapter information booth at the Buffalo Boogie 2015 at the Fort Worth Nature Center & Refuge scheduled for today (5/9), was cancelled due to bad weather. Motion to donate \$100.00 to Buffalo Boogie by the chapter was made by Troy Jones and seconded by Larka Tetens. Funds are used by the Nature Center to feed and care for the bison. All in favor, motion passed.

The program consisted of a pictorial/slide show update on the Lake Worth Memorial Project by Mike Pixler and Jim Rau. Official date of dedication of the monument is May 30, 2015, at 10:00 AM and all members are urged to attend. Can was passed for donations and door prize drawing was won by Bill Stallings who returned the money to the chapter.

The blessing was offered by Merle Timblin. A motion to adjourn was made by Bill Stallings, seconded by Troy Jones. President Pixler adjourned the meeting at 12:19 PM. The Kitchen Committee presented a delicious meal to the Chapter family and friends. Next meeting is June 13, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer

=====

REPEATING THE OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE DEDICATION CEREMONY OF THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS (CCC) LEGACY LAKE WORTH MEMORIAL PROJECT.

Who: THE "BOYS" OF THE CCC AND CCC COMPANY 1816, SP-31-T.

When: SATURDAY, 30 MAY, 2015, AT 10:00 A.M.

Where: FORMER CAMPSITE OF CCC COMPANY 1816 (Watercress Rd. & Peninsula Club Circle)

HOPE TO SEE YOU THERE. "THE CCC IS FOREVER"

Sincerely, yours in service,

Mike Pixler, President

CCC Legacy Chapter 123

3116 Indian Gap St.

Weatherford, TX 76087 817-929-1557

CHAPTER ETERNAL

We recently received word from Joan Sharpe, President of CCC Legacy, our national group, that Daniel Small of La Habra, Calif., one of our members and a “Boy,” passed away April 30, 2015. We had lost contact with him. Mark Small, his son, passed the word to Joan about his father. We called Mark and had a really nice conversation about Daniel, because we had very little info about him.

Daniel Small was born in Schenectady, New York, June 12, 1916, but the family moved to Hollywood, Calif., when Dan was age 7. He was No. 7 of 13 kids, 11 of which survived to adulthood. He graduated high school in 1933 in the depths of the Depression and joined the CCC later that year. He served from 1933 to 1935 at a camp near Ojai, Calif., and was stationed at the Frazier Mountain Fire Watch Tower. His son said Dan was very proud of his service in the CCC. He was drafted into the Army before Pearl Harbor and served four years in an Army finance office at Honolulu, HI. Five of the brothers or sisters served during WW II, and their mother was a true Five Star Mother. Of those 11 surviving original kids (really just 10 because one became a nun!), there were 52 grandkids.

=====

WE CONTINUE WITH HOMER COZBY AND THE CCC IN SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA

Homer resumes: “After about 2 or 3 months of digging with pick and shovel, I aspired to easier tasks; truck driving tests were at hand. Many trucks of various types were used by the National Park Service with at least two, maybe three army type trucks for mail, supplies and personnel. I studied a little for the park service test. I already knew how to drive a car, but had never driven a dump truck or vehicles the size of the ones at the park. The test would also include an army type vehicle test with a trip into Phoenix, Arizona, for city street driving.

I began driving trucks almost immediately after testing. Dump trucks, winch cable and hoist trucks, and personnel carriers which were large, flat-bed trucks with side boards, seats and canvas covering. I was assigned to a personnel carrier (old No. 29!), a Ford V-8 1936 model with which I began carrying less fortunate individuals out to the more menial tasks I had now risen above. Week days immediately after reveille formation and mess, I reported to the NPS buildings and garages. Warming up the truck’s engine took 10-15 minutes, after which 12 to 14 men with their water canteens and picks and shovels, loaded on the truck seats. The foreman got up front with me, and I drove the few miles up the winding mountain road to that day’s job. My duties during the day were never definite. At about 10:00 AM, I returned to the camp mess hall to pick up sack lunches for the men. It mainly consisted of sandwiches, fruit, and cookies. Besides the men’s personal canteen, there was a 10 gallon water keg on the side of my truck. Also on most road jobs, there was a clear running mountain stream nearby. After eating lunch with the men, I read, studied, or walked to view hidden areas of the beautiful Chiricahua Mountain Canyon Park.

Spring, 1941....

About six of us who had begun truck driving together were sent to Phoenix for further driving tests in city streets and heavy traffic. Highways then were unpaved, pot holed and dusty. (Can you imagine like where Interstate 10 is now.) The G.I. truck driver who took us was an old, long time CCC man. He drove like a maniac or a teen-aged dragster of the ‘50s. We bumped, swayed and jostled mile after mile, all of us swearing to pass the test, if only to save future CCC men’s lives if appointed G.I. Army truck driver.

Phoenix was a teeming city even then. We were billeted in CCC camp quarters in South Mountain Park outside

Phoenix; going into Command Headquarters for our tests and a couple of nights of R & R. All of us passed the test and were given certificates of proficiency. We had another harrowing ride back through Tucson, Benson, Wilcox, and to camp. I never was appointed to Army truck driver; never cared for it – too much idle time in far away cities, etc.

Included in my truck driver duties, I was used to carry trained fire fighters to necessary locations; personnel to instruction sites; and ferrying our camp baseball team over mountain roads to other CCC camps for match games. I played first baseman and received some never forgotten tips and instructions from one of my friends, a WPA superintendent of the National Park Service.

We grouped weekly at the administration office for mail call, vaccination shots and serums which kept us half sick lots of times. We daily drilled to police (clean) the camp area; kept grass neatly mown; trash hauled and cigarette butts shredded to unseen existence. We grew adapt at close order formation for dress retreat or reveille. Such duties instilled in us a reverence for flag and country and set us up for trials away in the wars yet to come. Cleanliness became a habit and an abiding principal. Our “White Glove” inspections of barracks quarters and mess-hall, etc. became a personal obligation instead of duty. The orderliness of regulated camp life and its priorities for future army life only years away, gave us a wheel up on future army trainees. Our CCC camp experiences stood us in good stead for armed service promotions and satisfactory service.

My last months of enrollment in CCC Camp NP-9A were spent driving a winch & hoist truck. I had chosen it later because of its varied use and mobility. At that time it was in use to hoist and move giant boulders and mountain shrubbery from their locations to the Park Service Buildings and Administrative Area. A graduate landscape engineer was in charge and gave me many instructive tips and ideas for use in my later years of civilian employment. I bossed two men with the hoist truck. One of them had spent a ‘hitch’ or two as a “dog robber.” The near idleness of those duties had left him pale and weakly although apparently well fed. These few weeks he hoped to tan his face and body and strengthen his muscles for homecoming back to friends.

“Dog robbing,” a mis-nomer for Officer’s Orderly, was as prized appointment in the 3Cs of old – as well as wartime army service. Above average food is assured as well as private quarters, accommodations and many worthwhile tips. There were several other prized duties in that particular camp’s established order. Duty at Sugarloaf Peak fire observatory changed every month. This pleasant time was overseen by the National Park’s Forest Ranger.

Another camp duty appointment to which I personally aspired was caterpillar tractor and road grader operators. I never gained seniority enough to be appointed to road maintenance, but often times when the maintenance crew was in my area, I rode the cat or grader with my old friends and camp buddies, Hedenell and Gilbert from far-east Texas, whom I have never seen again but will always remember.

Carrying supplies, camp fixtures, men and implements over the winding mountain park roads, negotiating sharp, hairpin turns, double-clutching toe old “grandma-gear” truck gave me a *Barney Oldfield* training for future years of the automobile age. In fact, I have had only two minor auto collisions in 60 years of driving. Both were on the same sunny afternoon.

CCC camp life was good and most free time was used advantageously; friendships grew and special skills and aptitudes were born and cultivated. However, homesickness does occur, even at age nineteen. So money for my journey home was sent. The train ticket was supplied by the government. We were trucked to Douglas, AZ, to

board the Texas & Pacific train home, via El Paso, Fort Worth, and auto. We had ridden the Santa Fe on the trip out to Arizona. On a stopover in Sweetwater, TX, a middle aged lady observed us milling about the station platform, and her inquiry surprised us, "Were we marshalling for war?" Entry into the armed forces – Pearl Harbor was months away. It was soon to come, however, and only four days after my enlistment into the Army Air Corps, the Japanese struck Pearl Harbor.

Our quick involvement into the World War II years took away the notoriety and credits which may have been ours. The CCCs have been grossly overlooked; in many ways due to the many war years. Its benefits to man and country have remained dim and unrecorded. We of the ancient Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni are proud of our pre-WW II achievements. Studied research has uncovered facts and still existing edifices. Our contributions to America's land and natural resources and the following conservative measures have kept civil and government preservation practices alive.

We were the beginning and the perpetrators of such practices. Can we instill a sense of timely need into the young, for conservation and preservation of our natural heritage?

Good Day."

Homer Cozby 2-26-1990

Homer G. Cozby, born 16 Sep, 1919, in Field, Curry Co., NM and died 19 May, 1994, in Mineral Wells, TX

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

The CCC Legacy Chapter 123 Newsletter, 3412 Pleasant Run Rd., Irving TX, 75062 972-255-7237