

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

October 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-Wes Culwell, phone contact: 817-246-8197, 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, (volunteers), Historian/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 1:00 PM at the North Side Multipurpose Center, 1801 Harrington [North], Fort Worth, TX 76106. If you are using a GPS display, this address is the FRONT of the building; our meeting room is at the BACK, off of Homan St. The door to the meeting room is on the right as you approach from the parking lot, and will have a CCC sign on it.

Driving Directions: Interstate Hwy 30 runs east & west, and 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. If coming from Loop 820 North, go south on Hwy 199 and left on 18th St. Our meeting room door with the CCC sign is to the right as you approach the building. Our dues are \$10 a person annually, effective from Oct. to Oct. Bring a friend & enjoy fun, fellowship & food. Sign the register for you may win the \$10 door prize.

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, October 10, 2015

Weather: Sunny, Temp: 74°, Attendance:20.

The meeting was called to order at 11:07 AM by President Mike Pixler.

The Invocation was offered by Rev. James Pixler. The pledges to the flags were led by President Pixler.

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

The minutes of the September 2015 meeting were available to all members in the September newsletter.

Motion to accept the minutes was made by Tony Rodriguez and seconded by Wes Culwell. All in favor motion passed.

The financial report was made available to members by Sec/Treasurer Steve Porter. Motion to accept financial report was made by Wes Culwell and seconded by Bill Stallings. All in favor motion passed.

Birthdays this month include Troy Jones (10/17), Wanda Jones (10/25), Bob Forston (10/31), Hubert Foster (10/4), William Ellis (10/17), Dale Roberts (10/2), and Blanche Howerton (10/21).

Merle and Evelyn Timblin celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary on 10/27! Happy Anniversary was sung by the members to the Timblins and Happy Birthday was song to those celebrating birthdays.

All CCC Boys are reminded that the reunion is now scheduled for November 14 and to contact one of the Chapter officers if transportation to the meeting is required.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Bill Stallings, asked for nominations from the floor for the position of 1st Vice President. Wes Culwell was the only nomination and a motion to elect him by acclamation was made by Corky James and seconded by Tony Rodriguez. Motion passed. Chairman Stallings then asked for nominations from the floor for the position of Secretary/Treasurer. Steve Porter agreed to continue to serve and since there were no nominations from the floor, Wes Culwell made a motion to elect Steve Porter by acclamation. Motion was seconded by Bill Stallings and passed. President Pixler then installed Wes Culwell as 1st Vice President and Steve Porter as Secretary/Treasurer.

President Pixler and Jim Rau presented a slide show of their visit to the Meridian State Park anniversary on October 3, 2015. The activities were varied and several persons at the park expressed an interest in Chapter 123. President Pixler and Bill Stallings then told of their visit to the CCC Legacy gathering in East Winsor, Connecticut, on September 24-27, 2015. Slides of the gathering were shown and many ideas were discussed to consider using in the next gathering to be held in Fort Worth in September, 2016. Event Committee Chairman Wes Culwell stated the mission is to honor CCC Boys and educate the public about the Civilian Conservation Corps as well as to encourage membership in the CCC Legacy and Chapter 123.

The can was passed for donations to the chapter. The door prize was won by Lisa Smith who returned it to the chapter.

The blessing was offered by Merle Timblin. Motion to adjourn was made by Tony; Rodriguez and seconded by Corky James. President Pixler adjourned the meeting at 12:37 PM. The Kitchen Committee served to pot luck meal to members and guests. Next meeting will be by November 14, 2015.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer

CHAPTER ETERNAL FOR JOE MINSHEW

We regret to inform that long time Chapter 123 member and CCC Boy Joe MinsheW, 94, of Perrin, Texas, passed away peacefully at his home Sunday, Nov. 1, 2015. His funeral was held at Bethesda United Methodist Church in Weatherford. Donations may be made to the David Rueter Memorial Scholarship Fund through the church. Joe was born May 10, 1921, and served in the Civilian Conservation Corps in Company 3804 at Cleburne State Park, Texas, in 1938-1939, and in Company 849 at Brownwood, Texas, in 1940. He worked for General Dynamics (now

Lockheed-Martin) for nearly 40 years. He was also a long-time farmer and continued to plow and plant crops well into his 90s. He was also known for his famous dill pickles among family and friends. In between he was an avid fisherman and could be found either on Benbrook Lake or Possum Kingdom Lake where he had a cabin. He made many record size fish catches. Joe was preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Doris, in 2007, and his daughter, Deborah Jo in 1975. Survivors: Granddaughter, Danielle Marie King of Austin, Texas; brothers C.L. Minshew of Livingston and Arthur Minshew of Fort Worth; and many nieces and nephews.

THE WASH DAY

Thanks to Mr. Alf Allen in his book, *"In Those Days 1907-1914"* published in 1997, we can travel back in time to the days when the CCC Boys and their sisters and brothers were growing up. We have quoted from his book before.

"Monday was wash day, if the weather was right, and it had to be because there was no washing machine or dryer either. Washing was done outside in the open, possibly in a shady place if there were trees.

It began in the house by spreading a bed sheet on the floor, and placing the dirty clothes on it, then bringing the corners together to serve as a laundry basket. It was then carried outside along with tubs, buckets, lye soap, a wash board, matches, etc. to the wash place. The wash place may be under a couple of trees with a board between them, and as close as possible to a source of water. This could be a stock tank or a well. At the wash place would be a large iron pot which was kept at that location. The first order of business was to fill the pot with water, and then build a fire around it. This required a goodly supply of wood with kindling to get the fire going using the matches. This was a family operation; the more help available, the quicker the job got done. Buckets were used to carry the water. If from a stock tank, a short plank walkway was put out in the water to reach deep enough to fill the buckets with as clean enough water as possible. Young boys came in handy here to carry the water and keep the fire burning. The saying was "Mend the fire."

When the water was hot, some was put in wash tubs to get the correct temperature for scrubbing. The dirty clothes then went into the hot water, and now the wash board comes into play, with the very soiled places being rubbed with the lye soap, one piece at a time. Then the clothes are placed in the iron pot, with shaved pieces of soap, and the water boiling. Here one needs a punching stick, usually a sawed off old broom handle, to keep the clothes under the hot water, and then lift them out after boiling for a time.

The clothes from the boiling pot are next placed in a new tub of water where they are rubbed again to remove the dirt and the soap. This is the rinsing process. The clothes are then put in another tub where bluing has been placed. This was supposed to make the clothes whiter. After being stirred here, the clothes are then wrung out by hand as dry as possible. For sure there was no wringer available.

The clothes were then hung on a line, or if not available, possibly on bushes to dry. Now you can see why the weather must be right for wash day. The family then goes to the house for lunch, that is, if the mother is not too tired to fix it.

Later after drying, the clothes were brought to the house to await the next process known as ironing or folding or both. Actually there was more folding than ironing. Most of the clothes the men wore in the fields needed little or no ironing. Some items, such as shirts, blouses, sheets and pillow cases were ironed. Two irons, an ironing board, a pad on which to set the irons, and a holding cloth to protect from the hot irons. The irons were solid iron, so were made smaller to be lifted easily, and were heated on top of a cook stove or in winter, by the fire in the fire place. Two were needed so one could be heated while the other was in use.

The ironing board was home made using a board ten or twelve inches wide, about four feet long, and pointed on one end in order to slip garments over it to iron. The board was padded with a small layer of cotton lint and covered with cloth, usually an old sheet. Now imagine if you will, the ironing board in place, the clothes to be ironed nearby, a bowl of water to sprinkle some clothes, and the irons hot on the hearth in front of the fire. An iron would be taken with one hand and clothes in the other. Then the iron was carried to the ironing board, and there set on an iron object or set on end on a pad. The iron was run over the clothes to get the wrinkles out until the iron began to cool, when it was then returned to the fire to be reheated while the other iron was used.

The clothes that were folded without ironing were simply stacked or hung in a convenient place—clothes closets not often being available ‘in those days.’ I must tell you that clothes might well be hung in a room corner on a cotton or metal clothes line, and kept from public view simply by stretching a sheet from one side to the other side across the corner; thus ended another wash day.

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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