

## CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

May 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- Larka Tetens, [info later], 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.

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**WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES:** There are no anniversaries this month.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY:** Mike Pixler, Jr. and G.C. Murray, May 1<sup>st</sup>, Helene Hubbard, May 7<sup>th</sup>, Joe Minshew, May 10<sup>th</sup>, Mike Pixler, Sr., May 20<sup>th</sup>, and Bob Nettles, May 26<sup>th</sup>.

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MINUTES OF MEETING OF CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, ON SATURDAY, May 11, 2013. Weather: Clear, Temp 74°, Attendance: 13.

Meeting called to order by President Pixler at 11:00 AM. He welcomed everyone to the meeting for May, 2013, and shared a bit of trivia with the members.

The invocation was offered by Merle Timblin.

The pledges to the flags were led by Sergeant-at-Arms, Troy Jones.

Pixler reminded all in attendance the purpose of the CCC Legacy.

Those in attendance had received the newsletter with the minutes included. With the following changes; James Pixler's birthday being on 14 April, and the door prize for April, won by Wanda Jones to go for her 2014 dues.

Motion to accept, Troy Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Merle Timblin, motion carried.

A written financial report offered by Pixler, motion to accept, as written, by Merle Timblin, 2<sup>nd</sup> James Pixler, motion carried.

Two members of the phone committee were at Buffalo Boogie, 2013. The following members have birthdays in May: Mike Pixler, Jr. and G.C. Murray, 1 May, Helene Hubbard, 7 May, Joe Minshew, 10 May, Mike Pixler, Sr., 20 May and Bob Nettles, 26 May. We sang "Happy Birthday" to those in attendance.

Under old business the dedication of the memory wall at the CCC Legacy HQ is approaching the final stage in preparation of the dedication. CCC Legacy President Joan Sharpe shared the ceremony will be in the future.

New business included the information on the dedication of the worker statue in Missouri, and the welcoming of our newest member, through Merle Timblin, CCC Historian, Sharon E. Hunt of Tucson, AZ.

The program portion included a pictorial review of the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary event of Texas, at Palo Duro Canyon State Park. Thank you Janelle Taylor.

Pass the can/Drawing followed with Steve Porter winning the door prize, who immediately donated it back to the chapter. Thanks Steve.

The blessing was given by Chapter Chaplain, James Pixler.

A motion to adjourn was made by Troy Jones, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ruby Pixler, all in favor, motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:41 AM.

President Pixler reminded the members of the 8 June, 2013, meeting.

An early lunch meal was enjoyed by all who attended.

Respectfully submitted for,

Secretary/Treasurer,

Mike Pixler, President

CCC Legacy Chapter 123

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### **The President's Corner, 11 May, 2013**

The subject for this corner is; Blessing or Curse.

Sometimes, being retired, military or not, is a blessing and a curse. Fortunately, you have the time to take care of issues those who are not retired do not have the time to work. Or at least do not take the time to work. That is the blessing. The curse; you have time to take care of issues those who are not retired do not have the time to work. Or at least do not take the time to work. Confused? Welcome to the club. Let me say now before I get too far, I do not mind what I do. If I did, I would not be doing it. Or would I? Anyway, some people have been doing for so long; they do not know how to not do. If a job has to be done, they jump on it and take care of the issue to completion.

Some have found that it is easier to do it themselves than trust it to someone they do not know is capable of working the issue. They know if they do it, it will be taken care of. Blessing or Curse? Who knows? Something as simple as a presentation in the afternoon seems to be a problem for some. Those that do things, rearrange their schedule in order to take care of that presentation. Again, before I get too far, family first. If folks are working for the family and cannot get away, so be it. Out of town makes it hard for one to make events. Age and ability comes to mind. Death is always acceptable. Most folks have to be asked. Most quit volunteering, years ago. Most choose to just enjoy the benefits, with the work. Some deserve to just enjoy the benefits. The "Boys"

of the Civilian Conservation Corps, come to mind, and the spouses who supported them through the years. If it was not for them, we would not even be here. I can live with that. Perhaps that is the way society is nowadays. Take what you can and leave the rest.

Just to be able to let some things go would be nice, I guess. Anyway, we'll just keep on keeping on. Hang on, help is coming? Hope to see you at the next meeting 8 June, 2013.

Before I forget, because of "sometimers," thanks to Gary Mitchell for bringing Larkin to the meeting; and Inez Parker for visiting with us. Hope to see the both of you next month. If we do not have your information to receive the newsletter, contact us ASAP. Thanks.

Yours in Service,

Mike Pixler, President  
CCC Legacy Chapter 123

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## REPORT ON OUR MEMBERS

Helene Hubbard tells us that Ernest is still not able to have visitors or phone calls. He does have a good appetite, and enjoys his meals. He is able sometimes to go to the rehab dining room; when not able, he eats in bed.

Bob Nettles has now started dialysis three days a week. He has to go in the afternoons because the mornings are already taken by others. This was a problem for him because at first no one was available to bring him back to his apartment; but men from his church came to his aid, and he now has rides.

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## A CHRISTMAS STORY [in May] BY DAN MCGREW

[We met Dan McGrew recently at the 80th Anniversary of the CCC at Palo Duro Canyon S.P. He is a CCC "Boy," lives in Grand Prairie, TX, age 96, and goes dancing 3 or 4 times a week. He was born in Thurber, Texas, in 1917- which is now a ghost town. His father was a coal miner/brick maker there, and later a union organizer. In the 1930's Dan joined the CCC and was sent to the West Coast. After the CCC, he trained in Dallas as an aircraft mechanic, got his Airframe & Powerplant License, and when the war started, worked for Lockheed at their Mod-Center at Love Field. He then went into the Army Air Force as a flight engineer on B-24 bombers and flew out of England with the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force. He made 32 bombing missions over Germany. He is a member of the Antique Car Club of Dallas, and has a beautiful blue 1935 Plymouth Sedan. We hope to recruit him as a new member, and tell more of his story; but in the mean time he has allowed us to print this story by him. After the family left Thurber in the 1920's, they moved several times so the father could find work.] Dan's Story:

"In June, 1929, Cisco, Texas, schools were out for the summer. My father moved our family closer to his work near Albany, Texas, to a community named Sedwick. Sedwick was about halfway between Moran and Albany.

About this time I got experience driving my father's Model T truck on the road between Sedwick and Albany as well as through pastures to and from oil drilling rigs. I was 12 years old in 1929.

My father's brother, "Uncle Ellie," worked for my father and was my driving teacher. My brother, Harvey, was almost two years older than me, but he did not care about learning to drive. Our job was to haul pipe and other equipment to the oil fields. In November, same year 1929, we moved to an oil field community call Ibex. Ibex was about 13 miles east of Albany, right in the middle of the oil patch. It was an area dominated by Lone Star Gas and Phillips Petroleum. We lived in a Phillips Petroleum company house.

As Christmas neared, my parents and Uncle Ellie were planning to visit relatives north of Graham on Christmas Day, 1929. I was planning to drive the Ford T-Model truck from Ibex to a loading dock in Breckenridge. There the truck would be loaded with a large spool of steel drilling cable. After loading, I planned to drive the truck from Breckenridge to a drilling rig near Albany, a distance of about 24 miles. We were concerned about the cable being an overload and if the truck could make it over a steep hill east of Hubbard Creek Crossing.

On Christmas morning my brother and I started out for Breckenridge on a dirt public road headed for Highway 180 [then Bankhead Hwy.] I had to slow down for a dip in the road and a steel bar in the back of the truck came forward and down into the cab and conked me on the back of the head. The truck had a windshield, but no top to the cab. So, there was no protection. I went forward and smashed the part of my nose between the eyes on the dome nut holding the steering wheel in place. I still have the scar! While I was cleaning up the blood, my parents drove up and I checked out O.K. So, they drove ahead to the loading dock in Breckenridge. We drove the truck on to Breckenridge, met my parents there, and got the truck loaded. My parents took off for their relatives' farm north of Graham. My brother and I took off in the truck for Albany.

Leaving Breckenridge we came quickly to the steep hill we had been dreading. I gave the truck full throttle going down the smaller hill leading to the big hill in front of me, but we couldn't make it over the top. So, I backed down the big hill and as far as I could up the smaller hill behind me and got ready to try again. This time as I got partially up the big hill and the engine began to slow down, I started zigzagging from one side of the road to the other to lessen the grade. I also did a better job of adjusting the spark which affected the RPM as the engine pulled down. We just got to the top and over the steep hill when we met the only car coming our way! I sure would have hated to meet him halfway up the hill when I was doing the zigzagging!

When we reached Albany, I parked the truck right in front of the movie theater. We had money for the show. Harvey and I got to see out first "talking" picture show. After the show I drove the truck to the drilling rig. Our parents and Uncle Ellie joined us and after unloading the truck, we all drove back to Ibex. Me and Harvey were so excited about seeing our first "talkie" picture show! Our parents were just as excited about their experience crossing the Brazos River twice on a cable hanging bridge. What a great day it was! All of this happening on Christmas Day, 1929."

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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