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Civilian Conservation Corps : concept to mobilization

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Civilian Conservation Corps: Concept to mobilization

Rodriguez, Alexander Frank, M.A.

San Jose State University, 1993

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**CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS:
CONCEPT TO MOBILIZATION**

A Thesis

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of History

San Jose State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

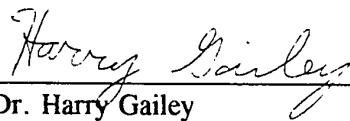
Master of Arts

by

Alexander F. Rodriguez

May, 1993

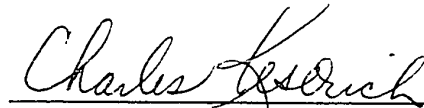
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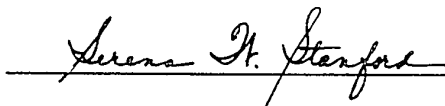


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ABSTRACT

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS: CONCEPT TO MOBILIZATION

by Alexander F. Rodriguez

This thesis covers the Civilian Conservation Corps from its conception to mobilization. It explores the influences of different individuals who inspired Franklin D. Roosevelt to create what became his pet project in 1933 during the early months of the New Deal. The CCC was designed to lower the unemployment rate while conserving natural resources. The thesis traces the monumental legislative negotiations that FDR and his advisors endured to earn its final passage. It addresses the whole problem of the Army's mobilization of the CCC under the direction of General Douglas MacArthur.

Using extensive interviews with former CCC enrollees, the research indicates that the average volunteer enrolled in the program because of the deplorable conditions during the Great Depression. It reveals the difficult conditions in the work camps that the recruits willingly endured during the mobilization period in 1933. The CCC eventually helped transform three million idle poor young men with low self-esteem into productive citizens with improved self-confidence. The information compiled clearly demonstrates the CCC was a total success.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the memory of my father, who helped create my interest in history at an early stage of my life. During my childhood, he fondly recalled his days in the Civilian Conservation Corps. His recollections kindled the desire to write this volume. Upon his death in 1990, I decided to finish this work in his memory. I also want to thank my mother for her tremendous support and encouragement and Dr. Harry Gailey for his guidance through my most difficult times.

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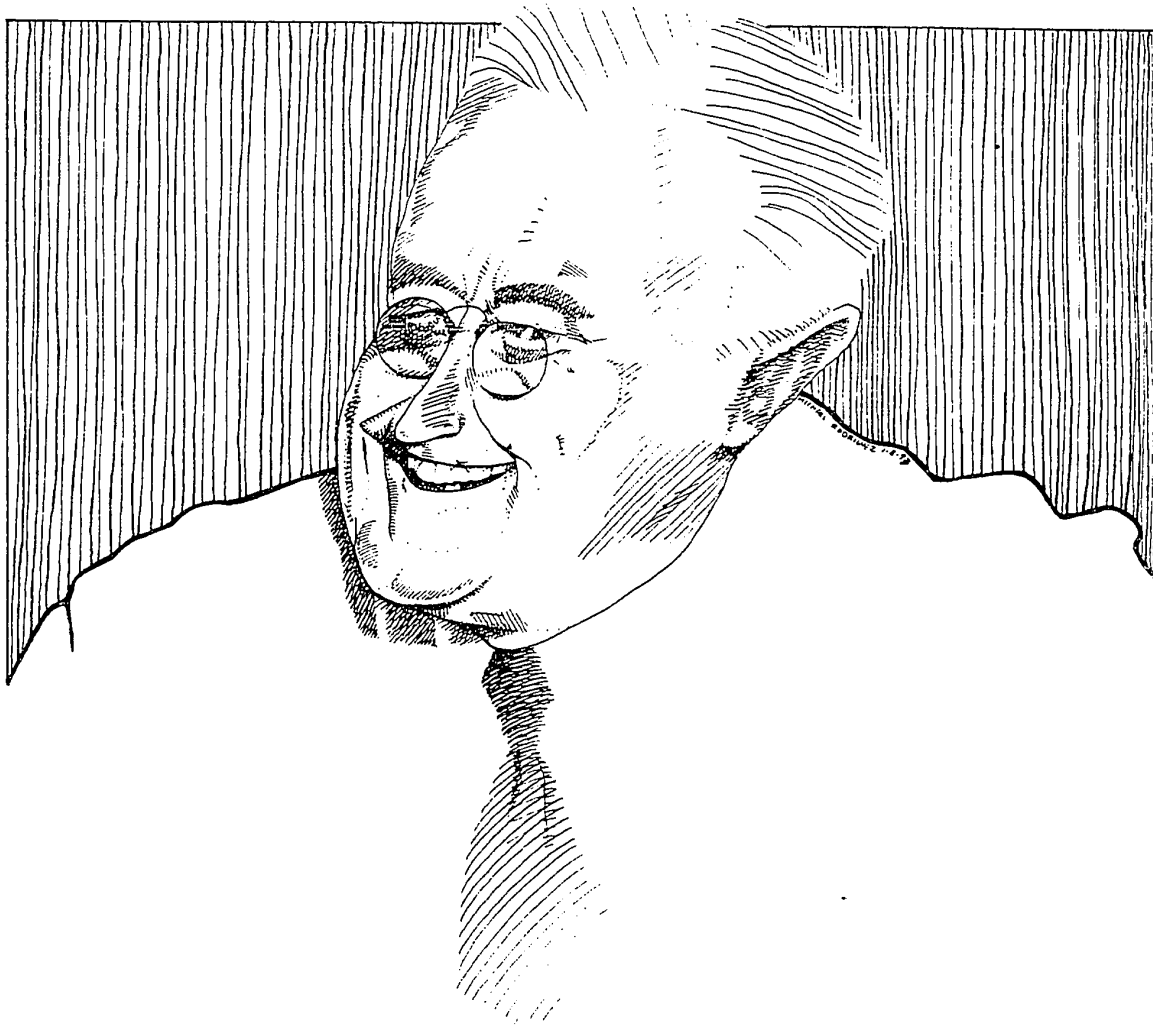
INTRODUCTION

The Great Depression of the 1930's penetrated deeply into the American spirit, but in March of 1933 Franklin Delano Roosevelt provided great inspiration, partially because of his personal struggle and victory over paralytic polio. FDR's voice exhibited great confidence in his motivational speeches on radio starting with his inaugural speech on March 4, 1933. His New Deal legislation was an innovative and progressive scheme, which actualized his positive attitude. A major part of his agenda was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), which on March 31st was Roosevelt's third bill passed by the U.S. Congress. The CCC enabled over three million young men to participate actively in this federal program. Recruits into this program were young, single, unemployed men between the ages of 18 through 25. The CCC paid 25 dollars per month, which provided an opportunity to contribute to the support of their poverty-stricken families and to regain their own self-worth.

In my thirty personal interviews with former CCC enrollees between 1989 to 1992 it was quite clear that Roosevelt's pet project was a total success. At initial CCC enrollment, they averaged 18 1/2 years of age, and had gained less than an 11th grade education and nearly half of those interviewed were high school drop-outs. They also came from large families with an average of five children, with either jobless parents or single unemployed mothers, who had long periods of unemployment. These enrollees unselfishly left behind their homes to go to unknown wilderness to help their parents to put food on the table, to put clothes on their backs, and to keep a roof over their heads.

These young men temporarily gave up the pleasures of their youth to assist younger siblings through school. My father was one of these young men who helped his divorced mother during these difficult times. The CCC gave them hope and a chance to improve their lives physically and mentally in the great outdoors in camps located throughout the United States. These young enrollees entered the program unemployed with a low self-esteem, but left with confidence and newly acquired work skills. My interviews clearly demonstrated that these young men had a positive experience and were determined never to be unemployed again in their adult lives. Many of them returned to school and graduated from high school and then college. The majority of them became useful members of society as mechanics, truck drivers, teachers, professionals, and in a variety of skilled jobs. The CCC gave them confidence and hope to meet the challenges of the future, and financially supported them and, partially, their families.

Many official documents and copies of Happy Days, CCC newspaper, are located in the National Archive in Washington, D.C. and were not available to me for my research.



Franklin Delano Roosevelt
Main Architect of CCC

Drawing by Michael Mark Rodriguez
(1993)

CHAPTER 1

CONCEPTUAL PERIOD

In the early 1930's, America was in the midst of the Great Depression. People were rummaging through garbage cans for scraps of food, lining up for food in soup lines, selling apples for nickels on city corners, or "panhandling" for anything. Others were victims of malnutrition or were freezing to death because they could not pay their fuel bills. Children could not attend school because they were shoeless or poorly clothed. By 1932, the United States was in its third full year of its financial collapse, and the social, psychological, and economic conditions were getting worse by the day. The total number of employed workers dramatically fell from 47.3 million in 1929 to 38.9 million in 1932 (almost an 18% drop), while the total population rose from 88 million in 1929 to 92 million in 1932 (a 4.5% increase).¹ The national rate of unemployment steadily increased from only 3.2%, or 1.6 million in 1929, to an official high of 23.6% or 12.1 million people by 1932.² This drastic rise in unemployment resulted in a 756% augmentation in just three short years. The annual average salary of a U.S. factory worker dropped from \$1,405.00 in 1929 to \$1,120.00 in 1932, which was an average loss of \$285.00 or a 20% cut in pay.³ These factors helped to create panic among the American people. It began as a stream and became a flood consuming everyone. Over one million "drifters" or "hobos" roamed the country seeking temporary work to survive the day. In a scene reminiscent of The Grapes of Wrath, a massive exodus of 500,000 desperate "Okies" and "Arkies" later left the depressed "Dust Bowl" and migrated to

California. An estimated 250,000 teenage tramps wandered America in search of an uncertain future during the early 1930's. The American people had lost confidence in themselves and despair had replaced hope.

Besides the economic, social, and psychological misery, America was having a serious crisis in conservation. In the late stages of the 19th century, forests covered over 800 million acres of the continental United States, but by the early 1930's there were only a mere 100 million acres of virgin timber left.

Much of the nation's timber resources had thus been brutally squandered. Moreover, wanton forest destruction had compounded the crucial problem of soil erosion. Each year water washed three billion tons of the best soil away from American fields and pastures, and wind accounted for a like amount.⁴

By the late 1930's, the "Dust Bowl" of the U.S. Midwest would prove how serious the crisis in conservation was. This dilemma in conservation had to be resolved as soon as possible, but there were other critical issues confronting the government by 1932.

In June of 1932, the "Bonus Army" of 20,000 World War I veterans camped in a large shanty town on the Anacostia Flats outside of Washington, D.C. demanding their bonus money for military service in W.W.I, which Congress had promised to pay but not until 1945. The potential for violence by these vulnerable and desperate men mounted daily. Congress refused to give them the bonus before the 1945 due date. The "Bonus Army" became increasingly belligerent toward President Herbert Hoover and the Congress. In frustration, these W.W.I veterans became more violent in their public demonstrations. On July 28th, in retaliation, Hoover ordered the Army under the Chief of Staff, General Douglas MacArthur, to disband the "Bonus Army." MacArthur, with assistance from Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and Major George S. Patton, led the 12th

Infantry with fixed bayonets, tear gas, and tanks down Pennsylvania Avenue and chased the poor unarmed veterans back to their shanty town.

MacArthur's men then burned down the "Hooverville" of the Bonus Army. "That . . . was a bad looking mob," MacArthur later described the scene. "It was animated by the essence of revolution."⁵ The whole Bonus Army incident demonstrated how frantic some of the American people had become and how ineffective President Hoover and the Congress were in dealing with the crisis.

On June 27 of 1932, the Democratic National Convention convened in Chicago with the slogan, "Anybody but Hoover!"⁶ While 3,210 Democratic delegates met to cast their decisive votes for a presidential candidate, the Bonus Army was demonstrating in the streets of Washington, D.C. The Democrats needed 2/3 of the total votes to get a candidate. On the 4th ballot, the convention made Franklin D. Roosevelt of New York their nominee. FDR decided to make his acceptance speech to the convention in person. On July 2nd during his acceptance speech, he first hinted at the outlines of his national plans for unemployment and conservation.

Roosevelt had already begun to develop a general idea of his eventual CCC. It was to be a progressive, innovative, social, economic federal program, which was one of the first three pieces of the "New Deal" legislation during the first 100 days of his presidency. The CCC became his pet project, which was passed by the U.S. Congress in March of 1933 and lasted until June of 1942. Originally called the Emergency Conservation Work by Congress until 1937, it was officially renamed the Civilian Conservation Corps in 1937. It was a grand experiment to try remedying the horrible

conditions that were in existence during the Great Depression of the 1930's. The program successfully changed the lives of approximately 3,000,000 young men (18-25 years old) and about 225,000 World War I veterans.

The concept of a conservation organization had a long history before it became an intricate part of FDR's New Deal legislation. During Roosevelt's childhood, he was initially introduced to the outdoors by his father on their beautiful and spacious Hyde Park estate in Upper New York State. James Roosevelt spent many pleasant hours with his young son outdoors discovering the land and forest; and this experience would leave a huge impression on FDR. At Hyde Park, the young Roosevelt watched his father enthusiastically work on the forest of the estate. He also was strongly influenced by Theodore Roosevelt, the former President. "Teddy," FDR's fifth cousin, had been a pioneer in conservation during his tenure as President (1901-09), and FDR greatly admired him and his work. This relationship with Teddy and his Hyde Park experience exposed him to conservation and created an early interest in this field.

By 1907, the twenty-five-year-old Roosevelt was a Harvard graduate (1904) and had recently finished his law studies at Columbia University. He became interested in politics and strongly supported New York Governor Charles Evans Hughes, who was a progressive Republican and an active advocate of conservation. Roosevelt admired him for his stance on conservation; Hughes emphasized the protection of the circle of nature by establishing a state monopoly of all streams and reservoirs on public lands, state construction of hydroelectric plants that would feed on that water, prevention of power plants and power lines endangering the timber and wildlife of forest preserves, and

finally, the distribution of state-produced power at fair prices for all New York residents.⁷

In 1910, the twenty-eight-year old Roosevelt took over the management of the huge Hyde Park estate and began an extensive reforestation program. He began to plant different types of trees such as hemlock, spruce, and several pines - Scotch, white and Norway. FDR learned to thin, prune, harvest, and plant trees and eventually made a profit by selling Christmas trees from his Hyde Park estate. He even brought in forestry experts from the Syracuse University faculty to help with curing the diseases affecting his forest. The young Roosevelt was able to plant on half of the 1,200 acres on the estate. "The forests," he said, "are the lungs of our land, purifying our air and giving fresh strength to our people."⁸ In later years, FDR referred to himself and his main occupation as, "Franklin D. Roosevelt, tree farmer."⁹

In 1910 after being elected to the New York State Senate, the young politician became Chairman of the Fish, Game, and Forest Committee. He quickly began forest protection, encouraging the proper use of timber, and the improvement in timber cutting practices. In 1911, Roosevelt proposed the Top Lopping Law, which regulated the size of trees being harvested, limited clear-cutting, and required leaving trees for seeding purposes. Gifford Pinchot, who was U.S. Chief Forester, met with him to gain support for F.D.R.'s proposed legislation in Albany. Roosevelt became an advocate of conservation of forests, wildlife, watersheds, and hydroelectricity sites. In spite of his hard work, the young legislator was unsuccessful in having these comprehensive conservation measures passed by the Albany legislature.

In 1912, William James wrote and published an essay supporting conservation in

lieu of compulsory military service, which he called The Moral Equivalent to War. James suggested a " . . . wholesale conscription of young people as soil soldiers for a certain number of years."¹⁰ He felt that a conscription of young men for work in nature was an excellent alternative to compulsory military service. The author argued that the destructive tendencies of man could be turned into constructive action as participants in some type of work in conservation. James foresaw unlimited worthwhile effects on young men as "soil soldiers." He stated that,

The military ideals of hardihood and discipline would be wrought into the growing fibre of the people Our gilded youth would be grafted off, according to their choice, to get the childishness knocked out of them, and come back into society with healthier sympathies and sober ideas They would treat the earth more proudly. They would be better fathers and teachers of the following generations.¹¹

While a student at Harvard University, Roosevelt had been a pupil of William James. Dr. James had been a long time philosophy and psychology professor at Harvard and was a very popular and influential writer and philosopher of his period. FDR and Eleanor, his wife, were avid readers of many of James' works, and consequently the author had an impact on the young politician. The Moral Equivalent to War strongly influenced Roosevelt's eventual CCC concept. The similarities between Roosevelt's reforestation program and James' "soil soldiers" are unmistakable.

The years of 1920 and 1921 were full of great hope and great change for FDR. In 1920, the thirty-eight-year-old politician was nominated as the Democratic vice presidential candidate under James M. Cox's banner. The young candidate aggressively campaigned for conservation issues and gained national attention but only from small conservation groups throughout the country. Shortly after the election in 1921, Roosevelt

was afflicted with polio which paralyzed his legs. Until 1929, during his period of rehabilitation and law practice with Fidelity and Deposit Company until 1928, FDR was heavily involved in Boy Scout activities in New York.

After World War I, many voluntary groups throughout Europe to reconstruct devastated areas of that continent. In 1920, many participants in the International Voluntary Service offered their services to demolished parts of northern France. They set up their first work camp near Esnes-Verdun. A similar camp was established in Liechtenstein in 1928. There was a transition from voluntary organizations to state controlled camps involving activities in conservation for the unemployed as world wide economic conditions became worse. In 1920, Bulgaria was the first country to develop work camps involving 20,000 unemployed young men to work on roads, railroads, and forests. By 1925, 15 Swiss students were working for summer service on restoring an historic castle. By 1933, the Swiss government had incorporated the concept and established many camps for the unemployed youth of Switzerland.

In 1925, the Weimar Republic created the German Labor Service to deal with the enormous unemployment problem of that war-torn nation. In 1931, the German Reichstag passed a law promoting a larger voluntary labor service to try to remedy the unemployment problem. By November of 1932, there were 285,000 young men and women in camps working for board, work clothes, lodging, and a small wage. Unfortunately, this program eventually became a compulsory service of two years for all males eighteen to twenty-six and became a distinctive wing of the Nazi propaganda and military machine under Adolf Hitler. Denmark, Norway, Belgium, Austria, and the

Netherlands created voluntary conservation programs for the jobless without any military connections. Before 1932, the State Forest Services of California and Washington combined with local and state agencies to organize teams of unemployed people to work in conservation and reforestation.¹²

In 1925, Roosevelt bought a 2,000 acre farm outside of Warm Springs, Georgia and created an experimental farm. FDR experimented with orchards of peach trees and grew cotton, all of which weren't profitable. He was also able to tinker with his hobby of reforestation on the farm. The amateur forester received expert advice from the Georgia Extension Service of the State University. E.B. Doyle was hired as overseer of the experimental farm and took care of the Roosevelt reforestation program in his absence.¹³

While Governor of New York (1928-32), Roosevelt saw the first personal concrete application of conservation and the problem of unemployment in a legislative proposal sponsored by Republican State Senator Charles J. Hewitt. In 1930, Hewitt had proposed a New York constitutional amendment, which was a \$19 million reforestation program to be spread over an 11 year period. His amendment sought to remedy the huge jobless rate in New York and to preserve and develop the state's natural resources. Hewitt proposed that the state should acquire one million acres of abandoned, idle, and sub-marginal lands, which were unfit for growing farm crops profitably. Forests would be planted on these newly acquired lands outside of the Adirondack and Catskill Forest Preserves. The program would provide additional forest lands, prevent soil erosion and floods, provide additional timber, protect productive farm lands, watersheds, and water

resources, and develop recreational facilities. Hewitt's plan would provide new jobs for thousands of jobless New York workers. It would also create additional revenue for the state treasury through the sale of timber from these lands to lumber and paper mills.¹⁴

Governor Roosevelt ordered Henry Morgenthau, Jr. to thoroughly study Hewitt's proposal and make recommendations to him. Morgenthau was the New York State conservation commissioner and carefully scrutinized the proposed amendment. He enthusiastically encouraged the Governor to support Hewitt and his amendment. FDR concurred with the commissioner, and took a personal interest in it making it a pet project.

Conservation and sportsmen's organizations throughout the country supported Hewitt's proposal. Leading national newspapers and magazines also found merit in the program. Gifford Pinchot (Pennsylvania Governor), P. Y. Stewart (Chief of the Forest Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture), H.S. Graves (Dean of the School of Forestry at Yale University), and Nathan I. Miller (former New York Governor) were the leading conservationists, who eagerly supported Hewitt's plan and saw national applications of this type of program. It did not become a partisan issue as W. Kingsland Macy (N.Y. Republican Committee Chairman) and James A. Farley (N.Y. Democratic Committee Chairman) ardently endorsed it.¹⁵

The New York State Constitution required that a constitutional amendment had to be passed by the State Legislature and then had to be submitted to a popular vote. By 1931, Governor Roosevelt had convincingly manipulated the State Legislature to approve it, and now the amendment only needed to be placed before the voters. It was placed on

the ballot on November 3, 1931. The ballot measure was called Referendum Number 3. Morgenthau and other administrative supporters actively campaigned for the Hewitt Amendment. The Commissioner of Conservation volunteered to give public speeches to endorse this novel and innovative scheme. In one speech, he stated,

The human species requires for a proper habitat something more than farming land, factory locations and urban areas. We need . . . common public playgrounds of side extent to give us a place fit to live in and to live a healthy, balanced life. The waste spaces of today, the uncultivated areas which we plan to reforest and the existing woodlands form such a natural playground.¹⁶

In his campaign speeches, Morgenthau continually emphasized the recreational benefits of Referendum Number 3.

By October of 1931, former New York Governor Alfred E. Smith had become the leading opponent of FDR's favorite referendum and frequently criticized it in public. In a Tammany Hall speech on October 15, the former Governor called it a "socialistic" program which was too expensive, unnecessary, and contrary to the principles of good, responsible government.¹⁷ It became a political issue Smith to boost his own chances at the 1932 Democratic presidential candidacy. FDR had become a leading Democratic suitor and Smith's major obstacle in New York. This rivalry was created in spite of the fact that Roosevelt had vigorously supported Smith's 1928 presidential candidacy, and Smith had reciprocated the favor by energetically endorsing Roosevelt's 1928 and 1930 campaigns for N.Y. Governor. On October 22, the former Governor again attacked the measure as an unwise and confusing piece of legislation. At a Brooklyn rally on October 30th, Smith attacked Macy and Farley as being confused and misinformed on the real issues involved in Hewitt's proposal. On the following day at another Tammany Hall

rally, he again criticized Referendum #3 and closed his assault with

In the last analysis, it falls right upon the shoulders of the ultimate consumer, the man on the street, the great big army who make up the taxpaying public; and with that picture before us how can we with clear conscience and with a proper understanding of our duty to the State go into the polls next Tuesday and the State of New York in the next nine years to an expenditure of over \$19,000 for a doubtful experiment; a large part which is in the interest of a special privilege? It is unthinkable.¹⁸

On the evening of November 2, Governor Roosevelt made a radio address to the people of New York to gain support for Referendum #3, which had become his personal crusade and to bolster his own political image. FDR stressed the importance of the immediate and future economic gains from the program and emphasized the large employment opportunities by saying,

If this amendment fails to pass, many hundreds of people cannot be put to work. This applies not merely to unemployed people in the farming districts, because we have nurseries located close to large centers of population which employ a great many from those communities.¹⁹

On November 3, New York voters went to the polls to decide the fate of Referendum #3. On November 4, the New York Times announced on its front page that the voters of New York State had overwhelmingly voted in favor of the referendum by a two to one margin. It was a clear signal that the people of New York were in favor of conservation, and it was a personal victory for the New York Governor. It also signaled an end to the presidential campaign of Smith and cleared the way for Roosevelt.²⁰

From November of 1931 to July of 1932, Hewitt's Reforestation Plan was enormously successful. It took over 10,000 jobless New Yorkers off the relief rolls and made them gainfully employed. This unique program planted over 90 million trees of

a number of varieties and helped the proliferation of wildlife, protected streams, checked erosion, and added to the pleasure of recreation--all of which enhanced the beauty and the wealth of New York. Roosevelt began to see wider implications of this type of plan at the national level. Later, in a speech to the 21st meeting of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Henry S. Morgenthau stated that the Hewitt Reforestation Program was the genesis of the CCC.²¹

During Roosevelt's acceptance speech on July 2 at the Chicago National Democratic Presidential Convention, FDR alluded to a revolutionary program of the CCC by calling for a definite land policy to fight

. . . a future of soil erosion and timber famine." In so doing, employment can be given to a million men. That is the kind of public work that is self-sustaining . . . Yes, I have a very definite program for providing employment by that means."²²

After his speech, he began a vigorous campaign for the presidency. During this period, he frequently corresponded with many leading experts in conservation, including Gifford Pinchot and Professor Nelson C. Brown (New York State College of Forestry). The Democratic nominee compiled his data and incorporated it into his general idea of providing work in the forest for the jobless. In his campaign speeches, FDR frequently alluded to these general concepts. Roosevelt did not provide any evidence of having any well-organized master plan, but many conservationists and interested laymen praised him for his farsighted concepts.

After his successful presidential campaign in 1932, the President-elect slowly began to develop his CCC agenda. FDR began to discuss his vague plan with Gifford Pinchot, Nelson C. Brown, Henry Wallace (Secretary of Agriculture-designate), Rexford

Tugwell (Roosevelt's economic adviser), Colonel Louis McHenry Howe (FDR's special consultant), and Major Robert L. Stuart (Chief Forester of the U.S. Forest Service). In late November, Roosevelt instructed Stuart to develop plans for putting 25,000 men to work in federally-owned forests. The Chief Forester was certain that the Forest Service could easily handle that number of men, but Stuart had serious doubts about a massive program a month later when Roosevelt informed him that the number would be increased to 250,000. FDR lacked sufficient information to develop his massive conservation program until after his inaugural speech in March of 1933.²³

In 1933, the Great Depression was at its worst as unemployment had climbed to 24.9% of the total work force or about 15 million, which was the highest level of unemployment in U.S. History.²⁴ "Among them were about 250,000 young people," the teenage tramps of America "as they were sometimes called wandering the land looking for a future."²⁵ Unfortunately for America, Herbert Hoover was the "lame-duck" President, who hopelessly observed the dismal situation while conditions worsened.

In January of 1933, the U.S. Senate Committee on Manufacturing met to investigate different proposals to try and solve the huge crisis of unemployment among young men. James Couzens, a progressive Republican from Michigan, introduced a plan that could partially remedy this problem. His voluntary program would authorize the Army to house, feed, and clothe young jobless men between the ages of seventeen and twenty-four-years-old. These youngsters would be under military supervision similar to the C.M.T.C. (Citizens' Military Training Camps). Couzens outlined a vocational education for these young men. He also proposed that about 300,000 youths would be

housed in military posts and forts throughout the country. These men would be required to have been unemployed for at least six months. The General Staff estimated that it would annually cost the Army \$73.00 for food, \$116.00 for clothing and equipage, \$68.00 for buildings and living quarters, and \$18.00 for medical care per participant in a federal program; which was similar to Couzen's proposal.²⁶

By January 22, Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., (progressive Republican U.S. Senator from Wisconsin) and Edward P. Costigan (Republican U.S. Senator from Colorado) combined to propose a \$500 million plan for relief grants to states to try to remedy the huge unemployment problem of young men throughout the country. Coincidentally, Bronson Cutting (Republican U.S. Senator from New Mexico) proposed a \$15 million plan to provide care on military bases throughout America for transients and other young jobless men. On January 22, Cutting and LaFollette went to Warm Springs, Georgia to meet with the President-elect to discuss their proposed legislation. That evening, LaFollette reported to James A. Hagerty of The New York Times that,

The committee, of which Senator Cutting and I are members, wanted to give the President-elect a resume of the testimony taken by our committee, and to discuss with him the legislative procedure that should be taken in what Senator Cutting and I regard as a critical and desperate situation. The Governor gave us a very attentive and sympathetic hearing. So far as his general attitude was concerned, it was very gratifying.

We both feel that the Federal Government must grant aid and that the bill which grants \$500,000,000.00 errs on the side of conservatism. The fiction of loans to be deducted from future highway funds had vanished. The Federal Government must step in and take part of the load.²⁷

It is apparent from these statements that Roosevelt was taking ideas from these proposed bills and incorporating them into his eventual CCC program.

On January 25, the Senate held open hearings under the leadership of LaFollette,

who was chairman of the proceedings. The committee heard testimony from several witnesses, including retired Brigadier General Pelham D. Glassford, Kenneth Holland, and Major Arthur Fynn. General Glassford urged the establishment of small camps, where young jobless wanderers could maintain themselves with a minimum of assistance. The general emphasized that the camps be formed and operated along military lines, but would have to be voluntary. Glassford supported Cutting's plan and felt that the transient problem had to be shouldered by the Federal Government because state and local governments were too heavily burdened to handle this problem. He felt that the current economic conditions would breed a "generation of hobos."²⁸

Glassford also stated that these men "will travel a thousand miles on a rumor that there's a job," but as these searches prove futile, "they seem to be turning into hobos and losing their ambition to work."²⁹ He told the committee that any plan should provide food, housing, vocational training, and medical care in suitable camps. General Glassford urged that the program should seek to provide individual treatment rather than mass consideration and strive to return these youths to their homes as soon as possible.

Kenneth Holland of New York and Major Arthur Fynn of Atlanta were two other witnesses who gave testimony before the committee in favor of the camps. Holland represented the International Students League and stated that he had studied similar camps in Germany and strongly advocated their establishment throughout the country. Fynn represented the Salvation Army and enthusiastically supported the concept. He cautioned the committee that "large numbers of them [transients] are becoming beggars and petty thieves."³⁰

In January of 1933, the Army bitterly opposed any legislation that involved itself in a relief program and hoped that none of these proposals would be passed. The Army had an abundance of its own problems during the Depression, as Congress tried to cut back the number of officers and men in the Regular Army, National Guard, R.O.T.C. (Reserve Officers' Training Corps), and Citizens' Military Training Corps. The Army under MacArthur was able to persuade Congress not to make substantial cuts and to keep its relative officer and troop strengths.³¹ However, the Army was very reluctant to be involved in any non-military activities which would weaken its already precarious military position. General MacArthur had been Chief of Staff since 1930 and had traveled to France and Yugoslavia in 1931 to evaluate their armies. Then in 1932, he toured Turkey, Rumania, Hungary, Poland, and Austria to appraise and compare these armies with his own. By 1933, MacArthur had only 132,069 troops in uniform, which was fewer than the Portuguese or Greek Armies. After 1929, the U.S. Congress had tried to cut Army expenses because the War Department accounted for the largest expenditure in the national budget. As a result, the General led the 16th largest army in the world, which worried him and his staff very much. With hostile events occurring in Germany, Japan, and Italy, MacArthur was desperate to at least maintain, but not weaken his meager personnel levels. In the spring of 1932, he had fought with Congress over its attempt to cut the Army's officer corps from 12,000 to 10,000. MacArthur had been able to reach a compromise with legislators and lost only 1,000 officers. The General felt that his officer corps was invaluable and not replaceable, and stated this sentiment by saying that, "equipment becomes obsolete but leadership does not."³²

MacArthur initially disapproved of any military involvement in civilian activity, but the general realized that similar types of legislation to the models proposed by Cutting, Couzens, Costigan, and LaFollette could soon be offered by the president-elect Roosevelt. MacArthur realized that it would be better if the Army was well prepared for the inevitable agenda. He ordered the General Staff to thoroughly investigate all of the possibilities of the Army accommodating a future program involving a large group of jobless young men. A report prepared for the General Staff stated that 67,000 young men could be housed properly in available military accommodations which would be located primarily in the southern part of the country. The Army would have to rent additional facilities in urban centers from the private sector. The report indicated that the Army would be unable to accommodate any numbers approaching a 250,000 figure. It also disclosed that the Army would have great difficulty maintaining military discipline over volunteer or non-enlisted men from the unemployed ranks.³³

The General Staff made the following recommendations for a program dealing with direct federal relief for the young unemployed men: (1) the Army could realistically handle only 67,000 men, (2) an oath of allegiance by each young man entering the program should be required, (3) the monthly pay of the Regular Army enlisted men, who would supervise the jobless men, should be increased, (4) the young men should be trained on military posts rather than having them work on federal projects, and (5) a small monthly salary should be provided for the young trainees. The General Staff was also worried about the fact that additional personnel would be required to supervise the messing, housing, sanitation, and providing discipline. They were also overwhelmed by

the need for military supplies and equipment essential for such a large federal program. MacArthur was concerned with the "criminal tendencies" of these potential trainees, who would be coming from the lower social and economic strata of society.³⁴

Patrick J. Hurley, Secretary of War under Herbert C. Hoover, strongly supported the recommendation of the General Staff, but he was especially concerned with the discipline and the reduction of the "criminal tendencies" of these young idle youths. Hurley stated these concerns in a letter to U.S. Senator David Reed on January 27, 1933, requiring these trainees

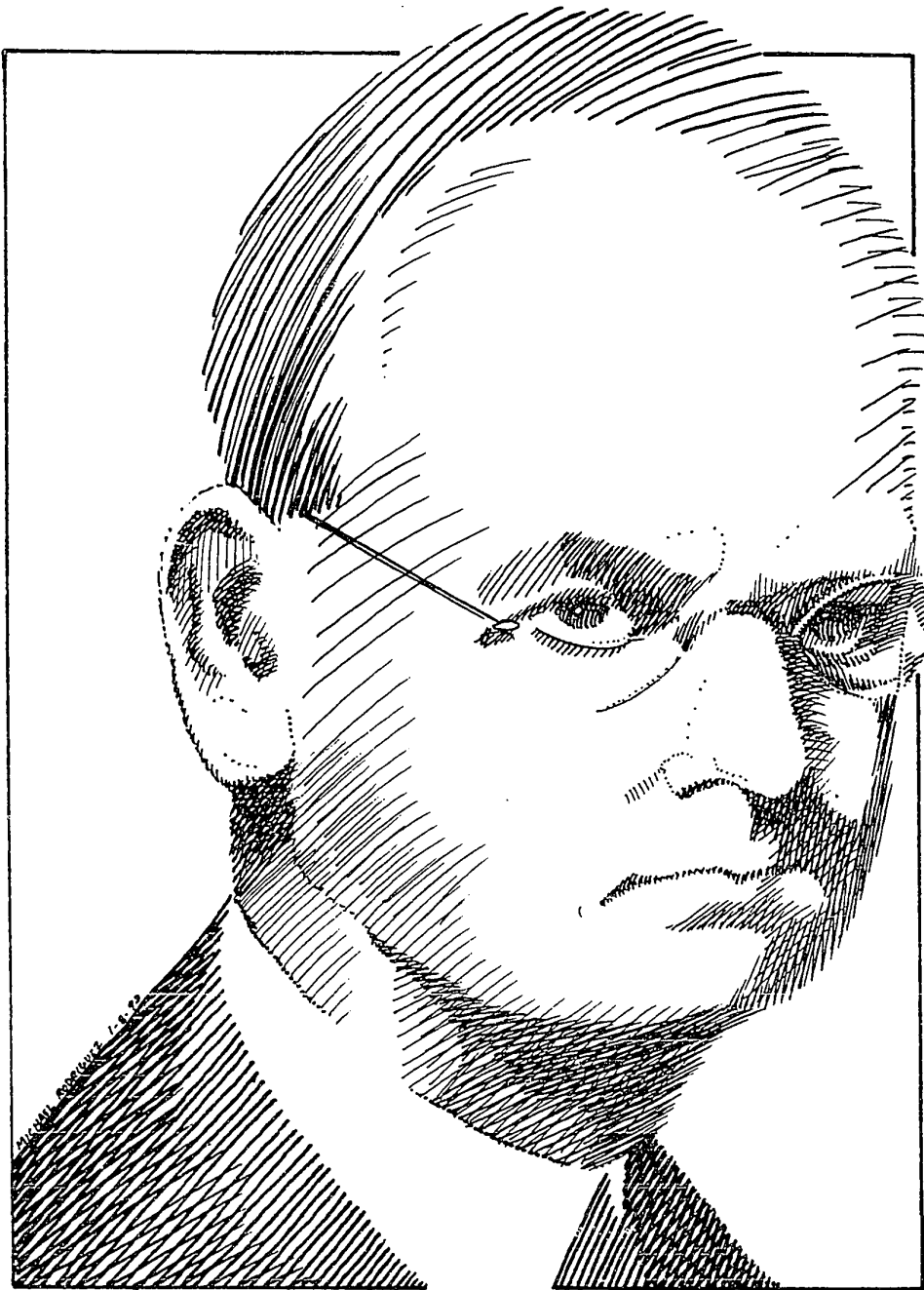
To conform to certain rules and regulations, including prescribed exercises, and governing personnel from the Regular Army, as they circulated among the unemployed and dealt with them would have many opportunities to make a right impression upon the unemployed group and do much good work of this kind, which would go far in moulding a better morale throughout the men so housed, to the end that criminal tendencies might be lessened and respect for government augmented.³⁵

Between February 11-13, the U.S. Senate continued to debate Couzens' proposal for camps for unemployed youths. The debate narrowed down to his original plan of 300,000 youths and the Army's recommendation of accommodating 67,000 young men. Senator Reed emphasized that, "for 300,000 men, the estimated additional appropriation needed would be \$109,674,000.00." Senator Tydings countered that 20,000 additional tents located in the South would permit the Army to house 87,000 youths at a cost of \$40.00 per tent or a total of \$800,000.00. Another factor that clouded Couzens' recommendation was that the Cutting's proposal and the Costigan-LaFollette plan were too similar to Couzens' draft. The Michigan Senator tried to distance his bill from the others by stating:

I say that because their proposal is not confined to boys. Their proposal is for transient unemployed boys and men. My proposal is confined to youths.³⁶

The last factor, which doomed all of these propositions, was the lame-duck presidency of Hoover and his lack of support, which caused the Senate to wait another three weeks for Roosevelt's inauguration.

By early March of 1933, the President-elect had experienced the pleasures of his Hyde Park estate, and chaired the New York Forest Fish and Game Committee as well as implementing Hewitt's Reforestation Program. He would combine these experiences with the ideas of Teddy Roosevelt, William James, General Pelham D. Glassford, James Couzens, Robert M. LaFollette, Jr., Edward P. Costigan, and the recommendations of General Douglas MacArthur and his General Staff. FDR now had to sort out all of these ideas and experiences; then he needed to work out the logistics of his future CCC program. His pet project was an innovative experiment, but he needed other people to work out the details. Typical of Roosevelt, the President-elect always had creative ideas, but he delegated the tedious and laborious work to others. The next important step was the actualization of FDR's grand plan through the legislative process.



Robert Fechner
First Director of the CCC
Drawing by Michael Mark Rodriguez
(1993)

CHAPTER 2

LEGISLATIVE PROCESS CREATES THE CCC

On the Saturday morning of March 4, 1933, Roosevelt gave his now famous emotional inaugural speech in which he confidently and enthusiastically stated that, "First of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself."¹ The newly elected Chief Executive wanted the American people to realize that they could begin to change things if they had confidence in themselves and their new leadership. He asked them to sacrifice for the good of the nation and said that Congress would have to extend to him broad executive powers to wage a war against this social, financial, and psychological crisis, as if the nation were at war against a foreign invader. FDR made only indirect references to the idea of the CCC Plan by stating that,

We must frankly recognize the overbalance of population in our industrial centers, and by engaging on a national scale in a redistribution, endeavor to provide a better use of land for these best fitted for the land.²

The Chief Executive and the Congress had to deal with the critical issues of 15 million unemployed Americans, over 500 failed banks and \$3 billion lost since 1929, a 55.8% drop in farm prices, and the repeal of Prohibition. March 9 to June 16 would become FDR's famous "one hundred days," which was his most active period of implementing his "New Deal" legislation. This agenda contained twelve dramatic bills, which included the Emergency Banking Act, Economy, Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), Agricultural Adjustment Act (AAA), Federal Emergency Relief Act (FERA), Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), Truth in Securities Act, Home Owners' Loan Act

(HOLC), Farm Credit Act (FCA), Railroad Coordination Act, National Industrial Recovery Act (NIRA), and Glass-Steagall Banking Act. During this hectic period, Roosevelt's motto became, "Take a method and try it. If it fails, try another." On March 9th, Roosevelt started his "alphabet soup" legislation, when he introduced the Emergency Banking Act to the Congress, and the four day "bank holiday" began. Also, from March 9 to the 31, FDR exhaustively worked within the legislative process to have his pet project realized and become the third piece of the intricate New Deal puzzle. Congressional acceptance of this innovative program required creative planning by Roosevelt's advisors, and tough but diplomatic negotiations by the Chief Executive. The legislative process to create the CCC was under way.³

Louis McHenry Howe, who was Roosevelt's closest friend and personal secretary, did much of the initial planning of the Civilian Conservation Corps program. Howe conceived of the idea of having the War Department work in cooperation with the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, and Interior in the CCC. Each department would assume specific responsibilities within the CCC structure. Roosevelt and Howe conferred over Howe's input, but Howe was left with the extensive administrative details of the agenda. The laborious and tedious logistical planning was delegated to FDR's cabinet members and U.S. Congressmen because the President was already consumed with other critical issues including the huge unemployment rate, the banking crisis, new taxes, Prohibition, foreign policy concerns, and numerous other problems.

On Thursday morning, March 9, Brigadier General Hugh A. Drum, who was Deputy Chief of Staff, reported to the White House to discuss directly with the Chief

Executive the Army's involvement in the proposed CCC program. Drum proposed that all federal departments immediately develop plans to employ about 500,000 men and to have the Army induct the various classes of jobless youths and organize them into units suitable to meet the requirements of the various federal projects. The General further advised Roosevelt that the Army could mobilize about 100,000 young men by April 15, and could expand this number to 200,000 by June 15. Drum was very concerned that the Army's participation in the CCC would weaken its primary responsibility of national defense. General Douglas MacArthur and others of the General Staff concurred with Drum's concerns. The Deputy Chief of Staff urged that some units of the Regular Army be kept intact and available for immediate deployment in emergencies. The President appreciated the Army's concerns, but he felt that the immediate economic problems of the country were more important and that the CCC proposal was a partial solution to the huge unemployment of the country.

Later that day, between 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m., Colonel Kyle Rucker, Army Judge Advocate General, met with Harold L. Ickes (Secretary of the Interior), Henry A. Wallace (Secretary of Agriculture), Lewis W. Douglas (Budget Director), and Edward Finney (Solicitor of the Department of the Interior) to discuss the CCC measure. Rucker was specifically summoned to explore the legal ramifications of the direct use of the Army in this federal project. Roosevelt asked this group of men to prepare a bill for 500,000 to do conservation work in a variety of areas, including public works projects. They frantically worked and incorporated many of the ideas of Howe and Drum into their final draft. By 10:00 p.m. of the same evening, the committee presented its copy to the

Chief Executive. The President took several days to review their initial outline of his pet project.

On Friday morning, March 10, Roosevelt began to solicit support for his measure from Henry T. Rainey (House Speaker from Illinois) and other leading Congressmen. FDR disclosed that his agenda would cost \$500 million for outlay and \$200 million for operating costs in its first year. He suggested that the discipline in the camps would be similar to the Army, and that these young men could be discharged for major infractions. The President outlined that the camps would be located near major reforestation, reclamation, flood control, river and harbor improvements, power developments, and public construction projects under government supervision. The Tennessee Valley and Muscle Shoals were possible sites under consideration for the program. FDR further detailed that the enlisted men would be fed, housed, clothed, and paid a dollar per day. Each volunteer would be strongly encouraged to seek better employment and would be given an immediate honorable discharge upon securing gainful employment. In the early evening, Roosevelt engaged Army Corp of Engineers to draw up plans for instituting this ponderous program, when the Congress finally provided the proper authorization. At 9:00, later that evening, in the spacious oval study on the second floor of the White House, the Chief Executive met with Wallace, Ickes, Douglas, and George H. Dern (Secretary of War) to discuss further details of the organization of the CCC. It was imperative to take many men off city doles and relieve the cities of the congestion of jobless and idle men.⁴

On Saturday morning, March 11, Senators Edward P. Costigan, Robert M.

LaFollette, Jr., and Robert F. Wagner had a White House conference with the President. The three Senators were Congressional experts on the subject of unemployment, but they represented conflicting schools of thought. LaFollette and Costigan had supported unsuccessful attempts for direct government assistance, while Wagner had authored the public works program now in effect. Roosevelt informed them that \$500 million was available for the project. He also estimated that approximately 200,000 unemployed men could be accommodated by that summer and within six months that number could be doubled. FDR specified that these men would work on reforestation and internal improvement projects, and stressed that the CCC would not be simply "dole" types of work. The President felt that the Army would be involved in the recruitment of the urban jobless youths, the development of the physical fitness of these young men, the establishment of commissaries and barracks, and the provider of housing, clothing, and food. Roosevelt had originally wanted to send a special message to Congress that morning recommending the measure, but the President decided to withhold it "indefinitely," until he had more concrete plans completed the following week.⁵ Later that night, LaFollette made the following comments on his conference with Roosevelt:

We had a satisfactory discussion of the question involved in the problems of relief and unemployment. No definite conclusions were reached, but the expectation is that we will reach definite and satisfactory conclusions at our next conference.⁶

Senator Wagner was also encouraged after his conference on Roosevelt's reforestation program and stated that, "There is every indication of satisfactory conclusions. The prospect for agreement is very encouraging."⁷ Negotiations continued to promote FDR's pet project.

On Tuesday morning, March 14, Raymond Moley (part of FDR's Brain-Trust) arrived in Roosevelt's bedroom for their daily planning chat. The President told him about his pet project, which he initially called the Civilian Reclamation Corps, and Moley responded by calling it "stunning."⁸ Later that same morning, the Chief Executive had another White House meeting with Frances Perkins (Secretary of Labor), LaFollette, Costigan, Dern, Wagner, and Harry Hopkins (FDR's Chief Advisor and former head of the N.Y. State relief program) to further develop his pet project. Roosevelt strongly felt that the "wild boys of the roads (transients)" would jump at the opportunity of enlisting in his program.⁹ FDR thought that the program would be well-received by the American urban poor and that they would jump at the chance of leaving the crowded cities to work in a nature setting. He firmly believed that there would be a massive exodus of urban youths to the woods and the wonders of the outdoors. FDR felt that the character of these youths would benefit from a short trek into the woods. The Chief Executive was over-enthusiastic about what the project could achieve, so Perkins, Costigan, Hopkins, Dern, and Wagner had to persuade him to be more realistic about the possible contributions of this innovative measure. At first, Roosevelt opposed massive expenditures in public works and believed that there were few worthwhile projects, but Perkins, Hopkins, LaFollette, and Costigan convinced him that there were many valuable projects such as participation in the eventual T.V.A. In general, the President still had a vague concept of this proposal, and had many other serious problems occupying his attention, and so he turned his project over to Howe, Dern, Perkins, and Rexford Tugwell (FDR's Chief Economic Advisor and part of his Brain-Trust). At the end of the

day's discussions, it was decided that the Labor Department would recruit the men, the War Department would organize and transport the men to the work camps, and the Departments of Agriculture and Interior would run the camps and supervise the work projects. Perkins suggested that the Army could provide plenty of trucks, tents, uniforms, and blankets for the project. He estimated that the total outlay would be \$2,500,000.00 and felt that men could be put to work within three to four weeks. Dern agreed that the Army had all of the necessary equipment, including cots and field kitchens, and also could furnish excellent leadership in the camps with its Regular Army and reserve officer corps.¹⁰

In the presidential press conference of Wednesday, March 15, FDR was questioned by the reporters about his reforestation plan and how the Forestry Department could employ over 200,000 young men. The President responded by stating that,

These men go in there and take out the crooked trees, the dead trees, the bushes, all of which do not have value as lumber, and leave approximately one thousand trees to the acre. That means that the trees are sufficiently spaced to get plenty of light and air, and that there is not too much of a strain on the soil. Those trees then eventually will become a valuable lumber crop.¹¹

He also mentioned that these men would work on "one of our great difficulties . . . forest fires." He emphasized that certain types of fires were a real threat to our great resources in the forests. He continued by saying that these men would be put to work in building fire breaks. The Chief Executive then explained that,

A fire break is merely an operation of cutting a thirty or forty foot swath through the forest, and plowing it up, raking all the leaves and everything possible away from that strip and keeping it clear. The regular forest rangers and fire protection people, in their tower, will then have a great deal better chance of limiting to a small area any fire that breaks out.¹²

Ernest K. Lindley, one of the reporters, raised an objection over the pay of the recruits,

Even at a dollar a day pay for a year for these men, the cost is enormous . . .
I figure where you would need a half a billion or one billion [dollars] and
spend it on this one item.

FDR defended the pay by saying that, "these people . . . are today on the dole. They are today performing no useful work, and earning no money." Another reporter asked him, "How soon do you think you can get them to work?" FDR concluded the news conference by saying, "Three or four weeks--that is, start getting them to work."¹³

Later that morning, after the press conference, the Chief Executive called together Dern, Ickes, Wallace, Perkins, and Lewis Douglas to outline the structure and specific details of the CCC. They worked all day to complete their task, and then submitted a five page report to the President. In general terms, the Army was given the responsibility of providing orientation, clothing, supplies, physical conditioning, and transportation. The Labor Department would select the young men, while the Departments of Interior and Agriculture would provide food, shelter, and supervision on job sites. Also, each recruit would be paid a daily wage of a dollar. In his financial report, Lewis Douglas calculated that the total expenditures of the program would be approximately \$600,000.00 per day, \$4 million per week, and \$200 million per year to function properly.¹⁴

On Friday, March 17, the Chief Executive announced to the press that his reforestation program for 200,000 unemployed youths would be officially presented to Congress the following week for consideration. FDR had to cancel the original plans for a Congressional recess and schedule an emergency session to deal with the proposed CCC project, railroad and trucking legislation, radio communications, new taxes, government

salaries, banking legislation, and other unemployment items. Besides domestic crises, he was confronted with foreign issues such as Hitler's recent rise to power and Japan's involvement in China. The President was overwhelmed with the bureaucratic red tape of Washington, D.C. and needed his advisors, cabinet members and Congressmen to work out the logistics of all these programs.

On Monday morning of March 20, FDR and Raymond Moley worked on the final draft of the CCC which would be presented to the Congress the next day. The Chief Executive wanted to include the term "civilian" in his proposal in order to avoid any association with the military. The official name of the CCC was Emergency Conservation Work until 1937 when the name officially changed to the Civilian Conservation Corps. Later the night of the 20th, the President had his final copy completed to be presented to the floor of the Senate and U.S. House of Representatives on the following morning. The final document proposed to enlist 250,000 in FDR's reforestation scheme, which was an increase of 50,000 youths to the original plan.

By the next morning of the 21 of March, it was mutually decided that Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas, on behalf of himself and Robert Wagner of New York, would read Roosevelt's proposal on the Senate floor. In the House, Speaker Rainey assigned Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee to read it, because William P. Connery (Chairman of the House Labor Committee) refused to introduce the proposed bill on the grounds that William Green (President of the American Federation of Labor) and organized labor unions opposed it and stated these sentiments, "For ten years I've been 100% for legislation favored by the Federation of Labor. I can't go along on this" ¹⁵

The following message was read to both chambers of the U.S. Congress:

The first is the enrollment of workers now by the Federal Government for such public employment as can be quickly started and will not interfere with the demand for or the proper standards of normal employment. The first of these measures which I have enumerated, however, can and should be immediately enacted. I propose to create a Civilian Conservation Corps to be used in simple work, not interfering with normal employment, and confining itself to forestry, the prevention of soil erosion, flood control, and similar projects. I call your attention to the fact that this type of work is of definite, practical value, not only through the prevention of great present financial loss but also as a means of creating future national wealth. This is brought home by the news we are receiving today of vast damage caused by floods on the Ohio and other rivers.

Control and direction of such work can be carried on by existing machinery of the Departments of Labor, Agriculture, War, and Interior.

I estimate that 250,000 men can be given temporary employment by early summer if you give me authority to proceed within the next 2 weeks.

I ask no new funds at this time. The use of unobligated funds, now appropriated for public works, will be sufficient for several months.

This enterprise is an established part of our national policy. It will conserve our precious natural resources. It will pay dividends to the present and future generations. It will make improvements in national and state domains which have been largely forgotten in the past few years of industrial development.

More important, however, than the material gains will be the moral and spiritual value of such work. The overwhelming majority of unemployed Americans, who are now walking the streets and receiving private or public relief, would infinitely prefer to work. We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability. It is not a panacea for all the unemployment, but it is an essential step in this emergency. I ask its adoption.¹⁶

In the Senate, the proposed bill was officially labeled S598.

After listening to the President's message, William Green of the A.F. of L. vehemently objected to the "military code" in the plan which threatened the standards of labor. Green stated that,

The regimentation of labor through enlistment in the CCC, under military control, will, in my judgment, awaken feelings of grave apprehension in the hearts and minds of labor.

Military control and military domination, with its segregation plans, transgresses in a very large degree upon the free exercise of labor and in itself is repugnant to those who are earnestly endeavoring to bring about the restoration of normal economic and industrial conditions.¹⁷

Green further demonstrated his displeasure with the proposal by stating that,

Labor will be greatly alarmed because it will fear that the imposition of a form of compulsory service, under military control and army rates of pay, will depress and lower wage scales and wage standards paid and established for similar work.

The inauguration of a reforestation and reclamation program on as large a scale as possible, sufficient to employ many thousands of idle workers, is laudable in itself, but labor believes that such work should be carried on through the use of ordinary business methods and that workers employed should be paid the prevailing rate of wages for the work performed and should be permitted to work as free men under normal, ordinary working conditions.

The enlistment feature, with time of service circumscribed, the substitution of the military code for the control of civil units, the lower grade of pay wherein workmen enlisted in the Civilian Conservation Corps would compete with free labor and would render valuable service at a rate of pay much lower than their training, and qualifications warrant, the enforced separation of the breadwinner from his family or the locality in which he lives are some of the outstanding features of the proposed legislation which are highly objectionable and to which labor must in self-defense interpose its objections.¹⁸

Green's negative attitude toward the measure was influenced by his dissatisfaction with the administration's dealings with labor. The two issues that aggravated Green were Perkins' proposal to limit workers to a 30 hour week and Roosevelt's failure to appoint a Secretary of Labor with more labor experience. The strong opposition of Green and the labor unions to FDR's plan severely threatened passage of the bill.

Also on March 21, R.Y. Stuart (Head Forester of the U.S. Forest Service) had his staff working on the specific details of the CCC. He stated that his staff had an assortment of data aimed at actualizing the agenda. The Forest Service had outlined different types of work in the national forests, where the projects were most needed.

The kinds of work included: fire protection, the construction of lookout towers, telephone lines, roads, trails, and range fences, and the prevention of blister rust and other tree diseases. The head forester stressed the importance of cooperation between the federal, state, and private agencies to implement this huge program. Stuart also indicated that there were 150 million acres of national forests (including Alaska) west of the Mississippi River, while only five million acres were located east of the Mississippi and available for the CCC. The staff of the Forest Service concluded that each camp could accommodate a maximum of 100 men for greatest efficiency.¹⁹

It was decided by the Congressional leaders that hearings on the CCC proposal would be held on March 23 and 24. The Army would be represented by General MacArthur, the War Department would be represented by Dern, the Agriculture Department would be represented by Wallace, the Labor Department would be represented by Perkins, and Ickes was the Interior Department representative at the hearings.

At a news conference on Wednesday, March 22, Chairman Walsh and Representative Connery (Massachusetts) discussed the agenda for the committee hearings on the CCC proposal to start on March 23rd. Walsh said that he did not know how long the hearings would last, and that it would depend upon the amount of opposition to the measure. Representatives of the Labor, Agriculture, War and Interior had been called, as well as spokesmen for organized labor, which was strongly opposing the proposal. Connery stated that, "Our first witness will be Frances Perkins, the new Secretary of Labor."²⁰ William Green was scheduled to follow Perkins.

On the evening of March 22 at the White House, the Chief Executive gathered all legislative leaders to discuss possible strategies at the Congressional hearings for the following morning. Negotiations continued until 11 o'clock that evening. Connery insisted on a monthly wage of \$50.00 for single men and \$80.00 for married men, instead of the proposed \$30.00. Thomas J. Walsh (Chairman of the Senate Labor Committee) strongly defended the CCC and FDR by stating,

The President made a clear and interesting statement about his unemployment plans. He was enthusiastic for the project. He seemed to have his heart set upon carrying out his plan without delay.

It was his opinion that it would give employment to a large number of people and would serve to bring about similar acts by states and private owners of large tracts of land.

Walsh suggested that Perkins, Dern, Ickes, and Wallace meet to make definite plans for the CCC because the program's outline was still too vague at this late stage of negotiations.²¹

On Thursday morning, March 23, the Joint Congressional hearings began with committee members cross-examining Perkins, Dern, Ickes, Wallace, MacArthur, other CCC supporters and critics. Frances Perkins, in her first appearance as Secretary of Labor before a Congressional Committee, was the first witness of the hearings and entered into a give and take cross-examination by committee members and defended the program. She stated,

This is not to be regarded as an attempt to start a sweatshop labor program nor can it be used to depress wages. We have an accumulation of people in large cities who have been living by their wits. This plan will put them to work on projects that otherwise would not be undertaken for ten years These are not jobs and wages in the ordinary sense but rather 'work relief' whereby a man gets a chance to keep himself healthfully occupied. There is no competition with private employment.²²

Chairman Connery broke in, "Won't every private industry establish the \$1-per-day wage level for unskilled labor?" Perkins snapped back,

No. That doesn't make sense. If all common labor were reduced to \$1 a day we'd have a complete national collapse. Industrialists realize that."

California's Welch asked her, "Do you think it's proper, to force a man to leave his family for a year to get \$1 a day?" Miss Perkins quickly responded,

"Let's be realistic. We're not going to force any man to join this corps. But, if I may speak lightly, too, it might be the best thing that could happen in some cases to separate a man from his family for a year."²³

She made such a favorable impression that many a hostile vote was won over to the White House plan.

William Green of the powerful A.F.L. was the next scheduled witness. Green again repeated his charge that the regimentation of labor was implicit in the use of the Army in the "involuntary allotment" provision. The labor movement professed to believe that the plan would mean the militarization of labor and Green's following statement revealed this sentiment:

We cannot believe that the time has come when the United States should supply relief through the creation of a form of compulsory military service.²⁴

He further charged that, "It smacks, as I see it, of fascism, of Hitlerism, or a form of sovietism." His closing statement centered on the question of low wages which he felt were reduced to subsistence level. Green warned the committee about the issue by stating,

Public psychology is interesting. It will result, as sure as you live, in this Congress going down in history as the one which established the dollar-a-day standard for common labor. I warn you that you can never get away from that public concept.²⁵

Green's testimony made a deep impression on the committee members as to the negative aspects of the measure.

Herbert Benjamin (Communist witness) of the National Committee of Unemployed Councils followed Green as a witness opposing the proposal. He stated that his organization was "unqualifiedly opposed" to it and that, "This was undertaken to establish and legalize a system of forced labor." Benjamin demanded unemployment insurance and cash payment of bonuses. John Dewey's committee on unemployment denounced the project. Norman Thomas (Socialist Party spokesman) warned that "such work-camps fit into the psychology of a Fascist, not a Socialist, state." M.J. McDonough of the Building Trade Department of the A.F. of L. also criticized the association of the Army in the CCC program. At this point, the hearings were adjourned until the next morning.²⁶

At a press conference after the first day of hearings, the Secretary of War emphasized the limited role of the Army in the CCC. George H. Dern called the charge of militarization of labor as pure and simple exaggeration. The Secretary said that the Labor Department would enroll unemployed volunteers, the War Department would organize them into units, and the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior would conduct the camps and supervise the work. Dern further stated that,

It has been pretty definitely worked out that this activity will not be confused with the military establishment in any sense of the word. The Army has the personnel, officers and men, who would do this work (organizing units) without additional expense to the government. It has posts, buildings and so forth that might well be used for this purpose. It is the cheapest way to do this and will give the Army a peacetime activity of a social nature.

It was hoped that Dern's testimony would help to quiet the questions of the military

involvement in the program. Walsh again met with the press and defended the Robinson-Wagner Bill (CCC), particularly the pay scale. The Senator stated that,

The President feels that the wage scale in the bill is equivalent to \$2 a day. He showed very great enthusiasm for the project. His heart is set on the undertaking as one of a number that will produce employment for the people.²⁷

On Friday, March 24, at the second day of Congressional hearings, William Green again testified against the CCC by stating that,

They regiment labor in Fascist Italy, in Hitler Germany and Soviet Russia, but it seems to me the spirit of America is not in favor of the regimentation of labor here. Let us do it in a way that is in accord with the spirit of America. Let labor work, but let it work voluntarily and freely.²⁸

Later, General MacArthur was questioned by committee members about the CCC and he testified that there would be "no military involvement whatsoever." MacArthur stressed that individual selection would be in the hands of the Department of Labor and that the CCC participants were volunteers. MacArthur frantically stressed the limited role of the Army in this unique federal project. Connery questioned him on the wording of the bill and asked him if it did not amount to a "draft act" similar to wartime. "I don't think so," MacArthur countered. "How can you get away from it?" Connery asked. "The bill says that the President may 'select' the men." MacArthur replied that, "It seems to me it is entirely voluntary." The General said that if the enrollees did not comply with discipline, they would be dropped rather than courtmartialed. Ramspek (Democratic Senator from Georgia) interjected that "The President told us at the White House the other night that he was willing to have the bill amended to make it clear this is a voluntary proposition." Dern's and MacArthur's testimony seemed to help quiet the questions of the military involvement in the program.²⁹

By March 24, MacArthur realized that the Emergency Conservation Work (CCC) Bill would soon be passed by Congress and that the Army would be an equal part of the program. Initially, the General had been reluctant to have the Army involved in the CCC. In previous conversations with the President, MacArthur was unwilling to commit the Army to any political or civilian project and vehemently argued this viewpoint with Roosevelt. The General had felt that the Army's main responsibility was national defense, and he strongly felt that the CCC would divert the military from its primary responsibility. The military leader finally realized that it was fruitless to resist FDR's pet project, and so he enthusiastically engaged the Army in the new program. Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and other staff members began to work on the CCC project. By the end of the day, the General Staff had already drafted complete regulations governing the Army's role in the establishment and maintenance of the nine CCC corps areas for administrative purposes and provided cost estimates for such items as clothing, shelter, supervision, welfare and transportation.

In a statement to the press on March 24 in San Francisco, S.B. Show, regional forester in charge of employment camp work in California, stated that 50,000 idle men could be taken care of by the state

"if" the necessity arises. There are hundreds of suitable camp sites available in California. We have selected them with regard to accessibility, sanitation, climate and work to be done. We can put thousands to work within a few days and in two months could have 50,000 in action, provided, of course, we received the necessary federal aid.³⁰

Show's statement was in reference to the proposed CCC measure and indicated that California forestry officials were already making contingent plans for the program.

On Saturday, March 25, MacArthur sent secret radiograms to all nine corps area commanders throughout the country advising them of the Army's role in the CCC.³¹ He assigned tentative quotas for each corps area. The General clarified how the Labor Department would process the trainees, explained how the local recruiting stations would process the recruits, and outlined how the Army would conduct the physical conditioning and medical examinations, and transport them to their work camps. Finally, he ordered each corps to begin the selection process of possible work camp sites.

On March 25, Roosevelt began major negotiations with Congressional committees to modify the original CCC draft to appease the criticism from labor and particularly William Green of the A.F. of L. He used his capacity for conciliation by talking things out, for breaking down opposition using personal contacts. Even hard-boiled Congressmen could not escape the subtle flattery of being asked to come to the White House for a personal chat with the President. The Chief Executive wanted the revised measure quickly completed, so that he could have the final copy presented to Congress by Monday morning, March 27--possibly in time for consideration on the floor that day. Green, after conferring with the committee in executive session, said that the compromised version would "very largely remove our objections." The A.F. of L. president felt that, under these revisions, FDR could still carry out the same plan as originally proposed. Green also hoped that the Army's role would be limited and that higher wages would be provided for the enrollees. In redrafting the bill, the committee attempted to make it more plainly a relief act than an unemployment measure, using the words "cash allowance" in place of "pay," and placing emphasis on the provision for

subsistence of the men. The President would be given broader authority to secure whatever compensation that he chose and to provide any means of enlistment that he desired, provided it was necessary to the success of the program. In other words, Roosevelt was given a "blank check" to run the CCC. Walsh met with the press and stated these sentiments by stating that,

The bill as it will be redrafted in the Senate, will simply give the President power to carry out his program. Such a change is agreeable to him and it will be made on the Senate side. I think the House will accept it, although I have not talked to Chairman Connery of the House Labor Committee and others who are opposing it in its present form.³²

Positive reactions to the committee's compromised draft were many among the Democratic legislators, who were soliciting support for passage of the CCC scheme. Henry T. Rainey of Illinois vigorously backed the new draft by stating that,

This proposal of the President contemplates the taking of men out of the breadlines and off the dole and putting them to work, under reasonable discipline, carrying into effect a real and greatly needed reforestation program. At the same time it will mean honorable employment and self-respect to some hundreds of thousands of our less fortunate citizens.³³

Thomas J. Walsh, as committee chairman, was extremely confident that the revised measure would meet with the approval of Roosevelt and Green.

On Sunday, March 26, the Chief Executive requested Wagner, Costigan, and LaFollette, Jr. to come to the White House to examine the revised draft before it was submitted to the Senate and House on Monday morning. After studying the compromised copy, Senator Wagner commented favorably by stating that,

The bill is in accord with the declared objectives of the President in reference to relief. It recognizes that not only must starvation be prevented but that standards of relief must be lifted if the growing generation is not to inherit all of the disastrous legacies of undernourishment and demoralization.

The localities cannot alone carry this burden of distress which is national in scope and character. The plan embodied in the bill is designed to stimulate the maximum of local effort in the provision of relief and supplement that effort with federal assistance.³⁴

By the end of the day, Roosevelt was ready to present his \$500 million reforestation and relief program for 250,000 unemployed volunteers on Monday morning, March 27, to the Congress. Once again, Walsh was appointed the bill's spokesman and told the press that,

The general principle of the redraft, is a bill giving general authority to the President to use from unexpended balances whatever money he chooses to put to work unemployed citizens in reforestation on public lands.³⁵

The President would have broad authority to fix whatever compensation he chose and to provide any means of enlistment he desires, provided it was voluntary.

On the following morning, the Emergency Conservation Work Bill was submitted by Wagner, Costigan, and LaFollette to the Senate, while Rainey delivered it to the House of Representatives. While the Senate debated the reforestation measure, the House agreed to take up the issue on Wednesday, March 29. Connery told reporters that,

I reserved the right to oppose this bill on the floor of the House. I will not turn over to the President dictatorial powers to fix wages as low as 30 cents a day, or even 30 dollars a month, as the Senate measure provides. If there is nobody else in Congress opposing the bill, I shall do it by myself.³⁶

Connery had proposed a maximum wage of \$80.00 to married men with dependents and \$50.00 to single men.

On Tuesday, March 28, the Senate continued to debate the reforestation measure. Senators Fess (Ohio), Dickinson (Iowa), and other conservative Republicans criticized it as the beginning of a "dole," and stated that those who voted for it would eventually

regret it. Fess declared that relief of destitution is the proper business of private charity and local agencies and stated that, "There can be no relief of unemployment until confidence is restored." He further stated that the bill would require additional taxation, and said it was a federal "dole." Wagner responded to Fess' statements by declaring that,

Surely the Senator does not wish to misrepresent the situation. It is not contended that this will relieve unemployment. It is an emergency measure to prevent actual starvation and suffering. I hope that further measures will be forthcoming which will relieve unemployment.³⁷

Further opposition came from Republican Senator Dickinson of Iowa who read a letter from a constituent protesting the granting of such broad power to the President, and warning against "another Hitler." Democratic Senator Lewis of Illinois then asked, "Who is this man who compares President Roosevelt with Hitler?" Dickinson then responded with,

He is a big financier. We can go too far in centralizing power and we are plodding along that road now. We will probably rue the day we granted such power.

In defense of Roosevelt, Democratic Senator Copeland of New York stepped in and referred to FDR as "a kindhearted man who is determined to solve these problems, not a Hitler or a Mussolini." Republican Senator Borah of Idaho then stated that, "There is nothing in this bill that is unconstitutional." Republican Senator Robinson of Indiana closed the debate with the following statement,

We just got through robbing the disabled veterans in order to turn it over to another class of citizens and the budget is still unbalanced. Everybody knows the budget won't be balanced this year or next. If the President's program goes through, we will be a billion unbalanced.³⁸

After this exchange, the U.S. Senate by voice vote passed the bill by a 55 to 17 majority.

The following was the roll call on the passage of the bill:

For the bill:

Democrats: Adams, Bachman, Bankhead, Barkley, Black, Bone, Brown, Bulkey, Bulow, Byrnes, Caraway, Connally, Collidge, Copeland, Costigan, Dieterich, Dill, Duffy, George, Harrison, Hayden, Lonegan, Long, McCarren, McGill, McKellar, Murphy, Neely, Overton, Pope, Renolds, Robinson or Arkansas, Russell, Sheppard, Smith, Stephens, Thomas of Utah, Trammell, Tydings, Van Nuys, Wagner and Walsh--42.

Republicans: Borah, Cappen, Couzens, Frazier, Johnson, LaFollette, Norris, Nye, Robinson of Indiana, Schall, Steiwer and Vandenburg--12.

Farmer-Labor-Shipstead--1.

Grand Total for 55.

Against the bill:

Democrats: Bailey, Gore--2.

Republicans: Austin, Carey, Dickinson, Fess, Goldensborough, Hale, Hatfield, Hebert, Kean, Keyes, McNary, Metcalf, Patterson, Walcott and White--15.

Grand Total against 17.³⁹

On the morning of Wednesday, March 29, the House began to debate the reforestation program. Connery and Beedy (Republican Representative from Maine) strongly opposed the measure in open debate. Byrnes countered with, "There are now 250,000 men, or thereabouts, walking the streets with nothing to eat and with families to support, who would be put to work if this bill becomes law." Connery stated that, "If my own brother were President of the United States, I would not vote to give him the power in this bill." Collins (Democrat from Mississippi) declared his concerns about the cost of \$759,623.00 a year to pay, feed and transport 1,000 men under the program. Collins further explained that,

By the time you add hospitalization and uniforms and other things, each of these men is going to cost right around \$900 a year. In other words, we would be paying in excess of what we could go into the various districts of the country and hire men directly for. And by the second method we could keep them at home--around the home fireside. I was a Roosevelt man before he was even nominated, but in this instance we are following a visionary leader.

Beedy responded that he had joined in supporting some things that Roosevelt had asked of the Congress, but added:

I think the time has come when we should dig into these requests for unprecedented powers. In moments of hysteria, we are shamelessly prostrating ourselves to every request that comes here. I adjure the members to think, for if you value the inherent majesty of this Government, if you favor a balance between the legislative and the executive, then consider this bill very carefully.⁴⁰

The legislators began to discuss 22 proposed amendments to the measure. Connery's proposal for higher wages was defeated 290 to 90. Then, Oscar De Priest (prominent Black Republican from Illinois) offered an amendment that would not permit any discrimination based on "race, creed, color, or criminal records" in the program. The House quickly passed this amendment by a 179 to 71 vote. Joseph W. Byrns outlined a second amendment that limited all improvements in areas only covered within the provisions of the bill. Byrns' amendment also easily passed by Congress. After the two amendments were accepted, the House voted 189 to 91 in favor of the bill. In spite of all of the compromises and careful negotiations, Green announced his opposition to the reforestation program.⁴¹

As Congress ironed out the wrinkles in the bill, FDR had to deal with the press in creating a positive image for his program. At his seventh press conference (March 29) the press repeated the charge of Elbert Thomas (Republican U.S. Senator from Utah), who accused Roosevelt of creating "concentration camps" for his CCC volunteers.⁴² The President answered with,

Do not use that word. It sounds too much like that which some of us older people remember as used in the Cuban episode of 1897 and 1898. I do not know what you would call them. They are merely way-stations to be used on

the way to the camps, at which the boys will be properly treated, outfitted and given a complete medical examination.⁴³

Then another newspaper writer stated, "Why not call them cantonments?" Roosevelt then responded to the charge with,

Well, a cantonment has a more permanent sound. I hope that we can keep them there just as short a time as possible. The Army, in talking in a preliminary way, says two weeks. I think that is much too long. I think we could keep them in camp a maximum of one week, which would be quite enough. It saves money to keep them out on the job as long as we can.⁴⁴

Another reporter asked him, "How soon do you think we can get them, Mr. President."

FDR answered,

I should think we can get the first people enrolled within two weeks after the passage of the bill. That means they probably could not get to camp until three weeks. Of course, we cannot start off with 25,000 at one time. That will take quite a while.⁴⁵

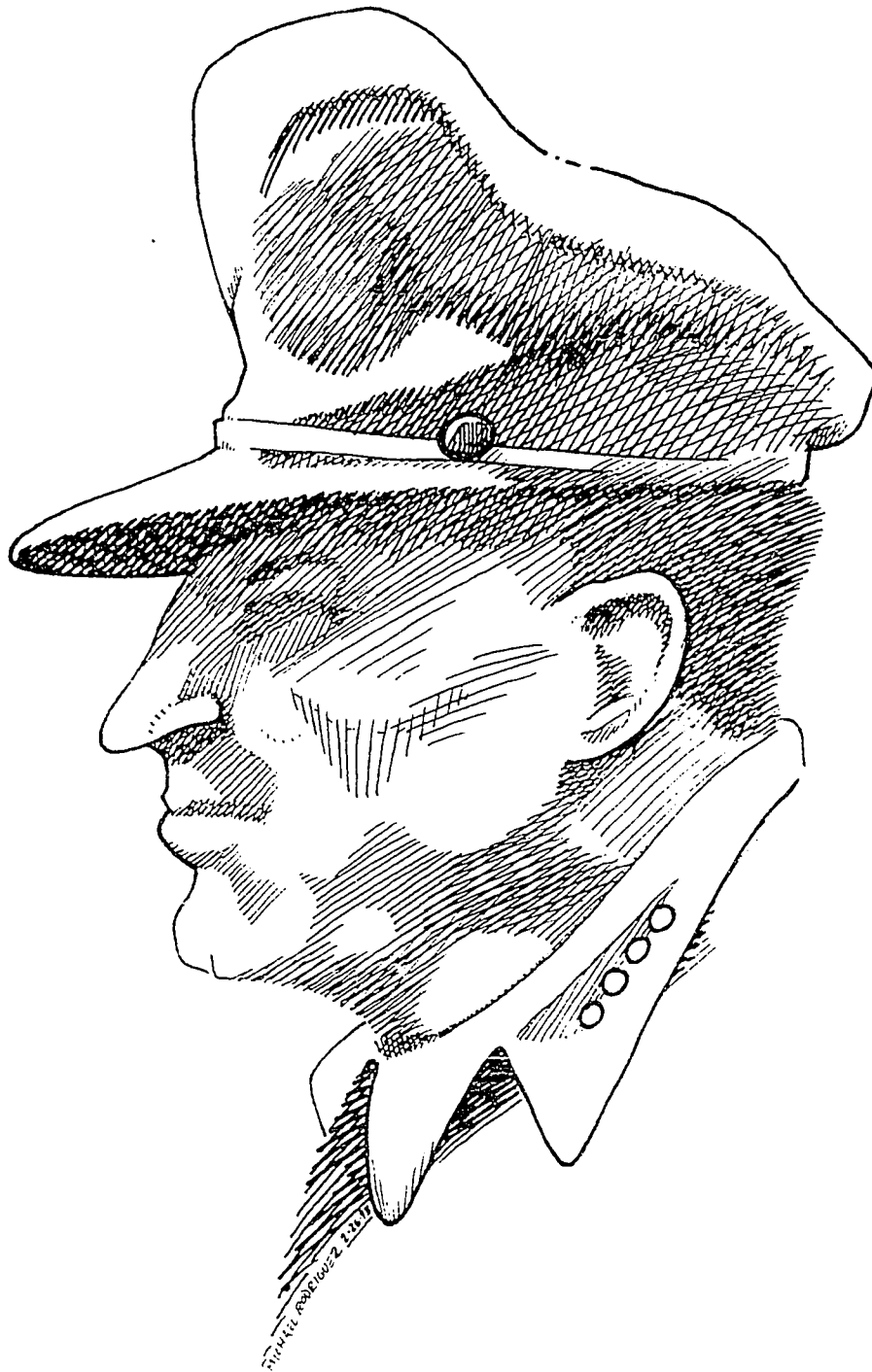
Roosevelt kept cool and continued to demonstrate his full confidence in his pet project.

By the evening of March 30, the two ratified Congressional versions of the bill were delivered to the White House. Roosevelt signed the final document in the Oval Room, which officially converted the program into law on the morning of March 31st. The President signed in the presence of Thomas J. Walsh (Chairman of the Committee on Education and Labor), Representative Ramspeck (Georgia), Ovid Butler (Executive Secretary of the American Forestry Association), and G.H. Collingwood (forester in the American Forestry Association). Upon signing the bill, FDR stated that, "This law will not only relieve unemployment but will also promote a needed activity (conservation) in this country." Shortly after the formal signing by the President, Butler admiringly stated that,

President Roosevelt has demonstrated his leadership and great humanitarian interest in sponsoring this bill.

In addition to providing a means for more nearly completing the protection and improvements of the national forests, national parks, state and municipal forests, together with large areas of private lands, a great opportunity is available for men to be usefully employed, and to rebuild themselves physically and spiritually under the invigorating surroundings of the forests and outdoors. It is a measure whose beneficial results will be felt throughout the entire coming generation.⁴⁶

FDR's reforestation and relief program had now become law applicable for the next two years, and could be renewed if the Congress and the Chief Executive felt that it was successful and necessary. Roosevelt's pet project was finally actualized and now the mobilization period of the program began.



General Douglas MacArthur
Army's Chief of Staff

Drawing by Michael Mark Rodriguez
(1993)

CHAPTER 3

MOBILIZATION PERIOD

Shortly after the President had signed the CCC bill into law, he began to make preparations for its mobilization with the full cooperation of his cabinet members and advisers. Roosevelt also announced that he was hopeful that the first recruits would be put to work within two to three weeks, and the whole allotment of 250,000 unemployed volunteers would be on duty by mid-summer. The first step therefore was the recruiting of the young men, which was planned to start in a week. Dern, Perkins, Ickes, and Wallace started the selection process for a coordinator of the program, someone who would direct it. They discussed the criteria for eligibility and entrance of the enrollees into the program, and the rules and regulations governing the volunteers.

The Labor Department had to set up registration offices in cities and to establish the machinery for the recruitment as soon as possible. The War Department sent out a hurried call for reserve officers to operate the camps and to complete plans for assembling the men. The War Department was also given the responsibility of medically examining all of the chosen enrollees, determining their physical fitness, and giving them conditioning. The Army was responsible for constructing several thousand work camps and transporting the men to them. These camps would be designed to house about one hundred men in each. The Departments of Agriculture and Interior mapped out thousands of work projects in the National Forests throughout the country.

Secretary Wallace telegraphed all governors throughout the country inviting them

to send their state foresters or other representatives for a conference in Washington, D.C. on April 6th, where discussions and plans for a cooperative program would be analyzed. Regional foresters of the national service would meet on Monday, April 3 in the capital to work over final arrangements for work in national forests, which had an aggregate area of 161 million acres.¹

Secretary Ickes assigned a staff in the Interior Department to study work projects in the national parks, in Indian reservations, and the public domain, which were under his administration. All potential projects would be brought together for the drafting of a master plan by the future CCC director, who would determine the final locations of the work camps and assign the number of volunteers at each camp site. The director would place the men in camps as close to their homes as possible in order to cut down transportation costs.

On the morning of April 3, the President held a conference with Horace Albright (Director of the National Park Service), John D. Coffman (fire control expert of the National Park Service), William G. Howard (Director of Lands and Forests of the New York Conservation Department), R.Y. Stuart (Chief U.S. Forester), C.H. Granger (Assistant Chief Forester), Colonel Duncan K. Major, Jr. (acting Assistant Chief of Staff), and W. Frank Parsons (Red Cross representative and American Public Welfare Association of Chicago) in the White House. After the meeting, FDR outlined the exact role of the War Department in the CCC, which included the additional responsibilities of feeding and clothing the new enrollees. Later that day, General MacArthur ordered Colonel Major to report to Louis Howe. Major and Howe worked closely on the logistics

of the Army's responsibilities in the program. The Army wanted to get out of its involvement in the CCC as soon as possible and it was understood that its commitment would end when the trainees met the work project superintendent at the "railhead" near each camp.

After several exhaustive strategy meetings, Roosevelt issued his Executive Order Number 6106 on the morning of April 5. This document officially implemented the CCC into a working organization and actually started the mobilization of the program. The President stated the following in his Executive Order:

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the Act of Congress entitled 'An Act for the Relief of Unemployment Through the Performance of Useful Public Work, and For other Purposes,' approved March 31, 1933 (Public No. 5, 73rd Congress), it is hereby ordered that:

(1) For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of said Act Robert Fechner is hereby appointed Director of Emergency Conservation Work at an annual rate of compensation of \$12,000, less the reduction prescribed in subparagraph (b), Section 2, Title II, of the Act of Congress entitled 'An Act to Maintain the Credit of the United States Government' (Public No. 2, 73rd Congress), approved March 20, 1933.

(2) The Secretary of War, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Labor each shall appoint a representative, and said representative shall constitute an Advisory Council to the Director of Emergency Conservation Work.

(3) There is hereby established in the Treasury a fund of \$10,000,000 by the transfer of an equal amount from the unobligated balances of the appropriation for emergency construction of public buildings contained in the act approved July 21, 1932, as authorized by Section 4 of the said Act of March 31, 1933, which fund shall be subject to requisition by the said Robert Fechner, as Director of Emergency Conservation Work, on the approval of the President.

(4) Subject to direction by the President, supplies and materials of the several departments or establishments shall be furnished on the requisition of the Director of Emergency Conservation Work, and the departments and establishments furnishing such supplies and materials shall be reimbursed therefor in accordance with instructions of the President.

(5) Reimbursement, if any, to the departments or establishments for other services rendered shall be made in accordance with instructions of the

President.²

The Chief Executive chose Robert Fechner as CCC Director because Fechner had extensive labor union experience and connections over 35 years. The new director had been elected to the General Executive Board of the International Association of Machinists serving for 20 years, and vice president of the A.F. of L. He had been a guest lecturer at Harvard, Dartmouth and other colleges on labor issues. He first met Roosevelt when FDR was Assistant Secretary of the Navy under President Wilson. Fechner and FDR had worked very well together during those Washington days. They had maintained a very friendly relationship, and the A.F. of L. official devoted many hours to the successful election of the Chief Executive in 1932, eventually swinging the Machinist Union to support Roosevelt. Fechner selected James J. McEntee as his full-time assistant. McEntee also had extensive labor union experience and acquaintances. He had been a full-time officer of the International Association of Machinists. He had been very successful in settling disputes in the newspaper and munitions industries, and had been a close friend of Fechner for nearly 20 years. The President hoped that the appointments of Fechner and McEntee would placate the labor union leaders and especially William Green of the powerful A.F. of L.

The new director had come to the capital a few days before his appointment was announced by the President. Before Fechner had been in Washington, D.C. 24 hours, he was invited to the White House. Roosevelt discussed the finer details of the CCC and wanted to know when the first camp would be established. "A month," responded Mr. Fechner. "Too long," said the Chief Executive, then he asked, "Two weeks?" The new

director agreed and Roosevelt responded with, "Good." Fechner was immediately on a mission to establish the first work camp as promised.³

The President, Fechner, and the four cabinet members met to select representatives for the newly created Advisory Council to help run the CCC scheme effectively. Those appointed to the Advisory Council were W. Frank Persons, Colonel Duncan K. Major, Jr., R.Y. Stuart, Horace M. Albright, and Brigadier General George P. Tyner. This Council would help Fechner to make all policy decisions for the CCC. The Army's delegate on the Council was Colonel Major, who had been picked by General MacArthur and had worked very closely with the General to coordinate the Army's policies in the CCC. Major would play an intricate part in the development of the program.

W. Frank Persons had been personally chosen by the Secretary of Labor for the Council, and Perkins later stated that she had

Wired for Frank Persons. He came, and in three days we had set up an agency known as the National Re-Employment Service, received a special appropriation attached to the CCC bill to finance it on a temporary basis, and proceeded to make the rules for selecting 250,000 unemployed men for forestry work.⁴

Persons did an outstanding job of recruitment and selection of the young corpsmen. The Forestry Service entered into the work eagerly, happy that it had a President who appreciated forestry. The Secretary of Agriculture and Roosevelt had selected R.Y. Stuart for the Advisory Council as a representative of the Forestry Service. Stuart laid out work projects and selected camp sites. The Forestry Service called back former foresters and recruited, and later trained junior foresters to supervise the work of the

corpsmen in the field.

Also on April 5, Fechner advised the President that allotments of the unemployed youths had already been decided. They came from 16 large Eastern cities, which added up to 25,000 recruits. It consisted of the following cities and their allotments:

New York City, 7500 men; Buffalo, 600; Chicago, 4000; Philadelphia, 3000; Pittsburgh, 900; Detroit, 2200; Cleveland, 1000; Baltimore, 1000; Cincinnati, 500; St. Louis, 900; Kansas City, 400; Milwaukee, 600; Washington, D.C., 500; Boston, 900; Minneapolis, 500; and Newark, 500.⁵

Initially, the CCC attempted to recruit urban youths, remove them from the large cities, and place them in the forests, which was a much more positive environment.

Roosevelt and his cabinet jointly called upon the Army to supply and manage the camps and commissaries, and to provide equipment and transportation. The Secretary of War reconciled the Army to this limited but important function. The Army called back reserve officers in great numbers to take charge of their units. The first canvas showed that many reserve officers were unemployed, had meager resources, and were growing desperate. They were glad to come back and enthusiastically participated in the mobilization process. A philosophy of strict military discipline was common among these conventionally trained officers and this presented a problem for them in training these civilian volunteers. Dern announced that there was to be no military discipline in the camps in dealing with these CCC recruits.

The War Department decided that the CCC would be divided into the Army's nine corps areas. The following were the nine corps areas:

First--Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut with headquarters at Boston.

Second--New Jersey, Delaware, and New York, with headquarters at Governors Island, New York.

Third--Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia, with headquarters at Baltimore.

Fourth--North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi, and Louisiana, with headquarters at Atlanta.

Fifth--Ohio, West Virginia, Indiana, and Kentucky, with headquarters at Columbus.

Sixth--Illinois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, with headquarters at Chicago.

Seventh--Kansas, Arkansas, Iowa, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, and Missouri, with headquarters at Omaha.

Eighth--Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, Arizona, and Wyoming (less Yellowstone National Park), with headquarters at Houston.

Ninth--Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Montana, Utah, Nevada, California, and Yellowstone National Park, with headquarters at San Francisco.⁶

The Council and Fechner agreed that an individual who enrolled in the program would be officially called an "enrollee." An "enrollee" signed a contract for six month enlistment. He could enroll in the program for up to four terms with a two year limit. On the morning of April 6, a statement by Mr. Fechner, issued with the authorization of the White House, stated that:

Young, unmarried men have had the greatest difficulty in recent years in securing either work or relief, and this group have both need themselves and numbers of people dependent upon them. Therefore, in the first selections of people for this work, we will make the work available for unemployed, unmarried men, 18 to 25 years of age, who desire to allot a substantial part of their cash allowance for the benefit of their families and dependents.⁷

It was also determined that a standard allowance of \$30.00 would be paid to each recruit per month, but only \$5.00 to \$8.00 was given to each enrollee who individually

decided which amount to keep. The rest of the allowance was sent to the recruit's parents. The CCC also prohibited the parents from sending any money back to their sons in the camps. During the 1930's, \$25.00 was enough money to pay for a monthly house payment. An enrollee was also provided quarters, clothing, subsistence, medical attendance and hospitalization, dental care, and vocational education. Each enrollee was required to take an oath of allegiance to abide by all of the rules and regulations of the program. Failure to abide by these rules would lead to dismissal from the CCC.⁸

The Council established a quota system for each state and county throughout the nation. These quotas were based on the population figures from the 1930 census. California was given a quota of 11,500 enrollees and Santa Clara County was allotted 281 recruits per enlistment period of six months. Each county had a recruitment director, who was usually associated with the county department of charities, welfare, or unemployment. In Santa Clara County, Miss Laura Fittingoff of the Department of Charities became the head of the CCC selection process. Fittingoff had volunteers sign up. Then she would evaluate each application and choose the best candidates for the program. The selected recruits were sent by train from San Jose aboard the Del Monte Express and taken to the Monterey Presidio for two weeks of orientation and physical training under Army supervision.⁹

On April 7, Fechner announced that 53 Army posts and depots had been selected from which the commanding area officers would select the best sites for physical conditioning and orientation for the first 25,000 CCC volunteers. The camps would be selected from all nine Army corps areas throughout the nation. The following camps

were under consideration:

FIRST CORPS AREA--Portland Harbor, Maine; Fort Ethan Allen, Fort H.G. Wright, Fort Adams, Fort Devens

SECOND CORPS AREA--Fort DuPont, Fort Hamilton, Fort Hancock, Mitchel Field, Fort Totten, Fort Niagara, Madison Barracks, Fort Slocum, Plattsburg Barracks, Fort Wadsworth, Fort Jay, Overseas Discharge and Replacement Depot, New York.

THIRD CORPS AREA--Carlisle Barracks, Fort Hoyle, Fort Howard, Holebird Quartermaster Depot, Fort George G. Mead, Fort Washington, Fort Humphreys, Fort Monroe, Fort Storey, Langley Field.

FOURTH CORPS AREA--Fort Bragg, Fort Oglethorpe, Fort McClellan, Fort Barrancas.

FIFTH CORPS AREA--Fort Knox.

SIXTH CORPS AREA--Fort Sheridan, Jefferson Barracks, Fort Custer.

SEVENTH and EIGHTH CORPS AREA--Fort Francis E. Warren, Fort Logan, Fort Sill, Fort Bliss, Fort Sam Houston.

NINTH CORPS AREA--Fort MacArthur, Fort Rosecrans, Fort Stevens, Fort Warden, Fort McDowell, Presidio of San Francisco, Vancouver Barracks, March Field.¹⁰

Under considerable pressure from state officials from throughout the country about the criteria determining the quota of recruits from each state, the Secretary of Labor felt obliged to send the following telegram to all concerned individuals on April 7 to clarify the confusion:

Each state will be assigned its equitable quota from the 250,000 persons selected to do this work. The labor department will consult with the state official having had the administration of unemployment relief in the respective states and will arrange for the selection of men from the lists of applicants for works and other assistance which already exist.¹¹

Also on April 7th, it was announced that Henry Rich of Alexandria, Virginia was

first CCC enrollee selected by the Department of Labor and was enrolled by the War Department. Ten days later and 12 days after the CCC was officially launched, the first work camp was set up in George Washington National Forest between Luray and Edinburgh, Virginia. No one was surprised that it had been named Camp Roosevelt and Rich was assigned there. Ultimately, camps were located in every state and territory throughout the United States by the Army.

On April 8 after lengthy discussions, the Advisory Council informed Colonel Major of the Army's expanded participation in the CCC in all areas of work camp activity except the actual technical supervision of work itself. On April 10th, Secretary Dern officially accepted the Army's increased role in the CCC. MacArthur and the General Staff immediately began to plan the expanded duties of the Army in the CCC. MacArthur started to prepare a statement for all area commanders informing them of the Army's increased participation in the program and that it would be responsible for all matters involved in the control of the camps and their supply, administration, sanitation, medical care, welfare, and hospitalization replacing the Agriculture Department.

By April 9, the first enrollees began to slowly filter into the Army forts. Lieutenant Colonel Louis A. Kunzig, Commander of Fort Washington (Maryland), welcomed 26 recruits (12 white and 14 black recruits) to his fort. Kunzig expected 100 men on a daily basis until the camp reached its capacity of 1,350. The orientation and physical conditioning of the men was scheduled for the next two weeks. Kunzig felt that, "Two weeks is hardly enough time. But with the proper food, play, exercise and medical care we hope to do a great deal for them." There were positive reactions from the

recruits. Mervin Cropp (a twenty-three-year-old house painter) stated that,

I think this six months in the forests is going to be a real break for all of us. Now, I don't 'specially like to peel spuds, but still I think it's a lot better than walking the streets in the city. And working in the woods this summer for \$30 a month is going to be a lot better than trying to find a job that doesn't exist.

I've never slept so well. It's not like a stuffy room some place. When you breathe this air out here, man, you're breathing fresh air.¹²

The men were happy with plenty of good food, clean uniforms, good beds, and plenty of baseball. The CCC bureaucrats were disappointed with the slow pace of the mobilization, but the enrollees were encouraged by their improved surroundings.

On April 10, more than 2,600 of the first enrollees had reported to Army camps for their initial two week conditioning and orientation period preparatory to moving into their work camps. Army officers reported that their recruits were "high class, with good morale and eager to get started." Robert Fechner declared that one of the chief objectives of these camps was to "feed 'em up" and correct any cases of malnutrition among the men. The Director said that the first enrollees had "great appetites." He stated that the program was aimed at making the men "conservation-minded." Fechner further declared that

It was the President's idea that many of these men will be encouraged to take up this type of work permanently. Through the corps it is hoped that impetus will be given to the movement to stop our tremendous forest waste.¹³

On April 12, orders to carry out the new Army plans were dispatched by radio to the nine corps area commanders by MacArthur. Those orders were as follows:

The corps area commanders will be responsible for all matters incident to command of units, the construction of forestry camps and their supply, administration, sanitation, medical care, hospitalization and welfare. Actual work projects, their technical representatives from other Federal departments.

No change is contemplated in the method of selecting, reconditioning and delivering men.

The strength of forestry camps will in general approximate 200 men. The details of general organization for command and supply will be determined by you (the corps area commanders) for your corps area, based upon the number and location of forestry camps to be furnished you at a later date.

The forestry camps will be established under supervision of regular personnel. The regular officers may be replaced at your discretion by reserve officers and the enlisted men from the personnel of the Civilian Conservation Corps itself. You are authorized by direction of the President to call to active duty with their own consent and for periods of six months the following organized reserved personnel: For each 1,000 of the civilian conservation corps three medical officers-viz., one captain and two lieutenants; for each forestry camp, three line officers-viz., one captain and two lieutenants.

The locations of forestry camps are being selected as rapidly as practicable and a detailed list will be furnished at earliest opportunity so that you may proceed with the preliminary reconnaissance of sites and arrive at a clear estimate of the newly assigned mission.

A liaison representative from other departments concerned will be assigned to your headquarters at an early date.¹⁴

MacArthur's orders clearly outlined the Army's new role in the CCC.

By April 13, the Army had 350 men, including 75 blacks, at Jefferson Barracks (Missouri) having physical conditioning and orientation. The enrollees were busily engaged in pitching tents, digging ditches, and policing their camps. They regularly had an hour of strenuous physical exercises under the direction of the camp cadre. The young men visibly showed the effects of undernourishment and months of idleness. They complained to camp officials about their blistered hands and aching muscles. The recruits enthusiastically went to "chow line" for their three daily meals. The cadre reported that the enrollees ate twice as much per man as the Regular Army draftees at the camp. Two of the men asked to have their jobs changed because they expected the camp to "be a sort of vacation" and didn't realize the hard work involved in the program. CCC officials expected an additional 550 men at Jefferson Barracks in the next few days.¹⁵

On April 15, it was announced at Fort Slocum (New Rochelle, New York) by Colonel Carl Martin (commanding officer), that there were 1,790 enrollees in the fort. It was also reported that 351 men had left the camp because they were either homesick, or their parents had objected to their enrollment, or they had failed their physical examinations. These reports indicated a sample of the public disapproval of the program.¹⁶

It was also announced that 36 enrollees had received special training at the fort's school for bakers and cooks under the direction of Captain Ralph Fleischer. It was planned by the Army to use them as cooks in the work camps. The fort's 1,790 men had been divided into six equal units, each of which had its own foreman. The Army hoped that each unit would function independently in the forests. The temporary foremen had been appointed by the fort's cadre.

The first case of disciplinary action taken by the CCC on enrollees occurred at Fort Slocum on April 16. Two enrollees of the fort had refused to work as ordered. Lieutenant Joseph A. Kielty filed a written report with Colonel Carl A. Martin (Commander), charging the two men with refusal to take care of their own bunks. Lieutenant Colonel F.D. Griffith ordered an investigation into the incident and, after thorough investigation into the incident, they were found guilty of all charges. The two enrollees were summarily dismissed from the program and sent to their homes. This action became the standard procedure of the cadre in the corps. The Army also announced that parents and relatives of the enrollees were allowed to visit them in camps on Sunday. Many enrollees enjoyed Easter Sunday with beloved ones. These Sunday

visitations became a weekly privilege for all enrollees and their families.¹⁷

On April 17, the first group of enrollees occupied the first work camp at Camp Roosevelt near Luray, Virginia. Virtually all of the 200 men were enlisted from the Capital area. Their first duties were to build their own camp buildings, so they had to clear out the land at the campsite first. The recruits used tents for housing until the camp construction was completed. The CCC would continue to use the policy of enrollees building their own camps as part of the rapid mobilization program. In the first nine days of existence, the CCC had recruited and processed 6,009 enrollees.

The average daily recruitment was 667 recruits during this period. The Advisory Council, Roosevelt, and Fechner felt that the recruitment process was not sufficient to meet projected estimates, and they put more pressure on the Labor and War Departments to increase enrollment. At a press conference, Director Fechner explained that,

Most of the men called will be off the bread line. The work will be intensely laborious--but it will be work. Tennessee will be one of the first states to receive a substantial number of workers because it is already warm there. There will be no military features in connection with the camps.¹⁸

On April 20, FDR approved the establishment of an additional 538 work camps in the national forests of 12 western states. These new camps would hold 107,000 volunteers. The largest number of camps would be in California (166). The Almaden camp (Mt. Madonna) would be the first in Santa Clara County. There would be 28 camps in Arizona, 30 in Colorado, 100 in Idaho, 25 in Montana, 4 in Nevada, 23 in New Mexico, 65 in Oregon, 13 in South Dakota, 20 in Utah, 42 in Washington, and 22 in Wyoming. Each camp would contain 200 recruits, who would be selected during the coming weeks as the mobilization of the CCC continued. Selection of more campsites

were announced by Fechner, which brought the total number of camps to 645 and would provide housing for 129,000 of the projected 250,000 volunteers. The President also continued to oversee every aspect of his pet project.¹⁹

Roosevelt authorized and announced the selection of approximately 25,000 local experienced men on April 22, who were commonly known as L.E.M.'s in the camps. The L.E.M.'s were usually skilled craftsmen and professionals needed to maintain the programs in the camps and at project sites. Usually, the camps needed a certified teacher, medical staff, dental personnel, truck mechanic, welder, carpenter, and forestry personnel. The Advisory Council had frequently requested the employment of these specialized individuals, and FDR had finally realized their importance to the success of the plan.²⁰

Also on April 22 in San Francisco, it was announced that S.B. Show would be in charge of all CCC activities in the National Parks in California and part of Nevada. Show would be stationed in San Francisco and would coordinate all state, county, and private projects. He disclosed that 59 of the 166 CCC camps in California would be in 19 National Forests. Show announced the following tentative California camp locations:

El Dorado National Forest--One camp near Riverton. Six to be established.

Klamath National Forest--One near Orleans, one near Happy Camp, one near Sawyer's Bar, and others at Beaver Creek, Spring Flat, and Scott River. Seven to be established.

Lassen National Forest--Big Springs, Hall's Flat, and near Lyonville. Nine to be established.

Mendocino National Forest--Deer Creek, Patton Mill, and Pacific Ridge. Eight to be established.

Modoc National Forest--One near Happy Camp. Six to be established.

Plumas National Forest--Brush Creek, Crocker Ranger Station, and near Challenge and near Quincy. Eleven to be established.

Shasta National Forest--Castella, Sims, Squaw Creek Ranger Station, Slugger Creek, Clear Creek, Callahan, and Storts Meadow. Eleven to be established.

Sierra National Forest--Pine Ridge, near Sugar Pine, and near Hogue Ranch. Nine to be established.

Tahoe National Forest--Bear Valley, Onion Valley, and Wild Plum Ranger Station. Nine to be established.

Trinity National Forest--Near Big Bar, near Hayfork, near Ruth, and near Salyer. Eight to be established.

It was also announced that Ray C. Branlon had been chosen as California State Relief Director, who would be in charge of state enlistment of the CCC.²¹

As usual, Fechner needed to get the approval of the Chief Executive before he could act on anything concerning the program. So on April 23, he announced that 50 additional work camps would soon be occupied, but only after the President had been consulted and given his approval. These new camps included the areas of Yellowstone National Park, the Great Smokies, Shenandoah National Park, Yosemite National Park, and the Grand Canyon National Park. They would primarily be in the 14 Western States. In a prepared statement, Fechner outlined the types of CCC work projects and duties by stating that,

The work to be undertaken in the national parks and monuments is expected to be productive of very valuable results. Roadside clean-up as a fire hazard reduction measure along the highways; clearing out dead standing and down trees, dead brush and other material of a highly inflammable character; clean-up of burned areas and slashings on areas recently added to the park and monument system which previously had been logged while in private ownership, and clean-up of trees killed by disease, as in the case of the

chestnuts in the east, will greatly enhance the beauty of the parks.

A limited amount of planting will be done in areas where natural reproduction cannot be counted upon within a reasonable time because destructive logging, fires and other causes have destroyed young seedlings and seed trees. Where natural reproduction is assured, no planning is considered.²²

In his statement, the director was trying to emphasize the positive benefits of the work projects in the national park system by "Roosevelt's Tree Army."

In a speech to the press on April 23, Henry A. Wallace tried to show his support of the program, to solicit support for the program, and to encourage youths to enlist in it. He declared that,

The overwhelming majority of men who are walking the streets and receiving private or public relief, would infinitely prefer to work. We can take a vast army of these unemployed out into healthful surroundings. We can eliminate to some extent at least the threat that enforced idleness brings to spiritual and moral stability. It is not a panacea for all the unemployment but it is an essential step in this emergency.²³

Generally speaking, most Army cadre were continually impressed by the young enrollees entering the program. On April 29 at Fort Sheridan, Major Paul McDonnell made the following statement, which exemplified this positive attitude:

The men are eager to work and they show promise. Since camp opened on April 12 most of them have gained an average of twelve pounds. Their morale is good and physical condition steadily improving.

Major John C. Dibble, Army medical examiner from Fort Sheridan, concurred with McDonnell's sentiments:

Despite the fact that these men, or most of them, come from the homes of the poor and may be expected to have suffered from hunger and to be soft from lack of employment the Army rates them fairly well physically. Only 5 per cent of the men sent here by the emergency relief agencies have been rejected and the shortcomings of that 5 per cent are the shortcomings of Americans generally.

Dibble stated that the causes for rejection were mainly hernia, heart disease, low mentality, bad feet, and ear trouble.²⁴

Once again the director had to wait for FDR's approval and finally on April 30th, Fechner got his acceptance and quickly announced that the CCC would accept 14,400 unemployed Indians to the program. They would be placed in 72 forest work camps in fifteen western and southwestern states, chiefly in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, and Utah, but they could remain on their reservations if work projects were available on those sites. These camps were intended to alleviate the Indian relief problems. The Indians selected for the program would not be counted in the quota of each of those states. No period of Army conditioning or orientation would be required of the Indians, who would go directly to their assigned camps. The Indian Service under the Interior Department would supervise these camps and would direct the work projects without any military involvement. They would principally be involved in the improvement of fire protection.²⁵

Unfortunately, disputes began between the Army and the Forest Service over fiscal procedures, camp construction, and their particular areas of responsibility within the CCC. Colonel D. Major of the Army and Major Stuart of the Forest Service were constantly arguing over these issues. These disputes slowed the overall progress of the CCC mobilization. In early May, a frustrated Colonel Major wrote a letter to Howe highly critical of Stuart, in which he stated that he was "constantly haggling with Major Stuart, due to his insistence in letting me know how the Army should perform its mission, even though he himself was unable to do it."²⁶ Howe and Roosevelt discussed Major's letter and began to consider a larger role by the Army in the massive

mobilization of the CCC. They realized that the other government agencies were unable to deal with this huge project.

It was MacArthur's original plan, after the Army became involved in the actual operation of the work camps, that each of nine area corps commanders would have as much discretion and autonomy as possible. Also, the effectiveness of the policy of decentralization was confirmed in early May when Roosevelt ordered the Army to enroll and assign to the work camps the entire CCC complement of 275,000 men by July 1st and this became the deadline to have all enrollees in the camps.

By May 3, the General Staff reported to Roosevelt that there were only 52,000 men in 42 completed camps and at that rate only 115,000 men could be enrolled in the program by the July 1st deadline. Most of the enrollees in camp remained idle and camps remained unbuilt. Finally, under pressure from all sides, Major Stuart concluded that a new apparatus was necessary because "otherwise, there will be continued confusion and misdirected effort."²⁷ Stuart wrote a letter to Howe telling him that the Departments of Agriculture and the Interior could not handle the building of the camps and the supervision of the trainees in the camps. A whole new direction would have to be developed to have a successful mobilization of this federal program.

In his second "Fireside Chat" on May 7, the Chief Executive praised his pet project by saying,

We are giving opportunity of employment to one-quarter of a million of the unemployed, especially the young men who have dependents, to go into the forestry and flood prevention work. This is a big task because it means feeding, clothing, and caring for nearly twice as many men as we have in the regular army itself. In creating this Civilian Conservation Corps, we are killing two birds with one stone. We are clearly enhancing the value of our

natural resources, and we are relieving an appreciable amount of actual distress. This great group of men has entered upon its work on a purely voluntary basis; no military training is involved and we are conserving not only our natural resources, but our human resources.²⁸

Roosevelt also felt that his pet project was a breath of fresh air to the human spirit of these men and their families. Eventually this would inspire the whole nation and, as a result, the conservation work would preserve and protect the nation's natural resources.

On May 10, Roosevelt met with Major Stuart, W. Frank Persons, Robert Fechner, and Horace Albright (Director of the National Parks Service) to discuss if the existing apparatus could meet the July 1st deadlines. At the end of this meeting, the group stated that "as the project is going, there seems little probability that any such objectives will be attained."²⁹ After listening to the group's recommendations and concerns, Roosevelt decided that only the Army could resolve the stalemate. FDR then called for Colonel Major to come to the White House later that day and asked him to have the Army prepare a plan for rapid mobilization of the CCC on his desk by May 12.

Colonel Major immediately turned to MacArthur and the General Staff to create the new plan. Major Dwight D. Eisenhower and other staff personnel worked continuously for the next two days to have a successful plan ready for the President by the deadline. Finally, on the morning of May 12th, Major presented the Army's plan to the Advisory Council. Howe strongly supported the plan and persuaded Roosevelt and eventually the Council to approve the plan. It was a bold scheme that was a radical departure from the existing policy. Specifically, its main provisions called for:

- a. immediate action;
- b. an Executive Order, permitting the waiving of deliveries and open-market purchases and authorizing the exercise of the fullest possible freedom of

purchase;

c. the delegation of wide authority over the movement of men to the War Department;

d. The maintenance by the Department of Labor of a flow of 8,540 per day, certified for acceptance to the War Department, completing its selection of the full number by June 7;

e. wider disciplinary powers over recruits;

f. the approval of 290 more work projects by June 1.

The War Department now had to construct 26 camps a day and process 8,540 men per day to meet the deadlines.³⁰

As soon as the Army got its proposal officially accepted, it was at full force as Colonel Major described, "That night instead of a stray light here and there, the War Department's windows were ablaze. It was a big test, but what a grand opportunity the task offered".³¹ The Army's big machine was rolling in a war effort. General MacArthur now saw this massive mobilization of the CCC by the Army as a huge test under fire and a grand opportunity to showcase the Army in this peace time effort and to demonstrate the Army's preparedness for a future war.

MacArthur had received permission for an open-market purchasing process and the elimination of bids, contracts, and other time-consuming peace time procurement practices. Unfortunately, the "toilet kit" incident was a result of this open market purchase process and it was the only real scandal involving the CCC. This incident began on May 15 at 3:30 in the afternoon when Richard BeVier went to Louis Howe's office to discuss the sale of 200,000 toilet kits to the CCC. BeVier was President of the BeVier Corporation of New York and was a friend and neighbor of Basil O'Connor. O'Connor had been a former law partner of Roosevelt and a close friend of Howe. The "supersalesman," Howe's nickname for BeVier, brought a letter of introduction from

O'Connor who immediately began negotiations for the toilet kits. BeVier skillfully persuaded Howe to approve his bid of \$1.40 for each kit. Later on May 15th, Howe met with Roosevelt, Lewis Douglas, and F.W. Lowery (Douglas' assistant) and was able to convince them to accept BeVier's offer. Since Douglas was appearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, Lowery was appointed to check out the kits. Lowery made hasty inquiries and showed his data to Douglas. The Budget Director quickly sent the information to FDR for his approval. On May 16, Douglas sent the bid, approved by the President, to Fechner. The CCC Director finally accepted BeVier's bid.³²

However, in late May, Robert Carey (Republican U.S. Senator of Wyoming) started an investigation into BeVier's "toilet kit incident," which was the Republican attempt to whip up its first "scandal" in the Roosevelt administration. Carey strongly suspected that corruption was involved in the purchase. The Wyoming Senator called for the Military Affairs Committee to investigate the problem. The committee held hearings between June 1st and 10th to inquire into the whole affair. On June 3, Major General John Lescsne DeWitt (Army Quartermaster General) was called to be a witness for Carey's Committee and became the Senator's chief witness. The Major General testified that the War Department could produce a kit similar to BeVier's product for 75 to 85 cents. DeWitt also testified that he had warned Fechner against the BeVier bid before the actual purchase. DeWitt's testimony was very convincing and created serious doubts about the whole incident. Lowery countered with, "The kits and materials displayed by Mr. BeVier were far superior to the Army kits."³³ Howe, Fechner, and Douglas also testified and concurred with Lowery in their favorable comparison of BeVier's kit over

the Army's component. Later, Howe tried to blame Fechner by stating, "I did not ask Mr. Fechner to purchase them."³⁴ The investigation showed that BeVier had initially offered the kit for \$1.10 but later included a sewing kit, which raised the total cost of the kit to \$1.40. The committee tried to show that there must have been a prior relationship between BeVier and Fechner to explain the Director's quick acceptance. BeVier and Fechner strongly denied any previous connection between them. Senator Logan of Kentucky countered with, "He [Fechner] was a stranger to you [BeVier] and you took him in."³⁵

On June 10, after a thorough inquiry, the committee cleared everyone who was involved in the incident by stating that,

We find that these negotiations resulted in large purchases without advertising for competitive bids and on representations of a single salesman. We call attention to the danger inherent in such a situation and believe that steps should be taken to prevent its recurrence.

We recommend that in cases of emergencies where there is not time for competitive bidding, or for any other reason such bidding would be impracticable, the Controller General be empowered and directed by reasonableness of the price proposed before the contract becomes operative.

We find no evidence in the record that would sustain a charge of corruption or improper action on the part of anyone. However, we find that lower prices could have been obtained for articles of a quality sufficient to meet all requirements, and that fewer articles would have served all practical purposes of the Civilian Conservation Corps. It is but justice to add that the prices for the particular articles purchased were not excessive.

We recommend that the purchase of all supplies for the Civilian Conservation Corps be vested in a single agency of the department possessing adequate expertise and organization.³⁶

It was signed by Democratic Senator Shephard of Texas, who was committee chairman.

Fechner was very embarrassed because his integrity was so severely questioned and, as a consequence, Howe's involvement in the CCC was terminated. The director was highly

critical of the Army's open-market purchasing process, but MacArthur continued the policy. The General ordered all Army personnel to handle all CCC matters through telephone or personal conversations and ordered that written documents should be avoided at all costs to save time. The mobilization period of the CCC continued at its accelerated pace.

After long discussions between Fechner, the Advisory Council, and the President, it was decided on May 20 to give raises to enrollees who qualified for the positions of group leaders and assistant group leaders. The raises would create incentives for enrollees to volunteer for these leadership positions. There would be 10 group leaders selected in each camp and their pay would be raised to \$45.00 a month. In addition, there would be 16 assistant group leaders assigned to each camp and their pay would be raised to \$36.00 a month. FDR stated that "the best 5% in each company are to get \$45, the next 8% get \$36. For misbehavior woodsters can be docked up to three days' pay per month." The leaders and assistant leaders would help the Army in keeping discipline in the camps. The raises would also encourage the enrollees to perform their duties with greater efficiency with the possibility of attaining one of the available leadership positions. The pay deductions would avoid complacency among the other enrollees. This scheme was to take effect within a week.³⁷ Final approval took effect.

During the last week of May, Happy Days, The Newspaper with a Smile, became the weekly newspaper of the CCC. It was published in Washington, D.C. and Melvin Ryder was appointed editor. It cost one dollar for six weeks for the boys in the woods. It featured all of the achievements of the enrollees throughout the country. It was the

official word of the CCC and it was an attempt to improve morale among the recruits.³⁸ On June 1st, it was announced that 1,556 forest camps and 257 new forest work projects had been approved by FDR and they were scheduled to start immediately.³⁹

MacArthur did everything possible to provide the CCC with Army officers for proper supervision and administration. On May 22, all special military schools were closed and 60% of the staff and faculty of the branch schools were to be used for CCC duty. All summer training programs of the Army were suspended, and the entire resources of the Regular Army personnel, supplies, transportation, shelter, and facilities were made available to the CCC. MacArthur suspended everything to concentrate on the mobilization of 274,000 CCC enrollees. At Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, all of the instructors and recently graduated officers from the General Staff College were ordered to report immediately to the CCC camps throughout the country. For example, Major Ralph C. Smith (a future general), then an instructor from the General Staff College, was eventually sent to Camp Rigdon in Oregon to be the commanding officer of the CCC camp.⁴⁰

The Army, under MacArthur's direction, worked very enthusiastically to meet the President's deadlines of July 1st. It had prepared 26 camps and processed 8,540 trainees per day. By June 7, 274,375 men had been selected for the program. By June 21st, there were 237,984 enrollees in camp or on their way. As July 1st approached, the Army was on target to meet Roosevelt's deadline.⁴¹

Another problem developed concerning a second "Bonus Army," which had descended on Washington, D.C. in early May. This "Bonus Army" called itself the

Bonus Expeditionary Force (B.E.F.) and was under the leadership of George Brady of Oklahoma. On May 6, General Frank T. Hines of the Veterans' Administration wrote a letter to Roosevelt about a solution to the demands of these World War I veterans, which would avoid the eventual problems of the previous violent demonstrations of 1932 involving the Army. Hines proposed that these veterans be admitted to a special CCC program under special circumstances, which would be separate from the younger enrollees. The Chief Executive was very receptive to the idea and was able to persuade Lewis Douglas to approve of this addition to the CCC. On May 11, Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 6129, which provided special camps for 25,000 World War I veterans. Executive Order No. 6129 stated that:

The enrollment of 25,000 veterans of the World War will be undertaken as soon as possible under the supervision and such regulations as may be deemed necessary and desirable by the director of the emergency conservation work.

These men shall be enrolled under practically the same conditions as apply to the original enrollment formerly authorized.

The veterans contingent shall be made a separate part of the organization and a distinctive part of the enterprise.

The enrollment of this special veterans contingent shall proceed as rapidly as possible and their assignment to proper work camps shall be made in accordance with the regular program.

Actual enrollment will not proceed until full plans to govern same have been agreed on and made public.⁴²

There would be no age or marital restrictions for these unemployed men in their late 30's and early 40's. Unfortunately on May 19, about 400 conservative B.E.F. demonstrators marched to the White House and talked to the President. Upon leaving the White House, the demonstrators chanted, "We want our back pay--not \$1 a day."⁴³ These conservatives were referring to the CCC proposal of FDR, but by May 22nd, the B.E.F. crisis had happily ended and the majority of veterans cried out, "Hoover sent the

Army, Roosevelt sent his wife."⁴⁴ The Chief Executive permitted very generous enrollment provisions for these World War I veterans. Eventually, 2,663 of these Bonus Army marchers joined the CCC.⁴⁵

One of the interesting aspects of the CCC was the total absence of women in the program. At a press conference on Tuesday morning, May 23, Mrs. Roosevelt suggested that jobless women could work in horticulture or tree nurseries as a means of employment similar to the CCC program. She thought that such a plan for women "might be quite practical."⁴⁶ The First Lady said that she had asked her husband if some of the CCC funds could go to women if there was any interest. FDR's answer was that he saw no reason why not, if enough women were interested. Mrs. Roosevelt also mentioned that she had received many letters addressing this concept and had sent them to Frances Perkins.

After careful consideration, Eleanor Roosevelt and the Secretary of Labor were able to persuade the President to create an experimental camp for jobless women. On June 1, Mrs. Roosevelt and Miss Perkins had their joint announcement read to the press and it read as follows:

High up on the western bank of the Hudson in Bear Mountain Park the temporary relief administration of the State of New York is conducting an important experiment with federal funds furnished by Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Emergency Administrator.

It is the establishment, at the suggestion of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, of an experimental camp for young unmarried women, now out of work through no fault of their own.

The purpose of the camp is to provide helpful employment and useful instruction, amid wholesome surroundings, for needy young women now entirely unemployed and without any resources of their own.

The camp which will be in operation by the end of this week will accommodate 300 women at the nominal cost of \$5 per person per week. The

vanguard now arriving will be rapidly augmented in number. By the end of the month it is expected the full quota will be reached. Then the plan is to establish a second camp nearby with accommodations for 150 women.

In addition to the routine duties of camp life, vocational work and occupational training, including dressmaking, embroidering, weaving and other handicrafts will occupy the time of the women during working hours.

Other camps will be considered in other states if the local state relief organizations make appropriate plans and applications to the Federal Emergency Administrator.⁴⁷

Perkins also said that the New York camps were not to be on a wage basis, but that such arrangement might eventually be worked out if some product could be found that would not be in competition with regular labor. The women already in the Bear Mountain Camp were engaged in building the camp, cleaning off the grounds, cooking, fishing and making their own garments. The ladies would have to live in tents until the camp was constructed.

Finally, on June 10, Camp Tera opened as the first experimental camp for unemployed, unmarried, able-bodied and penniless women age 18-30. Camp Tera was located at Lake Tiorati in the Palisades Interstate Park in New York overlooking the Hudson River. Seventeen young women from New York City arrived that afternoon. They included eight stenographers, two factory workers, one professional dancer, two saleswomen, two seamstresses, and five clerical workers, who had been unemployed for at least one year. On the first day of registration in Manhattan, applications far exceeded allocations. The camp was maintained and supervised by the State Temporary Relief Administration under Marian Tinker (Camp Director). Ruby Joiffe assisted in organizing the camp. Adequate counselors would be provided to help the campers. Sewing would be the skill that would be emphasized in the camp as part of the vocational training.

Frances Perkins announced that, "There will be plenty of work keeping the camp."⁴⁸ The First Lady was optimistic that the camp would accommodate 300 women in the near future.

On June 18, Mrs. Roosevelt made her first visit to Camp Tera and spent three hours inspecting the facility. She completed her long tour and remarked that, "I like the place very much, but I think the requirements too strict." The First Lady was criticizing the military discipline, but at the same time was encouraged by the morale and work of the women. The lack of enrollment in the program was discouraging with only 30 women in camp. The Secretary and Mrs. Roosevelt continued to campaign for the program.⁴⁹

Two days later, 30 more jobless women reported to Camp Tera and were immediately equipped with clothes and supplies. Unfortunately, enrollment remained low, but it was felt that it was partly caused by the misconception by young women about the program. Many young women erroneously thought that the program was similar to the CCC reforestation program and that Camp Tera was a work camp for women. "Others had the mistaken idea they would be forced to wear uniforms."⁵⁰ These misconceptions and the lack of sufficient interest by young women caused this experiment to fail by the end of the summer.

Meanwhile, the mobilization of the CCC continued to be a huge success. By June 14, Roosevelt could see that his deadline of July 1st would be satisfied and wrote in his notes that,

We have 235,000 men enrolled at this present time. By the fifteenth of July we shall have 275,000 people all actually at work in the woods. It is a pretty

good record, one which I think can be compared with the mobilization carried on in 1917.⁵¹

He was enormously encouraged with the way that the Army had handled the mobilization of the CCC.

A week later on June 21, the Army announced that 237,984 young men had enrolled and that the mobilization process had been able to enroll 10,000 men per day. It was also reported by Lewis W. Douglas that food and equipment were the most expensive items in the program. Army officials reported that cases of desertion were low, and enrollees remained in excellent health and that they "ate all they can eat."⁵² These indications and others pointed toward a very successful completion of the Army's mobilization of the CCC. Fechner estimated that the CCC payroll of more than ten million dollars would have the effect of removing 1,250,000 people from the relief rolls throughout the country. He also announced that the final apportionment of camps provided for 713 National Parks, 69 National Forests, 352 state lands, 280 privately owned lands, and 26 military reservations.⁵³

On June 30, General MacArthur sent his grateful thanks to all of the army commanders and ordered the following message to be read at all posts throughout the country and he stated,

The Army's success was indicative of the superior standard of professional fitness of the Army. Only high morale, a spirit of cooperation, pride of service, and devotion to duty could have accomplished such splendid results. I extend to you and all members of your command my sincere appreciation of this great accomplishment. It was well done, Army.⁵⁴

By July 1, the Army had enrolled and processed 274,375 enrollees, 25,000 World War I veterans, 14,400 American Indians, and 25,000 local employed men (L.E.M.).

Roosevelt was very complimentary and enthusiastic about the Army's ability to meet his July 1 deadline. The President told MacArthur and his staff, "I want to congratulate you on the opportunity you have, and extend to you my appreciation for the hearty cooperation you have given this peacetime movement for the country has ever seen."⁵⁵ The Civilian Conservation Corps had made a successful start and was primarily indebted to the Army.

Finally, on July 2, Robert Fechner proudly read the following statement to a press conference,

As of midnight, June 30, 1330 camps had been established on a front of 3,000 miles from the Atlantic to the Pacific, in every State of the Union, save only Delaware; 274,000 (274,375) men had been enrolled and more than 250,000 placed in the forests. Men were taken from every township in the country. The great majority came from families on relief rolls, and for most of them it was their first job.

The reports reaching my office make it evident that the mobilization of this quarter of a million of young men for forest duty has gone a long way toward breaking the back of the depression. Business conditions throughout the whole country have been tremendously stimulated through the expenditure of funds needed for the feeding, clothing, housing and working of such a large number of men.

This very day more than 300,000 of Uncle Sam's pay checks will be mailed to the dependents of these young men. That means that more than six and one-quarter million of dollars are going to their families.⁵⁶

Fechner joined Roosevelt and MacArthur, as one of the major contributors to the successful mobilization of the CCC. In fact, the CCC Director was one of its primary architects.



A CCC Enrollee at Work

**Drawing by Michael Mark Rodriguez
(1992)**

CHAPTER 4

CAMP LIFE

The work camps of Roosevelt's Tree Army during the mobilization period were a beehive of activity. The logistical problems of the CCC were enormous and numerous. The Departments of Agriculture, Interior, Labor, and War had to process, train, equip, clothe, feed, house, and transport 274,375 CCC volunteers, 14,400 Indians, 35,391 government employees, and 25,000 World War I veterans.¹

These poor, unemployed men came from the large metropolitan centers of New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, and Detroit. Many were the "poor bumpkins" from the rural areas of Ohio, Texas, and North Dakota, and others were the unfortunate teenage "hobos" from the many "Hoovervilles." The one common denominator among these enrollees was their commitment to help their economically, socially, and psychologically devastated families. The average camper was willing to endure difficult times during this initial period in the CCC.

To accommodate this huge contingent of young men, the War Department had to provide 14,630 of the total 35,391 employees in the program. The rest of the personnel was provided by the Forestry Service under the Department of Agriculture and Interior. The Army sent almost 5,000 Regular Army officers, 6,000 non-commissioned officers, and 1,890 reserve officers, while 556 Regular Navy and Marine officers were ordered to the camps by the Navy Department. The Army also sent 200 chaplains. Usually, each camp had two Regular Army officers, one reserve officer, and four non-commissioned

officers.² Each camp had a commanding officer, who was usually a Regular Army officer. The other Regular officer and reserve officer were in charge of the administrative duties in the camp. One Regular Army non-commissioned officer was the first sergeant, or "top sergeant," who was personally in charge of the young CCC enrollees in the camps. The other two Regular Army non-commissioned officers were the supply, or quartermaster sergeant, and the mess sergeant.³

The Army also provided military dentists and medical doctors for periodical check-ups, physical examinations, and inoculations for the enrollees. Three hundred surgeons were contracted by the Army to work in the camps. Monthly "short arm" inspections were also provided by the Army doctors to check for venereal disease. Doctors were usually assigned to several camps on a rotating basis. Medical care was a top priority in the program and the Army provided the necessary services.⁴

The Army had to provide architectural plans and construction materials for 1,550 new camps. New kitchens needed stoves, pans, griddles, mess kits, and cooking utensils. Each camp required large tents, barracks, beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, pillows, pillow cases, mops, tools, and heating stoves. The Army wanted 200 trains to transport most of the trainees from the military training and orientation centers to the work camps because most of the recruits were from the big urban centers in the East and had to be transported across the country thousands of miles to camps in the West. Each camp needed at least five trucks to transport its trainees and necessary supplies on a daily basis. The Army's quartermaster depots provided 3,600 vehicles, but the War Department had to

order 300 new automobiles and 3,000 new trucks from car and truck manufacturers. Also, one ambulance for every four camps was needed for emergencies. Three daily meals for over 300,000 men required an abundance of food. The Army had to have storage for staple food and proper refrigeration for fresh meat, vegetables, and dairy products. On a daily basis, it cost an average of 37 cents for three meals per recruit (approximately \$333,000.00 per day), which totaled 900,000 meals per day in the 1,550 camps.

The Army had to provide clothing for each of the nearly 300,000 men, which was three times the size of the Regular Army. The Army issued three pairs of "fatigue" pants, shirts, heavy underwear, and socks, which were an "olive drab" color. They also provided a pair of dress shoes, a pair of work boots, a woolen overcoat, heavy gloves, a hat, mittens, a leather windbreaker, a woolen windbreaker, earmuffs, a pair of overshoes, raincoat, jumpers, cravat, belt, barrack's bag, two blankets, bed sheets, and a pillow. All clothing and equipment issued by the Army was called general issue (G.I.). Every enrollee was warned that all items issued had to be returned to the camp quartermaster before a final discharge was given. If any item was missing, then the recruit would have to pay for each item. The War Department had to order 500,000 pairs of shoes, 2,500,000 yards of denim, 700,000 pairs of trousers, and one million towels from private contracts, and the Army Quartermaster depots provided 1,223,000 trousers and 1.7 million towels. Each recruit was also issued a "toilet kit" in a blue container which included a comb, soap box, shaving cream, hair brush, mirror,

toothpaste, toothbrush, toothbrush holder, razor, razor blades, soap, and a "housewife," which included a spool of white thread, a spool of olive drab thread, a little phial of needles, and a thimble.⁶ In many cases, the "toilet kit" gave the enrollees their first opportunity to take care of their personal hygiene. One of the major complaints among the campers was that the original "general issue" was World War I surplus and it wasn't appropriate for some geographic areas or for the summer months.⁷

After the county representative of welfare or charities had closely scrutinized hundreds of applications with help from the Labor Department, a list of selected enrollees was posted and they were notified of their selection. The first introduction of each CCC trainee to the Army was when the trainees reported to a military depot. From the depot, Army personnel transported them by a stake truck with a flat bed on which were placed benches or bales of hay for the campers to sit. Once at the post, each volunteer had to take an "oath of enrollment" before he became an official member of the CCC. A camper was also instructed on the grounds of a dishonorable discharge from the program, which included conviction by a civil court, theft, refusal to work, or serious misconduct. Dismissal could also result from bringing an enrollee's personal car onto camp grounds or for receiving additional money from their parents. Next, he was given a complete medical examination by military doctors, which eliminated the physically and mentally incapacitated enrollees. Then, the recruit was vaccinated against smallpox and inoculated against typhoid and other diseases. Each camper was assigned an identification number by the CCC and given identification tags, "dog tags," with his identification number and

name. For example, Frederick Altstadt was assigned the following number of CC1-25617 in May of 1933. An Army official took F.B.I. finger prints of each recruit. Next, every volunteer was totally outfitted by the post's quartermaster. For the next two weeks an Army "drill" sergeant gave them physical conditioning, which included extensive calisthenics. During this orientation period, Army personnel taught the trainees about the principles of personal hygiene, sanitation, and first aid instruction, which comprised the fundamentals of emergency treatment, treatment for wounds, snakebites, sunstroke, near drowning, tourniquets, and accident prevention. The cadre also made the young campers work with a pick and shovel to test their working skills and adherence to authority and discipline. After this initial two week period, the Army would transport the campers by train from the East thousands of miles to the "railhead" in the West.⁸

From the "railhead," the CCC boys were picked up by Army personnel and taken to the work camps in new Dodge or Chevrolet flat bed stake trucks, which usually carried twenty-two men. They sat on crowded benches or bales of hay for a long, rough ride to their work camps. In the early camps, they generally found a rough terrain with dense vegetation. Once they arrived at the camps, the cadre immediately ordered them to clear out their campsite with pick and shovel. The campers were given empty mattress bags, which they filled with straw. Each week, they emptied the old straw into the latrine ditches, and collected new straw. These young men had to set up their tents for their temporary living quarters in thirty smaller six-man tents, which they lived in for about three weeks. After three weeks, these young campers would have completed two-foot

high wooden platforms on which they placed their tents. For the next ten to twelve weeks, the primary task of these enrollees was building their own barracks and camp structures under the close supervision of the Army cadre and L.E.M.'s. By the end of the summer, they had built their own permanent wooden barracks on the platforms and were able to sleep on more comfortable metal cot beds. Each barrack was furnished with a pot-belly wood-burning stove to provide heat during the colder months.⁹

Initially, the kitchen was also located in a temporary tent. The trainees ate outdoors, which was similar to "camping out," but in many cases this lasted three months. The Army provided a "mess kit," which contained a metal knife, spoon, fork, dish, bowl, and water cup. The enrollees were expected to keep the "mess kit" spotless and readily available for all meals. They ate with their "mess kit" on their laps. They lined up in cafeteria style lines to get their daily "three squares." Under these conditions, the corpsmen were exposed to rain, flies, mosquitos, poison oak, and bothered by insects. A top priority of the CCC was to have the mess hall and kitchen built as soon as possible. The Army did not want the men eating outdoors past the summer months, when the weather in most areas customarily became worse.¹⁰

The kitchen and mess hall were under the direction of a mess sergeant. He would generally have two head cooks, two assistant cooks, a baker, and sixteen "galley" crewmen, or "K.P.'s" (kitchen patrol). The major responsibility of the mess sergeant was the acquisition of sufficient supplies for the kitchen. The mess sergeant would post the daily menu and the rest of the mess crew would do all of the preparations for the

three main meals. The kitchen crew was divided into two separate shifts. Each shift was headed by a head cook, who supervised the work of the assistant cook and eight "galley" workers. The first shift worked from 3:30 until 11:30 in the morning preparing and serving breakfast, and then preparing lunch. The baker worked with the first shift preparing all the bread and desserts for the whole day. The second shift labored from 11:30 a.m. until 7:30 in the evening serving lunch and preparing and serving dinner. Generally, the mess sergeant was the only Army cadre in the mess, the two head cooks had an enrollee leader rank, and the sixteen "galley" members were enrollees. The "galley" dish washers were called "pearl divers," and the enrollees, who waited on the officers' mess, were called "dog robbers." The two regular mess shifts worked Monday through Friday. On the weekends, the two head cooks and two assistant cooks rotated with the rest of the camp enrollees supplementing the "kitchen patrol." Many regular enrollees resented doing K.P. on the weekends, frequently paying other campers or regular "galley" workers to work off their mess duty.¹¹

Temporary portable latrines were established in the work camps. These latrines were usually twelve foot long logs placed on two foot high logs, which were well secured in the ground. A two foot deep ditch was dug out behind the log, where waste deposits were placed. This type of latrine could accommodate nearly ten men at a time. Routinely, the old mattress straw was placed in the latrine ditch with gasoline, then burned. Once the ditch was full the camp latrine was moved to a new location in the camp. These types of temporary latrines were uncomfortable for the campers, but they

were functional. The permanent latrines were wooden structures with ten toilets on a single wall.¹²

In many camps, the local river or lake served the trainees for bathing and shaving purposes. They used G.I. soap to clean and shave themselves. In other camps, enrollees used a wooden platform to stand on with portable curtains to give them some privacy. They used a hose or bucket of water as a portable shower. These types of facilities were used until the campers built the permanent wooden bath houses.¹³

Washing their uniforms was a constant responsibility for these young men. They used a galvanized tub filled with hot water, which had been heated over an open bonfire. Using a washboard, G.I. soap, and "elbow grease," they washed their uniforms. After washing and rinsing their clothes, the campers put their clothes on a rope tied to two trees for drying purposes. They endured this type of dreary activity until the wooden laundry room was completed.¹⁴

After the camp was completed, the average work camp had approximately twenty-four wooden buildings surrounding the parade grounds which was for assembling the CCC company of 200 enrollees. These buildings generally included a kitchen, mess hall, four barracks, recreational hall, educational facility, quarters for the Army personnel, quarters for the company commander, infirmary, bath house, laundry room, latrines, quartermaster depots, vehicle garages, canteen, maintenance shops, tool storage, and administrative offices. Most of the camp buildings were built by the "muscle work" of the enrollees. Each camp was a small, self-sufficient city and provided an excellent

environment for the young volunteers while they were under Army supervision.¹⁵

In the barracks, the CCC trainees were given foot lockers to store their shoes, socks, toilet kits, mess kits, underwear, and a variety of other personal items. These lockers were located at the foot of the enrollee's bed. The taller clothing lockers were on one side of the bed and contained their CCC uniforms and their civilian clothing. They constantly had to keep both lockers and beds organized and cleaned as the whole building might be "policed" daily in the case of an unscheduled inspection by any of the cadre. The forty to fifty campers usually worked together toward passing the weekly inspections.¹⁶

The daily routine of an average enrollee was very similar to a mild Army "boot camp." The regimentation in the camps was less intense than the average football practice at a local high school. Nevertheless, the CCC served para-military and patriotic functions not essential to its announced purpose. The campers were required to stand at attention while speaking to the camp cadre and to address them respectfully with, "Sir." The commanding officer possessed mild, but distinctly military powers to discipline the men, including the right to issue dishonorable discharges. A dishonorable discharge from the CCC could influence later employment for the enrollee involved. The degree of military discipline in each of the approximately 1,550 camps varied and depended on the personality of the individual company commander. Morning and evening flag ceremonies were held daily. There were constant military inspections to preserve discipline and health within the camps. The campers had to maintain their physical appearance, which

included being clean shaven, with "flat top" haircuts (no hair longer than two inches). Their shoes had to be shined at all times and their clothes kept clean and properly stored in either a clothing or foot locker. The beds had to be properly made and the entire barracks "polished."¹⁷

The daily camp schedule was usually rigidly controlled by the camp cadre. At 5:30 in the morning, the camp bugler sounded reveille. The trainees frantically rushed to shave, shower, clean, "police," and prepare for morning inspection. At 6:00, the camp commander, or "top sergeant," performed the daily personal inspection, roll call, and infirmity list in mass formation. Then the enrollees did calisthenics in mass formation. These exercises included push-ups, jumping jacks, sit-ups, windmills, and six-count "burpees." The campers then would "police up" the area around the barracks. At 6:30, they lined up in front of the mess hall for breakfast and waited their turn. The menu would include bland flavored eggs, toast, potatoes, pancakes, coffee, juices, and milk. The food was generally delicious, greatly appreciated, and plentiful. At 7:00, five stake flat bed trucks would leave camp with twenty-two men in each vehicle. The trucks were canvas-covered over the bed during inclement weather, but uncovered during the warmer months. Once the trucks left the trainees off at the job sites at 7:30, normally eight foremen or L.E.M.'s from the Forest Service took over supervision of the corpsmen. The Forest Service personnel were under the direction of the project superintendent. From 11:30 until noon enrollees took their lunch break when the Army trucks brought the "galley" prepared brown bag lunches with two sandwiches, occasional

hot soups, a variety of fruits, and plenty of water and hot coffee for each camper. At 12:00, the trainees resumed their tasks until 4:00 when the trucks picked them up and returned them to the camps. Once in the camps, the Army cadre took over supervision.

The enrollees quickly returned to their barracks and hurriedly cleaned themselves and changed their clothes in preparation for another inspection and dinner. At 5:00, they formed in mass for the final evening inspection by the Army cadre. From 5:15 until 6:00, the CCC volunteers were in the mess hall for a well-balanced dinner, which was nutritional and abundant. Steaks were served periodically as a reward for excellent performances by the enrollees. Each camp made special preparations on Christmas, Thanksgiving, and Easter with all of the "trimmings" including turkey and ham. From 6:00 until 10:00 in the evening, the campers had their own recreation time. The cadre provided as many activities as possible in the camp. At 10:00, the lights went out and the day finally ended for the tired enrollees.¹⁸

On the campsite, the CCC did the following jobs: kitchen patrol, bakers, typists, office clerks, mechanics, carpenters, plumbers, welders, electricians, and truck drivers. Outside of the camps, they worked at approximately 300 different types of jobs. Work project types, approved by Fichner, were the following:

1. Structural Improvement - including bridges, fire towers, service buildings;
2. Transportation - including truck trails, minor roads, foot trails and airport landing fields;
3. Erosion Control - check dams, terracing and vegetative covering;
4. Flood Control - irrigation and drainage, dams, ditching, channel work, riprapping;

5. Forest Culture - planting trees and shrubs, stand improvement, seed collection, and nursery work;
6. Forest Protection - fire fighting, fire prevention, and fire suppression, insect and disease control;
7. Landscape and Recreation - public camp and picnic ground development, lake and pond site clearing;
8. Range - stock driveways, elimination of predatory animals;
9. Wildlife - stream improvement, stocking fish, food and cover planting; and
10. Miscellaneous - emergency work, surveys, mosquito control.¹⁹

Each work camp was usually designated a popular name, which was associated with a geographic or historical feature near the camp. For example, Camp South Umqua Falls was named because it was located close to Umqua Falls near Tiller, Oregon. It was also assigned CCC Company #2904, which the corps bureaucracy used for its records. Then the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture labeled it with F-117, which indicated the camp's association with that department.

A camp designation depended on the agency sponsoring it. Each camp had a number assigned to it, such as NPS (National Park Service) -1 (for first camp). The table below shows in order the letter designation of the camp, land ownership, supervising agency, government department.

A	Agriculture (Bureau of Animal Industry); U.S.F.S. & Bureau of Animal Husbandry; Agriculture.
Army	Military reservations; U.S. Army; War.
BF	Federal Game Refuge (Biological Survey); Bureau of Biological Survey; Agriculture.
C of E	State Land (Corps of Engineers); U.S. Army; War.
D	Private Land (Drainage); Bureau of Agricultural Engineering; Agriculture.
DG	Public Domain; Division of Grazing; Interior.
F	National Forests; U.S. Forest Service; Agriculture.
L	State and Federal Land (Levee); U.S.F.S. & State; Agriculture.
MC	Private Land (Mosquito Control); U.S.F.S. &

	State; Agriculture.
MP	Military Park; National Park Service; Interior.
NA	National Arboretum (Bureau of Plant Ind.); U.S.F.S.; Agriculture.
Navy	Naval Military Reserve; U.S.F.S. & Navy (except Navy-1-Virginia, by N.P.S. & Navy); Agriculture.
NHP	National Historical Park; National Park Service; Interior.
P	Private Forest; U.S. Forest Service & State; Agriculture.
PE	Private Land Erosion; U.S. Forest Service & State; Agriculture.
S	State Forest; U.S. Forest Service & State; Agriculture.
SCS	Private Land; Soil Conservation Service; Agriculture.
SP	State Park; State Park Division of National Park Service & State; Interior.
TVA	Tennessee Valley Authority; U.S. Forest Service & Tennessee Valley Authority; Interior. ²⁰

As a result, each camp throughout the country had three separate names or titles to properly identify it for the federal government. There were 1,550 camps operating by July 1, 1933.

"Spike" or "side" camps were established to do temporary or seasonal projects away from the main work camps. A group of men were selected from the main camp and transported to the "spike" camp. These camps consisted of 25 to 50 men who were located in more isolated locations under the supervision of an L.E.M. or Forest Ranger foreman. A cook and an assistant cook were generally assigned to these camps. The most common task was fire protection in high fire danger areas of the National Forests throughout the country. The dangerous fire season was normally between the months of

June and October, when the CCC generally set up these "side" camps. The CCC fire fighters called themselves "smoke chasers."²² Unfortunately, forty-nine enrollees (1933-42) were killed while fighting fires armed only with a blanket, a hoe, a shovel, and their courage.²³

While in the National Forests, these young volunteers were introduced to the problems of camp life. They became acquainted with the creatures of the wild, particularly rattlesnakes in the west and water moccasins and coral snakes in the south. Mosquitos and other insects made summer nights unbearable, and ticks, bees, hornets, and wasps made life generally uncomfortable for the young men. Poison oak, poison sumac, poison ivy, and other types of vegetation afflicted many innocent volunteers. Some enrollees became contaminated while burning poison oak as the smoke entered their lungs. The majestic beauty of the forest had some drawbacks for the young recruits.²⁴

As a means of diversion and motivation, many recreational activities were provided by the army in each of the main camps. In the recreation hall there were pool tables, a movie projector, typewriters, several radios and phonographs, a few blackboards, a small library, several study areas, dart boards, ping-pong tables, and games of checkers, chess, and cards. Skiing, ice skating, and ice hockey were very popular in the colder climates. At Camp Pine Valley (F-160) in California, there was a nine-hole golf course for the campers to use free of charge. There were camp baseball, basketball, softball, and track teams selected from the enrollees who volunteered to participate. The Army cadre contributed their time as coaches of these athletic teams and

a strong bond developed between the cadre and the campers. These teams played local high school teams in scrimmages and also played other CCC camps in tournaments sponsored by the Corps. Monthly boxing matches, weekly Saturday night dances with girls from the local towns, involvement in camp newspapers, camp plays, choral workshops, musical bands, college and high school correspondence courses, and church services were provided for the trainees. They could go to the camp canteen to buy gum, candy, cigarettes, sodas, ice cream, and sundries with script money, which was a form of credit. On Sundays, they had the opportunity to have dinner with a local family if an invitation was extended. Also, their parents or relatives could come and visit them on Sundays if they lived close enough to the camps.²⁵

Vocational education and training were readily available to all of the enrollees. They were introduced to a variety of trades including, machine shop work, carpentry, plumbing and electric work, and the operation of heavy equipment and a variety of power tools.²⁶ Robert Fechner had a strong background as a machinist as an A.F. of L. union member and, as a consequence, saw the importance of a vocational education. The CCC director vigorously encouraged it in the camps, but initially opposed academic courses.

In each of the camps, there was a camp newspaper. It entertained, informed, and educated the campers. An enrollee artist was assigned to each camp to help the camp newspaper and to provide an artistic touch to the program. The enrollee artist worked on newspaper assignments and art projects that depicted daily camp life. The most common artwork were cartoons in the newspaper. These cartoons were used to motivate

and encourage the enrollees to participate in recreational, social, and educational camp programs. The enrollee artist was given unlimited art supplies by the CCC to encourage and develop his creative abilities and energies.²⁷

A weekend pass or "liberty" started on Saturday afternoon, after an extensive weekly inspection by the company commander or "top sergeant" had been completed. If a camper failed to maintain any of his responsibilities, his "liberty" pass could be revoked by the Army cadre. If there was a fire danger or assigned "K.P." duty, then "liberty" passes would be canceled. Once a trainee was granted a "liberty," then it started when he boarded the camp truck for town. The trucks were loaded with the campers, who looked forward to town dances, Hollywood's most recent films, bowling alleys, roller skating rinks, and all of the other pleasures of urban life. The corpsmen were responsible for all entertainment, food, and housing expenses during the "liberty." Normally each camper received only \$5.00 per month and, as a consequence, he had to watch his money very closely. During the 1930's, the average price for a feature movie was twenty-five cents, fifty cents for a dance, twenty-five cents for bowling, twenty-five cents for roller skating, \$1.00 for a cheap hotel room, fifteen cents for a hamburger, 15 cents for a hot dog, five cents for a soda, five cents for a candy bar, and five cents for a cup of coffee. Because of the financial restrictions, the average camper had to limit the number of weekend passes per month, so the "liberty" passes were treasured experiences for the men during their formative years. Unfortunately, some local communities looked down on the CCC enrollees and treated them like "bums." But, through the years, the

public image of the CCC improved and most communities treated them fairly.²⁸

Ordinarily, the biggest day of the month for the enrollees was pay day. It occurred on the last day of the month except when this fell on the weekends; then they were paid on Friday. The campers lined up in front of the administrative office, while the company commander paid out the money in \$1.00 bills. At Camp Rigdon in Oregon, Major Ralph C. Smith paid his men personally with silver dollars, then each enrollee was required to sign a payroll voucher upon receiving his pay. Debts owed to the canteen by the men were subtracted from their monthly pay. Usually, a regular recruit was paid \$5.00, an assistant leader was given \$11.00, and a leader was paid \$20.00 a month. A \$25.00 check was automatically sent to the family of each camper.²⁹

There were incidents of desertion among the corporals. Consistently, eight to ten campers out of 200 would desert or "go over the hill" within the first week of their arrival at camp. Homesickness was usually the main reason for desertion, and deserting trainees were never heard of again. This type of desertion represented less than 5%, which was low considering that these men were volunteers. It also indicated the general satisfaction of the CCC men with the program.³⁰

There were occasional cases of mutiny among the recruits in the work camps. The food that was furnished to the camps was a major concern of the enrollees. In June of 1933, the campers at Camp Rigdon (Oregon) almost rebelled because of the shortage and quality of food that Captain Bishop, the camp commander, provided for them. They became increasingly dissatisfied and unruly as the food problem continued in the camp.

To avoid a possible mutiny, the Army ordered Major Ralph Smith to replace Bishop as camp commander. Upon leaving Eugene for Rigdon, Smith went to a bakery and bought several dozen day-old doughnuts and put them in gunny sacks. Upon his arrival at Rigdon, he gave the doughnuts to his eager and hungry campers, who happily devoured them. The Major immediately organized proper logistics to provide a steady and sufficient supply of food for the camp. The crisis was resolved by the sensitive officer, which was characteristic of most Army officers.³¹

One serious controversy that occurred in the CCC during the mobilization period, was the conflict between the CCC campers and the Regular Army enlisted men. A Regular Army private received \$18.00 per month. This obvious pay discrepancy created frequent hostility between these two groups of men. The morale among Regular Army enlisted men declined and the Army became very concerned about the pay disparity. Officially, the CCC continually informed the Army privates that the G.I. was able to keep all of his pay while the CCC boys could personally keep only \$5.00 and had to send the rest of his allowance to his parents. MacArthur repeatedly tried to persuade Congress to give equitable compensation to Army personnel. Unfortunately, Congress wasn't willing to make any adjustments. As a result, physical confrontations occasionally occurred between the two groups.³²

One of the serious deficiencies of the CCC was the whole issue of the segregation of blacks. The original legislation of the Emergency Conservation Work had been amended in the House of Representatives on March 29, 1933, with an amendment,

proposed by Republican Oscar DePriest of Illinois. His amendment would not permit any discrimination based on "race, creed, or color" in the CCC. The CCC code clearly stated that no discrimination would be tolerated in the program. In reality, prevailing prejudices existed throughout the country, but particularly in the South. Discrimination in the South dictated the assignment of 170,000 of the total 200,000 black enrollees in the CCC to segregated camps predominantly in the Deep South on military bases. Only 30,000 of the black campers entered integrated camps, which were located in the West and New England areas.³³ Roosevelt had an opportunity to integrate the program through discreet promotion of blacks and the placement of blacks in positions as reserve officers, medical officers, chaplains, and educational advisors.³⁴ FDR tried to place as many blacks as possible in positions of responsibility and was moderately successful in his attempt to integrate them in the CCC. The general resentment of the civilian population, particularly in the South, hindered his attempts. Discrimination against blacks in the corps was only a reflection of the attitude of society in general in the 1930's.

In August of 1933, Roosevelt finally toured his pet project and boarded a pullman train with Harold L. Ickes. He visited five CCC camps in the Shenandoah Valley. At Big Meadows, FDR stopped to have lunch with the enrollees. He happily had fried steak, string beans, mashed potatoes, iced tea, tomato salad, and apple cobbler. After lunch, Roosevelt declared,

All you have to do is to look at you boys to see that the camps are a success. I wish I could take a couple of months off and live here myself. The only difficulty would be that you men have put on an average of twelve pounds

each since you got here, while I am trying to take off about twelve pounds.³⁵

His tour demonstrated to his satisfaction that his program was a success.

The mobilization period of the CCC ended on July 1, but the Corps would last another nine years until June of 1942. Approximately three million unemployed young men were given the grand opportunity to provide a monthly contribution of \$25.00 to their very appreciative parents. This splendid experiment gave these young enrollees improved self-esteem, a hope to their parents and the thanks of a grateful nation.

CONCLUSION

The general concept of the CCC has been frequently attributed to Roosevelt, but the evidence clearly indicates that the idea was a reflection of the social climate of the 30's and the imagination of several enlightened U.S. Congressmen of the period. In January of 1933, proposals similar to the CCC were offered by LaFollette, Couzens, Costigan, and Cutting during the "lame duck" period of President Hoover. These proposed bills failed, however, because they lacked the most important ingredient: the support of an energetic and popular Chief Executive. The personality of FDR was the catalyst that propelled the creation of the CCC. It was his determination, enthusiasm, and manipulation that finally actualized the concept of the CCC. While it may not have been his idea originally, FDR's will "spanked the baby" into life.

There are several issues concerning the CCC that require further examination and clarification: the "toilet kit" scandal and its implications, the exclusion of women, the restriction of blacks in the program, and the avoidance of massive violence.

The "toilet kit" scandal has already been discussed; it is symptomatic of the range of problems resulting from the lack of adequate administrative procedures during the mobilization period. General MacArthur and other military officials had stressed the importance of avoiding cumbersome bureaucratic purchasing procedures, but while the avoidance of competitive bidding methods may have helped the overall success of the mobilization period, it created an opportunity for corruption. Luckily, this scandal was the only real crisis.

One of the CCC's major deficiencies was the total exclusion of women from its agenda. In May of 1933, a female component of the CCC was proposed by Eleanor Roosevelt and Frances Perkins. This ill-prepared project was only an after-thought when some public interest was shown to a possible female constituent of the CCC. Its similarity to the CCC may have caused women to be uninterested in the project. In 1933, the American public wasn't prepared to send its young women into the woods in work gangs. Young women were still focussed on a domestic life, which was culturally expected at the time. An experiment at Bear Mountain lacked any lengthy and worthwhile preparation for any future success of a female component; it lasted only three months and involved only a few hundred women. Neither Roosevelt nor any influential legislators strongly supported this experiment.

The whole issue of segregation of blacks in Roosevelt's Tree Army was a major flaw of the program because it ignored the issue of civil rights. An initial amendment by Oscar DePriest, a prominent black Illinois Congressman, had attempted to include blacks equally, but the CCC bureaucracy avoided worrisome confrontations between poor blacks and whites by establishing segregated camps for 170,000 blacks. These camps were located on military bases in the Deep South. The rest of the 30,000 blacks were placed in integrated camps in the Far West and Northeast. Unfortunately, the leaders of the segregated program weren't prepared to jeopardize the acceptance of the CCC by creating the controversy over the civil rights of blacks particularly in the Deep South.

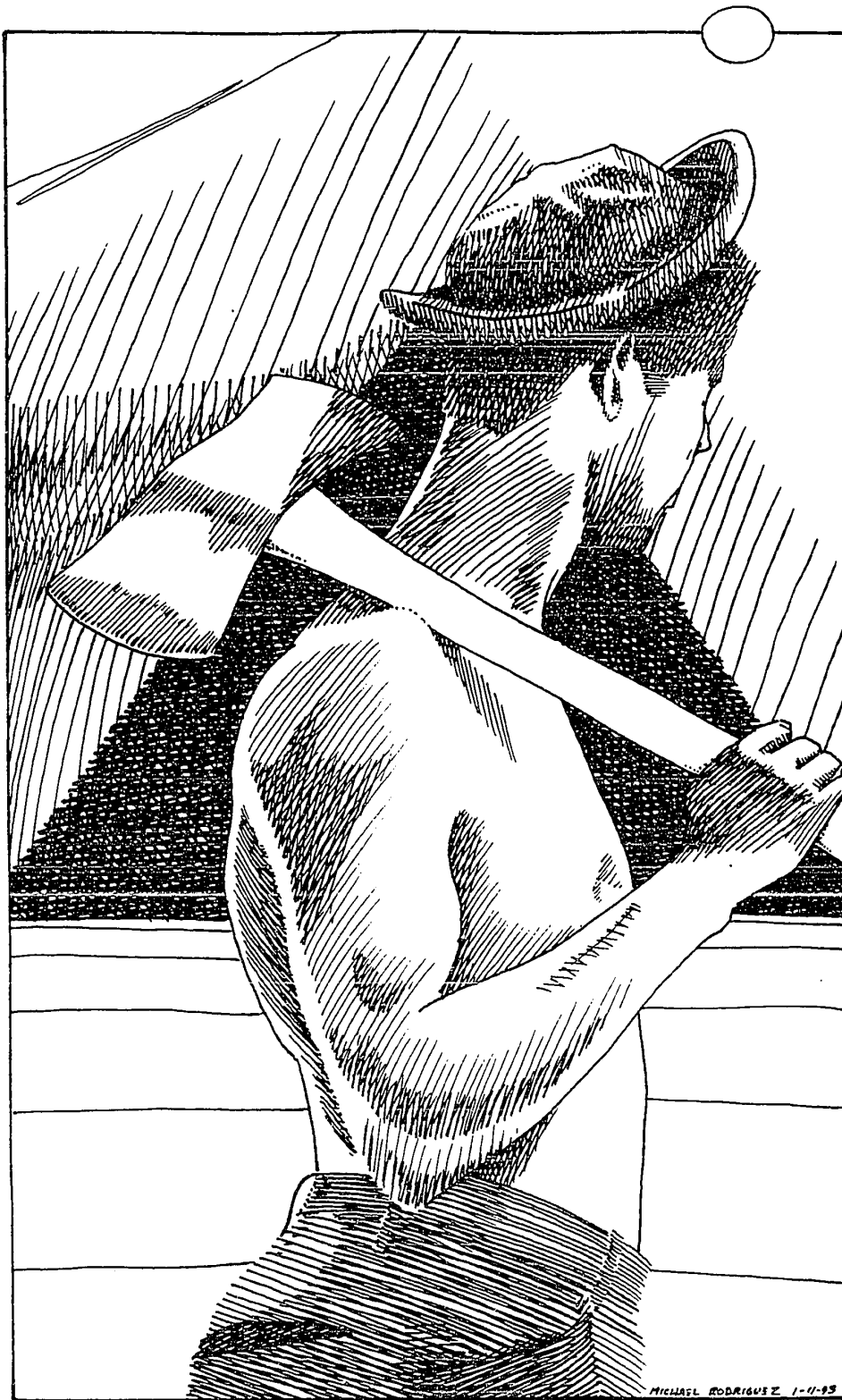
Not only did the CCC serve Americans well in the 1930's, it continues to serve as a blueprint for local, state, and federal politicians to use for temporary solutions for

economic crisis among poverty-stricken youth throughout the nation. In 1979, Jerry Brown, the Governor of California, helped to establish the California Conservation Corps to cope with the problem of countless unemployed adolescents. The California organization is a carbon copy of the old CCC. In the context of the current economic climate, once again there have been whispers of reviving Roosevelt's Soil Soldiers and, as conditions worsen, the whispers become louder.

Other historical works haven't focused on camp life during the initial period that these young men had to endure. These enrollees had to suffer enormous inconveniences to help make the CCC a successful proposition, but their sacrifices have been largely ignored by historians. These recruits eagerly gave up a portion of their adolescence for the sake of their families. During this embryonic stage, efficient humane procedures were not established, and these volunteers had to endure miserable conditions until the camps were completed. The unselfishness of these young enrollees is one of the major keys to the success of the program during this inaugural period.

In conclusion, the CCC became, over time, a huge success remedying some of the horrendous poverty and unemployment of the Great Depression. It succeeded in reducing the heart-breaking numbers of young jobless men from their idle condition, which had been conducive to criminality and collective social unrest and violence. One only has to examine and compare it with the political and social unrest of the 1960's and 1970's that grew from the issues of Civil Rights and the Vietnam War. Fortunately, similar large-scale protest, unrest, and loss of faith in the national government did not arise during the Great Depression, and the CCC and other federal projects helped to

ameliorate the crisis of faith and potential violence. The American people can be thankful that Roosevelt's pet project did help replace the shame of the helplessness of the able-bodied with the pride of pay for hard work, and the anger toward a malfunctioning economic system with the love of a nation that takes care of its own.



A CCC Camper in the Woods

Drawing by Micahel Mark Rodriguez
(1993)

APPENDIX I
VOICES FROM THE CAMPS

These personality portraits demonstrate a tremendous transformation from young, immature adolescents to self-reliant adults. They enrolled in the CCC with a prolonged history of unemployment and were discharged with a strong work ethic. They entered the program with self-doubt and a poor self-image, but departed with a healthy self-confidence and an enormously improved self-esteem. These young men developed a robust conviction that they had taken the CCC motto of "we can take it" and succeeded in meeting that challenge. These former enrollees are now a self-assured generation who are proud of their accomplishments for themselves, their families, and their nation.

The following collection of character sketches clearly portray the devastating circumstances that caused the majority of young men to enroll in the CCC. These short biographies also illustrate the profound influence that the CCC had on their lives during the Depression and the years following this period. Most of them had to temporarily interrupt their own lives for the sake of their families and they dutifully enrolled in the program. The loyal actions of these young men were required because of the desperate situation of America during The Depression.

FREDERICK ALTSTADT (born 1/06/14)

CC1-25617(CCC#)

Fred was one of the original enrollees during the initial period of the CCC. In 1931, he graduated from Norwich Free Academy High School in Connecticut, but spent

the next two years unsuccessfully seeking steady work to help his parents and two younger siblings. In 1933, the nineteen year old decided to join the CCC. On May 29, he left his Norwich home and reported to Fort H.C. Wright, New York, for orientation, physical training, and supplies. After the first two weeks, the rookie was shipped to Camp Pachaug (State Forest S-58, Camp 179, CCC Company #2173) near Voluntown, Connecticut. The enrollee spent two "hitches" (thirteen months) at Pachaug State Forest. He spent several of his early months in temporary tents while the permanent wooden barracks were being built. The company's project was to create two man-made lakes and water wells in a state park. Fred had several types of general jobs and grew up through his CCC experience. He particularly enjoyed the "three square meals" that the camp mess provided. The enrollee especially loved the monthly dances and his participation on the camp baseball team, which helped to develop his skills for a short semi-pro baseball experience with the Norwich Senators. Fred was able to take correspondence courses in accounting during his leisure time. Upon his release from the program, he pursued a career in accounting. In 1979, Fred finally retired from Peterson Engineering Company in Sunnyvale as its chief accountant. In 1986, the former enrollee and his devoted wife returned to Camp Pachaug for a CCC reunion party and also joined the National Association of the Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) and has been an active participant ever since. Fred has been treasurer of the John Muir Chapter #45 (local NACCCA chapter) of San Jose since 1986.¹

MELVIN ANDERSON (born 2/08/10)

From 1929 to 1934, Melvin traveled throughout the Western States of Arizona, Oregon, and California, and was very active in organizing labor unions. In 1930, he organized San Francisco Unemployed Councils, and in 1931 he led a hunger ride by car from San Francisco to Washington, D.C. Mel was also interested in Socialist and Communist political remedies to the Depression. In 1934, he returned to his home in Escanaba, Michigan. He only had an eighth grade education and few skills. His father was also unemployed with nine children to feed. The twenty-four year old jobless youth decided to join the CCC because he wanted "to help my parents get twenty-five dollars a month, plus I wanted to get dental care." The novice was sent to CCC Camp Dunbar near Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan, in November of 1934. His excellent leadership qualities earned him positions of assistant leader and later group leader. These positions earned him additional money for his large family, who desperately needed the extra financial assistance. During his CCC enlistment, he cleared forests of underbrush, created fire trails, built roads, planted trees, and tried to cure trees of rust disease. After two hitches, the camper was discharged from the CCC in 1935 because of his age (26). He returned to Detroit, pursued different jobs, and continued his union and political activities. Between 1937-38, he went to Spain to fight in its Civil War, joining the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. From 1938 to 1940, he continued doing odd jobs. In 1940, Mel went to San Diego to work in the aircraft industry. From April to July of 1941, he served in the Army at Fort Ord for 100 days, but was discharged because of flat feet. Mel joined the Merchant Marines during World War II in the Pacific (1941-46). He stayed in San

Francisco doing odd jobs for two years until he became a full-time carpenter in 1948 in the Santa Clara County area. In 1972, the skilled carpenter finally retired. The former enrollee is a proud member of the John Muir Chapter #45 (NACCCA) of San Jose. He is also active in Communist and Socialist political activities.²

SIGSMUND BERNAS (born 11/03/13)

CC-677414 (CCC#)

In 1922, "Al" was orphaned at the age of nine and moved in with his three older sisters. After his sophomore year, he dropped out of high school. As times became more difficult, Al enlisted in the CCC. On May 1 of 1934, the young rookie left his Chicago home for FDR's reforestation program. He would spend most of his four enlistments at Camp Willarck near St. Helen's (Oregon). Camp Willarck was a "beautiful place," where its corpsmen worked with their "brute strength" and sweat to complete their duties while working for the Forest Service of the Department of Agriculture. While at Willarck, Al worked at felling trees with a two-man handsaw, driving trucks, working as a "dynamite monkey" on road construction, and fighting huge forest fires. His most dangerous duty was fighting the Tillamook Fire. Al took great pleasure going to Portland on "liberty" to see a movie and also to drink his favorite beer. He especially enjoyed Sunday dinner with local families in St. Helen's or Portland. On July 9 of 1936, the enrollee received his honorable discharge from the CCC and returned to Chicago. Upon his return to Chicago, Al began a long career as a welder for Whitcomb Locomotive Company in Rochelle (Illinois). He also joined the National Guard. Al served with honor during World War II in the Army and Navy. After World

War II, he resumed his career as a welder for Whitcomb until 1954. In 1954, Al became a brewer for the Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Los Angeles until his retirement in 1976. He and his wife moved to Portal, California, where they enjoy the natural beauties of the Las Plumas National Forest. They delight in their three wonderful children and six grandchildren.³

MARTIN BIANCO (born 2/5/13)

By 1933, Martin had been unemployed for the three years since his graduation from Argo High School in a suburb of Chicago. He decided to join the CCC as a last resort to help his father and three siblings pay the mortgage on their home. On June 3, 1933, Martin left his home for Fort Sheridan for two weeks of orientation and physical conditioning. He was one of the original members of the CCC mobilization period. His company left the fort by train on his way to Northern Wisconsin. The rookie was assigned to Camp Perkinson (CCC #1692, F-16) in the Nicolet National Forest. While in the corps, the enrollee planted trees, fought fires, thinned out forests, built roads, did mapping and surveying, and worked in fish and game programs. Martin earned the rank of assistant leader after six months in the CCC. After three years in the program, the recruit was discharged in 1936. From 1936-42, Martin worked for Chicago's Industrial Park, which made cellophane products. In 1942, he enlisted in the Army's signal corps and served until his discharge in 1945. The veteran moved to Sacramento and began working on surveying crews for private companies until 1948. The California Division of Highways hired him in 1948 and he began working in a materials and research

laboratory. In 1975, Martin retired from the California Division of Highways as an assistant physical testing engineer. He credits the CCC for providing him with the surveying skills that gave him the opportunity to work as an engineer. Martin had wanted to be an engineer since high school, but was financially unable to attend college. Martin is a charter member of the NACCCA and remains very active in NACCCA activities all over Northern California. The former enrollee feels that, "We need a conservation program for today's youth similar to the 30's (CCC). He is happily living in retirement in Sacramento.⁴

MARK J. BIONDICH (born 11/23/16)

In 1935, Mark had to drop out of high school during his junior year and left his Hibbing, Minnesota, family to join the CCC. The Depression hit hard. When the iron mines closed, his father lost his job. He said, "We were very poor and I, being the oldest of six, joined the CCC to help feed the rest of the family. I sent all but \$2.00 a month to the family." The eighteen-year-old rookie was sent to Camp Side Lake (CCC Company #717) in Minnesota, where he spent three hitches (Dec. 1935-June 1937). Mark worked on road and dam construction, clearing out underbrush, did wildlife and fish surveys, fought forest fires, was a heavy-equipment operator, and was assigned to rescue teams. The enrollee enjoyed doing carpentry, woodwork, plumbing, electrical jobs, and various reforestation projects in the CCC. He has used many of these skills in his own home, and woodworking has become his present hobby. He also took CCC photography classes and, as a result, photography has become one his greatest pleasures.

Mark got his CCC discharge to finish his high school education. Later, he was hired by Lockheed Corporation, then he was employed by Ford Corporation as a heavy-truck mechanic. Eventually, Mark became a Ford regional heavy truck sales manager. He joined the NACCCA and served in executive positions including president of the John Muir Chapter #45 of San Jose. He is also very active in the Lions' Club.⁵

CHARLES "CHUCK" BIRD (born 1/08/15)

CC9-75941 (CCC#)

In 1933, Chuck was a seventeen-year-old-unemployed young boy whose Norwalk (California) family was on county assistance. He was forced to drop out of high school during his junior year to help support his seven younger siblings, father, and mother. Chuck worked at odd jobs, as a paper boy, cleaner of chicken pens, and farm laborer--picking onions, tomatoes, and cauliflower for the meager pay of ten cents an hour. He decided to join the CCC because he was the "oldest in a family of eight children with a father out of work, when the earthquake hit Los Angeles on March 10, 1933." On November 2nd, the novice reported to Fort MacArthur in San Pedro, California, for orientation, physical training, and supplies. The enrollee spent fourteen months at Camp Middle Creek in Upper Lake, California (CCC Company #997,F-34). Chuck worked in the construction of roads, telephone lines, bridges, and pipe lines. He also fought forest fires, was a logger, an axeman, and a sawman. The corpsman was later chosen to be an assistant leader. On January 2, 1935, he received his honorable discharge and returned to high school in Norwalk. Shortly thereafter, Chuck went back to Upper Lake to work on pear orchards, and then he became a mechanic and driver and joined the Teamsters'

Union in 1936. The young man continued working as a mechanic and driver at Mel Prather's Oldsmobile in Lakeport (1937-40), Lake County Cannery in Upper Lake (1940-45), Valley Motor Lines in Oakland (1945-50), Lake County Cannery (1950-55), and finally worked for Valley Motor Lines as a truck driver (1955-77). Chuck retired in 1977 and is active in the Teamsters' Union Local #287. The former CCC camper joined the NACCCA and is enthusiastically involved in the John Muir Chapter #45.⁶

PAUL W. BOLTZ (born 10/08/19)

CC7-234467 (CCC#)

Paul was from a farming family in Edina, Missouri. He was the middle child of thirteen children and was forced to drop out of school after the eighth grade in 1933 to supplement his family's income. Paul worked the fields around his Edina home as a farm laborer, but conditions became worse when his father lost the family farm in 1935. The Edina farmboy joined the N.Y.A. to work for one year for extra money. In 1936, the sixteen-year-old unemployed youth decided to join the CCC because "a money chance to help my parents raise the five younger kids, and also a chance to be on my own." The CCC recruit convinced a county administrator to permit him to illegally enroll in the program, and persuaded his parents to sign their parental consent. Paul was sent to Camp D-1 (CCC Company #3736) in Canton, Missouri, where he worked at drainage jobs with an axe and brush hook (5/14/36 to 10/8/36). The enrollee was transferred to Camp Mt. Madonna (CCC Company #739, P-234) in Santa Clara County, California, where he stayed for two hitches. He continued to work with an axe and brush hook in drainage work until he was sent to a spike camp to erect telephone lines on Mt. Hamilton, and

finally fought huge fires in Big Basin in the Santa Cruz Mountains. In 1937, Paul decided to join the U.S. Navy and he was given his honorable discharge on October 8th. The former enrollee described his CCC experience, "It was a wholesome life--work and good food. A chance to grow up." On his eighteenth birthday, he enlisted in the Navy as a seaman. During World War II, Paul served on destroyers in an amphibious division and was commissioned an ensign in 1944. The naval officer remained in the Navy until 1958 when he resigned to enter college. Upon his resignation, Paul entered the University of Missouri and received his B.S. degree in education in 1960. He was immediately hired by Kirkwood High School in Missouri to teach World Geography until 1969. The teacher went to the University of Missouri during the summer to obtain his M.A. in administration. In 1969, Paul was promoted to the position of assistant principal at Kirkwood High School and served in that capacity until 1979, when he resigned. He then moved to Palm Bay, Florida for his retirement. In 1989, the former enrollee returned to San Jose to visit his old CCC camp at Mt. Madonna and visited with Fred Kessler.⁷

LAWRENCE A. BROWN (born 5/14/20)

Larry had graduated from Ouachita Parish High School in 1937, yet by February of 1940, he had already worked at odd jobs as a "routeman for a creamery, operated a 'boom cat' on a pipeline and later worked on a steam driver pile driver," without finding steady employment. The Monroe, Louisiana, resident needed to find a regular job to help support three younger siblings in the family, so the twenty-year-old decided to join

the CCC "because I was told I could be sent to Oregon, Northern California or Idaho." With the lure of adventure and an opportunity to assist his family, the CCC novice reported to Fort Beauregard, Louisiana, for orientation, supplies, and medical examination. He was sent to Camp Wimer (CCC Company #5453, Camp F-211) near the Rogue River in Oregon by train. He would spend almost three hitches at Wimer on a crew working on special projects under the supervision of a forestry foreman. These projects included surveying livestock and road construction. He was elevated to the position of assistant leader. Larry was transferred to Camp Butte Falls, Oregon, for six weeks, where he was an infirmary attendant. In October 1941, he was given his honorable discharge early because of an impending marriage. Larry said of his CCC adventure, "Thoroughly enjoyable experience, beautiful landscape, and the wonderful cooperation of the boys." During World War II, he served in the Army as a staff sergeant in chemical warfare (1942-45). Between 1945-48, Larry was a construction contractor in Grants Pass, Oregon. In 1948, he enlisted in the Air Force and served in logistics as a master sergeant until 1966. The former airman was hired by FMC in Santa Clara and finally retired in 1975. The CCC alumnus joined the NACCCA in 1990 and currently is a member of the John Muir Chapter #45 of San Jose.⁸

RODNEY CALDWELL (born 6/16/20)

In 1938, Rodney decided to drop out of Benson High School in Portland, Oregon, to join the CCC because he wanted "to obtain money for clothes and books to finish school." He enlisted in April of 1938, and was sent to Camp Baker (CCC

Company #980) in Oregon. The youngster spent several months at Baker working on timber thinning, doing forest experiments, fighting forest fires, log cutting for firewood, and building a gas powered ski tow, campgrounds, and ski trails. During his CCC years, Rod developed a great love for the outdoors among the mountains around Camp Baker, and had time to do art work. In February 1939, he got his honorable discharge to finish his high school education. Immediately after his discharge, Rod enrolled at Benson High School in Portland, and shortly thereafter graduated. He entered the machinist profession and continued this craft until his retirement. Today, in his early 70's, Rod has continued his passion for the outdoors by backpacking and fishing in the Sierra Nevadas. Rodney has been a long-time active member of the NACCCA, and is currently president of the John Muir Chapter #45 of the NACCCA.⁹

ZENAS H. CHAPMAN (born 7/18/20)

CC9-286847 (CCC#)

"Slim" graduated from Grants Pass High School in Oregon in 1938 and then entered Oregon State University. After one year, he had to drop out of college because of the lack of funds. He could only get work as a "fruit tramp" migrating from Medford, Oregon to Porterville, Bakersfield, and Indio, California picking fruit. By 1940, he became frustrated when he could not acquire steady work to supplement his family's income. On October 3, 1940, the Grants Pass resident went to Medford to enroll in the CCC because the monthly allotment would help to feed his two younger sisters, mother, and father. The rookie was transported to Camp South Umqua Falls (CCC Company #2904, F-117) near Tiller, Oregon, where he served as a company clerk for almost nine

months. On July 7 of 1941, Slim was transferred to Camp Reedsport (CCC Company #981, S-228), Oregon, where he continued to work as a company clerk for another five weeks. As a company clerk, the enrollee earned the rank of group leader. Slim was discharged from the CCC on August 16, 1941. He moved to Medford to work for Pinnacle Packing Company, then began to work in the construction field. In June 1943, Slim was drafted into the Army and served in England, France, Belgium, and Germany as a jeep driver and in communications. He was promoted to the rank of corporal, and was discharged in February of 1946. "Slim" returned to Grants Pass to work in construction until a back injury forced him out in 1949. He was accepted at Oregon State University and graduated in 1953 with an engineering degree. Lockheed quickly hired him for their Burbank plant. After four years, Slim was moved to the Sunnyvale plant for a test engineer assignment. He also worked in design engineering until 1986, when he retired. The CCC alumnus recently became involved in NACCCA, and has moved to his retirement residence in Redding, California.¹⁰

MARTIN COORPENDER (born 2/22/20)

In January of 1938, Martin had to drop out of high school during his senior year to help support his single mother and his ten-year-old brother. He left his Monroe, Louisiana, home and joined the CCC in Ruston, Louisiana because there was "no work at all." The rookie volunteered for assignment in California and was sent by train to Camp Sebastopol (CCC #5540, SCS-4). Martin worked on rock masonry, rock blasting, and surveying crew. The enrollee enjoyed photography for recreation and eventually

taught it in the camp. He served for four terms and was discharged in 1940. Martin then worked as a CCC recruiter of World War I veterans in San Francisco at the Presidio for a year. In 1941, he returned to Vicksburg, Mississippi, and stayed until the outbreak of World War II. In 1942, Martin enlisted in the Army and was assigned to the 37th Division of the Ohio National Guard. He served in the South Pacific as a squad leader on a heavy equipment unit until his discharge in 1946. The veteran moved to California and worked for the Division of Highways until 1957 as an engineer of heavy equipment. Between 1957-59, Martin worked out of the San Francisco Union of heavy equipment operators. He was then sent to the South Pacific islands by the federal government to work on atomic energy projects from 1959 to 1961. The engineer returned to California to work as a union heavy equipment operator until 1975. Martin then worked as an inspector on federal heavy construction projects on the West Coast until 1985 when he retired. The former enrollee joined the NACCCA and now is the southwest director of the NACCCA which includes the seven western states. Martin is now pleasantly retired in the beautiful grape country of Santa Rosa.¹¹

WILLIAM COTTER (born 4/4/14)

In 1932, Bill graduated from Stockton High School and enrolled at College of the Pacific in Stockton in September on a football scholarship. In April 1933, he ran out of money and was forced to drop out of school, and immediately joined the CCC to save money for college. The enrollee was sent to Camp Lake Chabot (CCC #999) in San Leandro for orientation and conditioning for two weeks. Bill spent the summer at Camp

Bear River in tents near Jackson, California. He was finally assigned to Camp Snow Line (CCC #999) near Placerville for nearly two years. The recruit was involved in road construction as an operator of a jack hammer. Bill was promoted to the position of leader for over a year. In July 1935, he was discharged to accept a job in the Forest

Service as a junior foreman at \$100.00 a month. Bill was stationed at Camp Mosquito (CCC #3895) near Placerville for a year. In 1936, he was transferred to CCC Camp Snow Line as a foreman at \$150.00 per month until 1942. During World War II, Bill served in the Army Air Corps as a gunner on A-20 and A-26 fighter bombers on fifty-six missions over Germany and earned the rank of staff sergeant. After the war, he returned to the Forest Service in the El Dorado National Forest until 1970 when the forest ranger retired after 36 years of service. The former CCC enrollee and his lovely wife now live in Cedar Grove near his former CCC camp enjoying the great outdoors with hunting and fishing.¹²

CHARLES EVERETT (born 7/22/23)

Charlie was from the agricultural community of Seymour, Missouri, where his parents were trying to raise nine children during the Depression. In 1938, Leroy Everett, Charlie's older brother, went into the CCC and was sent to Ogden, Utah. By 1939, Charlie had tried his hand at several odd jobs, but was jobless most of the time. He followed Leroy's lead and decided to enroll in the CCC because he had few skills, had only a 7 grade education, and his parents and seven younger siblings were "starving to

in Roosevelt's Tree Army. The rookie was sent to Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, for orientation, conditioning, and equipment. After two weeks, he was sent to his permanent work camp at Centerville (CCC Company #777), Iowa. The enrollee worked on erosion projects, erected ponds, constructed roads, drove a "cat" and grader, worked as a "pearl diver" for the bakers, and attended general education classes at night. During his leisure time, "I took up boxing and went to the Golden Gloves "tournaments." In October 1939, Charlie obtained his honorable discharge and returned to Seymour to work at a variety of odd jobs. In January of 1943, he enlisted in the Marine Corps, fought on the beaches of the Pacific, and was eventually promoted to the rank of sergeant. At the end of World War II, the Marine sergeant was discharged in October 1945. From 1945 to 1947, Charlie was hired by the Curry Company as a mechanic in Yosemite National Park. He moved to the Santa Clara Valley in 1947 and joined Carpenters' Union #316. When Great America opened, Charlie met the wood carver at the amusement park and learned that craft. In 1984, he retired as a carpenter and now is engrossed in his wood- carving hobby. His CCC experience as mason on road construction gave him the "background for me becoming a wood carver." The CCC alumnus has a lifetime membership in the NACCCA and regularly attends meetings of the John Muir Chapter #45 in San Jose.¹³

JESSE J. GARCIA (born 9/24/17)

CC9-214787 (CCC#)

Jesse had dropped out of Ventura High School during his junior year to help his father support a family of nine children. He worked for a year as a farm laborer and "fruit tramp," but his family desperately needed more financial assistance, so on April

"fruit tramp," but his family desperately needed more financial assistance, so on April 15, 1936, this eighteen-year-old migrant farm worker enrolled in the CCC to help support his eight siblings, his oldest brother having already enlisted in the CCC. He left his Ventura, California home and was sent to Fort MacArthur, Los Angeles, for orientation and physical training. Jesse was sent to Frazier State Park (CCC Company #2953, SP-35) working as a common laborer with a pick and shovel for the Forest Service for a month. He was then posted to Camp Cedar Springs (CCC Company #2957, SP-35) near General Grant redwood grove from May 9 to October 26. The enrollee was transferred to his final camp, which was Camp Trimmer (CCC Company #1986, F-224) located in the Sierra Nevadas near Sanger, California. He served at Camp Trimmer from October 27, 1936 to March 31, 1937. He built lookout towers, worked on a jack hammer, was a "powder monkey," cleared underbrush, and fought two major forest fires. While fighting fires, he was almost killed, but he escaped with only facial burns. He also got a bad case of poison oak at Camp Trimmer. During his enlistment, Jesse "became an adult and provided my loving family with desperately needed financial assistance." He received his honorable discharge on March 31, 1937 and returned to Ventura to help his sick mother. Jesse was gainfully employed for the rest of his adult life. From 1942 to 1981, Jesse worked as a civilian at Port Hueneme Naval Base and moved up the management ladder to the position of supervisor. This former CCC enrollee has rich and enjoyable memories from his CCC experience.¹⁴

DONALD HOBART (born 6/28/15)

In 1934, Donald proudly graduated from the College of St. Ignatius (U.S.F.) with a B.A. and M.A. in history and received his Army R.O.T.C. commission as a second lieutenant in the infantry reserve. The young graduate taught history at his alma mater the following academic year and was a member of the 33rd Reserve Infantry Unit. In September 1935, Donald's mother and aunt were having great difficulty supporting seven children on the Hobart Dairy in Hillsborough, California, and he decided to become an active member of the Army. He reported to the 30th infantry at the San Francisco Presidio and was assigned to the CCC Camp Clear Creek (CCC #1908) near Redding. In almost seven years in the CCC, the young officer served in nineteen different camps in four separate California districts. Donald was a second lieutenant and assistant camp commander until 1939, then he was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant and became a camp commander. The officer was also a geophysical inspector and was assigned the duty of district inspector of surrounding camps from Sacramento to Northern Oregon. Through his CCC experience, Donald learned to become an excellent military officer and said the "CCC years were the most rewarding years of my military career." On December 8, 1941, he received his orders to active duty and reported to the Army Air Corps. During his training, Joe DiMaggio was his physical conditioning instructor! In 1943, the officer was sent to the South Pacific with the 5th Air Force on a B-25 unit. The pilot was shot down on his second mission but fortunately was rescued by the U.S. Navy. On his 51st mission, Donald was shot down again by the Japanese and spent twenty miserable months as a prisoner of war and almost lost his

right arm. He courageously recovered from his ordeal and remained in the U.S. Air Force until March 1966, when he retired as a full colonel. The colonel and his wife had eight wonderful children during this period. Donald also received his doctorate in history from South Carolina State University in 1965. In 1966, he returned to U.S.F. to teach history until his retirement in 1976. Sadly, he was widowed in 1979 and has lovingly guided his eight children since that time. The former World War II hero now lives in Sacramento and is actively involved in the NACCCA. Donald feels that the CCC created a "work ethic" for the former enrollees which they carried throughout their adult lives.¹⁵

LEON V. "PINKY" IUND (born 11/23/15)

Leon was from an Osage, Wyoming, farming family that was having a difficult time with the Depression. During his junior year at New Castle High School, "Pinky" dropped out of school to try to support the family. After a year of disappointment, he decided to join the CCC to help his father support his brother, two sisters, and mother. He enrolled in the CCC in October 1934 at New Castle, and the young corpsman was taken to Gillette, Wyoming, for orientation and physical training. He was taken by train to CCC Camp Chimmey Park in Fox Park, Wyoming. "Pinky" was in the CCC for four and a half hitches (October 1934 to March 1936 and October 1936 to October 1937). He worked as an assistant baker, at a "side camp," and did a variety of other jobs. Finally, Leon decided to leave the CCC to obtain a job with the Union Pacific Railroad, so in October 1937, he got his honorable discharge. "Pinky" worked at laying track, then worked in the roundhouse, and finally worked as a brakeman. In 1943, he moved to

California and got a job as a boilermaker at Napa River Shipyard. In 1945, Leon started his own rug and furniture cleaning business in Napa. From 1950 to 1953, he worked as a brakeman at the Benicia Arsenal. Leon became a delivery man for Storennetta Dairy in Sonoma until 1957. He then moved to San Jose and worked for Golden State Dairy until 1967. From 1967 to 1975, "Pinky" was employed by Payless Drug Store. He became interested in real estate and worked for Allstate Realty until 1978. Finally, Leon became an independent broker from 1978 until 1989, when he retired and moved to Prescott, Arizona. In 1980, this former enrollee became involved in the NACCCA and was elected president of the John Muir Chapter #45 in San Jose.¹⁶

T.G. JOHNSON (born 11/10/15)

T.G. came from a large family of seven children from Honey Grove, Texas. His parents had been sharecroppers in the Texas cotton fields. In his junior year of high school, T.G. had to quit because his father became very ill. When T.G. could not get gainful employment so he enrolled in the CCC at Bonham, Texas on March 1, 1936. The youngster was stationed at Camp Bonham (CCC Company #894) for six months working on planting trees for a new regional park. Then for two months, he became a "pearl diver" and then a "dog robber." T.G. was transferred to Camp Tuolumne (CCC Company #3871), and promoted to assistant cook with the rank of assistant leader. He served three more hitches as a head cook at Camp Tuolumne, California. On June 28, 1938, T.G. received his honorable discharge to take a job as a cook at a hotel in Tuolumne. He met his wife, Verna, while he was in the CCC in Tuolumne while she

was a high school student. His CCC experiences gave him many job skills. He later worked at Blum's Womens store in San Jose, and finally was a successful Standard Oil service manager for thirty-two years. He is currently an active member in John Muir Chapter #45.¹⁷

FRIEDOLIN KESSLER (born 7/12/13)

Fred was a well-educated art student at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where he had studied four and a half years. The art student had completed all of the art curriculum at the university, so he decided to seek full-time employment, but was unable to find any worthwhile position. In 1935, Fred decided to enter the CCC because he needed to support his hospitalized mother and poorly paid father and the program offered an artist-enrollee position in each camp. This assignment provided him with the opportunity to work on his artistic skills and be gainfully employed. In June of 1935, Fred left his St. Louis home, enrolled in the CCC, and was sent to Camp Merimac. He spent a few months at Merimac State Park, then was sent to Troy for a few more months. At Troy, the rookie lived in tents and helped to build the camp barracks and structures. In September 1935, he was transferred to Camp Mt. Madonna (CCC Company #739), where he spent eighteen months as the camp artist. His major responsibility was to depict camp life, and his work was sent to the Treasury Department in Washington, D.C. He also contributed to the Mt. Madonna Miner, which was the camp newspaper. The company commander supplied him with adequate art supplies and work space. The artist was able to accompany the "smoke chasers" to the Aptos fire in

the Santa Cruz Mountains in 1936, and was able to depict the horrible fires and courageous fire fighters. After two years in the CCC, the artist was able to refine his creative energies and finally obtained his honorable discharge in June of 1937. Upon his release, Fred became a full-time artist and that is his current occupation in San Jose. He is grateful to the CCC for the opportunity to perfect his creative skills. The former CCC alumnus is currently a participant in the local chapter of the NACCCA.¹⁸

JOHN W. KILEY (born 2/23/11)

John was a Heyworth, Illinois, young man who worked on the railroad during the summer of his high school years. In 1930, John graduated from Heyworth High School. By 1933, his father was still had a job as a foreman for the railroad, but was paid at half the usual salary to support his wife and three sons. The twenty-year-old young man found himself unemployed and frustrated. John decided to join the CCC because there "was no work to be found," and he wanted to help support his family. In June of 1933, the recruit enrolled in the CCC and was sent to Jefferson Barracks, Missouri for two weeks of orientation, physical conditioning, and supplies. John was one of the original CCC enrollees during the initial mobilization period. The enrollee was then sent to Camp McKinley (CCC Company #1649) in Oregon, and helped build his own barracks and other camp buildings. John served the camp as an electrician at McKinley for a year. He was given his honorable discharge on July 6, 1934 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, after thirteen months. John went to Chicago for job opportunities. He worked at Union Carbide making cellulose casings for fifteen years (1945-59), and

was elevated from laborer to foreman. In 1963, John started working for Carrier Air Conditioning Company as a parts supervisor, and retired in 1973 after ten years. He moved to San Jose to be near his daughter. This former enrollee joined the NACCCA in 1980 and has been an active member of the John Muir Chapter #45 ever since.¹⁹

WESLEY G. KING (born 4/15/20)

CC9-309729 (CCC#)

In 1940, Wesley was a seventeen-year-old high school youth who had to drop out of Edison Vocational High School in San Jose during his junior year. He "worked part-time in the NRA [National Relief Administration] in San Jose." In July of 1940, Wes decided to enroll in the CCC because he "wanted to be on my own and send money home to help out, help mom to buy a house and support my brother." On July 16, the recruit enlisted in San Jose and was immediately trucked to Camp Arroyo Seco (CCC Company #1953, F-124) near King City (7/16/40 to 10/31/40). The CCC beginner fought forest fires and worked on dam construction, kitchen patrol and camp maintenance, and then served as the campers' registrar. Wes was then transferred to a camp in Kings' Canyon National Park (CCC Company #1913, N.P. 34) where he worked in camp maintenance until December of 1940. On December 21, Wesley was given his honorable discharge to go into the Navy. The former enrollee felt that the "CCC made a man of me" and prepared him for military service. He served in the Navy from 1940 until 1945 aboard the U.S.S. Mahan and U.S.S. Frazier. During World War II, his naval tours included the Battle of the Midway and service in the South Pacific and Alaska. After the war, he became an apprentice carpenter and worked in the craft until

his retirement in 1985. Since 1989, Wesley has been an active participant in John Muir Chapter #45.²⁰

MICHAEL KRAYNICK (born 7/22/19)

CC3-222288 (CCC#)

In 1938, Mike was an unemployed eighteen-year-old high school dropout from Manayunk, Pennsylvania, near Philadelphia. He had left high school during his sophomore year to help the family of seven children. "There wasn't any work available. Times were hard. My father was out of work, no income, with six mouths to feed." He also wanted to be with a close friend who had joined the CCC. On January 12, 1938, the recruit enlisted in the CCC and was shipped to Camp Harwood (CCC Company #369), Maryland. At Harwood, he worked in soil conservation clearing brush, building roads, and constructing dams. After his six-month enlistment, the enrollee was discharged on June 30th and returned to his Manayunk home. He then worked at Controlasting Company for a year. Patriotically, Mike enlisted in the Marine Corps in December of 1941. He served in the Corps (1941-46) during World War II and reached the rank of corporal. From 1947 to 1948, Mike attended Salinas Junior College (Hartnell), then he entered the operating engineers union until his retirement in 1985. Mike became a district representative of the union, which consists of heavy equipment operators. Recently, the former enrollee has been involved in the local NACCCA chapter.²¹

DONALD LEONARD (born 5/30/22)

In the late 30's, Don was toiling part-time as a common laborer and tractor driver around his Beaver City home in Nebraska. The seventeen-year-old youngster only had a seventh grade education, few marketable skills, and was jobless. On October 2nd of 1939, the recruit enrolled in the CCC "to help my family," which had seven children. Don actually helped to support four younger brothers and put an older sister through high school. The young novice reported to the camp at Beaver City (CCC Company #754, SCS-23) only a mile from his home. He served in the CCC for three enlistments (10/2/39 to 6/19/41). During his hitches, he worked on erosion control projects, planted trees, built dams, painted, did concrete work, and was a carpenter. In 1941, Donald was discharged and his whole family moved to Santa Paula, California, to pick fruit. He did a variety of jobs around Blythe, California, until 1942. Don moved to Richmond, California, to work in the ship building industry for two years (1942-44). In 1944, Donald enlisted in the Army, and served in France and Germany during World War II. Upon his return to civilian life, he was employed by the Ford Automobile Corporation as a professional painter in maintenance until his retirement in 1983. The former camper thanks the CCC for developing his passion for woodcarving, and his skills as a painter. Don has been a member of the NACCCA since 1983.²²

RODERICK MAC DERMOTT (born 4/23/22)

Rod was the eldest of six children in a family that owned a chicken ranch raising fryers near Derby, Colorado. In 1937, the business was going so badly that the

seventeen-year-old decided to drop out of high school after his sophomore year. On July 10, 1939, he went to Denver to enroll in the CCC because he wanted to "help his younger sister get through high school." It cost \$6.00 a month to attend Union High School, #1 in Adam City, Colorado. The enlistee was sent to Camp Red Feather Lake, Colorado (F-50C) for fourteen months (July 1939-August 1940). He worked in logging, building roads, measuring snowfall, estimating run-off, counting forest wildlife, making telephone poles, cutting out brush, and fighting forest fires. While working at their daily chores, Rod and his CCC buddies sang the following slogan, "hard work, low pay, and miserable working conditions." On August of 1940, he was discharged to complete his high school education. Rod proudly graduated as Valedictorian top student from Union High School in 1941. Shortly after, he joined the Army. During World War II, he fought in the Pacific for the 33rd Infantry Division. After the war, he enrolled at Colorado State College of Education at Greeley to study mathematics and elementary education. In 1949, he graduated and began a forty-one year teaching career. In 1955, he earned his master's degree in education from Colorado State College. He finally retired from Campbell High School District in 1990. He is presently a trustee on the Board of Trustees in the Campbell Union High School District and has been since 1990. He has been a proud participant in the NACCCA since 1982.²³

OMAR KIAM MARGASON (born 7/14/15)

Omar had been idle in California for two years following his graduation from San Jose High School in 1931. The San Jose native decided to enlist in the CCC in

October 1933 to help support his single mother, older sister, and younger brother. The rookie was sent temporarily with twenty other junior enrollees to the veterans' camp of Mt. Madonna (1917-V, P-234) for three months. Then he was assigned to Camp Arroyo Seco (CCC #910, F-124) for six months. The enrollee also worked at the "spike camps" at Lake Nacimiento and Big Sur. Omar earned the rank of assistant leader as the storekeeper for three months. He helped to build twenty-one miles of suppression roads, to create miles of fire breaks and fire trails, to construct campgrounds, and to fight five major forest fires in the Los Padres National Forest. In July of 1934, the enrollee received his CCC discharge to pursue an acting career in New York City. After a year with few acting opportunities, Omar returned to his San Jose home. For the next five years (1935-40), he worked in the local canneries, did landscaping, and worked as a warehouseman. In April of 1940, Omar married Lucille Lambert and began a fine family. During World War II, the former enrollee was hired by Joshua Hendy Iron Works as a machinist until 1945. He worked for Rex Novelty as a repair man and warehouseman for the next three years. Finally in 1948, Omar was employed by Pacific Gas and Electric as a serviceman, where he worked for twenty-five years until his retirement in 1973. The former enrollee now lives in San Jose with his wife of fifty-two years enjoying their two children. Omar takes pleasure in traveling around as an amateur historian.²⁴

JOHN P. MALTBY (born 3/20/22)

John had been brought up by his loving grandparents since his parents died when

he was four years old. He and his two brothers had rough times because their grandfather had been laid off in 1936. John "had finished high school, but no jobs were available as Depression was on and no chance of college," so he decided to leave his Williamsport, Pennsylvania, home and to enlist in the CCC in June of 1939. The seventeen-year-old rookie was sent to a camp in the Blue Ridge Mountains in Virginia and spent one year there. He worked as a member of a telephone line crew climbing poles, drove a truck, worked as a stone mason on road construction, and also served as an assistant cook. He greatly enjoyed his "liberties" at Buena Vista, dancing the "swing" to the music of Benny Goodman and Glen Miller. The CCC experience "taught me discipline and self-reliance." He left the CCC to join the Navy in 1940 and served until 1946. During his naval enlistment, John served four years in the Pacific, one year in the Caribbean, and one year of shore duty in San Francisco. He attended Lycoming College, Pennsylvania, to study business (1946-51), graduating in 1951. From 1951 to 1962, he was a manufacturing representative in the gift field. John owned his own manufacturing gift line, which was known as the John Philip Company. He has since been a free-lance business consultant doing contract work.²⁵

C. DALE MC INTYRE (born 5/10/11)

Dale came from a prominent Scotia, Nebraska, banking family. The young McIntyre graduated from Scotia Consolidated High School in 1929 and then entered Nebraska University at Omaha. In 1933, he graduated from the university in business administration. Subsequently, he attended advertising school in Omaha, then worked as

a civilian aide to the Secretary of War in the military district of Nebraska until 1934. Dale had desired to enter the CCC, but his financial status prohibited his entrance. On April 7, 1934, the twenty-three-year-old was able to enter the organization through the assistance of a close friend. He was immediately appointed first sergeant at Fort Crook in Nebraska, and consequently started a ten and a half year association with the CCC. In 1935, he was discharged, but was chosen senior civilian employee at the district level at Fort Crook and served four years. In 1939, he was appointed assistant educational advisor in the Fresno CCC District, also and assistant to the district commander of the Fresno District. In late 1939, he graduated from the first CCC subaltern school (officer training) in Sacramento, and was immediately appointed commander of CCC Company #5445 at Feather Falls. Subsequently, Dale was chosen commander of the following camps at CCC Company #6449 at Belden, Camp San Luis Obispo, and finally CCC Company #1951 at Camp La Purisma Mission. Later, he was appointed district inspector, and was then involved in the closure of camps until 1943. Dale was officially released from the CCC in 1943, but was finally given his financial release from the CCC Finance Office in 1945. Upon his release, Mr. McIntyre began a number of successful jobs which included twenty-one years with Lockheed Missile Corporation (1955-76). At Lockheed, he had advanced through the ranks to assistant to the president of the corporation by the time he retired in 1976. Dale was one of the original chapter members of the NACCCA in Sacramento in 1970, and is currently involved with the John Muir Chapter #45 in San Jose.²⁶

GEORGE FRANCIS MOYNAHAN (born 4/24/09)

In 1934, George had earned his master's degree in physics from the University of California at Berkeley under the guidance of Robert J. Oppenheimer and Ernest O. Lawrence. The young graduate found himself unemployed and so he applied to the CCC for a position as an educational adviser. He was offered the position, so he left his Sacramento home and was assigned to CCC Camp Campon in the Lassen National Park. The young adviser worked on the reading and mathematic deficiencies and general hygiene of the young urban recruits. Since the educational program was in its infancy, George had great difficulty in obtaining adequate materials and curriculum for his pupils. At his camp, he built a small radio transmitter and receiver and set up an amateur radio station. The adviser helped several young enrollees to become "ham" operators and assisted them in receiving their amateur radio operator's licenses. While in the CCC, George kept in touch with Rosalie, his girlfriend in Sacramento, by using his radio transmitter. In 1935, he left the CCC after a year to accept a job with Western Geophysical Company in the Wasco oil fields near Bakersfield. George felt it too dangerous working with dynamite so left to work for the California Highway Patrol as a desk sergeant and traffic clerk. The young officer took care of the car radio receivers. He also joined the National Guard in Sacramento as a communications officer in the signal corps in 1937. By 1940, George was promoted to captain and commander of the Sacramento National Guard unit. During World War II, the captain served in North Africa and Italy under General Sir Harold Alexander, and later under General Joseph W. Stilwell in the China-Burma-India theater as a signal corps officer. After World War II,

the veteran officer remained in the Army and was given financial aid by the military to study physics at Stanford University. In 1951, he received his doctorate and then continued his normal duty. George served in Europe as a colonel until 1960, when he retired. From 1960 to 1972, Dr. Moynahan served as a professor at San Jose State College. George served as a consultant and part-time instructor at S.J.S.U. until 1978. He remains very active in the Palo Alto American Legion and lives in the beautiful San Jose foothills with Rosalie, whom he married fifty-six years ago. They treasure their three children, many grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.²⁷

CLETUS M. NELSON (born 8/24/21)

Cletus was a Downs, Kansas, farmboy who had graduated from Downs High School in 1937 and could only find part-time, seasonal work. He felt restless because of the horrible conditions caused by the destructive "Dust Bowl." His people were deeply in debt; he couldn't attend college, and saw the CCC as a means of supporting his parents. In September 1939, the seventeen-year-old went to Hays, Kansas, to enlist and was at once shipped to Fort Cook near Omaha for equipment and supplies. Next, the rookie was transported by train to Camp Cove Creek (CCC Company #2675) near Salmon, Idaho where he

Joined road crews putting in a ruff (sic) mountain road on the banks and cliffs of the Salmon River extending the end of the road westward. Powder monkey, jack-hammer operator, team leader. Wrote articles, for camp paper and helped publish. Did work in photo lab in evenings.

Cletus enjoyed mountain backpacking and the whole outdoors experience of the CCC. In March of 1940, after one hitch, he was given his honorable discharge. Upon his

release, he worked for Fairmont Creamery in Downs and in Concordia, Kansas, doing laboratory testing of milk until 1941. Boeing Aircraft in Wichita hired him to work on the construction of the B-17 until 1942. Cletus was drafted into the Army and served in the Air Corps in aircraft maintenance in the China, Burma, and India Theatre, and on Okinawa. After the war, he joined the Air Force Reserves until 1979. As a civilian, Cletus worked for TWA (1945-48), Boeing (1948-57), and finally Lockheed (1957-88). He retired from Lockheed of Sunnyvale in 1988. The CCC alumnus joined the NACCCA in 1970 and still is an active member. Cletus is a happy retiree in his home in Sonoma, California.²⁸

CLYDE L. NIX (born 9/18/17)

CC8-829-727 (CCC#)

In 1934, Clyde had graduated from Cedar Mountain High School, Hemphill County, Texas, and his family had moved to Sayre, Oklahoma, which was a farming community. He spent the next two years laboring as a common farm hand around his Sayre home at low pay with conditions getting worse in the "Dust Bowl" region. On April 21, 1936, the recruit went to Clinton, Oklahoma, where he enrolled in the CCC. "I joined the CCC because I wanted to work," and needed to financially help his parents, two younger brothers, and one younger sister. He was transported by train to Camp Golden (CCC Company #829, Camp F-58-C), Colorado. He built erosion dams, camp sites at Echo Lake, an observation tower on Mt. Evans, and a fire trail up Devil Head Mountain.

I guess the most interesting event was the Golden Gloves meets. I was asked to try out for this event; however, our fight manager didn't think I was good

enough to be a winning contender in the ring, and every camp wanted the championship.

Clyde was discharged on September 30, 1936 after one hitch and returned to Sayre. The former enrollee felt that

This was a real learning experience for me, a kid fresh off the farm who didn't know what went on in the outside world. I learned how to work with groups, how to get along with my fellow men, and how to do the very best job I knew how to do.

In December of 1936, Clyde and his family moved to Casa Grande, Arizona, with an opportunity to work on the rich cotton fields. He worked as a tractor driver and on irrigation systems. From 1941 to 1950, Clyde was hired by Southern Pacific as a truck driver. In 1951, Arizona Public Service Company employed him to work in their electrical power plants. Clyde was promoted to a shift supervisor, then was made a utility supervisor. In 1980, he retired and moved to Sierra Vista, Arizona, for his retirement home.²⁹

ROBERT PAULEY (born 10/21/00)

Robert served in the U.S. Navy during World War I at Paullic, France, in a naval air station and on a mine sweeper in the North Sea (1917-19). The former sailor returned to Bloomington, Indiana, after the war. By June of 1933, the unemployed World War I veteran decided to enroll in the CCC and became one of the first volunteers to join the Senior CCC. On June 27, he was sent to the brand new Camp Mt. Madonna (1917-V, P-234) near San Jose, California. The veteran earned \$25.00 a month as a common laborer working at building bridges, dams, and roads, creating fire breaks,

cleaning dry brush and dead trees, and planting trees. The veteran enrollee was also stationed at Griffith Park, Somis, and Camp Roberts in California over the next eight years. His proudest moment in the CCC came in 1936, when he met and shook hands with Franklin D. Roosevelt at the commemoration of the completion of the statue of the "Spirit of the CCC" in Griffith Park. Robert had acted as the model for the famous statue. He was finally discharged on September 23, 1941, and returned to his Indiana home. At the outbreak of World War II, he re-enlisted in the Navy and served in the Pacific on convoys. The sailor earned the rank of storekeeper first class. Upon his discharge, Robert returned home to support his mother, working as a stock keeper at the Bloomington Furniture Company. After the death of his mother in 1950, the war veteran and his brother moved to Los Angeles, California, and began working for the May Company department store. He was forced to retire in 1968, because of his advanced age. The former veteran enrollee moved to San Rafael to work for the Smith Printing Company in San Francisco and worked there until 1980. Finally, in 1980, Robert moved to Carmichael and started his own cleaning service, but a broken leg caused him to retire permanently in 1991. At ninety-two, the former senior enrollee enjoys life with his loving wife of forty years in their comfortable Carmichael home.³⁰

OSCAR F. RODRIGUEZ (born 10/13/18)

CC9-301503 (CCC#)

Oscar was from a hard working family whose mother was a divorcee with her two children and mother to support. By 1938, he had graduated from Calexico High School and was working at a local grocery store on weekends. In 1939, the twenty-year-

old young man decided to enter the CCC to help support his family. On October 4, 1939, Oscar left his small Calxico home to enroll in the CCC in El Centro where he was immediately processed and sent by truck to Camp Pine Valley (F-160), California. The novice served as a carpenter at Pine Valley for almost a year (10/4/39 to 8/6/40), where he enjoyed the opportunity of weekly dances, table tennis, softball, and basketball. In 1940, he was transferred to Annette Island in Alaska and was assigned the position of carpenter. "Rod" thoroughly loved the beautiful landscape of Alaska, and enjoyed the chance to ski. On March 22 of 1941, Oscar was given his honorable discharge from the CCC. With the money earned in the CCC, he was able to go to an aircraft school in Los Angeles, and with these skills, he became an aircraft mechanic, fulfilling a dream of entering the field of aviation since he had seen Charles A. Lindburgh fly over his school in 1927. For the next forty-seven years, Oscar successfully worked for Timm Aircraft, Lockheed, Slick Airways, Air California Airlines, and American Airlines. He became a world traveler with his devoted wife. For the rest of his life, "Rod" was able to use the skills of carpentry and plumbing that he originally learned in the CCC in his apartment business. Oscar finally retired from American Airlines in 1988 at seventy years of age. He and his wife had recently trekked to Alaska to reminisce about his enrollee days on Annette Island. Unfortunately, on February 1, 1990, the proud CCC enrollee died.³¹

ALFRED SCHMIDT (born 7/23/13)

In 1933, Alfred was a West Point, Nebraska, farmboy whose mother had been

left to support her three young children since 1927. The eighteen-year-old youth had graduated from West Point High School in 1931, but could only find part-time work at paving roads and as a farm laborer around West Point. He "could not find work in 1933" and so consequently decided to join the CCC to help support his mother and his two siblings. In March, 1933, the nineteen-year-old recruit enrolled at Fort Crook, Omaha, where he received his physical training, orientation, and supplies. He was sent by train to Camp Drew (CCC Company #754) near Tiller, Oregon. As one of the original enrollees, Alfred had to sleep in tents and for the first three months helped build his barracks and other camp structures. During the rest of his single hitch, he built fire trails and fought in two large forest fires. In September, 1933, he was given an early release to work for his sister, who owned an Omaha restaurant. Alfred worked at a variety of jobs as restaurant worker (1933-1935), a Nebraska sharecropper (1936), a Denver freight truck driver (1936-37), and a Foley, Alabama, produce farmer (1937-1946). He later became an entrepreneur including a Sioux City, Iowa, tombstone business (1946-56), Los Gatos' Paseo del Norte (1956-57), a Santa Clara lumber business (1958-64), and then in Dana's Street Stationery Store in Mountain View (1966-85). In 1985, Alfred finally retired from his successful business career.³²

GENERAL RALPH C. SMITH (born 1893)

General Smith was originally from Omaha, but moved to Fort Collins, Colorado. He attended Colorado State College and eventually graduated after World War I. Ralph joined the Colorado National Guard in 1916, and was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in

the Army. During World War I, Smith served in the "Western Front" and was severely wounded in his wrists and thigh during the Meuse-Argonne campaign of 1918. His bravery in combat impressed his superior officers, and he was sent to the prestigious French Academy of the Sorbonne. Smith was chosen as an instructor at West Point under General Douglas MacArthur. He later served at the Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, Kansas until May of 1933. He was then ordered to Oregon to work on the logistics of the CCC camps in that state. In late June, Major Smith was sent to Camp Rigdon in the high sierras of the Siskoyou Mountain Range about fifty miles outside of Oakridge, Oregon. He replaced Captain Bishop, who had failed to adequately command the camp. Smith did an excellent job of providing "three square meals" to the enrollees at Ridgon. He enjoyed commanding the camp until September of 1933. Smith provided amusing and exciting field trips to the Pacific Ocean for his young CCC rookies, who had never experienced this type of activity before and were enormously appreciative of his efforts. After being relieved of his CCC command, Smith was ordered to continue his military duties at the Command and General Staff College. During World War II, Smith led his 27th Army Division with honor and distinction in the Pacific. At the age of ninety-nine, General Smith still has fond memories of his involvement in "Roosevelt's Tree Army."³³

GLENN STEPHENS (born 6/17/13)

By 1934, Glenn was a twenty-year-old farmboy from Ottawa, Kansas. In 1931, his father had died and Glenn had recently graduated from Melvern High School. Until

1934, his mother was unemployed and he worked at odd jobs including bridge construction, but "jobs were scarce" and steady employment nearly impossible. His older sister was employed as a secretary, but it wasn't sufficient income for the needs of the family. In April of 1934, the recruit went to Melvern, Kansas, to enroll in the CCC. Once he enrolled, the young enlistee was sent by train to Fort Snelling, Minnesota, for orientation, physical training, and supplies. After his initial period, he was shipped by rail to his permanent camp at Camp North Home (CCC Company #1761) near Alvwood, Minnesota. In his work camp, he worked at conservation projects including: trimming the woods, clearing out underbrush, and building foot trails. Glenn was stationed at Camp North Home for two hitches (April, 1934 to April, 1935). Upon his release, he went to Ontario, California, to work for General Electric until 1942. At the outbreak of World War II, he enlisted in the Army's Air Corps in 1942 and earned the rank of corporal. In 1946, he was discharged and was immediately hired by Mayflower Moving Company, and later became a foreman and finally was promoted to supervisor. After working at Mayflower for twenty-nine years, he finally retired in 1975. The former CCC enrollee became a member of the NACCCA in 1986, and his caring wife served as president of John Muir Chapter #45 (1988-90). The couple continues to be active members in the local chapter.³⁴

GEORGE H. STILES (born 4/17/15)

In 1935, George was an unemployed high school graduate (1933) from Gallitzen, Pennsylvania, who had decided to enlist in the CCC. The twenty-year-old young man

volunteered because there were "no jobs," and he needed to support his younger brother and sister, and his jobless single mother. In August of 1935, George went to Camp Big Pond (CCC Company #1332, S-108) in Shippensburg, Pennsylvania. He was promoted to the position of supply sergeant with a leader rating. He moved to Camp Mt. Union (S-109), Pennsylvania and was given the job of leader of a livestock survey crew. The enrollee served in the CCC over three years (August, 1935 to October, 1938). He was given his release to take employment with the Pennsylvania Railroad, but only worked for three months. George worked at odd jobs until 1942. During World War II, he became a member of the Army and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant after O.C.S. The officer was stationed in England and France in the Ordinance Corps until his discharge in 1946. He then worked as an electrician from 1946 to 1949 when he was accepted at Penn State University. He eventually transferred to the University of Pittsburgh. In 1954, George graduated from Pitt with a degree in education. Meanwhile, he worked at Westinghouse in the nuclear division in Pittsburgh (1950-58). In 1958, George moved to Sacramento to work for Airjet in an administrative post until 1965. Ling Temco Vought Aircraft and Missiles of Detroit hired him for one year (1965-66). He returned to California in 1966 to work for Lockheed Corporation of Sunnyvale until 1969. He happily returned to Westinghouse in Sunnyvale until his retirement in 1984. The former CCC camper joined the NACCCA in 1986 and has been an active member of the John Muir Chapter #45 ever since.³⁵

ARTHUR C. THOMPSON, JR. (born 10/11/20)

Arthur was a "poor bumpkin" from Hartford, Ohio. In 1937, he had graduated from Hartford High School at the age of sixteen years, but was frustrated at being jobless. In 1938, Art decided to join Roosevelt's "Tree Army" with his "father out of work--little food for parents and a younger brother and sister." The seventeen-year-old recruit went to Fort Knox, Kentucky, in January of 1938 to enroll and receive his orientation, physical training, and equipment from the Army. After a cross-country train ride of seven days on old Pullman cars, the novice arrived at Henryville, Utah (CCC Company #2529). Shortly after, he was sent to a spike camp at Kanab, Utah where he spent nine months building corrals for cattle, drift fences, sheep pens, horse corrals, and water tanks. Art was given his honorable discharge in January of 1939 and later stated that, "I grew up quite a lot." He immediately got a job from an owner of a portable saw mill in the wooded areas of Pennsylvania. Art had odd jobs including a steel mill (1940-42), TNT factory in Maidville, Pennsylvania (1942-44), and American Viscose Rayon Company (1944-51). Finally, in 1951, FMC of Santa Clara hired him in the reproduction engineering department, where he was promoted to an administrative post. Art received his A.A. degree in business management at San Jose City College, which helped his advancement at FMC. In 1980, he retired from FMC after twenty-nine years of service. He is currently an energetic member of the John Muir Chapter #45 (NACCCA).³⁶

PHILIP VELASCO (born 7/9/16)

CC9-128869 (CCC#)

Philip is from the agricultural community of Gilroy, California. He was forced to drop out of Gilroy High School after his sophomore year to help out his father, mother, two sisters, and three brothers. Phil worked at odd jobs as a ranch hand around Gilroy for a year without much success. On April 13, 1934, the recruit went to San Jose to enroll in the CCC and then was taken by a solid-tire pick-up truck to Fort Winfield Scott in San Francisco. At the Presidio, the seventeen-year-old rookie was given World War I surplus, orientation, and physical conditioning by the Fort cadre for two weeks. He was then taken with 204 trainees to Camp Callahan, California (CCC Company #1907, F-12), where he sharpened and fixed tools during his first hitch (4/13/34 to 10/34). Phil spent three months at a side camp with seventeen enrollees under the supervision of a forest ranger. He fought fifty-two forest fires during that summer. His second hitch was at Camp Salt Creek (CCC Company #1904, F-351), where he was promoted to assistant blacksmith and the rank of assistant leader. Phil was discharged on March 25, 1935, and returned to Gilroy to work. "One of the best things that happened during my youth was this," Phil said later. He worked as a truck driver for Oakland Sand and Gravel (1935-36) and Web Shell Trucking Company (1936-41). Between 1941-44, he worked as a welder for Kaiser Shipbuilding in Oakland. In 1944, he began his career as an electrician for a variety of heavy construction companies until his retirement in 1979. Phil is currently involved in the NACCCA and is a member of the John Muir Chapter #45.³⁷

VAUGHN WOFFLE (born 7/24/19)

On June 1, 1939, Vaughn graduated from Redfield High School, South Dakota. During his high school days, he and his older brother ("Happy") did trapping and sold the pelts to help their parents and seven younger siblings. After high school graduation, Vaughn had "no job and no work in the area" and decided to join the CCC. On July 7, 1939, he enlisted and was at once sent to Camp Pactola, South Dakota. While in Roosevelt's "Tree Army", Vaughn learned about the "logging business, carpentry, forest conservation, truck driver, cat skinner, fire-fighting, dam building, and heavy equipment operator." The enrollee also was involved in the construction of roads and lookout towers, thinned out timber, planted trees, and did livestock counts. After almost two years, he was released on June 2, 1941 to attend aircraft school in Omaha. Vaughn stated that the CCC "paid for my aircraft schooling, helped me to grow up and you learned to get along with all kinds of people, and they made you believe you could do anything if you set your mind to it." After graduating from the Omaha aircraft school, he became a mechanic for the next forty-one years (1941-82). He worked for Pacific Airmobile, Douglas Aircraft, and United Airlines. In March 1982, the skilled mechanic retired from United Airlines after thirty-eight years of devoted service. The CCC alumnus is presently involved in the NACCCA through the John Muir Chapter #45 in San Jose.³⁸

APPENDIX II

CCC HONORABLE DISCHARGE PAPERS

Every enrollee was given his honorable discharge papers upon his release from the program. These documents contained the medical, educational, and vocational history of a recruit during his enlistment in the program. His CCC experience demonstrated to prospective employers a positive employment history and, as a consequence, former corpsmen dutifully kept these papers throughout their lives. Oscar F. Rodriguez faithfully stored his discharge papers in a safety deposit box for nearly forty-nine years until his death in 1990. The following two sheets are copies of these documents.

Honorable Discharge
from the
Civilian Conservation Corps




TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

This is to Certify That* O SCAR F. RODRIGUEZ, CC9-301503
a member of the CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, who was enrolled
October 4, 1939 at El Centro, California, is hereby
(Date)
HONORABLY DISCHARGED therefrom, by reason of** Expiration Term of Enrollment--
Not desiring to reenroll.
For Convenience of the Government, per. par. 45g, CCCR-WD, December 1, 1937

Said Oscar F. Rodriguez was born in Del Rio
in the State of Texas When enrolled he was 21 years
of age and by occupation a Student He had Dark Brown eyes,
Black hair, Ruddy complexion, and was 5 feet
9 1/4 inches in height. His color was White

Given under my hand at Seattle, Wash., this 22 day
of March, one thousand nine hundred and 41


HUGH S. FITE, CCC Subaltern, Co. 927 CCC
(Name) (Title)
CCC Detachment Commander

* Insert name, as "John J. Doe."
** Give reason for discharge.

RECORD OF SERVICE IN CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

**Served:

Pine Valley, Calif.

a. From 10/4/39 to 8/6/40, under War Dept. at Camp Pine Valley F-160, /

Type of work Camp Carpenter *Manner of performance Satisfactory

Saugus, Calif.

b. From 8/7/40 to 8/13/40, under War Dept. at Castaic Camp F-140, /

Type of work Orientation *Manner of performance Satisfactory

c. From 8/14/40 to 8/9/40, under War Dept. at En route to Alaska

Type of work Passenger *Manner of performance Satisfactory

d. From 9/10/40 to 3/19/41, under War Dept. at Annette Island, Alaska

Type of work Carpentry *Manner of performance Satisfactory

e. From 3/20/41 to 3/22/41, under War Dept. at En route to Seattle, Wash.

Type of work Passenger *Manner of performance Satisfactory

Remarks: Provisions of par. 40d, CCCR-WD, 1937, C-25, and par. 138a, ILAD, 1938, C-19,
read and explained to enrollee 10/9/39.

FBI fingerprint card accepted at HNCA 11/17/39

Provisions of Federal Comp. Act read to enrollee 11/17/39

Instruction and training in fire fighting as req. by CCC Safety regs given 10/14/39

Occupational Qualifications: Carpenter

Educational Qualifications: High School Graduate.

Commanding Officers and Project Superintendent's opinion of enrollee

as a workman: Satisfactory

Record of Innoculation: Typhoid October 21, 1939 Smallpox October 9, 1939

Result: Immune

Discharged: MAR 22 1941 at Seattle, Washington

Transportation furnished from Annette Island, Alaska to El Centro, California

Ft. Lewis, Wa. 1941
paid in full
Ray H. Larkins, Lt. Col.
2300

HUGH S. FITE, CCC Subaltern, Co. 927 CCC
(Name) (Title)
CCC Detachment Commander

FOOTNOTES

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3. Sigsmund Bernas (Placerville, 9/5/92)
4. Martin Bianco (San Jose, 10/21/92)
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10. Zenas H. Chapman (Santa Clara, 2/27/91)
11. Martin Coopender (San Jose, 10/10/92)
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| 19. | MacDermott, Roderick | 2/02/91 | Campbell, California |
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- | | | | |
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- | | | | |
|-----|---------------------|----------|-------------------------|
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