

2010

Civilian Conservation Corps

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Guide to the Civilian Conservation Corps

Lisa Zakharova

SJSU Special Collections & Archives

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library

San José State University

One Washington Square

San José, CA 95192-0028

Phone: (408) 808-2062

Fax: (408) 808-2063

Email: special.collections@sjsu.edu

URL: http://www.sjlibrary.org/research/special/special_coll/

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UNIVERSITY

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Lisa Zakharova
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Lisa Zakharova

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Descriptive Summary

Title: Civilian Conservation Corps Collection, 1933-1997

Dates: 1933-1997

Bulk Dates: 1933-1942

Collection number: MSS-2010-07-29

Creator: San Jose State College

Collection Size: 2 boxes, 2.5 linear feet

Repository: San José State University. Library.

San José, California 95192-0028

Abstract: The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Collection, 1933-1997 (bulk 1933-1942) documents the work relief program established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the New Deal Era. The CCC employed young men between the ages of 18 to 24 to provide manual labor related to conservation of National Parks and resource management. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Members of the CCC became known as FDR's "Tree Army", were recruited by the Department of Labor to revitalize the nation's forests and parks by planting trees, setting up state parks, and building roads that connected parks. The young men were able to stay employed during the Great Depression by contributing to a large-scale conservation program which involved every U.S. State. This collection focuses in particular on the Almaden Camp in San Jose, CA. also called the Mount Madonna Camp. The records consist of photographs, newspaper articles, original newspapers, memorabilia, oral history cassette tapes, memorial calendars, and alumni association publications. The collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Civilian Conservation Corps Memorabilia, 1933-1997; and Series II. Original Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers, 1934-1935

Physical location: For current information on the location of these materials, please consult the Library's online catalog.

Languages: Languages represented in the collection: English

Access

Collection is open for research. Photocopying of original Newspapers is prohibited.

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Preferred Citation

The Civilian Conservation Corps Collection, MSS-2010-07-29, San José State University Library Special Collections & Archives.

Processing Information

Collection processed by Lisa Zakharova. Finding aid EAD encoded by Lisa Zakharova. Reviewed by Danelle Moon.

Organizational History

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Young men, ages 18 to 24 provided unskilled manual labor supporting reforestation and building the National Parks System. The Department of Labor recruited the men into the program and set up the outdoor camps they would be living at. Upon joining, they were provided clothing by the U.S. Army which also managed the camps. Over three million young men joined the CCC in the nine years it was active. They were paid one dollar per day and were offered free room and board. The majority of the projects the young men worked on involved planting forests, setting up state parks, and building roads that made accessing the parks easier. They built more than 1000 national, state, county and city parks and planted over three billion trees across the nation. To this day, the CCC remains the only government conservation program that worked to save our country's environment on a national scale. There were CCC camps located in every state in the U.S., and this program provided important work relief for these young men and their families.

The CCC was disbanded by President Roosevelt in 1942 when the nation's resources focused on the war effort and the economic state of the nation significantly improved. Originally, the program was designed to create jobs for unemployed young men during the depression. The onset of World War II meant an abundance of jobs all over the country, which rendered the original purpose of the CCC irrelevant. The CCC left behind a legacy that would be felt for years to come through the improvement of the country's forests and environment, as well as the hard work the young men performed through their enlistment with the CCC. Since then, several states, including California, have created their own Conservation Corps programs. Similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps, the California Conservation Corps allows young men and women to work for a year for the National Park System. The Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni Association continues working for historical recognition and education of the mass achievements of CCC workers and their families.

Scope and Content of Collection

The Civilian Conservation Corps(CCC) Collection, 1933-1997 (bulk 1933-1942) documents the work relief program established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the New Deal Era. The CCC employed young men between the ages of 18 to 24 to provide manual labor related to conservation of National Parks and resource management. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Members of the CCC became known as FDR's "Tree Army", were recruited by the Department of Labor to revitalize the nation's forests and parks by planting trees, setting up state parks, and building roads that connected parks. The young men were able to stay employed during the Great Depression by contributing to a large-scale conservation program which involved every U.S. State. This collection focuses in particular on the Almaden Camp in San Jose, CA. also called the Mount Madonna Camp. The records consist of photographs, newspaper articles, original newspapers, memorabilia, oral history cassette tapes, memorial calendars, and alumni association publications.

Arrangement

This collection is arranged into two series: Series I. Civilian Conservation Corps Memorabilia, 1933-1997; and Series II. Original Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers, 1934-1935.

Indexing Terms

The following terms have been used to index the description of this collection in the library's online public access catalog.

San Jose State University -- History

Civilian Conservation Corps (U.S.)--California

Great Depression and the New Deal

Great Depression-- Vocation

Roosevelt, Franklin D. (Franklin Delano), 1882-1945-- New Deal

Tree Planting-- Young Men

Related Material

The Charles B. Burdick War Poster Collection 1914-1979, MSS-2005-10-01

the John C. Gordon Photographic Collection

Bibliography

United States History. Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), 1933-1941. <http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h1586.html>

Box 1

I Civilian Conservation Corps Memorabilia 1933-1997

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Content Note

The Civilian Conservation Corps(CCC) Collection, 1933-1997 (bulk 1933-1942) documents the work relief program established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the New Deal Era. The CCC employed young men between the ages of 18 to 24 to provide manual labor related to conservation of National Parks and resource management. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Members of the CCC became known as FDR's "Tree Army", were recruited by the Department of Labor to revitalize the nation's forests and parks by planting trees, setting up state parks, and building roads that connected parks. The young men were able to stay employed during the Great Depression by contributing to a large-scale conservation program which involved every U.S. State. This collection focuses in particular on the Almaden Camp in San Jose, CA. also called the Mount Madonna Camp. The records consist of photographs, newspaper articles, original newspapers, memorabilia, oral history cassette tapes, memorial calendars, and alumni association publications.

Arrangement

This series is arranged by document type.

Box 2

II Official Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers 1934-1935

Physical Description: 1 box

Scope and Content Note

The Civilian Conservation Corps(CCC) Collection, 1933-1997 (bulk 1933-1942) documents the work relief program established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the New Deal Era. The CCC employed young men between the ages of 18 to 24 to provide manual labor related to conservation of National Parks and resource management. The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Members of the CCC became known as FDR's "Tree Army", were recruited by the Department of Labor to revitalize the nation's forests and parks by planting trees, setting up state parks, and building roads that connected parks. The young men were able to stay employed during the Great Depression by contributing to a large-scale conservation program which involved every U.S. State.

Three Official Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers are present in the collection: *The Courier*, the monthly newspaper representing the March Field District from the Sequoias to the Mexican Line, *Happy Days*, the authorized weekly CCC Newspaper, and *C.C.C Review*- A weekly newspaper devoted to the interests of the CCC camps in the Fort George Wright, Washington and Lewiston, Idaho Districts.

Arrangement

Newspapers are arranged by date.

Folders 1-10

The Courier November 17, 1934- May 18, 1935

Physical Description: 10 folders

Scope and Content Note

Issues present: Vol. I No. 1-2, Vol. I No. 5, Vol. I No. 7-8, Vol. II No. 1-4, Vol. II No. 10, Vol. III No.2.

Folders 11-25

Happy Days October 27, 1934- May 30, 1935

Physical Description: 10 folders

Scope and Content Note

Issues present: Vol. II No. 24-25, Vol. II No. 27-28, Vol. II No. 30, Vol. II No. 33, Vol. II No. 35, Vol. II No. 37-38, Vol. II. No 40, Vol II No. 42-46

Folder 26

C.C.C Review October 3, 1935

Physical Description: 1 folder

Scope and Content Note

Issue present: Volume 5