

THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

IN OKLAHOMA,

1933-1942

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## PREFACE

The Civilian Conservation Corps today is considered one of the most successful of the New Deal programs. Yet it is only briefly treated by historians in any text or description of this period. There have been only two published studies fully dedicated to the study of the CCC. Charles Price Harper's book The Administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps is weak in various details and is limited in scope, as the title suggests. The only substantial study of the CCC undertaken by a historian is John A. Salmond in The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942: A New Deal Case Study. Clearly, the full story of the CCC is yet to be told.

This study concentrates upon the Civilian Conservation Corps in Oklahoma. A descriptive work of this nature may be justified for several reasons. Focus within one state will allow greater attention to detail which in turn will better illustrate the Corps' contribution towards liquidating the depression. Although eighty-eight camps were established in Oklahoma, records of only eighty-three were found. Special attention will be paid to five selected camps which represent different types of work done by the CCC in various areas of the State. These camps are Blackwell, Fort Sill, Stapp, Sulphur, and Tulsa.

Answers to several questions will be sought. In what ways was the Civilian Conservation Corps in Oklahoma a relief measure? To what extent was it an employment measure? The CCC was quite popular in Oklahoma and in the Nation; one might well ask the basis for such

popularity. How did Oklahomans react to the conservation camps in their local communities? What specific projects did the CCC undertake in Oklahoma? What types of work were involved in these projects? How many Oklahomans did the CCC directly involve? What was life like in an Oklahoma Civilian Conservation Corps camp?

I must express my deep appreciation to those many people who contributed to the research and writing of this thesis. To those former enrollees and officials of the Civilian Conservation Corps with whom I corresponded, visited, and telephoned goes my gratitude for their insight into their past experiences in the CCC. I could not have begun to write this thesis had it not been for the information obtained by Oklahoma State University Library from the National Archives in Washington, D.C. Having received help from so many people it is not appropriate to list names of contributors here for fear of excluding someone. However, I must personally thank Dr. Charles M. Dollar of the Oklahoma State University history department for his understanding and constructive criticism.

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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

On a cold March day in 1933, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, the President of the United States, addressed himself the task which he felt lay before him:

This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So first of all let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself -- nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.<sup>1</sup>

The people fearful indeed, listened as their new leader asked them to have "vision." President Roosevelt told Americans what they already knew: "Our greatest task is to put people to work." "This Nation asks for action, and action now," the President said.<sup>2</sup>

President Roosevelt had not underestimated the job he had chosen to undertake. With the country in the deepest depression it had ever known, Roosevelt faced the challenges of unemployment, business depression, and agricultural overproduction.

Unemployment was a persistent problem during the depression era. The number of factories, businesses, and schools that cut payrolls or shut down altogether continued to grow between 1929 and 1934. In March, 1930, estimates of unemployed persons ranged from 3,350,000 to

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<sup>1</sup>Franklin Delano Roosevelt, The Public Papers and Addresses of Franklin Delano Roosevelt (New York: Random House, 1938), p. 91.

<sup>2</sup>Ibid.

4,000,000. These figures doubled in one year and by 1932 some 11,000,000 to 12,000,000 people were out of work. Despite the efforts of the Roosevelt Administration, unemployment remained high. By September of 1936, between 10,000,000 and 11,000,000 Americans were still unemployed.<sup>3</sup> Furthermore, a Salvation Army survey showed that 1,225,000 of those Americans were wandering aimlessly across the United States.<sup>4</sup>

American business and industry faced financial trouble throughout the depression. From November, 1929, through November, 1932, industrial construction fell from \$949 million to a low of \$74 million.<sup>5</sup> In the first three years of the depression 4,835 banks failed. The aggregate total of investments and savings lost amounted to \$3,263,049,000. During these same three years the value of stocks listed on the New York Stock Exchange fell from a high of \$89,668,276,854 on September 1, 1929, to \$15,633,479,577 by July 1, 1932.<sup>6</sup>

Farmers suffered perhaps more than any other group in American society. The price of wheat fell from \$1.05 per bushel in 1929 to \$.39 in 1932; the prices of other major agricultural products also declined sharply. As a result, the nation's income from farm products was less

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<sup>3</sup>Paul Webbink, "Unemployment in the United States, 1930-1940," Papers and Proceedings at the American Economic Association, XXX (February, 1941), pp. 250-251.

<sup>4</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, April 23, 1933, p. 7.

<sup>5</sup>Federal Reserve Bulletin, XVIII (1932), p. 616; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, Historical Statistics of the United States (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1960), p. 379.

<sup>6</sup>Frank A. Vanderlip, "What About the Banks," The Saturday Evening Post, CCV (November 5, 1932), pp. 3-4.



than half of the \$12 billion it had been in 1929.<sup>7</sup> The lack of rain in 1930 and 1931 and again in 1933 and 1934 brought even more misery to the farmer.

Oklahoma, an agricultural state with marginal rainfall in the western counties, was naturally severely struck by the depression and the drought. Unemployment figures showed a rise in the number of jobless from 1929 through 1933. By 1932, 300,000 Oklahomans were out of work.<sup>8</sup> Hundreds of thousands of Oklahoma families were on relief rolls. The primary reason for the increase in unemployment and the growth of the relief rolls was the drought of 1933 and 1934. Many farmers were evicted from their land by mortgage holders and others simply packed up and left their lands to blow away.

The plight of Oklahoma farmers during the depression was well celebrated. John Steinbeck characterized them as "people in flight from the terror behind."<sup>9</sup> One Oklahoman, Oscar Ameringer from Oklahoma City, testified before a Congressional committee in February of 1932, about the depths of the depression in Oklahoma. He reported countless bales of cotton rotting in the fields. Ameringer asserted that overproduction on the one hand and underconsumption on the other resulted in 70 per

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<sup>7</sup>Bertha Asch, and A. R. Magnas, "Farmers on Relief and Rehabilitation," Works Progress Administration Research Monograph, VIII (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1937), pp. 6-12.

<sup>8</sup>See Table 1, p., 4. This table illustrates graphically that unemployment in Oklahoma grew through the years 1930 to 1935 in rough proportion to the increase in the total unemployment in the United States. Both Oklahoma and the Nation seem to reach a peak in the number of unemployed in the year 1933.

<sup>9</sup>John Steinbeck, The Grapes of Wrath (New York: Heritage, 1939), p. 150.

TABLE I  
UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AND OKLAHOMA

Year	March	June	September	December
1930				
Okla.	60,000	20,000	14,000	129,000
U. S.	3,919,000	3,905,000	4,983,000	6,841,000
1931				
Okla.	219,000	185,000	242,000	291,000
U. S.	8,133,000	7,894,000	8,846,000	10,889,000
1932				
Okla.	327,000	350,000	323,000	317,000
U. S.	12,386,000	13,373,000	13,458,000	14,240,000
1933				
Okla.	354,000	299,000	236,000	201,000
U. S.	15,653,000	13,843,000	11,845,000	12,760,000
1934				
Okla.	202,000	145,000	131,000	182,000
U. S.	12,420,000	11,717,000	12,428,000	12,359,000
1935				
Okla.	227,000	206,000	192,000	172,000
U. S.	12,608,000	12,389,000	11,789,000	11,449,000

Source: Bureau of Business Research, University of Oklahoma.  
(Norman, Oklahoma; 1937)

cent of Oklahoma's farmers not being able to pay their mortgages in 1931.<sup>10</sup>

The prices Oklahoma farmers received for their products slumped sharply between 1929 and 1935.<sup>11</sup> In 1928 Oklahoma wheat sold at \$1.05 per bushel but by 1932 sold for \$.32 per bushel. Barley sold for \$.66 per bushel in 1929 but dropped to \$.19 per bushel in 1932. Oklahoma cattlemen sold their cattle for \$8.70 per hundred pounds in 1928, but received only \$3.00 per hundred pounds in 1933.<sup>12</sup>

The depression also affected Oklahomans in urban areas. In Tulsa and Oklahoma counties, the two most populous counties, the relief rolls were the largest. On January 20, 1931, a crowd of approximately 200 unemployed men and women raided a downtown Oklahoma City grocery store. The "raid," reported by the Daily Oklahoman and the New York Times as a "hunger riot," was engineered by Francis Owens, head of the Oklahoma City Unemployed Council which was a private organization striving to obtain relief for the City's unemployed. Similar "hunger riots" occurred in Henryetta and other Oklahoma cities.<sup>13</sup>

What is striking about the first years of the depression in Oklahoma was that the state possessed no adequate machinery to fight the depression. Prior to 1931, the burden of relief was solely the

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<sup>10</sup>United States House of Representatives, "Hearings Before the Subcommittee of the Committee of Labor," Congressional Record, 72nd Cong., 1st Sess., H. R. 206, H. R. 8088, pp. 98-99.

<sup>11</sup>See Appendix B, (p. 73.)

<sup>12</sup>C.R. Collins and W.G. Hill, Prices Received by Oklahoma Farmers, 1910-1957. Oklahoma State University, 1958.

<sup>13</sup>The New York Times, Jan. 21, 1931, p. 3.

responsibility of each county. Most counties in Oklahoma maintained a relief or an assistance board to administer to the unemployed and needy; however, it soon became apparent that the counties alone could not handle the demand for relief payments. Counties such as Tulsa, Oklahoma, Okmulgee, and Creek had overwhelming claims from the unemployed.<sup>14</sup> In 1931, the Thirteenth Session of the Oklahoma Legislature adopted a measure creating a state welfare plan. An "emergency relief board" was created and was appropriated \$300,000 for use in the first fiscal year. This board was an important step forward in coordinating state relief activity, but the funds available were wholly inadequate.<sup>15</sup>

In the midst of depressed prices and long relief rolls it was difficult for Americans to be concerned about ideas or programs which were not absolutely necessary. Since the days of Teddy Roosevelt, Americans had not been concerned with conservation of their natural resources; however, the depression, the drought, the wind, and the dust, illustrated the necessity of practical conservation programs.

Although a farm state, Oklahoma's efforts at conservation of her natural resources had been almost non-existent in the years before the depression. In 1927, the Oklahoma Legislature created a Conservation Commission responsible for developing a program of "water engineering", or water conservation. Before this commission was created the only apparent interest exhibited in conservation was in the State Constitution's directive to the Secretary of the State Board of Agriculture to

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<sup>14</sup>Oklahoma State Department of Labor, Biennial Report. 1930-1952, pp. 24-25.

<sup>15</sup>Oklahoma State Senate, Senate Bill No. 28, Session Laws of Oklahoma, 1931, pp. 353-355.

handle any conservation programs.<sup>16</sup>

The Conservation Commission was composed of three members appointed for four years by the Governor with the consent of the Senate. These men were charged with the duty of conserving the state's water for the "general public interest." The Commission dealt directly with farmers by concluding contracts for construction of ponds, terracing, planting, purification, and reforestation. Unfortunately, the participation of the farmers was not encouraging<sup>17</sup> and the commission soon lost its appropriations. A Forestry Commission, similar to the Conservation Commission, also failed to carry out its program. The Brookings Institute, in studying these conservation efforts, concluded that Oklahoma's conservation program needed more cohesion and emphasis.<sup>18</sup>

With the aid of hindsight it is easy to see that Oklahoma needed federal aid to cope with the problems of the depression. Oklahoma needed to strengthen and modernize her overall economy as well as her lands and natural resources. In fact, each state in the union had similar problems. It was the response of the Roosevelt administration that determined the future of these several states as well as the Union itself.

Franklin Roosevelt, living up to his inauguration promise, initiated federal "action" throughout the United States. On Sunday afternoon, March 5, one day after his inauguration, President Roosevelt issued

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<sup>16</sup>Oklahoma State Department of Public Welfare, First Annual Report, 1938, p. 1; Oklahoma State Constitution, Article XXV, Sections 1-4.

<sup>17</sup>Brookings Institute, Organization and Administration of the State Government of Oklahoma (Oklahoma City: Harlow, 1935), pp. 160-161.

<sup>18</sup>Ibid., pp. 161-163.

two executive orders. The first called Congress to convene in special session by March 9; the second declared a national banking holiday to stop the flow of gold overseas and to bolster national confidence.<sup>19</sup> On March 10, Congress passed the President's economy measure cutting the payments to veterans and reducing the wages of federal employees.<sup>20</sup> The President also recommended that the sale of 3.2 beer be legalized. On March 16, Roosevelt sent Congress his controversial farm bill which was passed May 12 as the Agricultural Adjustment Act.<sup>21</sup> In the meantime the President announced that the country had gone off the gold standard. On May 18, the President signed the Tennessee Valley Authority Act, casting the federal government in the role of regional developer.<sup>22</sup> In June, approval of the Home Owner's Loan Act eased the credit strain somewhat. Although the industrial recovery bill was heatedly debated in Congress, it too passed through the gauntlet and on June 16, President Roosevelt signed the National Industrial Recovery Act.<sup>23</sup>

The flow of laws and federal programs continued throughout the first two years of the Roosevelt administration. Roosevelt attacked the depression by attempting to curb unemployment, by giving public relief, and by spending massively on public relief. During the whirlwind "one hundred days" one bill was considered and passed by Congress

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<sup>19</sup>Arthur Schlesinger, The Coming of the New Deal (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1957), p. 415.

<sup>20</sup>William Leuchtenburg, Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal, 1932-1940 (New York: Harper, and Row, 1963), p. 45.

<sup>21</sup>Ibid., pp. 48-51.

<sup>22</sup>Schlesinger, pp. 324-326; Leuchtenburg, pp. 54-55.

<sup>23</sup>Leuchtenburg, p. 55.

embodying all three of these techniques.

The President's personal interest in conservation at his Hyde Park estate and as Governor of New York influenced his quick decision to ask Congress for the formulation of a civilian conservation corps. On March 15, 1933, the Secretaries of War, Agriculture, Interior, and Labor Departments met to discuss the idea. From this meeting came the general concept of a body of young men, paid a "safe" wage (i.e., lower than a union wage), who were to work on forestry and soil erosion projects.<sup>24</sup> On March 21, 1933, the President sent to Congress his suggestions for the "Relief of Unemployment." The President pointed out that the Conservation Corps, doing useful public work, was not a "panacea for all the unemployment but it [was] an essential step in this emergency."<sup>25</sup>

The original bill creating the Civilian Conservation Corps was introduced in the Senate by Senator Joseph T. Robinson of Arkansas and in the House by Representative Joseph W. Byrns of Tennessee.<sup>26</sup> The provisions of the bill were rather general. "Enrollees," as they were called, were to be enlisted from the ranks of the unemployed, were to be enrolled for one year, and were to work on selected conservation projects. Pay was not to exceed \$30 a month, and no restrictions with regard to age or marital conditions were included in the original bill.

The public and Congress generally accepted the idea despite testimony by American Federation of Labor President William Green that the

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<sup>24</sup> John A. Salmund, The Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942 (Duke University, 1967), pp. 11-12.

<sup>25</sup> Public Papers of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, pp. 80-81.

<sup>26</sup> Congressional Record, 73rd. Cong., 1st Sess. Vol. 77, pt. 1, pp. 630-651, 701.

law hurt the honest, hard working laborer.<sup>27</sup> To keep further debate at a minimum and to speed up Congressional approval of the bill all passages in the bill referring to pay rates and enrollment requirements were deleted. The President was authorized to operate the CCC as he saw fit. In the discussion in the House of Representatives over final passage the opponents attacked the measure because it gave the President a great deal of power to determine the details of the administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

All major amendments to the bill failed except one which prohibited discrimination "on account of race, color, or creed" in the execution of the act.<sup>28</sup> On March 31, 1933, only ten days after the introduction of the original bill, the program of "emergency conservation work" became law.

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<sup>27</sup>Salmond, p. 97.

<sup>28</sup>Congressional Record, 73rd. Cong., 1st Sess., Vol. 77, pt. 1, p. 983.



## CHAPTER II

### OKLAHOMA'S FIRST CAMPS IN OPERATION

Oklahoma quickly received her share of "CC Camps", as they were often called. Operating on the basis of directives sent to Oklahoma from Washington, D. C., the state undertook the responsibility of recruiting, examining, feeding, housing, and supervising the work of thousands of Oklahoma men.

Robert Fechner, former executive of a Georgia machinist union, was appointed Director of Emergency Conservation Work. Roosevelt appointed Fechner because he wanted to stop any further opposition to the Corps from organized labor. Fechner coordinated CCC activities through four governmental agencies. The Department of Labor supervised enrollment and selection of members for the Corps in cooperation with the various state selection agencies. These state selection boards were made up of county welfare boards and Veterans Bureaus. After 1940, Selective Service boards helped with enrollment processing in some counties. All these selection boards followed the guidelines set by the Labor Department. The Secretary of War, through the United States Army, administered the outfitting and processing of the men on their way to and during their stay in the various camps. Both the Department of Interior and Department of Agriculture planned work projects through their respective agencies, the

Forestry Service and the Soil Erosion Service.<sup>1</sup>

On Saturday, May 27, 1933, Fechner released to Representative Jed Johnson the first official news that eleven camps utilizing 2,200 men were slated for immediate operation in Oklahoma. The location and duration of these camps depended upon the availability of high priority work, the extent to which local plans for needed conservation work had been completed, the suitability of the area for camp life, and the population of the area.<sup>2</sup>

The State of Oklahoma comprised a district within the Eighth Corps area of CCC operations. In addition to Oklahoma, Colorado, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas were included in the Eighth Corps. District headquarters for Oklahoma were set up in Oklahoma City to begin the task of constructing and operating the first Oklahoma camps. Fort Sill, near Lawton, Oklahoma, handled the Army's part in administering the enrollees. This Army post undertook responsibility for examining, equipping, and quartering the new enrollees until they received assignment to another camp.

Each Corps area received quotas for each district from the Director's office in Washington limiting the number of enrollees from any one

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<sup>1</sup>United States Congress, Congressional Record. 73rd Cong., 1st Sess., Vol. 77, Pt. 1. pp. 863-1013; See also Executive Order No. 6101. It should be noted that Civilian Conservation Corps was not the official title of this legislation until a new bill was passed in 1937. However, the President popularized the use of CCC through his use of the term in an address to Congress March 21, 1933.

<sup>2</sup>Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Annual Report of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1936, (Washington, D. C.: Government Printing Office, 1937), p. 4 (hereafter cited as Director's Report); The Daily Oklahoman, May 28, 1933, p. 1.

state. Oklahoma's first quota was placed at 5,000, including the 2,200 men enrolled in the first eleven camps in Oklahoma.<sup>3</sup> On April 28, 1933, two men from Henrietta, Texas and eighteen from Oklahoma City enrolled as the first members of the Oklahoma Civilian Conservation Corps. The next day Tulsa County enrolled 392 men.

The Corps got such an enthusiastic welcome in the state that during the first six months of operation Fort Sill processed more enrollees than any other district center in the Eight Corps area. From April 5, 1933, through September 30, 1933, 5,057 young men passed through the induction center at Fort Sill. Approximately 200 of these men, mostly Negro, made up the company assigned to the work project on the 57,000 acre Army reservation itself.<sup>4</sup>

These men enrolled in the Corps for a period of six months, but had the privilege of re-enrolling for up to two full years. Most of the men assigned to Oklahoma camps were native Oklahomans, though some men came from Colorado and Texas. Enrollees in the Oklahoma CCC served within Oklahoma for the most part; however, some were assigned to camps in Colorado and Arizona. By late May, 1933, the headquarters office in Oklahoma City was processing 200 applicants a day. Oklahoma's quota for the first year seemed small since the state had the largest number of applicants in excess of allotted quotas of all the districts within the Eighth Corps area.<sup>5</sup>

Most of Oklahoma's first camps were situated in the Southeastern

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<sup>3</sup>Director's Report, September 30, 1933, p. 25.

<sup>4</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, April 19, 1933, p. 9.

<sup>5</sup>Director's Report, September 30, 1933, pp. 22-23.

corner of the state in the Third and Fourth Congressional Districts.<sup>6</sup>  
 The CCC camps in this region produced a small scale business boom for the entire area. Twelve hundred consumers moved into Southeastern Oklahoma spending a total of about \$1,000 a week. These first camps were often located on private land for the purpose of sodding or reforestation. Others were located on state land such as the project of building Lake Murray, or on federal property such as Platt National Park.<sup>7</sup>

News reached Oklahoma in early May, 1933, that veterans would be eligible for enrollment in the Corps. At its inception the Corps had been conceived of as a youth movement, but veterans, who were not restricted by their age, soon made up a large portion of the enrolled strength of the CCC in Oklahoma. Young men enrolled between the ages of 17 and 26 were classified as "junior" enrollees while the veterans were usually called "vets". Oklahoma veterans quickly took advantage of the new ruling; and on the first day of enrollment, July 27, 1933, five hundred veterans reported to Oklahoma City for their physicals.<sup>8</sup>

Oklahoma's early involvement in President Roosevelt's "tree army" was in part due to the President's keen interest in conservation in general and in his understanding of the conservation needs of the Southwestern United States in particular. Delegates from this region, including Oklahoma, traveled to Washington, D. C. April 12, 1933, to confer with Labor Department advisors about recruiting men for the

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<sup>6</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, April 29, 1933, p. 1; April 6, 1933, p. 4; May 25, 1933, p. 1; Director's Report, September 30, 1933, pp. 22-23.

<sup>7</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933, p. 12; May 9, 1933, p. 1; May 28, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>8</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, May 25, 1933, p. 2; Director's Report, 1933, p. 2.

Corps. In a joint letter to the Secretaries of the Departments of Interior and Agriculture and to the Director of Emergency Conservation Work, President Roosevelt expressed his wishes that early efforts be made to "get some camps started" in the Southwest.<sup>9</sup> The President also noted that the first water conservation plans he had received were from the Congressional delegates of Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Texas, and Oklahoma. In late summer of 1933, the President wrote to Robert Stuart, the Chief of the Forestry Bureau, Department of Agriculture, indicating an interest in building six shelter belts consisting of trees which would arrest wind erosion across the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Nebraska. In November of 1933, President Roosevelt twice mentioned in his correspondence that the CCC could contribute to the development of the Arkansas River Basin. The President directed both the Forestry Bureau and Harold Ickes of the Interior Department to examine the conservation efforts of E. W. Marland on his estate in Ponca City, Oklahoma.<sup>10</sup> The President had met Marland when the latter served in Washington as a Representative and through this acquaintance learned of Marland's fascination with forestation and horticulture at his Ponca City home. Several agents from the Forestry Bureau actually came to Marland's

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<sup>9</sup>Roosevelt to the Secretary of the Department of the Interior, the Department of Agriculture, and the Director of Emergency Conservation Work in E. Nixon, ed., Franklin D. Roosevelt and Conservation, 1911-1945. (New York, 1947), pp. 161-162.

<sup>10</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, April 13, 1933, p. 2; Roosevelt to Robert Y. Stuart, Forester, Forestry Service (Washington, August 19, 1933); Roosevelt to Harold L. Ickes, Secretary of the Interior (Warm Springs, Ga., November 21, 1933); Roosevelt to Henry A. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture (Warm Springs, Ga., November 21, 1933) all cited in Nixon, ed., pp. 162-165.

estate and studied the conservation techniques used there.

Pressure from Oklahoma Congressmen and from the public in general was also a factor in the quick establishment of the CCC in the state of Oklahoma. Fechner often received petitions from townspeople, city governments, and local civic groups, urging that camps be located in their area. Oklahoma Senator Elmer Thomas was flooded with letters requesting that the CCC locate in this or that community.<sup>11</sup> Representative Jed Johnson had a personal interview with Roosevelt with regard to the location of one camp in Oklahoma. In late July of 1933, Oklahoma Governor William Murray made a trip to Washington to discuss Oklahoma's claim to a greater share of the growing array of federal programs, including of course the CCC.<sup>12</sup>

#### ADMINISTRATION

It was apparent from the beginning that the states would have to handle the major burden of the daily administrative tasks dealing with the CCC. Since Emergency Conservation Work was set up to coordinate activities with several governmental agencies, it seemed only natural that the state branches of these governmental organs put policy into operation. It was in fact necessary to involve the states, since they donated much of the land and were in direct contact with the people who would benefit most from the work opportunities.

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<sup>11</sup>Personal Papers of Senator Elmer Thomas, "Civilian Conservation Corps Correspondence," Division of Documents, University of Oklahoma Library.

<sup>12</sup>Oral A. Williams, President of Bartlesville, Oklahoma Chamber of Commerce to Fechner, March 17, 1935; The Daily Oklahoman, May 9, 1933, p. 1; The Daily Oklahoman, August 1, 1933, p. 8; Roosevelt to Fechner (Washington, October 11, 1933) in Nixon, p. 208; Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, pp. 103-104; The New York Times, July 21, 1936, p. 4.

These state agencies, so vital to the CCC, were at the bottom of a long chain of command.<sup>13</sup> Fechner summarized the administrative functions of the CCC agencies at the national level in his first official report to the President.

The United States Department of Labor was designated to select the men to be enrolled; the Department of War to physically examine those selected, to enroll those physically fit, to feed, clothe, house, and condition those enrolled, to operate and administer all work camps, except those of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and to provide educational, recreational, and religious facilities; and the United States Department of Agriculture (through the Bureau of Biological Survey, Bureau of Plant Industry, Bureau of Entomology, and the Forestry Service), the Department of Interior (through the Office of National and State Parks, Buildings and Reservation; the General Land Office, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs); the Department of War (through the Office of the Chief of Engineers and the three Military reservations) to select and have charge of all work projects and to supply all necessary supplies, tools and equipment.<sup>14</sup>

The War Department maintained the most direct control over CCC operations since it was responsible for hiring and firing employees, formulating camp policy, and conducting daily camp routine. A special Army staff section with headquarters in Washington commanded the Civilian Conservation Corps. Corps Area Commanders coordinated activities in each of the nine corps areas between the area headquarters and the district headquarters. The District Commander maintained direct control over the welfare of all the camps within his state. A sub-district commander traveled around the state acting as liaison between the state capitol and the local camps. In addition to coordination and administration, the district commander selected and approved each campsite.<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>13</sup>See Appendix G, (p. 83.)

<sup>14</sup>Director's Report, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>15</sup>Ibid., p. 1.

The camp commander was the final link in the chain of command. It was his job to direct the activities of the men under his jurisdiction.<sup>16</sup>

Lieutenant Colonel John M. Hausen undertook the War Department's obligations in Oklahoma. Hausen acted as commander for the Oklahoma district from his headquarters in the Cotton Exchange Building in Oklahoma City.<sup>17</sup> The majority of Oklahoma's camp commanders under Hausen's command were reserve officers called up for duty with the CCC. These camp commanders maintained a staff consisting of from two to four junior officers, an educational advisor, and a medical doctor.

With all the emphasis put on the role of the Army, it is little wonder that some critics feared militarization of the Corps. With some absence of mind, Assistant Secretary of War Henry H. Woodring called the CCC men "economic storm troopers", but Roosevelt asked for and received a prompt retraction. The public was at times wary of potential trouble but it was widely known and accepted that the CCC men had no military status whatsoever.<sup>18</sup>

The Department of Labor, which was responsible for the selection of men, also worked through existing state agencies. All state districts received from Washington an official description of the eligibility standards which each applicant was to meet. The job of selecting applicants belonged to the state and local officials. In Oklahoma, Fechner,

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<sup>16</sup>United States Army, Instructions for the Civilian Conservation Corps, Eighth Corps Area. Technical Library, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. pp. 29-31.

<sup>17</sup>Harper, The Administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps, pp. 30-31; Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, p. 72.

<sup>18</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, November 3, 1940, p. 12; Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, p. 86.



through the Division of Selection (i.e., the Department of Labor), agreed to cooperate with the Oklahoma State Relief Director. Governor Murray appointed G. H. Scroggins to succeed Ira Mitchel as Relief Director for Oklahoma since Mitchel did not please Murray. Scroggin coordinated and assisted the county relief programs. He took on the additional job of passing on to the county relief agencies and welfare boards the established requirements for CCC enrollment. Scroggin maintained a special assistant, J. L. Hill, to organize and conduct CCC correspondence in Oklahoma. This "selection director", as he was called, acted as liaison between the director's office in Washington and the local selection agencies in the counties.<sup>19</sup> These county agencies in return publicized the program and solicited applicants from their areas. Fechner, in his annual reports, called these conglomerated state agencies the State Selection Agency, although many states had no agency by that name. In Oklahoma Hill manned a "state selection office" but only for the purposes of coordination between Oklahoma City and the various counties who handled the bulk of selection duties. Fechner charged the selection agency with "responsibility for state organization, providing personnel, maintaining records, and acting as liaison."<sup>20</sup>

The requirements for enrollment in the CCC revealed Roosevelt's attempt to meet both relief and unemployment problems. For acceptance each applicant was to be a male citizen, unmarried, aged 17 to 26,

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<sup>19</sup> Civilian Conservation Corps, State Procedural Correspondence, Oklahoma, 1933-1942, National Records and Archives Service, Record Group No. 35. (Hereafter cited as State Correspondence with date and corresponding parties given where applicable).

<sup>20</sup> Salmond, The Civilian Conservation Corps, p. 117; The Daily Oklahoman, April 29, 1933, p. 1.

unemployed and needy, not in regular attendance at any school, willing to allot a major portion of his salary to his family, in good physical condition, of good character, and willing to accept work in any camp.<sup>21</sup>

Enrollees were selected quarterly every July, October, January, and April.<sup>22</sup> The men were required to complete each enrollment period unless they were offered gainful employment elsewhere or unless they desired to enlist in the Armed Forces. Those men who were on probation, parole, former convicts, law enforcement officers, National Guard members, or veterans who had been discharged for disciplinary reasons were not eligible for enrollment.<sup>23</sup>

County selection agencies attempted to select men on the basis of need. On May 27, 1933, this priority selection process began officially when the Director's office announced that all selections must be made from those families on relief rolls.<sup>24</sup> With the help of the county agencies, Oklahoma newspapers conducted a successful campaign to notify the public about local quotas and eligibility requirements for the CCC. In appealing to the public, county, state, and national CCC officials continually emphasized that the CCC was voluntary, non-discriminatory, and non-military.<sup>25</sup>

If one factor retarded the initial growth of the CCC in Oklahoma,

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<sup>21</sup>Civilian Conservation Corps, Office of the Director, "Standards of Eligibility and Selection," (June 15, 1939, Washington), p. 2.

<sup>22</sup>"Standards of Eligibility and Selection," p. 4.

<sup>23</sup>Director's Report, 1939, p. 13.

<sup>24</sup>"Standards of Eligibility and Selection," p. 6.

<sup>25</sup>Director's Report, 1936, p. 22.

it was the inability of the county agencies to obtain the proper information from the federal government in sufficient time to implement the program locally. Examination of the correspondence between the federal government, the state relief administration, and the counties reveals some misunderstandings as to the exact selection requirements. Governor William Murray wrote to Secretary Perkins, saying "We know nothing [about the CCC] except what we read in the papers, and that in this state is entirely unreliable."<sup>26</sup> Various county selection officials wrote directly to the assistant to Labor Secretary Perkins in charge of selection requirements, W. Frank Persons. Most of the problems plaguing the county officers dealt with the hiring of locally experienced men for camp construction and skilled labor. The CCC was able to hire only a few highly experienced local people in order to facilitate the technical aspects of the work project at hand, but many local people apparently believed that jobs were open for the asking. Several camps even solicited in the newspapers for job applicants.<sup>27</sup> After some first feeble steps, however, most selection agencies quickly got acquainted with the regulations set down in Washington.

It should be noted that two peripheral groups which were added to the list of those eligible for the CCC (i.e., the American Indian and Veterans) operated under slightly different administrative regulations. Veterans enrolled in the CCC sometimes worked along side the "junior" enrollees, but more frequently were assigned to work in camps where the

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<sup>26</sup>State Correspondence, William Murray to Francis Perkins, April 8, 1933.

<sup>27</sup>State Correspondence, November through December, 1933, Henry G. Miller, Unemployment Relief Committee, Kingfisher County to U.S. Department of Labor; The Daily Oklahoman, November 24, 1934, p. 7.

projects were designed for the older veterans. The admission system for the veterans was not centered around a county relief board. Instead, the local American Legion in cooperation with the Veterans Administration handled applications from the veterans. Veterans did not have to meet marital or age requirements.<sup>28</sup>

Indians in Oklahoma enrolled in the CCC under greatly modified administrative rules. The state branch of the Office of Indian Affairs selected men and supervised work projects on the basis of separate quota allotments for Indians. Few all Indian camps were established in Oklahoma, since the Indians in the state formed companies of from thirty to one hundred men who were assigned to camps with white junior enrollees. Much work in Oklahoma was done on Indian land itself.<sup>29</sup>

Though camp administration was a very important aspect of the CCC, it was only a small part of the total picture. This "other half" of the picture concerns the technical direction and supervision of the actual work projects undertaken by the CCC. This direction came from the Department of the Interior and the Department of Agriculture. These departments through various agencies<sup>30</sup> planned and conducted the work. The projects themselves and the administration set up to supervise the projects will be discussed in a later chapter.

There remains one final aspect of the beginnings of the CCC in Oklahoma. The work of the Civilian Conservation Corps was funded out of Federal Emergency Relief funds for the first two years of its existence.

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<sup>28</sup>"Standards of Eligibility and Selection," p. 5.

<sup>29</sup>Director's Report, 1933, p. 2.

<sup>30</sup>See Appendix C, (p. 74.)

The Appropriations Act of 1935 was the first money bill which specifically allotted money to the CCC. These funds were classified as the "emergency conservation work funds."<sup>31</sup> The share of money that Oklahoma received was based on the number of camps established in the state and the quotas assigned.

The annual cost to the federal government per enrollee was estimated to be \$1,004.<sup>32</sup> In fiscal 1934, the CCC spent \$3,391,542 in payments to 9,000 Oklahomans, with the bulk of this amount going to families on relief.<sup>33</sup> In the first three years of CCC activity in Oklahoma, enrollees in the state allotted \$4,823,000 to their dependents in the state.<sup>34</sup> An average camp was constructed at a total cost of \$22,000. Once built, a typical camp contributed an average of \$5,000 a month to the local markets.<sup>35</sup> However, the majority of the funds spent in Oklahoma consisted of allocations to dependents, which had the effect of widely distributing the money. By December, 1933, 5,200 men were sending their families \$25 a month. This amounted to an estimated 25,000 people in Oklahoma receiving benefits from the CCC.<sup>36</sup>

Oklahoma's administrative set up mirrored to a smaller degree the efforts of the federal government to select men, administer camps, and

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<sup>31</sup>Director's Report, 1933, p. 3; Ickes to Fechner, April 24, 1933, Records of the Secretary of the Interior (Washington, 1933).

<sup>32</sup>The Perry Daily Journal, December 2, 1933, p. 4.

<sup>33</sup>United States Congress, "Hearings Before the Joint Committee on the Reduction of Nonessential Federal Expenditures," 77th Cong., 1st Sess., November 28-December 4, 1941.

<sup>34</sup>Oklahoma State Planning and Resources Board, Annual Report, 1936, p. 181.

<sup>35</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, June 21, 1936, p. 10.

<sup>36</sup>Director's Report, 1936, p. 36.

supervise the work. Many Oklahomans fit the eligibility standards of the CCC and needed the work and relief. Due to this fact the CCC enjoyed an immediate and enthusiastic acceptance in Oklahoma. The initial effect of these men moving into Oklahoma's parks, forests, and farm lands resulted in a business stimulant for the local areas surrounding the camps as well as in greater relief for Oklahoma's unemployed. The fact that Oklahoma was successfully involved in the CCC early in its developing stages meant greater participation for Oklahoma in the Corps throughout the life of the CCC. In addition to this, Oklahoma's statewide relief agencies and its county agencies which were involved in the application of a conservation program produced valuable experience in the development of a state conservation program.

## CHAPTER III

### WORKING IN OKLAHOMA'S CCC CAMPS

When the CCC began to open up camps in Oklahoma there was a sense of excitement in the arrival of the young men. One group of enrollees arriving at Oklahoma City was described in this manner:

Late Monday afternoon 136 tanned and hungry young men filed out of passenger coaches at Fair Park and surveyed the territory that would be their home for the next few months.

Arrayed in uniforms ranging from regular Army khaki to blue denims, they rallied around their company commander... for instructions.

'And remember this, you're all considered gentlemen and I want you to conduct yourselves as such.'<sup>1</sup>

This scene of young men departing from truck, caravan, or special train was repeated many times in Oklahoma. After the men arrived at their project site it was up to them to build their barracks and other camp buildings. Until such time as the camp was completed the men were either quartered in tents at the camp site or in locally provided facilities such as the YMCA or a 4-H dormitory.<sup>2</sup> Army officers supervised the construction process. Some locally experienced men, or "LEMS" as they were called helped with the construction and some usually stayed on at the project to help meet the technical demands of the work and to

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<sup>1</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, October 3, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup>Civilian Conservation Corps, Camp Inspection Reports, Oklahoma, 1933-1942. National Records and Archives Service, Record Group No. 35. (Hereafter cited as Inspection Reports with specific camps and dates cited where possible); The Daily Oklahoman, October 3, 1933, p. 12; The Perry Daily Journal, March 20, 1934, p. 1.

promote good community relations. The nearest local market provided the camp with electricity, water, and usually sewage service.<sup>3</sup>

Each CCC camp operated under the direction of the War Department, Interior Department, or Agricultural Department for a specific type of work. The different types of work done by the CCC in Oklahoma may be divided into six major areas. There were National Park camps, National Forest camps, State Forest camps, State Park camps, soil erosion control camps, and biological survey camps. In addition to these general types, two camps under the direction of the Bureau of Reclamations and two camps situated on military reservations operated in Oklahoma. Each camp was identified by a code of letters and numbers. The numbers referred to the nearest post office, while the letters identified the type of work done at that particular project. For instance, Civilian Conservation Corps camp NP-1-0 was the code for Platt National Park near Sulphur, Oklahoma.<sup>4</sup> A brief look at the work plans in five typical camps will further illustrate the types of work conducted in these camps.

Since the Sulphur camp was a National Park camp it was naturally located on federal land. The project at Sulphur included such work as maintaining roads, camp grounds, and camp structures such as stone and timber latrines; placing park signs; and planting grass and trees. This particular camp was in existence from May, 1933 to January, 1940.<sup>5</sup>

The Blackwell camp (SCS-4) was a soil erosion camp in operation

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<sup>3</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; The Perry Daily Journal, March 20, 1934, p. 1; The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933, p. 12.

<sup>4</sup>This numbering system should not be confused with the numbers which distinguish "companies" of CCC enrollees.

<sup>5</sup>Inspection Reports, Sulphur (NP-1-0), January 18, 1935 to January 30, 1940.



from September, 1935, until March, 1941. Holopeter, as the camp was nicknamed, was involved with work projects on private land covering a radius of ten miles. The work at Holopeter included terrace constructing and sodding, contour farrowing, pond construction, tree planting, and general sodding. This work was done with the direct cooperation of the farmer who agreed through a contract to allow the CCC to work on his land as long as he supplied such things as grass and seed.<sup>6</sup>

Present day Mohawk Park in Tulsa, Oklahoma is yet another example of CCC work. Most of this camp was built by a company of white and black veterans. Mixed camps such as Mohawk Park were rare in Oklahoma and where they did exist separate facilities were maintained for each race. The Tulsa veterans camp was a state park camp engaged in building boat houses and picnic accommodations. Although there were several camps located at Tulsa, this particular veterans camp conducted its work from 1934 to 1937.<sup>7</sup>

The Fort Sill military reservation near Lawton, Oklahoma, was designated a camp for Negro enrollees. The project area included the entire reservation of 57,000 acres. The building of truck trails, culverts, bridges, and fire breaks occupied most of the enrollees' day. In addition to these projects, a special historical restoration project was undertaken to rebuild the old stone corral which had been a part of the original fort. The Fort Sill camp remained in operation from July of 1935 until May of 1942.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup>Inspection Reports, Blackwell (SCS-4), October 5, 1936 to March 17, 1941.

<sup>7</sup>Inspection Reports, Tulsa (SP-12), January 24, 1935 to October 4, 1937.

<sup>8</sup>Inspection Reports, Fort Sill (A-1-0), September 18, 1937 to May 31, 1942.

Near Stapp, Oklahoma, a major CCC reforestation project operated in the Cedar Lake recreation area including the 350,000 square acres surrounding the lake. Over 135 miles of truck trails were built in the area. The enrollees also constructed park buildings and recreational facilities. Much of the work done at Stapp was maintenance, since the camp was in operation from February of 1934, until March, 1941.<sup>9</sup>

Oklahoma offered many opportunities for the varied work of the CCC. It is important not only that this work was done in Oklahoma but also that it was done by Oklahomans who had been unemployed. How then, was this work conducted? How were the men organized and supervised?

An inspection of the technical project staff, of several camps, and of the planning and execution of soil erosion control work in the state should provide answers to these questions.

#### PROJECT SUPERVISION AND THE SCS CAMPS

The supervision of the project work was in the hands of trained professionals who planned and directed each step of the work. The type of skilled supervisors involved depended upon the nature of the work to be done. For instance, the work done in a soil conservation camp like Blackwell was under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture represented by an agricultural engineer and a staff trained in conservation and agronomy. The Blackwell camp had two agricultural engineers, a conservationist, an agronomist, and two senior foremen to supervise the field work.<sup>10</sup>

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<sup>9</sup>Inspection Reports, Stapp (F-1-0), February, 1934, to March, 1941.

<sup>10</sup>For the staff positions and salaries of the five selected camps profiled in this study, see Appendix E; Inspection Reports, Blackwell (SCS-4), November 14, 1938.

Basically there were two levels of work supervision at each camp. One level of project supervisors drew up the work plans while the other level carried out the plans. A soil erosion camp always had at least one conservationist and one engineer assigned to plan the work. The official plan was made with the agreement of local farmers who needed the work on their land. The result of such planning was a new relationship between the federal government and the individual farmer. This benefitted the farmer in two ways since he not only received free labor, but also received helpful conservation planning. The soil erosion camp at Blackwell had a total of 49,706 "agreement acres" under contract.<sup>11</sup>

A camp project superintendent and three to four senior foremen were in charge of executing the plans laid out by the conservationist. The superintendent and his foremen divided each company of men into work parties for each day's work. Each camp had approximately 200 enrollees, but generally only 100 to 150 men were available for work duty at any one time since many enrollees were assigned to stay in camp for kitchen duty or other camp maintenance. This meant that each foreman was in charge of from 20 to 40 men in the field.<sup>12</sup>

Work in the forestry and park camps was directed by the Department of the Interior. State forestry personnel and forest rangers acted as work supervisors to plan and help carry out the work. In addition to the personnel of the Forestry Bureau, the forestry camps used from two to four foremen to supervise smaller work crews.

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<sup>11</sup>Ibid., October, 1946 to March, 1941.

<sup>12</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; N. E. Rowley, Soil Conservation Service, Stillwater, Oklahoma, Former CCC Conservationist interview with author August 14, 1968, Stillwater, Oklahoma; Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; Vernon L. Jolly to the author August, 1968.

The National Park Service directed projects on both National and State parks. The camp superintendent in each camp worked with a staff made up of landscape architects, engineers, wildlife conservationists, and often "historical technicians."<sup>13</sup>

In addition to the camp project supervisor and the technical foremen, certain promising young men were selected from the ranks of the enrollees and assigned to the tasks of "project leaders." There were usually six leaders and twelve assistant leaders whose main job was to assist the foremen in the supervision of the project.<sup>14</sup>

Oklahoma greatly benefitted from the variety of work projects conducted in the state and nothing better illustrates this point than a review of the number of different camps and projects which were located in Oklahoma. The state map for 1935 reveals a wide dispersal of camps throughout the state.<sup>15</sup> There were fifteen park camps, seven forestry camps, twenty-five soil conservation camps, and two Army post camps. In sheer number the state park camps and the forestry camps rank second and third behind the soil conservation camps.<sup>16</sup> Each type of camp experienced steady growth from 1933 to 1935. After 1935 it is clear that the soil conservation camps and the state park camps remained at a relatively

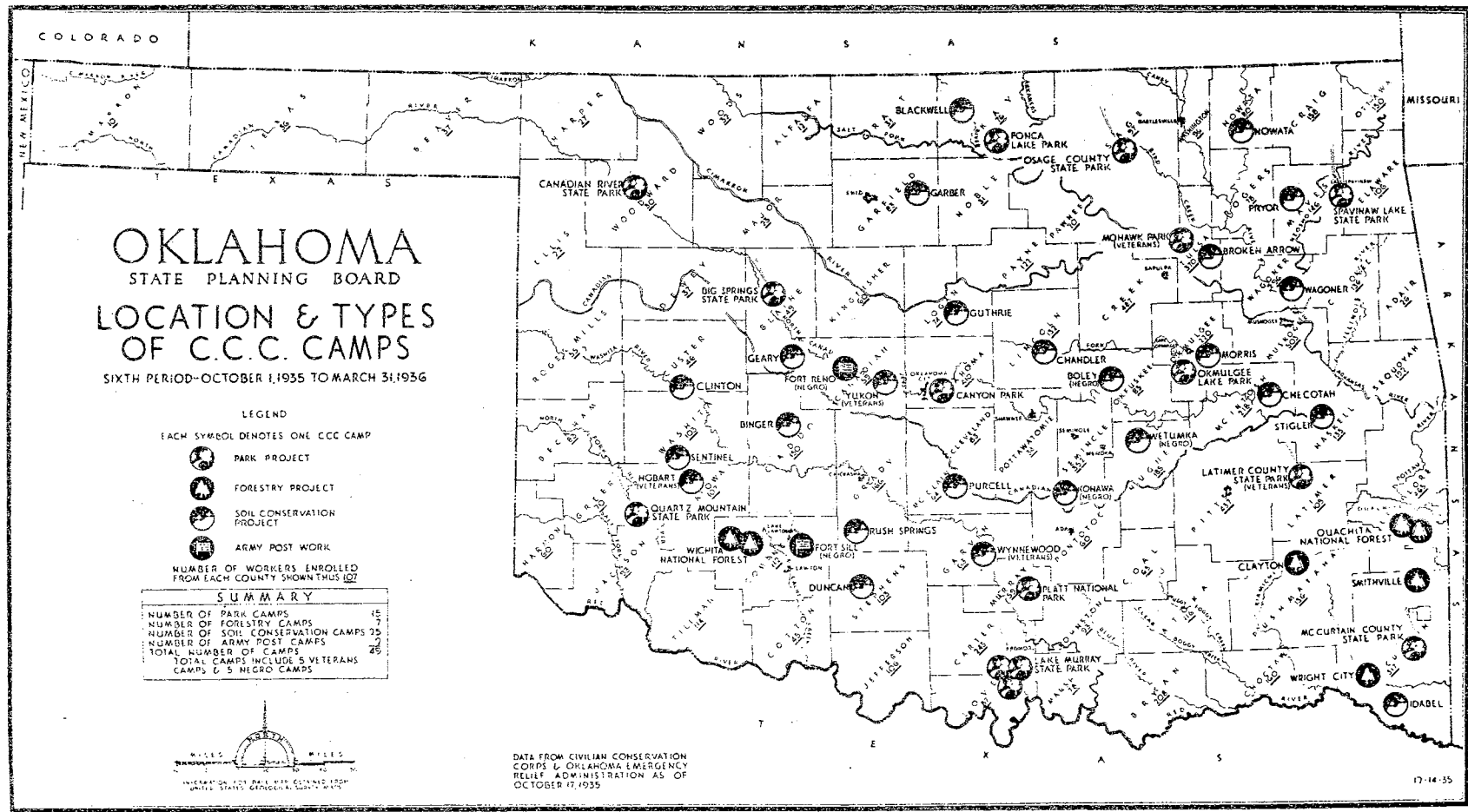
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<sup>13</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; Department of the Interior, National Park Service, State Park Emergency Conservation Work Chart, January 10, 1934. Unfortunately the author could find no evidence describing the men who acted as advisors for restoration projects of historical significance.

<sup>14</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

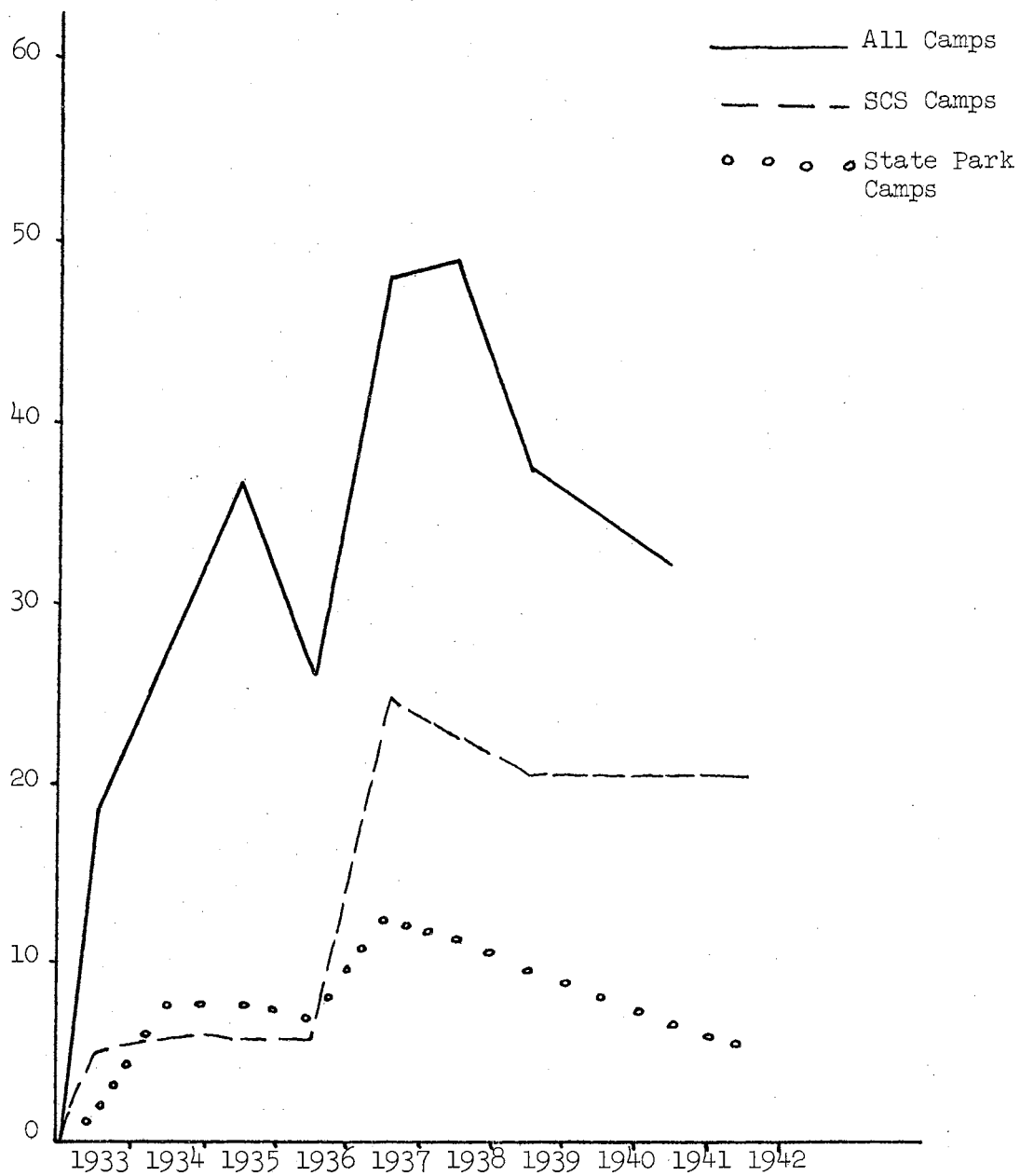
<sup>15</sup>See Map, p. 31.

<sup>16</sup>See Table II, p. 32.



Source: Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, Annual Report, 1936, p. 162.

TABLE II  
COMPARISON OF OKLAHOMA CCC CAMPS



Source: Director's Reports, 1933-1942.

TABLE III  
 TYPES OF CCC CAMPS IN OKLAHOMA, 1933-1942<sup>a</sup>

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941
National Parks	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	8
National Forests	17	17	14	2	2	1	1	1	1
Military Reserves	1	1	1	2	1	1	0	0	0
Soil Erosion	5	6	6	21	23	21	21	21	21
Biological Survey	0	0	0	2	2	2	1	1	1
T. V. A.	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
State Parks	1	8	8	7	13	12	10	9	7
State Forests	3	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	1
Private Forests	3	4	2	3	2	2	2	2	32
Indian Camps	2	13	11	3	0	0	0	0	0

<sup>a</sup>These calculations refer to the number of a certain type of camp, not necessarily the number of camps, see Table IV, p.34.

Source: Director's Reports, 1933-1942.

TABLE IV

## TOTAL NUMBER OF CCC CAMPS IN OKLAHOMA, 1933-1942

A separate tabulation of this nature is necessary since national forest camps in the first three periods were not distinguished from state or private forest camps and since state forest camps are indistinguishable from state parks.

April, 1933 - September, 1933	18
October, 1933 - March, 1934	28
April, 1934 - September, 1934	37
October, 1934 - June, 1935	26
1936*	49
1937*	50
1938	38
1939	35
1940	33
1941**	64

\*Reflects the first big effort at expansion.

\*\*Oklahoma was first in the Nation this year in the number of CCC camps.

Source: Director's Reports, 1933-1942.



stable number while other types of work camps fluctuated in number.<sup>17</sup>

Oklahoma was a national leader in the number of soil conservation camps and in the amount of total soil conservation work done. From 1936 to 1938 Oklahoma ranked third nationally behind Texas and Illinois.<sup>18</sup> On the average 56 per cent of Oklahoma's camps were soil conservation camps. As a pamphlet of the CCC stated, Oklahoma was truly "Making War on Soil Erosion."<sup>19</sup>

The cost of conservation projects in Oklahoma in 1936 was an estimated \$117,780,083.<sup>20</sup> Efforts were made to obtain the maximum return from each dollar that was spent on soil conservation in Oklahoma. Local farmers often organized into groups to give the soil conservationists at nearby camps a full list of work they felt could be done by the CCC.<sup>21</sup> The contract drawn up between the farmer and the CCC conservationist outlined in detail the measures needed on a certain peice of land to reduce erosion. Dr. N. E. Winters, regional director of the Soil Conservation Service in 1933, reported that 90 per cent of Oklahoma farmers contacted were willing to cooperate with the CCC.<sup>22</sup> The major items included in the farm plans were terrace outlet constructions, diversion terraces, pond constructions, drainage and irrigation ditches, fence construction, conservation cropping, crop residue utilization,

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<sup>17</sup>See Tables II & III, pp. 33, 34.

<sup>18</sup>Director's Reports, 1933-1941; See also Table III.

<sup>19</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, September 22, 1935, p. 12.

<sup>20</sup>Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, Annual Report. 1936, p. 34.

<sup>21</sup>N. E. Rowley, interview with author August 14, 1968.

<sup>22</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, September 22, 1935, p. 12.

cover cropping, pasture planting, tame and native grass management, and woodlands management.<sup>23</sup>

The accomplishments of the CCC in Oklahoma speak well for its success in the state. By the summer of 1934 CCC enrollees had spent 700 man-hours fighting forest fires, built 256 miles of truck trail, and 483 miles of highway. Most of these projects built by the CCC were built for permanent use. Fechner personally cited Platt National Park and the Lincoln Park outdoor theater in Oklahoma City as outstanding examples of work done by the CCC which would benefit Oklahomans for years to come.<sup>24</sup> Some of the major work items completed in Oklahoma from 1933 through 1941 include:

Fences, roads	1,005,595
Minor roads, miles	2,400
Check dams, number	655,113
Trees planted for erosion control	5,264,516
Reforestation, number	15,863,000
Moving trees, number	4,604,481
Pest control, acres	370,726 <sup>25</sup>

Of all the types of work done by the CCC in Oklahoma the soil conservation projects were the most important in terms of long lasting effects upon both the people and the natural resources of Oklahoma. Not only did the SCS camps accomplish much actual work, but also they helped to enlighten the Oklahoma public to the facts of soil conservation. There were many other important aspects of CCC work in Oklahoma in

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<sup>23</sup>William T. Fountain, former enrollee and project superintendent, to the author August, 1968.

<sup>24</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, June 21, 1936, p. 10.

<sup>25</sup>Civilian Conservation Corps, James S. McEntee, Director, "Brief Summary of the CCC Program in Oklahoma, April, 1933 to June, 1942." For a fuller discription of work completed see Appendix I, (p. 86.)

addition to the work of the soil erosion camps. Prior to 1930 there were no state parks in Oklahoma. By 1934 there were eight state parks, all of which were built in part or in whole by the CCC.

## CHAPTER IV

### LIFE IN OKALHOMA CAMPS

The work done in Oklahoma was wide in scope and for the most part successfully completed. Besides the energy of the enrollees, the training of the supervisors, and the acceptance of the programs on the part of most Oklahomans, the most important aspect of the success of the CCC projects was the working conditions in the CCC camps in Oklahoma. What was life like in these camps? What factors were conducive to good working conditions? What did camp life offer other than a place to live and work?

The camp environment of the CCC had all the characteristics of a small community; and this community was built by the enrollees themselves. The buildings of these camp "communities" were wood frame structures built for temporary use only. From four to five barracks made up the bulk of the camp area and usually housed about 40 men each. The barracks were rectangular in shape with a length of over one hundred feet and a width of about twenty feet. Necessary material and building supplies were purchased on the local market after bids were received by the Army.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup>The Perry Daily Journal, December 2, 1933, p. 1; The Daily O'Collegian, October 6, 1933, p. 4.

Enrollees were responsible for constructing their own mess hall and recreation hall. All buildings were serviced with electricity, water, and sewage.<sup>2</sup>

Other "community like" features completed the camp design. A PX or camp canteen offered the enrollees cigarets, candy, and magazines. Most camps received mail regularly once a day. Telephone lines serviced most of the camps, although they were restricted to camp commander's quarters.<sup>3</sup> A machine shop kept vehicles running and tools in shape. Church services were held each Sunday. Libraries were maintained in all camps where possible, and each month a traveling library visited those camps unable to maintain their own library.

The daily schedule of camp life varied little and was comparable to Army routine. Enrollees were awakened by a bugle blast from the night watchman at 6:00 in the morning. After breakfast and camp policing, enrollees were officially "turned over" to the project leaders for the day's work.<sup>4</sup> The men worked a six-hour day five days a week. It took the men about one hour to get from the camp to the work site, while another hour was spent for lunch in the field. In addition to the regular work schedule the men were responsible for the cleanliness of the camp and were subject to emergency work such as forest fires and floods (although none of the latter occurred in Oklahoma). Saturdays and Sundays

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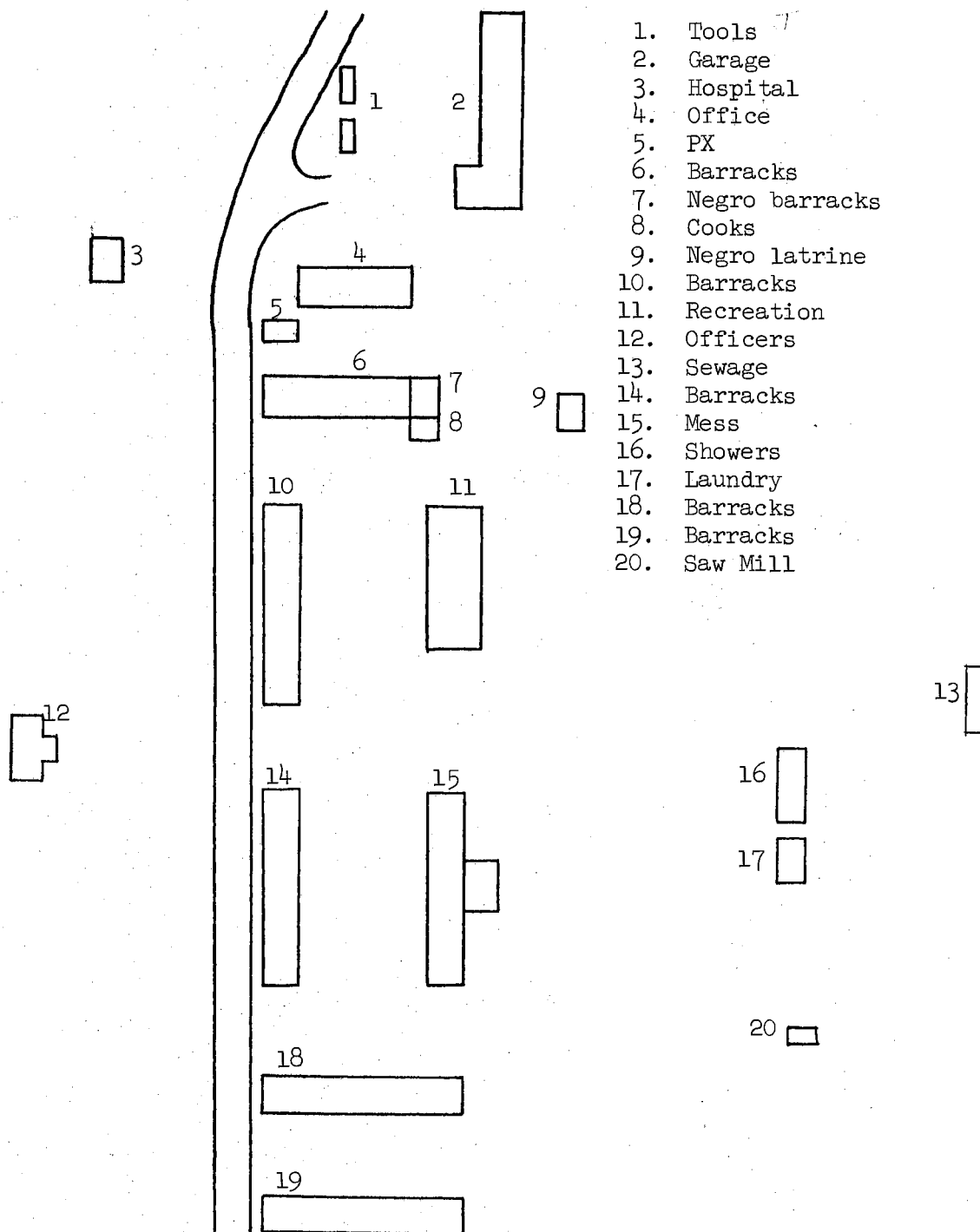
<sup>2</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933, p. 12; See Figures 2 & 3, pp. 40, 41.

<sup>3</sup>Ibid.

<sup>4</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; Vernon L. Jolly, former CCC enrollee to the author August, 1968; The Perry Daily Journal, May 22, 1934, p. 1.

FIGURE 2

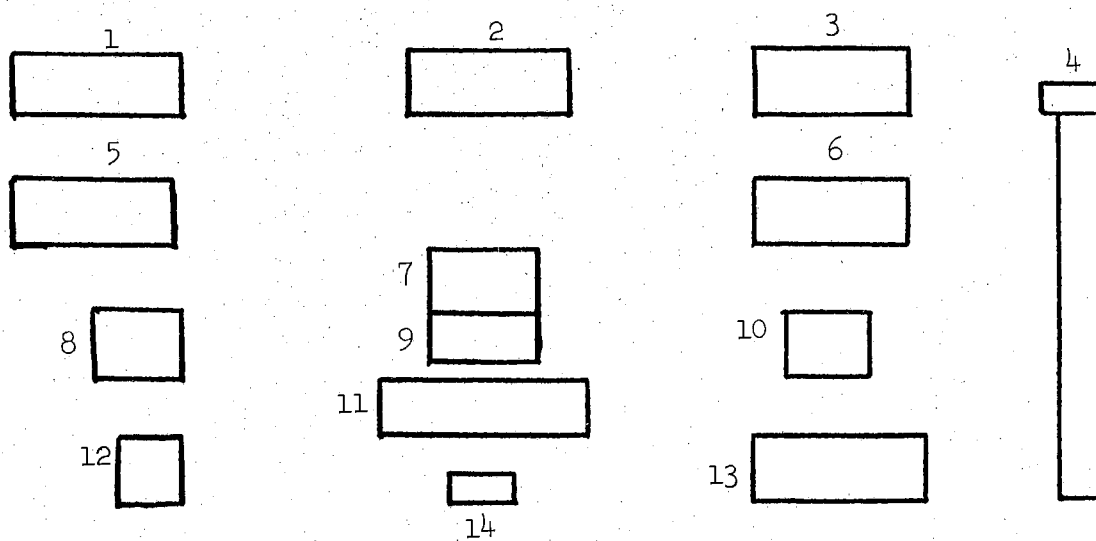
DIAGRAM, CCC CAMP, MCALESTER, OKLAHOMA, 1936



Source: Oklahoma Camp Inspection Reports.

FIGURE 3

## DIAGRAM, CCC CAMP, MORRIS, OKLAHOMA



1. Barracks
2. Mess
3. Barracks
4. Tools
5. Barracks
6. Barracks
7. Headquarters
8. Supply
9. Recreation
10. Library
11. PX
12. Hospital
13. Barracks
14. Latrine

Source: Camp photo, property of Lester V. Adkins, former enrollee, now living in Tulsa, Oklahoma

were free time for the enrollee when he might either go into the nearest town or receive visitors in camp.<sup>5</sup>

Those enrollees assigned to camp detail remained in camp each day. Some were assigned to help the Army cooks and others were designated as medical aides to assist the camp doctor. The rest of the camp crew worked on the maintenance of the tools and vehicles.<sup>6</sup>

#### HEALTH AND RECREATION

One of the most vital assets of the CCC in Oklahoma was its ability to maintain the enrollees' health and physical fitness. The meals in Oklahoma CCC camps were palatable and nourishing, especially when one considers the plight of those less fortunate. Many of the men had not eaten so well outside of the CCC. A typical day's menu might include:

- Breakfast: Wheat Krispies, Apple Butter, Fried Eggs, Biscuit, Sugar, Coffee, Milk.
- Dinner: Ham Loaf, Creamed Potatoes, Gravy, Cabbage Salad, Fruit Salad, Corn Bread, Coffee, Sugar.
- Supper: Vegetable Soup, Chili Beans, Sauerkraut, Cherry Pie, Crackers, Dill Pickles, Hot Tea.

Perishables for the meals were purchased at the local market, while the Army supplied the staples. Without a doubt the open air, the exercise, and three nourishing meals a day left the enrollees in good physical condition.

Even though beer was often served with meals there were some complaints about the food. Enrollees frequently complained about the fact

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<sup>5</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933 p. 12.

<sup>6</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.



that the Army officers ate better meals than they. On the whole, however, federal camp inspectors<sup>7</sup> usually found little validity in the complaints about camp food.<sup>8</sup>

In order to promote the continued good health of the enrollees each camp was assigned a camp doctor, usually an Army medical officer. Some few camps were serviced jointly by one doctor who traveled between two or three camps. Most Oklahoma camps, however, had their own doctor. These camp doctors were supervised by a surgeon general stationed in Oklahoma City who coordinated the efforts of all the camp doctors in Oklahoma.<sup>9</sup>

Most camps were outfitted with a camp hospital, but all camps had some service area for bed patients, supplies, and equipment. The medical officer and his assistants were responsible for the care of each enrollee, for the general sanitation of the camp grounds, for the camp water supply, for approval of the camp diet, and the camp's disposal system.<sup>10</sup>

The major part of the doctor's job was routine. Sick call was held each morning. Most of the enrollees reported to sick call due to accidents. Otherwise the most frequent illnesses were due to respiratory diseases and venereal disease. These illnesses were relatively

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<sup>7</sup>These federal camp inspectors were men appointed by Fechner to inspect all camps periodically. In Oklahoma each camp was visited about once every six months.

<sup>8</sup>United States Army, Instructions for the CCC, Eighth Corps, p. 28; Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

<sup>9</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; Sumner A. Russman, D.D.S., former dentist attacher to Oklahoma CCC, to the author September 6, 1968.

<sup>10</sup>Director's Report, 1933, p. 3; Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

infrequent and generally did not result in death. Although no figures exist for Oklahoma, the national average of deaths in 1936 was only 2 deaths per 1,000 enrollees attributable to diseases, and slightly more than an average of one death per 1,000 enrollees due to injury.<sup>11</sup> The lack of diseases speaks well for the medical staff and for the overall safety program of the camps.

Fechner reported in 1939 that the national average of men contracting venereal disease was 14.1 per 1,000 men; even as early as 1934 Fechner had noted that venereal disease was fourth in frequency of occurrence in the CCC camps. While death usually did not result from the disease, the enrollee was discharged. Without referring to any specific figures Fechner reported in 1939 that the venereal disease rate for the Eighth Corps area was "comparatively high."<sup>12</sup> The most common reason for medical discharge from the CCC in Oklahoma was venereal disease.

Dental health was also an important aspect of keeping the enrollees fit. To administer dental care the state was divided into three districts with one dentist assigned to each area. This meant that a single dentist spread his time over approximately eleven camps, staying about two weeks in each camp. During his stay the dentist tried to examine as many men as possible in addition to taking care of the necessary operations and emergencies.<sup>13</sup>

In case of medical emergencies the Camp Commander was authorized to

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<sup>11</sup>Director's Report, 1936, Appendix F, p. 59.

<sup>12</sup>Director's Report, 1934, p. 19; Director's Report, 1939, p. 31; Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

<sup>13</sup>Sumner A. Russman, D. D. S., to the author September 6, 1968; Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

utilize a local dentist or doctor should one not be available at the camp. Each camp was equipped with an ambulance for emergencies. The hospital at Fort Sill was used for cases which could not be handled at the camp hospitals.<sup>14</sup>

During the nine years existence of the CCC in Oklahoma only one formal complaint was reported about medical service. No complaints were registered by the camp doctors or dentists about the lack of equipment. The federal Inspectors of Oklahoma camps repeatedly listed camp sanitation as excellent and the physical condition of the men good.<sup>15</sup>

To further promote the enrollee's good health and enjoyment of life all camps carried on active recreation programs. Most camps had both a recreation hall for indoor activities and a large field or court for outdoor sports. Oklahoma camps were generally well equipped with sports gear including croquet sets, softballs, bats, and gloves; horseshoes, basketballs, pool and snooker games, and table tennis equipment.<sup>16</sup> The recreation hall or camp canteen<sup>17</sup> usually housed the pool and ping pong tables where the men could play and relax.

Oklahoma camps often set up intramurals in basketball or baseball. The "Vets" from the veterans' camp at Mohawk Park in Tulsa had a regular baseball schedule.<sup>18</sup> Camps exchanged bouts in pool, table tennis, and boxing. In addition to intramural competition the CCC teams also played

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<sup>14</sup> Sumner A. Russman to the author, September 6, 1968.

<sup>15</sup> Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

<sup>16</sup> Inspection Reports, Rush Springs (SCS-21), September, 1936.

<sup>17</sup> See Figures 2-3, pp. 40, 41.

<sup>18</sup> Inspection Reports, Tulsa (SP-12), October 4, 1937.

local town or school teams.<sup>19</sup>

#### EDUCATION: CLASSROOM TRAINING AND ON-THE-JOB TRAINING

In addition to the significant work done by the enrollees to improve the forests and grasslands of Oklahoma, the enrollees were able to better themselves through various educational programs on the job, at night, and on week ends. The program was slow to start but nonetheless important in reaching high school dropouts, illiterates, and high school and college graduates with a meaningful educational experience.

On December 7, 1933, President Roosevelt approved the idea of educational advisers being attached to the camp command.<sup>20</sup> The stated educational objectives of the CCC were to eliminate illiteracy in the Corps, to remove deficiencies in the most common subject areas, to promote on-the-job training, to teach health and safety standards, to offer cultural education, to build character and citizenship, and finally to assist the enrollees with finding employment.<sup>21</sup>

Classroom courses were offered to the men three to four nights a week. This course work was divided into two levels as in primary and secondary schools. Arithmetic, grammar, spelling, and writing were common elementary courses for almost every Oklahoma camp. The illiterate enrollees in each camp were required to take these elementary courses. Camp educational advisers placed a great deal of emphasis on having each enrollee attain at least eighth grade level literacy while in the Corps.

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<sup>19</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; The Daily O'Collegian, December 5, 1933, p. 1.

<sup>20</sup>Director's Report, 1933, p. 7.

<sup>21</sup>Director's Report, 1936, p. 20.

Many camps even had their own graduation exercises for those men who passed exams given them by the educational adviser, thus allowing them to receive eighth grade certificates of graduation.<sup>22</sup>

Secondary course work was wide in scope and included agriculture, bookkeeping, typing, English, history, social science, plus health and safety. When camps were located near college campuses the college facilities were often used and in at least two instances special course work was offered by Oklahoma A and M College and Central State College. Oklahoma A and M College offered the CCC men two courses in general English, one in agriculture, one in history, and one cooking course. The men were supposed to receive one hour's credit for each course.<sup>23</sup>

Oklahoma enrollees welcomed the chance to receive an education through the CCC. In both the elementary and secondary courses over 80 per cent of all Oklahoma enrollees participated in the courses offered. It was clear, however, that the nature of CCC work and the possible vocational and on-the-job training which the men could receive interested the men more than general education courses.

Vocational training was a daily experience in the CCC. Men could not run a surveying unit without first learning how to use it, and the same situation applied for all the work done by the CCC. Rock quarrying, truck driving, and carpentry were all essential jobs to the CCC and were easily learned by the enrollee who had the desire to do so. Of course,

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<sup>22</sup>Civilian Conservation Corps, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, "Announcement of Eighth Grade Graduation Exercises," May 29, 1937.

<sup>23</sup>The Daily O'Collegian, February 16, 1934, p. 1; and December 5, 1933, p. 1; The Daily Oklahoma, October 27, 1933, p. 7; Although these courses were offered at Oklahoma A and M College the registrar at present has no record of the number of students enrolled or credits received.

actual course work was also offered in vocational subjects. Courses in automobile mechanics, cooking, mechanical drawing, masonry, soil conservation, forestry, and woodworking were most commonly available for Oklahoma CCC men.<sup>24</sup>

Most of the educational courses were taught by the educational adviser, members of the camp project staff, and military personnel, since they were the most qualified. In some cases enrollees with sufficient education helped teach classes. Teachers might also be recruited from the local schools or from the ranks of federally paid FERA teachers.<sup>25</sup> The camp doctor or dentist usually instructed the classes in camp hygiene and safety.

The exact qualifications of some of these men may be in doubt, but it is evident that the educational advisers did all they could to provide a worthwhile education for enrollees. The educational adviser closely supervised class work and was responsible for requesting of the Army any needed material and equipment. In arranging the courses to be offered in a camp the educational advisers in Oklahoma camps noted that engineering and agriculture interested the men most. This emphasis on the technical side of education was only natural considering the type of work done by the CCC. Various training books were published for the CCC describing certain phases of the work to be done.<sup>26</sup>

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<sup>24</sup> Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; See also camp profiles, Appendix D.

<sup>25</sup> Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; Director's Report, 1937, p. 7; Very few local school teachers or FERA teachers were used in Oklahoma.

<sup>26</sup> United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, CCC Forestry, (Washington, D. C., Government Printing Office, 1957).

Facilities for classes were usually very good. Some camps even maintained a special building for class work. If such a building was not available, the men would use the recreation or dining hall, the hospital, the shop, or a local school building depending upon the circumstances. Besides actual classroom space most Oklahoma camps were equipped with a library or were serviced with a mobile library once a week. Most recreation halls included a reading area where newspapers, magazines, and CCC instructional material were available.<sup>27</sup>

#### CAMP MORALE AND PUBLIC OPINION

With all the benefits of adequate food, lodging, and companionship one might easily get the impression that all was harmony within the CCC. The Civilian Conservation Corps was only rarely attacked in the national press and was only attacked once in Oklahoma in an unsupported allegation by Oklahoma Governor Leon C. Phillips.<sup>28</sup> The Corps did, however, receive occasional criticism from the enrollees as well as from the public. It is important then to investigate the reactions of both the enrollees and the public to the CCC camps.

Various factors affected the camp morale of the enrollees. In addition to the youth and inexperience of most of the men, most enrollees

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<sup>27</sup> Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

<sup>28</sup> Governor Phillips made a statement to the effect that the CCC was contributing to the delinquency of juveniles in Oklahoma. No evidence is available to indicate exactly why Governor Phillips made such a statement. United States Senate, Termination of the Civilian Conservation Corps and the National Youth Administration. Hearings before the Committee on Education and Labor, U.S. Senate, 77th Cong., 2d Sess., on S. 2295 (A bill to Provide for the Termination of the CCC and the NYA) March 23 to April 7, 1942, p. 569

were away from home for the first time and were being subjected to regimentation and hard physical labor for the first time. Considering this situation, it is only natural for a certain number of complaints to arise, but many of these "gripes" by the enrollees were aimed at major problems which were not settled during the lifetime of the CCC. Such problems as Army regimentation, friction between camp and project leaders, and segregation of black and white enrollees often plagued the CCC in Oklahoma.

As the CCC began to operate in Oklahoma there was much speculation by the public about friction between the Army command and the enrollees or between the camp command and the project command, but there is little evidence of this regimentation or friction. The only outward signs of Army regimentation were the uniforms, reveille, retreat, and the general design of the camps. The camp command and the project supervisors rarely clashed for the simple reason that they did not encounter each other during the work day since the project leaders were usually in the field. Outside of the actual working day the project supervisors lived in private accommodations in the local town and not in camp where friction might arise. Two other factors also helped to promote cooperation instead of friction. One is the fact that most camp commanders were reserve officers and therefore were not as rigid in their military outlook as regular Army men might have been. The second factor is that Army officers carried no guns in camp, and if there were guns in camp, they were under lock and key.<sup>29</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Inspection Reports, 1933-1942; The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933, p. 12; L. M. Long, former Army officer in CCC, Oklahoma District, to the author, August, 1968.



Many complaints from enrollees to the Director's office in Washington were investigated by federal inspectors. Most of these complaints centered around the theme of harshness and unfairness displayed by a camp commander or supervisor. At a camp near Woodward, Oklahoma, the project superintendent, George G. Nichlos, was replaced at the suggestion of the inspectors. The men at Woodward had complained of long hours and of the superintendent's unnecessary use of foul language in describing or addressing the men.<sup>30</sup> This man would not cooperate with either the enrollees or the military officials and obviously needed replacement. The federal inspectors on the average found relatively few such cases where camp personnel had to be replaced.

Fortunately, most complaints were found to be without firm basis. Senator Elmer Thomas received several letters of complaint from enrollees and camp officials stating that they were unable to get along with one another.<sup>31</sup> However, follow up investigations by Senator Thomas disclosed little validity to the claims. A great many complaints were received from enrollees at Wynnewood, Oklahoma. However, federal inspector M. L. Grant reported that most were unfounded except that there was a need for more shoes in the camp.<sup>32</sup> Enrollees at Stapp protested about lack of sleep due to recent fire-fighting, but inspectors reported no undue hardships.<sup>33</sup> Only one act of violence occurred involving enrollees and camp officers. Lieutenant Jobey L. Gatlin, the commanding officer at Pine Valley, was fatally shot while attempting to quiet down a drinking

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<sup>30</sup>Inspection Reports, Woodward (SP-17), August 15, 1936.

<sup>31</sup>Inspection Reports, Wilburton (S-55), September 2, 1938.

<sup>32</sup>Inspection Reports, Wynnewood (SCS-10), May 31, 1940.

<sup>33</sup>Inspection Reports, Stapp (F-1-2), October 7, 1937.

bout in the woods.<sup>34</sup> General complaints from enrollees tended to be petty and without sound evidence as to actual injustice done.

Despite the few malcontents the morale in Oklahoma camps was high. Satisfaction was so high that in Oklahoma only about one in five enrollees failed to finish his enrollment.<sup>35</sup> Desertion did occur in Oklahoma but it did not affect the majority of Oklahoma enrollees. Most discharges from the CCC were the result of the enrollee's refusing to do the work requested of him or because of serious misconduct on his part.

The morale of Oklahoma Negroes was not quite as positive as that of the whites. The original Emergency Conservation Work bill contained an amendment prohibiting all discriminatory practices in the operation of the CCC.<sup>36</sup> In many states local officials tended to disregard this part of the statute altogether.<sup>37</sup> Oklahoma did not have as large a concentration of Negroes as did some areas of the deep South, and although there were some incidents of discrimination there is little concrete evidence which points to discrimination on the part of the local officials in Oklahoma counties in the selection of Negro enrollees. Payne County was given a quota of eight Negroes in July of 1938, but

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<sup>34</sup>The New York Times, July 10, 1934, p. 9.

<sup>35</sup>Inspection Reports, 1933-1942.

<sup>36</sup>This provision was proposed by Representative Oscar DePriest (R. Ill.) Congressional Record 73rd Cong., 1st Sess., Vol. 77, Part 1, p. 983.

<sup>37</sup>Discrimination was evident in nearly all states where large populations of blacks lived. The most publicized case occurred in Clark County, Georgia, where no non-whites were selected for the CCC, and yet the county was 60 per cent black; John Salmond, "The Civilian Conservation Corps and the Negro," The American Historical Review, LII (June, 1965), p. 77.

only one was enrolled.<sup>38</sup> This may or may not indicate discrimination in selection since information is not available on the number of blacks who applied or were allowed to apply for the openings in the CCC.

Discrimination in the camps was more obvious. There were five separate all-black CCC camps established in Oklahoma.<sup>39</sup> A few camps were made up of "mixed" companies, but the mixture was usually at the ratio of 195 whites to 5 blacks. In such camps separate facilities were always maintained.<sup>40</sup> Negro enrollees were usually given jobs as cooks or janitors for the rest of the company. In most of these camps the Negroes even ate their meals after the main body of the enrollees had finished their meal.

Considering the attitude most whites had toward Negroes in the 1930's it was only natural for them to demand separation. Furthermore, it is not surprising to find that few blacks protested their treatment. A large number of Negro enrollees from Company 4823 at Fort Sill (which was an all-Negro camp) did write to J. J. McEntee, Fechner's assistant, complaining of bad treatment.<sup>41</sup> Nearly the entire company signed the petition. In response a federal inspector was dispatched to Fort Sill immediately who reported that there was little trouble. At Cache, Oklahoma, inspectors reported a "near race riot" on October 24, 1934.<sup>42</sup>

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<sup>38</sup>It should be noted that in all states the quotas given them included two numbers, one for the whites and one for blacks.

<sup>39</sup>See map, p. 31.

<sup>40</sup>See Figures 2-3, pp. 40, 41.

<sup>41</sup>Inspection Reports, Fort Sill (A-10), April 7, 1942.

<sup>42</sup>Inspection Reports, Cache (BF-2), December 29, 1934.

White enrollees at Cache, a mixed camp, demanded the removal of the Negroes in the camp. Investigation into this incident did reveal that several white enrollees were trouble makers and six of the leaders of the "riot" were discharged. It is clear that the prevailing attitude in the CCC was not conciliatory towards the Negro. This attitude was subtly illustrated by Inspector M. L. Grant when he reported that the Keystone camp had "managed to handle the problem of the two races very satisfactorily." He explained that 8 Negroes out of a company of 186 men "have separate barracks, a separate place to eat, and a separate time schedule for the use of showers."<sup>43</sup>

The overall camp morale was positive, despite some grumblings and discriminatory practices. In addition to being popular among the enrollees, the CCC was also popular among the public at large. The nature of the public's reaction to the CCC in Oklahoma tells much about the success of the Corps in the state.

A overwhelming majority of Oklahomans accepted and appreciated what the Civilian Conservation Corps was doing for their state. Many Oklahomans benefitted directly from the CCC. Farmers learned new farming techniques and new methods of conservation. The work done on Oklahoma farms was done at relatively low costs.

At first a new CCC camp moving into an area created mixed emotions. On the one hand the citizens were glad to see the men at work, and yet on the other hand there was apprehension about their conduct while off duty.<sup>44</sup> Usually these fears were dissipated since the men had little

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<sup>43</sup>Inspection Reports, Keystone (PE-56), March 9, 1934.

<sup>44</sup>The Daily O'Collegian, November 23, 1933, pp. 1-2; William T. Foutain, former CCC enrollee and project foreman to the author September, 1968.

contact with the townspeople, and when they were in town, they conducted themselves properly. Only one incident of misconduct in Oklahoma was reported to Fechner. Several enrollees were injured in a fight in a tavern near the Spavinaw Lake project (SP-23), but investigation revealed that strangers in town were responsible for the fight and the case was dismissed.<sup>45</sup> Many incidents such as local robberies or even murders were blamed on the CCC men,<sup>46</sup> but few had any basis.

Cooperation between the camps and the local communities was a factor in building public confidence as well as in completing the work project as designed. Most Oklahoma camps made efforts to promote good public relations. Local civic groups often invited the camp commander and the project supervisors to speak at luncheons and meetings in an effort to keep the public informed of what the CCC was doing.<sup>47</sup> Frequent tours were conducted for the general public through the project areas where the CCC men worked. Visitors were welcomed at camp and special visiting programs were set up in some camps on weekends.<sup>48</sup> Another method of promoting good relations was the Corps' attempts to sign up local men as skilled workers. This not only gave these men a job, but also made the local people feel that the camps were a part of the

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<sup>45</sup>Inspection Reports, Spavinaw (SP-23), August 21, 1936; Most likely there were other such incidents but only this one was officially investigated.

<sup>46</sup>Vernon L. Jolly to the author August, 1968; H. E. Walrup, former enrollee to the author August, 1968.

<sup>47</sup>The Perry Daily Journal, May 22, 1934, p. 1; State Procedural Correspondence, Oklahoma, 1933-1942.

<sup>48</sup>Director's Report, 1933, pp. 3-4; The Daily Oklahoman, July 9, 1933, p. 12; U. S. Army, Instructions for the CCC, Eighth Corps, p. 15; The Oklahoma City Times, May 8, 1941, p. 4; All camp entrances were plainly marked with signs.

community.<sup>49</sup>

A few disputes did arise between the local communities and the CCC camps. Some misunderstanding came about due to CCC's practice of hiring local men. When unemployed men in an area near a CCC camp heard of this practice, they naturally wanted to apply for the job. The only trouble was that relatively few such jobs were open, and often local unemployed men were turned away from camps without work. This created some feelings of bitterness and led to charges against the camp commanders that they only handed out the jobs to their friends.<sup>50</sup> Other disputes arose due to lack of local planning or lack of local facilities. At Purcell, Oklahoma, the camp commander complained of the high rates of water and electricity, and threatened to purchase these services elsewhere if the rates were not lowered. Purcell did not wish to lose the estimated \$3,000 a month which the camp spent in the area and therefore complied with the request.<sup>51</sup>

The CCC in Oklahoma was a valuable experience for many Oklahomans. These men were subjected to hard work, but they also had all the comforts of home plus some additional benefits. Life in Oklahoma's CCC affected an average of 8,000 men a month.<sup>52</sup> The CCC in Oklahoma during the years of expansion in 1935 and 1936 averaged a monthly enrolled strength of 12,000 men.<sup>53</sup> With this many men involved the relief burden on the

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<sup>49</sup>The Department of Labor, Emergency Conservation Work, "Official Letter No. 1," April 24, 1933.

<sup>50</sup>State Procedural Correspondence, Oklahoma, 1933-1942.

<sup>51</sup>Inspection Reports, Purcell (SCS-17), August 13, 1936.

<sup>52</sup>See Appendix G, p. 83.

<sup>53</sup>Director's Report, 1933-1942.

state became less and less. In 1936 the CCC employed men from 13,112 relief families.<sup>54</sup> In 1937, Oklahoma was ranked fourth in the number of enrollees behind Texas, Illinois, and New York.<sup>55</sup>

By 1940, however, the state began to lose its camps and the former enrollees turned to other jobs. In 1940, Oklahoma ranked only fifteenth in the number of enrollees.<sup>56</sup> Between July, 1940 and June, 1941, some 300,000 enrollees left the corps for other jobs. In the same period Oklahoma discharged over 48,000 men to accept employment in the military service or in defense plants.<sup>57</sup> It was not until March 6, 1942, that the first official cutback in camps was announced, but the Corps in Oklahoma had been dwindling in strength since 1938.<sup>58</sup> Throughout the month of March, 1942, Oklahoma's camps were abandoned. Some were turned into Army camps, but most were just forgotten.<sup>59</sup>

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<sup>54</sup>The Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, Annual Report, 1936, p. 185.

<sup>55</sup>Director's Report, 1937, p. 34.

<sup>56</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, November 3, 1940, p. 3.

<sup>57</sup>Director's Report, 1938, p. 27.

<sup>58</sup>The Daily Oklahoman, March 7, 1942, p. 1.

<sup>59</sup>The Enid Morning News, March 17, 1942, p. 3.

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSIONS

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Oklahoma gained the appreciation of Oklahomans. The operation and management of the CCC camps in Oklahoma was smooth and effective. To all concerned it seemed shameful to see the "Corps" fade away. Its job had certainly not been wholly completed neither in Oklahoma nor in the rest of the United States, although the vast amount of work that was done through the CCC has led historians to often refer to the "CCC" as one of the more popular of the New Deal's famous initialed programs. Yet historians give little attention to these accomplishments. Many people in Oklahoma and throughout the nation felt that such a productive and popular program as the CCC should not be cancelled, and yet the "gathering storm" of World War II made the CCC seem relatively unimportant.

In Oklahoma the Corps' contribution to the well-being of the state and of its people was very real. Soil conservation was a major work activity of the CCC in Oklahoma over the nine and one-quarter years the Corps operated. Of all the work done in Oklahoma, that of the soil conservation camps was the most important in terms of lasting effects. This meant that most Oklahomans enrolled in the CCC worked at one time or another on a soil conservation project, that most of the work was done on private and state land, that the Oklahoma public was probably affected more by these camps than by any other camp, and that more conservation



work was done in Oklahoma than any other type of work. In this respect the CCC in Oklahoma acted as a liaison between the individual citizen and his state and federal governments. The soil conservation camps demonstrated correct erosion control practices on thousands of farms and aided substantially in reducing soil wastage. The concept of soil conservation became a permanent part of Oklahoma's laws in 1937 when the Soil Conservation District Law established a state conservation committee to promote the type of work done by the soil erosion control camps.

Important work did not stop with soil conservation work. The CCC was directly responsible for the establishment of a series of splendid state parks which were non-existent prior to 1933. In all, eight major state parks were built by the CCC in addition to various county parks. The CCC also gave a needed boost to the idea of forest conservation and reforestation in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's federal and state forests throughout the Ozark region were protected by the CCC. Forest culture and protection had been badly needed in this area for some time and the CCC provided the means with which to accomplish this type of work. The Wichita Wildlife Refuge was another of the Oklahoma CCC's projects. Two CCC biological survey camps helped the state develop a program of wildlife conservation.

Over 107,000 Oklahomans received valuable experience and training from the CCC. These educational aspects of the CCC have been somewhat underestimated and have been certainly ignored by most historians. Generally, enrollees were exposed to two types of training activities while in the Corps. Enrollees could either participate in an extensive classroom program or in vocational and on-the-job training programs or in both. Courses covered material in both the elementary and secondary

levels. It was possible through this program for the illiterate to learn to read and write, and it was even possible to secure certification of grammar school and high school graduation requirements. The vocational programs trained men in skills allowing them to successfully seek employment outside the Corps.

Educators have tended to feel that much more could have been done to give the enrollees better educational opportunities. For instance, closer observation of the background of each enrollee would have allowed the placement of enrollees in a manner facilitating the balance between literates, illiterates, and college graduates. Despite this, it is clear that the education program of the CCC in Oklahoma was a success.

In one particular respect the CCC in Oklahoma did fail to take full advantage of its opportunity. The Negro in Oklahoma was not afforded full participation in the CCC, nor did the black man, who was enrolled in the CCC, benefit fully from the opportunities open to white enrollees in the Oklahoma CCC. Despite several black camps and some "mixed" camps, Oklahomans were not receptive to the idea of federal, much less state, aid to the black man. This injustice was the real shortcoming of the CCC in Oklahoma. Other criticisms of the CCC in Oklahoma such as militarization of the Corps were largely unfounded.

The CCC in Oklahoma met with a quick and yet lasting success in the state. The work done was then and now a tangible accomplishment. The CCC not only helped to attack the conservation problem but also helped to rescue the number of unemployed in Oklahoma. Dixon Wecter in his book The Age of the Great Depression states that the "saving of natural

resources" was incidental to the task of saving youth.<sup>1</sup> In Oklahoma the CCC was directed at both of these targets and hit the mark.

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<sup>1</sup>Dixon Wecter, The Age of the Great Depression (New York: Macmillian, 1948), p. 185.

## A SELECTED ANNOTATIVE BIBLIOGRAPHY

The background and general information for this research topic came from a variety of secondary sources. Of the books published in the area of the New Deal very few treat the CCC in detail. All of these works studying the New Deal accept the idea that the Civilian Conservation Corps was one of the most successful of Roosevelt's plans. Some of the books used to gain a general knowledge of the topic at hand do not deal with the New Deal as such but rather deal with other aspects of the period such as economic conditions. The following books offer much information as regards Roosevelt, the depression, and the CCC, but obviously does not encompass all of the literature of the New Deal period.

Beard, Charles A. A Study of the New Deal. New York: Macmillan, 1934. This is a rather outdated and general view of the New Deal. It reveals some of the first hand impressions of the New Deal.

Brookings Institute. Organization and Administration of Oklahoma. Oklahoma City; Harlow, 1935. This study is helpful in comparing the relief and conservation practices in the state before the New Deal and the CCC.

Collins, C. P. and W. G. Hill. Prices Received by Oklahoma Farmers, 1910-1957. Oklahoma State University, 1958. This is a statistical study showing exact prices received for a variety of farm goods in Oklahoma and is invaluable in illustrating the decline of prices during the depression.

Dearborn, Ned. Once in a Lifetime-Guide to the Civilian Conservation Corps. Chicago: Bobbs-Merrill Co., 1935. This book is an officially adopted guide book which was issued to enrollees explaining the general objectives of the CCC program. More than anything else it illustrates the romantic expectations of life in the wilds. Fortunately not all books issued to the enrollees were this simple in tone.

- Harper, Charles P. The Administration of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Clarkesburg, West Virginia: Clarkesburg Publishers, 1939. Harper's book is one of the first serious studies of the CCC, but is limited to administration of the CCC.
- Hill, Frank E. School in the Camps. New York: American Association of Adult Education, 1935. This is a study of the aspects of education in the CCC. Hill is critical of the government for not taking fuller advantage of the opportunities offered by the education program in the CCC.
- Holland, Kenneth, and F. E. Hill. Youth in the CCC. Washington, D. C.: American Council on Education, 1942. This is a more complete study of education in the CCC than was Hill's in 1935. Its purpose was to suggest ways of benefitting from the experiences of the educational program in the CCC.
- Ickes, Harold L. Secret Diary of Harold Ickes, Vols. I-II. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1953-54. This work is an informative view of the inside operations of the Roosevelt Presidency. Some personal views of Roosevelt and his advisors concerning the CCC are well expressed here.
- Leuchtenburg, William E. Roosevelt and the New Deal. New York: Macmillan, 1954. This is a synthesis of the Roosevelt years which is well done but like so many others passes lightly over the CCC.
- Nixon, E., ed., Franklin D. Roosevelt and Conservation, 1911-1945. New York: Macmillan, 1947. In this volume Nixon compiles Roosevelt's personal papers wherein he expresses his views about conservation.
- Oliver, A. C. and H. M. Dudley, This New America: the Spirit of the CCC. New York: Longmans, Green and Co., 1939. Eyewitness accounts and camp reports have been edited in this work. As the authors say the study is dedicated to the belief that the CCC will create a "new baptism of patriotism and National unity."
- Perkins, Frances. The Roosevelt I Knew. New York, Macmillan, 1946. Perkins offers another inside look at the New Deal.
- Salmond, John A. The Civilian Conservation Corps: A New Deal Case Study. Durham, North Carolina: Duke University, 1967. Salmond's book is the one outstanding work dealing with the CCC in its entirety. The study is related to larger problems confronted during the depression.
- Schlesinger, Arthur M. The Coming of the New Deal. Boston: Houghton-Mifflin, 1958. This is a good general study of the New Deal, however, Schlesinger is pro-Roosevelt.
- Walker, H. M. The CCC Through the Eyes of 272 Boys. Cleveland, Ohio: Cleveland Publishing Co., 1938. This book is a collection of some eyewitness accounts and census reports concerned with boys enrolled in the CCC from Cleveland.

Wecter, Dixon. The Age of the Great Depression, 1929-1941. New York: Macmillian, 1948. This is an old but respected work concerned with the causes of and Roosevelt's reaction to the depression.

Wirth, Concord. The CCC and the Department of the Interior. Chicago: Merchandising Mart, 1944. This is a very short description of how the Interior Department operates within the total CCC organization. It deals mostly with project control.

While the CCC was in operation the contemporary magazines and periodicals could not resist continual coverage of the work of the "forest army". Consequently, there is a dirth of publications dealing with the CCC in both popular and scholarly magazines. In addition to this coverage the CCC, especially in Oklahoma, was an everyday news item in most local newspapers. The author, in examining these numerous articles and news items, found three distinct problems. First of all, most of the articles found in magazines or journals were informative but were not applicable to a study limited in scope to the state of Oklahoma. Secondly, the newspapers around the state proved invaluable, but it was an impossibility to review each and every newspaper in Oklahoma. Lastly, the author was limited to review of only two copies of Happy Days, the official newspaper of the CCC, and these copies were neither from camps in Oklahoma, nor contained any reference to Oklahoma. Most likely little detailed information could have been gleaned from this source. The following articles and newspapers were used extensively in this thesis.

Brimley, D. E. "Forest Army that Lives by Work," The New York Times, July 23, 1933, Section viii, p. 2. This article discusses the daily lives of CCC enrollees emphasizing the "good work, good company, and good food."

"Educational Appropriations for the CCC." School and Society, Vol., 42 (July, 1935), 120. Current government spending and the appropriations bill of 1935 are the topics of this article.

Hill, Frank, E. "The CCC Marches Toward a New Destiny," The New York Times, February 21, 1937, Section viii, pp. 10-11. Romantically, Hill discusses the potential of the CCC, especially in the field of education.

Salmond, John A. "The CCC and the Negro," The American Historical Review. Vol, LII (June, 1965), 73-88. Salmond again proves his singular expertise on this subject, but unfortunately this article contains little detail and is very wide in scope.

Daily O'Collegian, is the newspaper published by Oklahoma A and M College (now Oklahoma State University). It contained many stories about the local soil erosion camp in Stillwater.

Daily Oklahoman, which was read through the years 1930 to 1942, offered a good index to the popularity of the CCC in Oklahoma.

Enid Morning News, also read for the years 1938-1942, offered various stories reflecting public opinion of the CCC.

New York Times, was reviewed for featured articles and news items, and often this nationally circulated newspaper carried a more detailed story of Oklahoma's CCC than the state papers.

Oklahoma City Times, was also read throughout the years 1930-1942, offered much less material about the CCC than did other state newspapers.

Perry Daily Journal, offered local news stories dealing with a specific camp.

Stillwater Daily News, is another local newspaper (now the Stillwater Newspress) which reflected local reaction to the CCC, and like other local newspapers it often contained the official announcements and quotas from the county selection offices.

Sulphur Times Democrat, is another local newspaper read through the years 1933-1935, 1938-1941.

The primary material for this research was taken from an array of governmental documents and reports. Reports from the CCC Director, the federal inspectors, Congressional committees, government agencies contain enormous amounts of information. These are the only sources of information which give detailed descriptions about the individual camps. The following sources make up the main body of information presented in this paper.

Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Annual Report of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1933-1942. Record Group 35, General Services Administration. Washington: National Archives and Records Service, 1933-1942. These are periodic reports of 83 camps in Oklahoma, which excludes only five Oklahoma

camps, showing the exact condition of each camp as the federal inspector saw it.

Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Objectives and Results of the CCC Program, Special Report to the President, Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1935. This report by Fechner is a general view of what was accomplished in two years and what could be done in the future.

Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Safety Regulations, Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1938. This official pamphlet outlines the rules of safety which were expected of all CCC camps.

Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Standards of Eligibility and Selection for Junior Enrollees. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1939. Describes the procedure and the requirements that each junior enrollee must meet in order to enroll in the CCC.

Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps, Statistical Summary of the CCC Program in Oklahoma, 1933-1942. Washington, D. C.: Office of the Federal Registrar, National Archives and Records Service, 1942. This summary is an invaluable tool for determining quickly the amount of work done and the number of men involved in Oklahoma.

Oklahoma Department of Public Welfare, Annual Reports, 1938-1944. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1945. This report contains a valuable history of welfare in the state before the Welfare Department was created.

Oklahoma Emergency Work Relief Administration, Annual Report of the Oklahoma Work Relief Administration, 1934. Oklahoma Department of Public Relations, 1935. General survey of all emergency relief work in the state in 1934. It includes a section on the CCC.

Oklahoma State Planning Division, Oklahoma Planning and Resources Board, 1936. Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 1936. This official report gives information about Oklahoma's cooperation with federal relief agencies, including the CCC, to fight the depression.

Oxley, Howard W. "Educational Activities in Camp," Report to the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Office, 1938. This is an official progress report of educational programs in the CCC. Oxley was appointed Director of CCC Camp Education in 1935.

Report of Chief Landscape Architect through Superintendent William E. Branch, Platt National Park. July 26, August 26, 1934. This is an example of the local camp progress reports.



United States Army, Instructions for Civilian Conservation Corps, Eighth Corps Area. Technical Library, Snow Hall, Fort Sill, Oklahoma. The official instructions, rules, and orders concerning the role of the military in administering the CCC are outlined in this manual.

U. S. Civilian Conservation Corps, District No. 4, Third Corps Area, Con C. McCarthy, ed., Military Publishing Company, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, 1937. This is a description of CCC work in Virginia.

U. S. Civilian Conservation Corps, State Procedural Correspondence, 1933-1942, Oklahoma; Correspondence with State Selection Agencies, 1933-1942, Oklahoma. Washington, D. C.: National Archives and Records Service, Record Group 35. This is a collection of papers and correspondence between Oklahoma officials and CCC headquarters in Washington. Many problems in Oklahoma were identified through this correspondence.

United States Congress. The Reduction of Non-Essential Federal Expenditures. 77th Cong., 1st Sess., 1941, pt. 1-4, November 28 - December 4, 1941. This is the first major cutback in the CCC, which naturally effected Oklahoma.

United States Department of the Interior, CCC Project Training Series. Washington: U. S. Government Printing Offices, 1933-1939. This is a series of pamphlets designed to teach the enrollee real skill in the task at which he might be working.

United States President, Public Papers of the Presidents of the United States. Washington, D. C.: Office of the Federal Registrar, National Archives and Records Service, 1933, Franklin D. Roosevelt, 1933. Several executive orders were issued to initiate CCC activity and are recorded here.

United States Senate, A Bill to Provide for the Termination of the National Youth Administration and the Civilian Conservation Corps. S-2295, 77th Cong., 2nd Sess., 1942. Debates and issues surrounding the termination of the CCC are given here.

United States, Statutes at Large, L, pt. 1 (March 31, 1933). "Emergency Conservation Work." This is the first piece of CCC legislation.

William E. Branch, Superintendent of Emergency Conservation Work, Narrative Report, 5th Period, April 1, 1935 - October 1, 1935, Platt National Park to National Park Service. This is another example of a camp progress report.

Also available for research are a number of theses and dissertations dealing with the CCC and related New Deal programs. Two theses from Oklahoma State University cover aspects of the CCC in Oklahoma but both are old and of little historical value. The following works gave the

author indications about the type of work done with the CCC as well as ideas about the areas of study left undiscovered.

Harby, Samuel F. "Education in the CCC Camps." Ph.D. Dissertation. Columbia University, 1938. This is a nationwide study of the CCC and its education program.

Kennedy, Tom. "Opportunity for Industrial Training in the CCC Camp Program." M.A. Thesis, Oklahoma State University, 1935. This study is a very brief look at industrial education in Oklahoma based on a series of questionnaires.

Parkman, Donald L. "Indian Civilian Conservation Corps." Ph.D. Dissertation, Oklahoma University, 1967. This work is a very sound study of Indian work in the CCC on a national scale. There is little information here on Oklahoma.

Rawick, George P. "New Deal and Youth." Unpublished Ph.D., University of Wisconsin, 1957. This is a review of all New Deal youth work mainly emphasizing the NYA as well as the CCC.

Saalberg, John J. "FDR, Fechner, and the CCC." Unpublished Ph.D., Cornell University, 1962. An administrative study of the CCC and its problems.

Documentation of CCC activities at the state level is unavailable. Most of these records have been destroyed. However, one potentially powerful source of information for the New Deal period is the collection of papers at the Documents Division of the Oklahoma University Library. Senator Elmer Thomas' Personal Papers were reviewed by the author who found three separate files labeled "Civilian Conservation Corps". Most of this material was correspondence from Oklahomans.

There remains one last source of information upon which parts of this study are based. The author conducted a program of interviews (both personal and by mail) and visits designed to gather information and insight into the everyday life in Oklahoma's CCC camps. Of course memories were often bad but most of those people who were interviewed offered helpful bits of information. In addition to talking to many

former enrollees and officials of the CCC, the author was also able to travel to many of the camps to inspect work which still stands today. It is truly unfortunate that of so much CCC work still in use in Oklahoma that so little of it is properly labeled or marked for historical identification.

APPENDIX A

LEGISLATION PERTAINING TO CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS

1933

Message to Congress  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
March 21, 1933  
Message on Forest Work Relief

HEARINGS:

Joint Committee of the Senate and House of  
Representatives, 73rd Congress, 1st Session  
Committee on Labor  
Unemployment Relief

U. S. Senate, 73rd Congress, 1st Session,  
on S. 598, p. 3  
Committee on Education and Labor  
Unemployment Relief

PUBLIC NO. 5, 73rd CONGRESS - (S. 598)  
An Act for the Relief of Unemployment through  
the performance of useful public work and for  
other purposes.  
March 31, 1933

EXECUTIVE ORDER

No. 6101  
April 5, 1933  
(Setting up Emergency Conservation Work or  
the Civilian Conservation Corps)

1935

Message to Congress  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
January 4, 1935  
Extension and enlargement of CCC

HEARINGS:

House of Representatives, 74th Congress,  
1st Session, on H. J. Res. 117  
January 21, 1935

U.S. Senate, 74th Congress, 1st Session  
January 29, 30, and 31, February 1, 2 and  
11th, 1935.

PUBLIC RESOLUTION NO. 11, 74th Congress - (H. J. Res. 117)  
Joint Resolution making appropriations for relief  
purposes: (Extending the CCC until 1937)  
April 8, 1935

1937

Message to Congress  
President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
April 5, 1937

Making the CCC a Permanent Agency

HEARINGS:

House of Representatives, 75th Congress  
1st Session, on H. R. 6180  
Committee on Labor

To make the CCC a permanent agency  
April 14 and 15.

.....Same. Report. (To accompany H. R. 6551)  
75th Congress, 1st Session, House Report 687

U.S. Senate, 75th Congress, 1st Session, on  
S. 2102

Committee on Education and Labor

A Bill to Establish a CCC, and for other  
purposes  
April 9 and 13

.....Same, Report. (To accompany S. 2102)  
75th Congress, 1st Session, Senate Report 538

CONFERENCE COMMITTEES, 1937

Conference Report. (To accompany H. R. 6551)  
75th Congress, 1st Session, House. Report  
943.

PUBLIC NO. 163, 75th CONGRESS - (H. R. 6551)  
(Chapter 383, 1st Session)

An Act to Establish a Civilian Conservation  
Corps and for other purposes. (Extending  
the CCC until June 30, 1940.)  
June 28, 1937.

1939

Message to Congress  
 President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
 January 3, 1939  
Message Transmitting the Budget

Message to Congress  
 President Franklin D. Roosevelt  
 April 25, 1939  
 Reorganization Plan No. 1  
Transferring CCC to Federal Security Agency

HEARINGS:

House of Representatives, 76th Congress, 1st Session, on H.R. 2990 Committee on Labor  
To make the CCC a Permanent Agency  
 February 9, 23 and 24.

.....Same. Report No. 447 to accompany  
 H.R. 2990  
 76th Congress, 1st Session  
 April 20, 1939

PENDING LEGISLATION:

H.R. 2990, 76th Congress, 1st Session  
 Extending the life of the CCC for five years  
 (July 1, 1940 - June 30, 1945)

EXECUTIVE ORDER:

No. 8133  
 May 15, 1939  
 (Transferring selection activities from  
 Department of Labor to Office of Director)

APPENDIX B

OKLAHOMA FARM PRICES, 1926-1940

1940	.62	.55	.28	.37	6.70	5.20	4.10	10.8
1939	.65	.60	.33	.37	6.30	6.00	4.00	10.9
1938	.56	.49	.25	.37	5.70	7.40	4.25	12.4
1937	.96	.55	.36	.61	6.10	9.00	4.85	12.8
1936	.99	1.06	.44	.68	5.20	8.70	4.30	13.0
1935	.86	.70	.30	.50	5.00	7.90	4.30	13.0
1934	.81	.99	.47	.66	3.10	3.70	3.20	8.7
1933	.68	.55	.34	.47	3.00	3.15	2.70	7.1
1932	.32	.23	.14	.19	3.40	3.20	2.25	9.3
1931	.33	.27	.18	.26	4.30	5.80	3.40	13.3
1930	.68	.63	.34	.50	6.20	8.20	4.90	16.0
1929	.96	.81	.46	.59	8.20	8.70	7.10	20.4
1928	1.04	.73	.47	.66	8.40	8.00	7.30	18.8
1927	1.25	.69	.45	.67	6.20	9.40	7.10	17.8
1926	1.16	.64	.37	.59	5.50	11.40	6.80	19.7

Average price received per year.

Wheat:    Corn:    Oats:    Barley:    Cattle:    Hogs:    Sheep:    Chickens:  
 \$/bu.    \$/bu.    \$/bu.    \$/bu.    \$/100lb.    \$/100lb.    \$/100lb.    ¢/lb.

Average prices of Oklahoma agriculture products.

Source: C. P. Collins and W. G. Hill, Prices Received by Oklahoma Farmers 1910-1957. Oklahoma State University, 1958.

## APPENDIX C

### CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS-COOPERATING AGENCIES

- I. Office of the Director of the Civilian Conservation Corps.
- II. United States War Department:
  1. Camp operations, etc., as distinct from camp work projects.
  2. Office of Chief of Engineers.
  3. Military reservations work projects as distinct from camp operations, etc., in (I) above.
- III. United States Department of the Interior (technical direction of work projects):
  1. National Park Service:
    - a. National parks and monuments.
    - b. State parks.
  2. Bureau of Indian Affairs (camp operations and work projects).
  3. General Land Office.
  4. Hawaii, Territory of (camp operations and work projects).
  5. Division of Grazing.
  6. Office of Education.
- IV. United States Department of Agriculture (technical direction of work projects):
  1. Forest Service.
  2. Bureau of Biological Survey.
  3. Bureau of Plant Industry.
  4. Bureau of Animal Industry (National Agricultural Research Center).
  5. Bureau of Entomology.
  6. Bureau of Agricultural Engineering.
  7. Bureau of Chemistry and Soils.
  8. Soil Conservation Service.
- V. United States Department of Labor (selection of men).
- VI. United States Veterans' Administration (selection of men).
- VII. United States Department of the Treasury (Bureau of Public Health Service).



- VIII. United States Department of Commerce (Bureau of the Census).
- IX. United States Department of the Navy, naval reservations.
- X. Tennessee Valley Authority.

APPENDIX D

SELECTED CAMP PROFILES, OKLAHOMA

Camp: Blackwell, SCS-4

<u>Inspection</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>No. Men</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Technical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Education</u> <u>Courses</u>
March 17, 1941	192	3	12	18
April 22, 1940	199	3	12	18
December 13, 1939	189	3	11	21
November 14, 1938	195	3	9	17
July 19, 1938	169	3	10	16
October 1, 1937	129	2	14	17
October 5, 1936	124	2	11	13

Camp: Tulsa, SP-12

<u>Inspection</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>No. Men</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Technical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Education</u> <u>Courses</u>
October 4, 1937	154	3	9	9
October 3, 1936	122	3	8	6
July 15, 1935	248	2	15	21
January 24, 1935	233	2	10	?

Camp: Fort Sill, A-1

<u>Inspection</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>No. Men</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Technical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Education</u> <u>Courses</u>
September 18, 1937	155	2	5	13
October 7, 1935	172	3	5	15
April 14, 1942	200	3	7	?
May 31, 1942	155	2	7	10

Camp: Stapp, F-1-0

<u>Inspection</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>No. Men</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Technical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Education</u> <u>Courses</u>
March 28, 1941	177	4	7	8
December 27, 1939	187	3	10	8
November 28, 1939	187	3	10	8
August 3, 1938	189	5	7	14
October 7, 1937	85	2	11	12
September 26, 1936	137	3	6	15
July 30, 1935	229	4	6	15
January 19, 1935	239	2	9	13
February 24, 1934	189	2	4	?

Camp: Sulphur, NP-1-0

<u>Inspection</u> <u>Date</u>	<u>No. Men</u>	<u>Army</u>	<u>Technical</u> <u>Staff</u>	<u>Education</u> <u>Courses</u>
January 30, 1940	203	5	8	19
August 10, 1938	187	3	9	?
September 11, 1937	132	3	12	16
October 20, 1936	132	3	6	8
July 6, 1935	241	3	12	21
January 28, 1935	238	3	12	19

Source: Oklahoma Camp Inspection Reports 1938-1941.

APPENDIX E

TYPICAL PROJECT STAFFS AND SALARIES<sup>a</sup>

Camp: Blackwell, SCS-14, November 14, 1938

Administrative Assistant	2,600
Agricultural Engineer	2,100
Agronomist	2,000
Conservationist	2,000
Two Senior Foremen	1,740
Auto Mechanic	1,680
Foremen	1,680
Blacksmith	1,320
Assistant Technician	1,020

Camp: Tulsa, SP-12, October 4, 1937.

Project Superintendent	2,300
Land Architects	2,000
Two Foremen	1,860
Skilled Laborers	1,740
Clerk	1,440
Mechanic	1,550
Assistant Technician	1,020

Camp: Fort Sill, A-1, April 14, 1942

Project Superintendent	2,340
Senior Foremen	1,999.92
Foremen	1,860
Engineer	1,860

Camp: Stapp, F-1-0, August 3, 1938.

Principle Foremen	2,400
Senior Foremen	1,800
Foremen	1,740
Foremen	1,500
Mechanic	1,440
Skilled Laborer	1,320

Camp: Sulphur, NP-1-0, January 30, 1940.

Project Superintendent	2,400
Two Foremen	2,100
Three Sub-foremen	1,500
Two Mechanics	1,500

<sup>a</sup>Annual Salary

Source: Oklahoma Camp Inspection Reports, 1933-1941.

APPENDIX F

CCC CAMPS IN OKLAHOMA, 1933-1941

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Camp(s) Location<sup>a</sup></u>	<u>Duration</u>
A-1 b	Fort Sill	July, 1935 May, 1942
ASCS-1 (SCS-20)	Yukon	August, 1935 June, 1942
BF-2 c	Cache	November, 1933 May, 1942
F-1-2	Stapp	May, 1933 March, 1941
F-3	Tahilina	June, 1933 February, 1934
F-6	Pine Valley	February, 1934 July, 1935
MA-1	Henryetta	August, 1935 May, 1941
NP-1	Sulphur	May, 1933 June, 1940
P-51 c	Broken Bow	June, 1933 May, 1941
S-55	Wilburton	February, 1934 March, 1941
PE-56 c	Keystone	June, 1933 July, 1935
SES-63	Stillwater	March, 1934 July, 1935
P-64	Smithville	April, 1934 March, 1941

P-65	Wright City	August, 1935 August, 1938
P-66	Nashoba	June, 1933 March, 1941
SCS-4	Blackwell	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-5	Clinton	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-6	Sentinel	August, 1935 January, 1940
SCS-7	Hobart	August, 1935 August, 1938
SCS-8	Geary	February, 1941 October, 1941
SCS-9	Duncan	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-10	Wynnewood	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-11	Cuthrie	October, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-12	Garber	August, 1935 July, 1938
SCS-13	Idabel	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-14	Morris	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-15	Stigler	August, 1935 October, 1937
SCS-16	Wagoner	October, 1937 June, 1942
SCS-17	Purcell	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-18	Nowata	August, 1935 October, 1936
SCS-19	Pryor	August, 1935 March, 1941

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Camp(s) Location</u>	<u>Duration</u>
SCS-22	Broken Arrow	September, 1939 March, 1941
SCS-23	Wewoka	June, 1933 July, 1935
SCS-24	Chandler	October, 1933 October, 1936
SCS-21	Rush Springs	June, 1933 March, 1941
SES-25	Binger	September, 1933 June, 1935
SCS-26	Checotah	? , 1935 March, 1941
SCS-27	Wetumka	October, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-29 b	Konowa	August, 1935 March, 1941
SCS-30	Boley	April, 1937 June, 1942
SCS-32	Gould	May, 1939 December, 1941
SCS-33	Buffalo	August, 1939 June, 1942
SP-1, SP-6, SP-7	Davis	November, 1933 July, c. 1934
SP-2	Oklahoma City Lincoln Park	October, 1933 June, 1935
SP-3	Oklahoma City Northwest Park	November, 1933 July, 1931
SP-4	Oklahoma City Lincoln Park	October, 1933 June, 1935
SP-5	Ada	October, 1933 February, 1934
SP-8	Tecumseh	November, 1934 May, 1935

<u>Code Number</u>	<u>Camp(s) Location</u>	<u>Duration</u>
SP-9	Ardmore	October, 1933 October, 1936
SP-11, SP-13	Ardmore	October, 1938 March, 1941
SP-10	Perry	May, 1934 January, 1935
SP-12	Tulsa	October, 1934 October, 1937
SP-14	Okmulgee	July, 1935 October, 1937
SP-15	Ponca City	June, 1935 June, 1938
SP-16	Lugert	August, 1935 June, 1938
SP-17	Woodward	August, 1935 January, 1940
SP-21	Watonga	August, 1935 June, 1942
SP-23	Spavinaw	August, 1935 June, 1938
SP-24	Bartlesville	November, 1935 March, 1941
SP-24	Pawhuska	November, 1935 June, 1938
A-2		?
PE-68		?
PE-69		?
PE-70		?
SCS		August, 1935 December, 1935

<sup>a</sup>All camp locations near closest post office

<sup>b</sup>Black camps

<sup>c</sup>Mixed camps

Source: Oklahoma Camp Inspection Reports, 1933-1941.



APPENDIX G

MONTHLY ENROLLED STRENGTH OF CCC IN OKLAHOMA, 1933-1941.

<u>1933</u>		<u>1936</u>	
January		January	12,741
February		February	12,101
March		March	9,003
April	95	April	10,890
May	2,685	May	13,238
June	4,921	June	12,281
July	4,965	July	11,647
August	4,726	August	10,844
September	3,345	September	8,095
October	4,742	October	15,765
November	5,081	November	15,310
December	5,003	December	14,666
 <u>1934</u>		 <u>1937</u>	
January	5,174	January	14,996
February	4,929	February	14,420
March	3,743	March	9,233
April	5,381	April	14,524
May	5,278	May	13,835
June	3,587	June	12,567
July	5,670	July	12,773
August	5,632	August	11,699
September	4,863	September	6,618
October	5,657	October	13,533
November	5,481	November	12,875
December	4,726	December	12,370
 <u>1935</u>		 <u>1938</u>	
January	6,030	January	11,575
February	5,857	February	11,212
March	4,832	March	9,978
April	6,083	April	9,555
May	5,911	May	9,242
June	5,921	June	8,529
July	7,701	July	8,998
August	15,727	August	8,644
September	15,122	September	6,837
October	14,543	October	8,803
November	14,079	November	8,637
December	13,476	December	8,306

<u>1939</u>	
January	8,655
February	8,435
March	5,366
April	8,538
May	8,281
June	7,541
July	8,528
August	8,205
September	7,085
October	8,429
November	8,674
December	8,126

<u>1940</u>	
January	9,488
February	9,211
March	8,202
April	9,034
May	9,048
June	8,222
July	9,716
August	10,585
September	9,179
October	9,749
November	10,625
December	8,837

<u>1941</u>	
January	9,275
February	9,920
March	8,878
April	7,698
May	8,048
June	7,592

Source: Director's Reports, 1933-1942.

APPENDIX H

AGGREGATE NUMBER OF OKLAHOMANS EMPLOYED IN CCC, 1933-1941

Total Number of Oklahoma Men Given Employment Includes:

Enrollees (Junior and Veteran)	107,676
	80,718
Indians	21,354
Non-enrolled Personnel	5,604

Source: Statistical Summary of Work Completed, CCC in Oklahoma, 1933-1942. National Archives, Record Group No. 35.

APPENDIX I

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS, OKLAHOMA

SAMPLE WORK COMPLETED DURING THE PERIOD  
April, 1933 - June 30, 1942

CLASS NO.	TYPE OF JOB OR PROJECT CLASSIFICATION	UNIT	NEW WORK	MAINTENANCE
<u>STRUCTURAL IMPROVEMENTS (100 Series)</u>				
104	Bridges (Vehicle	Number	537	50
105	(Barns	Number	24	--
106	(Bathhouses	Number	14	--
107	(Cabins, overnight	Number	99	--
108	(Combination buildings	Number	12	--
110	(Dwellings	Number	78	5
111	Buildings, (Equipt. & sup. stor. houses	Number	67	3
112	other than (Garages	Number	59	5
113	CCC Camp (Latrines and toilets	Number	117	1
114	(Lodges and museums	Number	--	--
115	(Lookout houses	Number	5	--
116	(Lookout towers	Number	12	5
119	(Shelters	Number	33	1
120	(Other buildings	Number	1,470	8
131	Fences	Rods	1,005,595	102,789
134	Power lines	Miles	21	--
<u>TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS (200 Series)</u>				
202	Truck trails or minor roads	Miles	2,400	5,355
<u>EROSION CONTROL (300 Series)</u>				
301	Stream and lake bank protection	Sq. Yd.	2,108,870	12,845
303	(Bank sloping	Sq. Yd.	6,159,974	22,308
304	Treatment (Check dams, permanent	Number	39,536	2,775
305	of (Check dams, temporary	Number	615,577	2,327
306	gullies (Seeding and sodding	Sq. Yd.	13,825,612	398,767
307	(Tree planting, gully	Sq. Yd.	10,529,032	1,856,342
308	(Ditches, diversion	Lin. ft.	3,681,859	71,289
309	Terracing	Miles	6,333	721
310	(Channel construction	Lin. ft.	5,239,043	589,161
311	Terrace (Outlet structures	Number	18,498	2,496
313	outletting (Planting, seeding, or sodding	Sq. Yd.	21,492,905	4,652,896
314	Sheet erosion planting	Acres	38,601	5,033
315	(Quarrying) For (	Tons	227,092	--
316	Limestone (Crushing) Liming (	Tons	12,070	--
317	Hauling) Soil (	Tons	63,682	--
<u>FLOOD CONTROL, IRRIGATION, AND DRAINAGE (400 Series)</u>				
403	Lining of waterways	Sq. Yd.	7,088	2,100
404	Excav., chan., Canals, (Earth	Cu. Yd.	182,976	24
405	and ditches (Rock	Cu. Yd.	3,975	--
406	Pipe lines, tile lines, and conduits	Lin. ft.	4,793	--

CLASS NO.	TYPE OF JOB OR PROJECT CLASSIFICATION	UNIT	NEW WORK	MAINTENANCE
<u>FOREST CULTURE (500 Series)</u>				
501	Field planting or seeding (trees)	Acres	15,863	29,041
502	Forest stand improvement	Acres	74,437	2,851
<u>FOREST PROTECTION (600 Series)</u>				
601	Fighting forest fires	Man-days	74,585	--
602	Fire breaks	Miles	358	111
<u>LANDSCAPE AND RECREATION (700 Series)</u>				
703	General clean-up	Acres	74,372	940
705	Landscaping, undifferentiated	Acres	4,181	54
706	Moving and planting trees and shrubs	Number	4,604,481	619,791
<u>WILDLIFE (900 Series)</u>				
903	Lake and pond development	Man-days	8,883	--
904	Stocking fish	Number	68,070	--
<u>OTHER ACTIVITIES (1000 Series)</u>				
1001	Educ., guide, cont. station work	Man-days	11,869	--
1003	Emergency work	Man-days	17,612	--

Source: Statistical Summary of CCC Work, Oklahoma, 1933-1941.

VITA

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Master of Arts

Thesis: THE CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS IN OKLAHOMA, 1933-1942

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