

CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123 NEWSLETTER

3412 Pleasant Run Road, Irving, Texas 75062

November 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: Reno & Dorothy Schubert, San Antonio, TX, 11/20, their 71st !

HAPPY BIRTHDAY: Jerriene Crooks, Crowley, TX, 11/05; T.W. "Bill" McKee, Abilene, TX, 11/13; Claire Radi, San Antonio, TX, 11/25, Bill Stallings, Irving, TX, 11/04.

A belated Happy Birthday to Reno Schubert of San Antonio, Sept. 26, No. 94!

MINUTES OF MEETING, CCC LEGACY CHAPTER 123, November 8, 2014

Weather: Cloudy, Temp. 60°, Attendance 10

President Mike Pixler called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. The Invocation was offered by Merle Timblin. The pledges to the U.S. and Texas flags were led by Sgt-at-Arms Troy Jones.

President Pixler reminded the members of the purpose of CCC Legacy as continued education of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933 to 1942, and its legacy.

Members all indicated they had received the October 2014 newsletter which included the minutes of the October meeting. A motion to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter was made by Troy Jones and 2nd by Tony Rodriguez. All in favor, motion passed.

The financial report was made available to members present by Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer. After review, a motion to accept the financial report was made by Mike Pixler, 2nd by Jim Rau. All in favor, motion passed.

Members with birthdays in November were Bill Stallings, Jerriene Crooks, Bill McKee, and Claire Radi. Reno and Dorothy Schubert of San Antonio celebrate their 71st wedding anniversary on November 20.

First Vice President Jim Rau discussed the CCC Camp 1816 Memorial Monument project and slides were shown of the proposed location and a mock up of the memorial. Goal for completion of the monument is March, 2015. Concerns about the Chapter's responsibility for maintenance and liability insurance of the monument area led to a motion by Merle Timblin that the Chapter will purchase liability insurance for the construction phase of the project. Tony Rodriguez 2nd the motion, all in favor, motion passed. Included in the discussion was the ownership of the completed monument and maintenance of the area around it. Among possibilities would be to gift the monument to the City of Fort Worth.

Members are reminded that Chapter membership dues renewals are due now. Please remit to the Sec/Treasurer at 3505 Socorro Rd., Fort Worth, TX 76116.

The can was passed for donations. The door prize drawing for \$10 went to Jim Rau who returned it to the Chapter to use for dues for members as needed.

The blessing was offered by Mike Pixler, Jr. A motion to adjourn was made by Tony Rodriguez and 2nd by Merle Timblin. The meeting adjourned at 11:58 AM. The tasty potluck meal was enjoyed by all.

Respectfully submitted by
Steve Porter, Sec/Treasurer

A LARGE SERVING OF CROW

Your editor has had to eat a large serving of crow lately. Mr. Reno Schubert, CCC Boy, of San Antonio was left off the Birthday List for September [His was Sept. 26], and Trey Cross III of Burleson, TX, was left out of the October article on the Monster Bash. Trey did yeoman service in helping the kids build their part of the rock walls. Our humble apologies to both.

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CHAPTER ETERNAL

We sadly learned recently of the passing of our good friend and member James Green of Arley, Alabama, formerly of Fort Worth. James C. Green was born Jan. 2, 1924, in Somerville, Ala., and died on Nov. 16, 2014, at age 90. Until a few years ago, James was very active in our chapter being the Calling Chairman, which he thoroughly enjoyed doing because he was a real people person. After his wife died, some of his kinfolk encouraged him to move back to his original home in Alabama, and he felt it was the right thing to do. Even

though it had been 40-50 years, he was recognized when he went to church or the barber shop or the grocery store, it was if he had just been away for a few weeks. He said he instantly felt right at home.

James signed on with the CCC in the '30s and was sent to the neighboring state of Mississippi to help build a state park. He was proud of his work there, and years later when he returned to the park for a visit, he was very glad to see that the park and its structures were being well cared for and was being enjoyed by many visitors. When the work for that park was finished, the CCC sent James clear across the country to the coast of Oregon. He as well enjoyed the complete change of scenery there until his CCC time was up. As World War II progressed, James tried to enlist, but had trouble passing the physical until the war was nearly over when he was accepted in the U.S. Army Air Force. He was assigned to aircraft mechanics school and fortunately was one of the first jet engine mechanics to be trained. Soon after the war was over, James was sent to Okinawa to a fighter plane base, at the time they were flying the P-47 piston engine fighter, but soon transitioned to the new Lockheed P-80 jets. It was during this time that the Army Air Force became the U.S. Air Force, as a separate service. James was always curious, and so enjoyed learning about Okinawa and its culture and visiting with the people there. When his enlistment was up, he returned home, and again his curiosity took him to a U.S. Navy recruiting office. He wanted to see how the Navy operated. The recruiter took one look at his service and training record and offered him an assignment James could not pass up. He could join the Navy at his same rating and pay grade and be sent to Corpus Christi, Texas, to join the recently established "Blue Angels" aerobatic team as a jet mechanic. As usual he fit right in and thoroughly enjoyed his service with them; numbering several of the pilots as close friends. When that enlistment was up, James was still a curious guy, so he re-upped in the Navy so he could be stationed on an aircraft carrier and experience life as a blue-water sailor. He was assigned to a squadron flying one of the Navy's hot new fighters, the Cutlass, on a carrier operating in the Pacific off the coast of Japan. Later the squadron was moved to a U.S. Naval Air Station on Japan where he worked closely with a Marine fighter squadron on the same base. As the '60s rolled around, James was back in the U.S. Air Force, and with the advent of the Viet Nam War, he found himself in Thailand on a U.S. base there working on B-52 bomber jet engines. When he retired from the Air Force, James was at Carswell AFB, and made Fort Worth his home. James' wife Kathleen passed away a few years ago, as well as a son, John. He is survived by Daughter, Rebecca Hensley and son James R. Green, a sister, Jackie Blackwelder, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

A PLEA TO OUR MEMBERS

It's already past time for Chapter 123 renewals, but many members have yet to renew. Our dues are still only \$10 for the whole year, but if you are a CCC "Boy," you are automatically a life time member. {WE GLADLY ACCEPT DONATIONS THOUGH!....but only if you are able.} All others, whether related or not, please renew because this is our only source of steady operating income and stamps keep going up. {If you are curious, about 1/3 of our members receive the newsletter by email; the rest receive theirs via U.S. mail.} Thanks.

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OUR NEW LAKE WORTH CCC LEGACY PROJECT

Recently momentum has been building to create a memorial monument to the work of the CCC Boys of Company 1816 at Lake Worth, specifically at the site of their original camp. Our recent new member, Bob Crow with others, have been pushing to make this happen. And it is not just talk. Serious monies have already been collected to start the ball rolling. A committee composed of Bob Crow, John DeGroat [a lakeside resident and historian], Wes Culwell [member and author of the beautiful book on Lake Worth, "The Trees of Our Lake"],

President Mike Pixler, and 1st V.P. Jim Rau has been formed to further the monument. They have been in discussion with the City of Fort Worth on the placement of it at the camp site. Jim Rau has built a scale mockup of the stone monument-to-be. Residents that live near the camp site are actively involved in supporting the project. For tax purposes, funds for it are being collected by our CCC Legacy National Organization, so if you want to donate to the fund, make to: "CCC Legacy" and in the memo area write: "Memorial Project." Address: CCC Legacy, P.O. Box 341, Edinberg, VA 22824.

ALSO REGARDING THE ABOVE MENTIONED WES CULWELL.....Wes has told us he is starting a new book project with its subject to be the history of CCC Camp 1816 at Lake Worth. He is looking for pictures and other source material on the camp and surrounding areas of the lake. If you have any items of such you can send them to us care/of Mike Pixler or Jim Rau, and they will see it gets to Wes.

WE CONTINUE WITH OUR STORY OF CCC BOY ALBERT SCOTT OF TYLER, TEXAS

When we left Albert, he had just returned from his CCC enlistment in Oregon to his home in Alabama to await word from his draft board while doing odd jobs. In January, 1943, he joined the U.S. Army at Millport, Alabama, which is between Birmingham, Ala. and Columbia, Miss. He was sent to Camp Edwards on Cape Cod in Massachusetts for 6 months of basic training. Then it was back to hot weather again in Alabama and to Tennessee for Army maneuvers. From here he went to Camp Stewart, Georgia, for more training and soon back to the northeast to Camp Shanks, N. Y., the "jumping off" base for the European Theater. His unit boarded the old Ocean Liner S.S. Aquitania, in his words, "Loaded to the gills with troops." They were stationed in northern England until just after D-Day, when they were taken to the Port of South Hampton, where they slept in big tents. They went aboard ships here to cross the English Channel, and off-loaded onto LSTs ½ mile off the French coast. They had to jump off and wade in while still 50-100 yards off shore. They stayed in tents there on the beach until the City of Paris was liberated, and then sent directly towards the area of the Battle of the Bulge. However, only one of the units he was with was actually engaged in the fighting there. They crossed the Rhine River on pontoon bridges. After arriving in Germany, his units were disbanded and the men were scattered all over Germany to other units. With the war over, Albert was sent to Nuremburg, Germany, for a month, then on to France to one of the "Cigarette Camps" to await his return to the U.S.A. When he mustered out of the Army, he soon got married, and started looking for a job. He found they were few and far between. He took one but it only paid .50 cents/hr. He soon said that's enough of that, and volunteered to go back into the Army.

He was sent to communications school at Fort Monmouth, New Jersey. After completion, he became part of the Signal Corps and went to the Philippine Islands in the Pacific. Here he strung communication wires during daylight hours, and at night had to do guard duty to keep the communist guerrillas from stripping the wires in order to make copper bullets. He did this for two to three months, and then sent to Okinawa where he was promoted to sergeant. With this promotion to a non-com he was now able to bring his wife out to be with him. With the advent of the Korean War, Sgt. Scott was sent the other way back to Fort Monmouth. It was here he made warrant officer, and travelled with his wife to a two year stint in Alaska.

In the Army you don't sit still for long, so Albert then was sent to Sandia Base outside of Albuquerque, New Mexico to train in a unit of the nuclear weapons program, and then the Thule, Greenland base as a maintenance technician on nuclear weapons. He said the base buildings were built like outdoor refrigerators, and all water and sewage had to be hauled by truck. He could not bring his family to Thule, in fact, there was only one woman

on the entire base. She was a nurse and she eventually married one of the officers. From here he was assigned to an ordnance unit in Germany for four years. His last duty station was Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, and this was where he retired from the Army after 26 years total service. He took a job in Austin, and then relocated to Harlingen, Texas, but eventually retired to Tyler, Texas, his home now. We mentioned that he recently had successful back surgery, and learned that his wife has just had similar surgery. We wish them both a successful outcome.

A CHRISTMAS REMINDER

Our next meeting will be the Christmas meeting set for December 13, 2014, so remember to bring a small gift; woman's gift for a woman, and man's for etc., etc.; suggested range of \$5. AND BE OF GOOD CHEER!

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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