Guide to the Civilian Conservation Corps Collection MSS.2010.07.29

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The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 as one of the first programs headed by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) to alleviate youth unemployment during the Great Depression. Young men, ages 18 to 24 provided unskilled manual labor supporting reforestation and building the National Parks System. The Department of Labor recruited the men into the program and set up the outdoor camps they would be living at. Upon joining, they were provided clothing by the U.S. Army which also managed the camps. Over three million young men joined the CCC in the nine years it was active. They were paid one dollar per day and were offered free room and board. Members of the CCC became known as FDR's “Tree Army” and worked to revitalize the nation's forests and parks by planting trees, setting up state parks, and building roads that connected parks. They built more than 1000 national, state, county and city parks and planted over three billion trees across the nation. To this day, the CCC remains the only government conservation program that worked to save our country's environment on a national scale. There were CCC camps located in every state in the U.S. The CCC was disbanded by President Roosevelt in 1942 when the nation's resources focused on the war effort and the economic state of the nation significantly improved. Originally, the program was designed to create jobs for unemployed young men during the depression. The onset of World War II meant an abundance of jobs all over the country, which rendered the original purpose of the CCC irrelevant. The CCC left behind a legacy that would be felt for years to come through the improvement of the country's forests and environment, as well as the hard work the young men performed through their enlistment with the CCC. Since then, several states, including California, have created their own Conservation Corps programs. Similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps, the California Conservation Corps allows young men and women to work for a year for the National Park System. The Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni Association continues working for historical recognition and education of the mass achievements of CCC workers and their families.

Scope and Content of Collection
The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) Collection, 1933-1997 (bulk 1933-1942) documents the work relief program established by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) during the New Deal Era in the state of California. It focuses in particular on the Almaden Camp in San Jose also called the Mount Madonna Camp, and is located in English Camp at the Almaden Quicksilver County Park. The records consist of photographs, newspaper articles, original newspapers, memorabilia, oral history cassette tapes, memorial calendars, and alumni association publications.

Arrangement
This collection is arranged into three series: Series I. California Camps; Series II. National Camps; Series III. Affiliated Organizations.
California Camps 1933-1992

Arrangement
This series is organized alphabetically based on the camp name.

Scope and Contents
The following camps have ephemera such as photos, documents, and/or programs: Mt Madonna (Co 793) in Almaden, CA P-234 Camp Los Prietos (Co 8057) in Santa Barbara, CA Middle Creek Camp (Co 997) in upper Lake, CA Camp Callahan (Co. 1904) in Callahan, CA Camp Salt Creek (Co 1904) in Santa Barbara, CA Unknown camp, circa 1934

Camp Callahan (Co. 1904) in Callahan, CA

Box 1, folder 1
 Camp Callahan Photos

box 1, folder 2
 Philip Velasco, Gilroy CA, enrolled 4/14/34

Camp Los Prietos

Camp Salt Creek (Co 3363) in Santa Barbara, CA

box 1, folder 4
 Camp Salt Creek Photographs

Camp Middle Creek (Co 997) in upper Lake, CA

box 1, Folder 5
 Camp Middle Creek

Camp Mt. Madonna (Co. 793)

box 1, folder 6
 Mount Miner

box 1, Folder 8
 Overview of the CCC at Mt Madonna

box 1, Folder 9
 A Personal history of hard times and adventure in the early 1930's

Box 1, Folder 10
 Newspaper Clippings

Box 1, Folder 11
 Donated by Charles Bird

box 1, folder 12
 Friedolin Kessler Interview 1/15/1993 and 1/18/1993

Box 1, folder 13
 Commemorative Monument

Camp Ramona

box 1, folder 14
 Camp Ramona

Unidentified camps, circa 1934

Box 1, folder 15
 Unidentified Camps

box 1, Folder 16
 CCC Exhibit at SJSU October 21,1992
National Camps 1934-1935

Arrangement
Newspapers in this series are arranged alphabetically by title and then by date.

Scope and Contents

Official Civilian Conservation Corps Newspapers II 1934-1935

Scope and Contents note

Box 2, Folder 1

C.C.C Review October 3, 1935

Physical Description: 1.0 folders

- Box 2, Folder 2 The Courier Nov 17th 1934
- Box 2, Folder 3 The Courier Jan 3rd 1935
- Box 2, Folder 4 The Courier Feb 1st 1935
- Box 2, folder 5 The Courier Mar 1st 1935
- Box 2, Folder 6 The Courier Mar 15th 1935
- Box 2, Folder 7 The Courier Apr 1st 1935
- Box 2, Folder 8 The Courier Apr 18th, 1935
- box 2, folder 9 The Courier May 3rd 1935
- Box 2, Folder 10 The Courier May 18th, 1935
- Box 2, Folder 11 The Courier Sep 17th, 1935
- box 2, Folder 12 The Courier Oct 30th, 1935
- Box 2, folder 29 The Courier Circa. November 1935
- box 2, Folder 13 Happy Days Oct 27th, 1934
- box 2, Folder 14 Happy Days Nov 3rd, 1934
- box 2, Folder 15 Happy Days Nov 10th, 1934
- box 2, Folder 16 Happy Days Nov 17th, 1935
- box 2, Folder 17 Happy Days Nov 24th, 1934
- Box 2, folder 18 Happy Days Dec 8th, 1934
- Box 2, folder 19 Happy Days Dec 29th, 1934
- box 2, folder 20 Happy Days Jan 12th, 1935
- box 2, Folder 21 Happy Days Jan 26th, 1935
- Box 2, Folder 22 Happy Days Feb 2nd, 1935
- box 2, Folder 23 Happy Days Feb 16th, 1935
- box 2, Folder 24 Happy Days Mar 2nd, 1935
- box 2, Folder 25 Happy Days Mar 9th, 1935
- Box 2, Folder 26 Happy Days Mar 16th, 1935
- Box 2, Folder 27 Happy Days Mar 23rd, 1935
- Box 2, Folder 28 Happy Days Mar 30th, 1935
Affiliated Organizations 1992-1998

Arrangement
This series is organized alphabetically by the name of the organization.

Scope and Contents
This series consists of flyers, newspaper clippings, and letters associated with the Civilian Conservation Corps. These organizations commemorate and carry on the legacy of the Civilian Conservation Corps: The California Conservation Corps, Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni, The Conservation Corps State Museum, and The Conservation Corps Institute of California.