

FIRST YEAR'S
RESULTS IMPRESSIVE

At the end of the first year, April 5, 1933 to March 31, 1934, Director Fechner submitted a report of accomplishment whose figures were astounding to both layman and professional conservationist. Considering the difficulties attendant upon establishing the Corps, and the crude human material that comprised its enrollment, Mr. Fechner's was truly a remarkable document. Here are some of the highlights:

15,241 miles of new telephone lines strung
18,531 miles of fire-breaks cleared
686,709 man-days spent fighting forest fires
15,617 miles of roadside and trailside cleared
as "barren" fire areas

620 lookout houses and fire towers built
953,318 acres of forest stand improved by thinning
and replanting
25,413 miles of new truck trails constructed
1,860,116 acres treated for eradication of insect pests
2,757,419 acres for control of tree and plant diseases
420,633 erosion (soil saving) check-dams built
98,592 acres of trees planted, 1,000 to the acre
3,747 miles of fence erected
618,757 feet of pipe lines laid

Of the more than one hundred varieties of work project partly represented by the above list, let us single out one, the Winooski River Valley Project in Vermont.

After the disastrous flood of November, 1927, in this Vermont Valley (55 lives lost, property damage \$13,500,000), the War Department was called upon to submit a plan for flood control in the Winooski. This plan, after exhaustive surveys, was presented to Congress in February, 1931, and its existence when the Corps came into being in 1933, was credited by the War Department with having speeded up construction by at least six months, possibly a year.

In July of 1933, the CCC was at work in the Winooski constructing dams and reservoirs, clearing obstructions and doing other engineering work. In March, 1936, another flood, comparable in volume to that of 1927, struck this region. The Winooski flood control project was slightly more than two-thirds completed, but it was enough. There was no wide-spread damage in the Valley; the dams held back the battering waters. The

cities of Barre and Montpelier, badly damaged in 1927, escaped practically unscathed. An early CCC historian wrote that, "The people of Vermont acknowledge their debt to the work of the CCC in preserving their lives and property." The War Department, whose engineers directed this vast undertaking, added their praise, to this effect: "The security thus afforded the inhabitants of the Winooski Valley against loss of lives and property will serve for many years to come as a most fitting monument to the services rendered by the Civilian Conservation Corps to the people of Vermont." Save for a smattering of junior enrollees who were assigned to help out toward the finish of the project, the work was done by war veteran enrollees under direction of Army engineers.

Again, more than half a million man-days devoted to fighting forest fires in that first year! If ever a peace-time outfit proved itself a soldier to the core, the CCC did in its prodigious battles against unharnessed elements of nature. Not only was the CCC to function in the orderly and planned work of conservation, but through the years it was to become the first line of defense in national and local catastrophes--Potomac, Ohio, Mississippi river floods, a Florida hurricane; an Alabama tornado; Oregon and Idaho et al forest fire; blizzards in Nevada, Utah, Wyoming; the Middle West drought of 1934; the suffocating plagues of grasshopper and Mormon cricket hordes; the New England fire and hurricane clean-up--always the CCC boys were called upon to rescue lives and property and there were hundreds of instances where individual youngsters performed acts of heroism that were far and beyond the conscientious call of duty. It was inevitable that some form of recognition for such acts would evolve. It did, in the shape of Certificates for Valor. So avidly did the Director's office guard the integrity of these certificates that though a multitude out of the 3,000,000 overall enrollees were recommended for them, only 41 were issued.

SAFETY PROGRAM IMPORTANT

Among the highlights of 1934 was institution of a Safety Program directed by a safety engineer attached to the Director's office. Besides formulating, publishing and executing rules, regulations, codes, specifications, etc., on safety by the Safety Division, the program included: The furnishing of safety equipment; development of safety devices; thorough inspection of buildings, vehicles, tools, other equipment; good housekeeping; adequate fire protection; safety orientation schools for enrollees; teaching first aid and life saving, monthly safety meetings of all camp personnel; awards for best safety records.

Approximately 50 percent of all fatal accidents through the life

of the Corps was caused by vehicles. Frequency of other fatal accidents was in the following order: drowning, falling objects, railroad, falls of persons, fire electricity, suicide.

In the eight-year existence of the Safety Division, fatal accidents were cut from a rate of 1.14 per thousand enrollees to .90; non-fatal accidents were cut from 16.81 per thousand to 4.34.

Also, in 1934, occurred the devastating drought that afflicted 21 states. Out of his half-billion-dollar emergency appropriation for drought relief, the President allotted \$50,000,000 to the CCC for enrollment of 50,000 young men and veterans in the stricken areas to devote their labors exclusively to drought relief projects. These were enrollees like any other and the CCC pattern of spreading its benefactions to the greatest number of individuals was adhered to in the compulsion for junior enrollees (43,000) to make substantial allotments monthly to their families -- families not yet recovered from cash and crop failures before this new blight jerked them back to the wallows of poverty and despair.

The second year saw the accomplishments of the first year more than doubled: 2,000,000 man-days fighting forest fires as against 686,000 the first year; double the mileage of telephone lines strung, and so on, down the whole line of projects. The motley-clad striplings of that first enrollment, bunched in drafty tents, and clumsily ignorant of how to handle a tool, through the months had burgeoned into a self-reliant Army in overalls, sturdy-legged and competent.

The Department of Agriculture reported that in those first two years the CCC "has pushed forward conservation progress from 10 to 20 years." Department of the Interior said, "Through Emergency Conservation Work, the development of the Nation's recreational areas has been advanced further than would have been possible in 10 to 20 years under the old order that prevailed prior to initiation of the Civilian Conservation Corps."

CCC EXPANDS TO
520,000

The life of the Corps originally was fixed at two years by the Act of Congress, approved March 31, 1933. Now, along in October, 1934, the Advisory Council, had its jubilation over the splendid work-and-relief record tempered by misgivings as to whether Congress would extend the life of the Corps. However, the horizon

brightened in January when the President talked of increasing the Corps, to one million men, and a plan was outlined for increasing the enrollment to 600,000. The President approved the Army limit of 600,000 in April 1933. Passage of Public Resolution No. 11 (74th Congress) removed all doubts; life of the Corps was extended two years. On April 23, instructions went to all Corps Areas, signed by Director Fechner, outlining procedures required to raise the Corps to 600,000 men and 2,652 camps. Age limits were raised to twenty-eight for juniors. The eligibility regulations required that all men come from relief rolls.

During the next few months Corps strength expanded rapidly to 500,000. By Presidential decision the strength of the junior and War Department contingent was limited to 500,000. In August of 1935 the Corps reached an all-time high of 520,000 including Indians and territorials. The number of camps jumped to 2,514.

MOVE TO MAKE CORPS PERMANENT-FAILS

From that date the strength of the Corps gradually was reduced until it was below 400,000 in early 1937. Then came the initial move to make the Civilian Conservation Corps permanent. On April 5, 1937 the President sent a special message to Congress recommending Corps permanency. A bill establishing a permanent CCC was introduced in Congress on April 23, and reported favorably two days later. The House amended the bill to continue the Corps for three years. The Senate voted for a permanent CCC. The House bill won out, was enacted into law on June 28, 1937.

The 1937 Act greatly increased the authority of the Director, made education and training an important CCC objective, eliminated the relief roll provision stipulating only that enrollees must be unemployed and in need of employment, changed the age limitations for juniors to 17 to 23, and set 300,000 as the maximum strength of the junior and war veterans quota. It provided for 15,000 Indians and territorials.

AFTER FIVE YEARS

Gradually the Corps settled back to a smooth working organization with a maximum enrollment of 300,000 juniors and war veterans and 1,500 camps. By this time the Corps had a real educational program. It was housed for the most part in portable buildings of its own design. It had physical rehabilitation, including daily calisthenics. It had a fixed daily schedule and all enrollees worked forty hours per week. Enrollees shared importantly in camp administration, each man having equal opportunity to rise from the ranks to assistant leader or leader,

there being sixteen of the Assistant Leader and eight of the Leader ratings at each camp. Many enrollees broke through the enrollee classification and rose to become junior officers and camp commanders, project superintendents, foremen and educational advisers.

Each CCC company was a small self-sufficient model city of its own. In each camp there were an average of twenty-four buildings, a kitchen and mess hall, a recreational building, barracks for the enrollees, a school house, outbuildings including an infirmary and quarters for the officers and enlisted personnel. Each work camp was a school in the woods, a recreation center, a medical and dental center, a communication center (short-wave radio and telephone), and an industrial center wherein all the camp blacksmithing, plumbing, painting, sawmill and quarry operation, as well as elemental motor repair was done by enrollees. In CCC vocational schools were taught such subjects as cooking and baking, welding, electricity, carpentry woodworking, radio, automotive repair. Academic courses embraced the range from the elimination of illiteracy to subjects of college level.

During the five years that the Corps had been operating, it had progressively demonstrated that it was growing into a robust entity, with an identity of its own completely disassociated with the sundry nondescript identities that had been given it by self aspiring groups in its cradle days. The Corps was as many things to its appraisers as was the elephant in the fable of the six blind men of Hindustan. These, it will be recalled, felt different parts of the elephant, each declaring the part he felt to be the whole object. Thus, to one, the elephant's corrugated side was a wall; to another, the tusk was a spear; the ear a fan; the knee a tree, and so on. To some of the CCC appraisers the Corps was solely a training and educational institution, to others it was solely an agency to get conservation work done, and to others it was simply an agency for supplying employment to idle young men.

As a matter of cold fact, all were part right and part wrong. The CCC was a combination training, work, relief, conservation agency. Perhaps it could not have been justified economically as an agency confined solely to relief, or conservation, or training. But as an organization for training youth, getting conservation work done and supplying work for unemployed youth it repaid to the Nation more than dollar for dollar for every cent expended.

Over the years, although changes were made and greater or less emphasis placed on one or another phase of its operations, the Corps remained what its designers planned, a work-relief-training enterprise, with overtones stressing health, education and self-reliance. In that five year period about 2,000,000 young men, war veterans, Indians and

territorials had passed through the Corps, leaving permanent impressions on the soils, the forests, the streams and on the topography of the still vast open spaces.

ORIGIN OF CCC TRAINING PROGRAM

An interesting development of the first five years was the educational and training program. Originally the CCC was primarily a work-relief organization. Essentially the CCC had been a coordination of two thoughts -- (1) putting people to work with public funds, and (2) conserving waters, forests and soils. The idea of the Corps had not come from any one source. It was rather an obvious fusion of the desire for conservation and the need for finding useful work for young men. In earlier discussions of the Corps idea, the President often had stated the belief that a wise government should be willing to spend funds in the cause of conservation in order to prevent even greater loss of public resources in years to come. The Chief Executive also had expressed the view that young men who could not find employment should be furnished jobs through public funds. The Corps was the vehicle used by President Roosevelt and the American people to translate these basic principles into practical action.

While there was much talk of conservation and unemployment relief in early CCC days little was heard of CCC education. This was because no provision for education had been included in the original CCC structure.

It was not long, however, after the first few camps were established that certain ambitious enrollees began to ask for further educational opportunities, for the kind of education that would make them more readily employable after they left the Corps. In December, 1933, CCC education was placed on an organized basis under administration of the War Department with the advisory assistance of the U. S. Office of Education. Objectives were: The removal of illiteracy; Correction of common school deficiencies; Training on work projects; Vocational instructions; Cultural and general education; Avocational and leisure time training; Character and citizenship development, and assisting enrollees to find employment.

There was no compulsion to take any course, save where and when an enrollee was illiterate, he had to submit to being taught to read a newspaper and write a letter. Educational advisers were hired, one for each camp, and each was given an enrollee assistant with the rank of assistant leader.

During the entire life of the Corps, work production training on the job was the backbone of the educational program. Whatever task

an enrollee was put to -- helping dismantle a truck motor, constructing a fire lookout tower, planting seedlings or the more than a hundred and one varied projects -- he was told the why and the wherefore of the whole task. The first few weeks on the job was spent molding the green enrollee into a good worker so that when he left the camp he would be able to make good in industry. He was given opportunity to use, maintain and repair hand tools. The work program afforded opportunity to train men in truck and tractor operation, the operation of bulldozers, graders, jack-hammers and all kinds of heavy equipment, welding, blacksmithing, carpentry, wood-working, building and concrete construction, plumbing, electrical wiring, cooking and baking, telephone line construction, surveying and many other types of work.

The tangible benefits of only one kind of vocational training was emphasized by General George C. Marshall, Chief of Staff, U. S. Army, in 1941 when he testified before a Congressional Committee that the Army would have suffered a serious shortage of cooks had there not been this backlog of men trained in the CCC. "Twenty-five percent of all head cooks in the Army," General Marshall said, "were trained in CCC Cooks and Bakers Schools."

CCC NEVER EMERGED
FROM EMERGENCY STATUS

In the original CCC structure, there was a congenital fault that endured through its formative and most fruitful years. So far as a sanction of its continued support was concerned, it was a stepchild. The March 31, 1933, Act of Congress establishing the Corps, gave it a two-year lien on life. Authority for its extension through and including June 30, 1937, was contained in the Emergency Relief Appropriations Act of 1935, and the first Deficiency Act of 1937. Then, in July, 1937, Congress passed an act officially changing the name of the Corps to Civilian Conservation Corps (it had always been called that instead of by its formal title, Emergency Conservation Work), and renewed the Corps' lease on life to 1940. Again, in 1939, another act was necessary and the CCC was "assured" continuance of its functions through June 30, 1943.

These periodic expirations of the lease, so to speak, made the Corps an unwieldy enterprise insofar as long-distance planning was concerned. Toward the end of the interim spans there would be a hesitancy to begin new work projects; enrollment machinery paused until the future lay of the land was known; commitments for purchases were tabled. The three extensions granted the Corps were always attended by doubt, and consequent inaction, but each extension beyond the first two years was an acknowledgment that the Corps had performed beyond even the expectations of the President.

From time to time standards of eligibility for enrollment were changed to fit new conditions. In 1937 age limits for junior enrollees were contracted from 18 to 25 years, to 17 to 23 years. Applicants no longer had to come from relief families, but they still had to be "unemployed and in need of employment." Single young men without dependents were required to deposit \$22 of their \$30 monthly pay, subject to later repayment, in lieu of allotments to dependents. Three percent were in this category in the fiscal year 1938.

NEW UNIFORM IN 1939

The year 1939 saw several changes made in the interest of simplification and betterment as the Corps became stabilized under the Act assuring it three more years of life. Selection of enrollees was transferred from the Labor Department to the Office of the CCC Director. The better-tailored new spruce green dress uniform replaced the Army olive drab, much of the latter having been the 1917 "pistol-leg" vintage, the pants styled like riding breeches. This change-over was a boost to morale and a particular relief for Camp quartermasters who occasionally had inventory headaches over missing blankets, some having been surreptitiously used by "the better dressed enrollee" to fill out his pistol-leg pants to the conventional circumference. This was accomplished, by ripping the seams and sewing in two triangular blanket strips on inseam and outseam.

Another change in policy was the President's order relieving Reserve Army officers, as such, from active duty with the Corps. They were supplanted by civilian company commanders, assisted by civilian subalterns. In most cases the reserve officers on duty merely acquired the civilian status and remained on the job.

It was also in July, 1939, that the Civilian Conservation Corps lost its status as an independent Federal agency and became a part of the Federal Security Agency as part of the President's reorganization plan affecting half a dozen or more Federal units.

CORPS VALUABLE IN EMERGENCIES

The tremendous manpower of the CCC and its flexibility of movement (passenger cars, trucks, ambulances, radio, and even snow plows) made it particularly valuable throughout the years in emergencies; forest fires, floods, blizzards, hurricane cleanup, searching parties for lost persons. Its contribution toward helping meet the greatest emergency of all--the war--oddly enough, was developed in orderly sequence from the

early days of its existence. This contribution was the work of the CCC on military reservations. At first a few companies were encamped on military posts, doing much the same work that the conservation program called for on the outside, expanding and improving drill grounds and maneuver areas, stringing communications lines, building targets and target ranges, erecting small structures and bridges and building access roads and trails.

As the tremendous physical value of this cooperation with the military began to assert itself, the War Department asked for and got more camps and in 1937 the number of CCC companies doing strictly war defense construction was 70 -- 46 on military reservations, 24 working with the Army Corps of Engineers.

WORK PROJECTS TAKE ON MILITARY TINGE

In 1940, after Hitler began crushing the smaller nations, the CCC redoubled its activities for the Armed Forces. The collapse of France in the late Spring of 1940 threw this Nation's defense machine into high gear and as it did, the CCC's war effort came into bolder relief. Particularly, after May 1940, when the President proclaimed a limited emergency, did the CCC arrange to not only meet within its capacity every War Department request for additional companies on military sites, but it altered its training programs to meet the President's request that all agencies with facilities for training men utilize these facilities to the stretching point. Job training schedules were sped up in the departments of cooking and baking, radio operation, auto mechanics, and kindred fields. Military drill was ordered. The standard Red Cross first aid course was made mandatory for all enrollees. Schools were ordered set up in the Corps' 51 central motor repair shops, where selected enrollees could learn how to repair and maintain gasoline and Diesel motors.

The CCC assignment for the military now had broadened to include every form of task ordinarily performed by engineer troops. In addition to the items already mentioned, enrollees were building airplane runways, landing fields, bayonet practice courses, artillery ranges, ammunition storage depots, narrow gauge railways for targets in motion, clearing brush and timber from artillery impact areas to lessen the hazard of fire, building target observation posts, exercising rodent control on western reservations where ground squirrels were bubonic plague carriers, exercising malaria control on southern reservations. The Army selected the projects, they were carried out and supervised by CCC enrollees and foremen who lived apart from the troops, in their own barracks.

When war struck the United States in December, 1941, the CCC's

first move was to advise the War Department that all its camps were at its disposal for work on military areas. The Corps also entered a pact with the Disaster Division of the American Red Cross pledging its personnel, rolling stock, housing facilities, clothing and medical supplies to the Red Cross in event of war emergencies.

The Secretary of War, already aware of the solid worth of the CCC as a force for developing material and specialists for the Armed Forces, on December 17, 1941, wrote the Director as follows:

The Department requests that there be made immediately available, at the direction of the corps area commanders, any and all Civilian Conservation Corps companies for national defense duty in constructing, maintaining and repairing facilities of urgent military and strategic necessity. The Department will work with existing Civilian Conservation Corps agencies to select for this work companies which will cause the least dislocation to existing projects and plans.

Reports of movements of companies will be submitted through channels to the Director, Civilian Conservation Corps. Additional detailed information as to companies required will be furnished as soon as practicable.

The present need is such that the broad authority requested herein is vital to the national defense.

The Director's reply promised full cooperation. It follows:

December 18, 1941

The Honorable
The Secretary of War
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This acknowledges your letter of December 17, 1941, requesting any and all Civilian Conservation Corps facilities for National Defense duty in constructing, maintaining and repairing facilities of urgent military and strategic necessity.

As you know, the Corps already has some seventy (70) companies working on Army Reservations clearing fields for parachute troop training and tank maneuvers, building roads, rifle ranges, airplane fields, et cetera. In the light of the national emergency, I am very glad to approve an additional number of Civilian Conservation Corps camps for the continuance and expansion of this type of work.

If you will have your representative submit all available information as to the types of work desired and the locations of the proposed projects, a conference can be arranged with the representatives of the technical agencies cooperating in the Civilian Conservation Corps program. The working out of these details need not interfere with the immediate use of the facilities of the Corps for National Defense purposes.

Where the War Department already has programs ready for execution in various Corps Areas, the matter can be taken up with the Liaison Officers attached to the Corps Areas.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ J. J. McENTEE

J. J. McENTEE
Director

CORPS CONVERTED
TO WAR PROGRAM

By January 1, 1942, the Corps was committed to an all-out two-point defense program: work on military reservations and protecting vital natural resources in the western timber areas. All else was erased from the CCC work ticket. The program called for placing 200 CCC camps on military reservations and 150 on forest protection. Surplus camps were to be evacuated and their enrollees discharged. As a matter of fact, the drain on young man power by the military and defense industry had cut so deeply into CCC enrollment that it was foreseen that by early June 1942, the Corps would automatically reduce itself to around a 350-camp level.

Every time a CCC company moved onto a military reservation it freed an equal number of officers and men to pursue their main objective -- combat training or dispatch to combat areas. Not only that, it gave the military new tools to work with. On one Army cantonment in the west the CCC marched into the woods, felled selected timber, dressed it and notched it for jointures, then carted it to a designated site where other CCC crews took over the construction. What emerged from this effort. A dozen or more bomb-proof shelters, camouflaged to invisibility from the air: each shelter large enough to house a fighter airplane and the ground crew that serviced it. Of this one incidental job, the Army engineer in charge said that the resultant saving over private contract was tremendous. Elsewhere, the CCC thinned out overgrowth, logged the timber, hauled it to their portable sawmills, converted it into lumber and built military structures with it. An inspector from the Adjutant General's office remarked that this truly, was conservation in extremis.

The Civilian Conservation Corps continued its work on military areas and in national forests and parks until June 30, when appropriations for further operations were denied. Although the number of enrollees and camps were small as compared with other years, the CCC did a great amount of useful work and furnished training for more than 300,000 youngsters in its last active year. Both the War Department and the Department of Agriculture strongly endorsed the work which the Corps had done stating that it had been of the greatest usefulness in furthering the war effort and in the conservation of vital natural resources needed in the prosecution of the war. In a letter sent to Director McEntee on September 28, 1942, Major General James A. Ulio, The Adjutant General, U. S. Army, and the last of the many Army Officers who served as CCC Representatives for the War Department, said in part:

.....the companies on the numerous military reservations has been of inestimable value and of great assistance in our war effort.

The Civilian Conservation Corps has been a splendid training field for the War Department, especially with reference to the mobilization of the Corps in supplying and administrating it.

Also, the Corps has supplied a splendid group of young men as a great reservoir of man power for the Armed Forces. The enrollees by their fine training and discipline have made model soldiers when they joined the Armed Forces.

For all this the War Department is justly proud and feels that you should likewise take great pride in the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps.

CORPS RESULTS BENEFICIAL

The Civilian Conservation Corps began its operations in the middle of the worst economic depression in the Nation's history. It closed its doors on June 30, 1942, in the Nation's greatest international war emergency. Through the years of operation, the Corps had seen unemployment among youth drop from an estimated 6,000,000 to zero. It had seen industrial activity rise almost from zero to the greatest industrial output rate in all the country's history. The Corps proved a signal success as an agency for alleviating unemployment, for training young men and in getting essential conservation work done.

A glance back over the first and middle years of Corps activity, discloses that the CCC acted like a blood transfusion upon the Nation's industrial and business life. In addition to furnishing jobs to youth and war veterans it stimulated business recovery. It was a life-saver to many small businesses and industries, and especially to the communities where CCC camps were located. Over the years more than \$2,000,000,000 of CCC appropriations flowed back into business and industrial channels in the form of checks for automotive equipment, food stuffs, machinery, lumber, hardware, clothing and other supplies.

The favorable economic implications of the founding of the CCC fairly stretch the imagination. Every enrollee who entered the

Corps activated employment for others on the outside and within the CCC structure. We have noted that 3,000,000 enrollees served in the Corps. All of these men and their dependents numbering from twelve to fifteen million benefited from allotment checks sent home out of enrollee cash allowances. More than 235,000 persons were employed as reserve officers in charge of camps, as project superintendents and foremen, as junior officers, as educational advisers and as facilitating personnel. Likewise some 50,000 skilled mechanics received employment in the construction of camps. Carpenters and other artisans built the barracks that replaced the squad tents. The Army Quartermaster Corps put to work thousands of civilians at its depots processing clothing and supplies, and these depots worked around the clock to carry out the Quartermaster General's orders that all requisitions must be acted upon within 24 hours.

The Quartermaster General was a father with five sons multiplied 60,000 times. Each of his sons had to have shoes, underwear, work clothes, dress uniforms, shirts, neckties, blankets, sheets and a cot. Each needed one-fortieth of a barrack, a place to eat, a place to play, and three square meals a day. Keeping one growing boy in shoes is a problem; multiply that problem by 300,000 and you have something. When the Quartermaster General went to the store he needed a freight train to bring back his purchases.

Working men must have something to work with. At first the Quartermaster General purchased a few trucks for transportation purposes, a few axes. Then the President approved Director Fechner's recommendation that each CCC camp be provided with machines so the work would be speeded up. The Quartermaster General and the purchasing agents of the Departments of the Interior and Agriculture had to go into the open market and buy huge quantities of trucks, tractors, ambulances, automobiles, graders, jack-hammers and peavies.

In addition to tapping Army reserve supplies of work clothing, underwear, overcoats, blankets, mess kits and toilet articles for each individual, and organization equipment such as cots, sheets, mattresses, pillows, field ranges, tableware and various other items, contracts were awarded the first CCC year to private manufacturers for 2,500,000 yards of denim, 785,000 summer drawers, 1,150,000 summer undershirts, 183,000 denim hats, 1,000,000 jumpers, 28,000 overalls, 700,000 denim trousers, 525,000 wool trousers, 500,000 pairs of shoes, 250,000 canvas cots, 475,000 bath towels, 685,000 face towels, 300 motor ambulances, 300 passenger cars, 3,000 motor trucks. This was only the beginning.

How literally true it was that each enrollee inducted in those early days revived or increased incomes for others is best high-lighted

by the following instance cited by Director James J. McEntee on May 8, 1941, before the Downtown Forum of Boston, Massachusetts. --- In 1933 the lumber industry was definitely in bad shape. Home construction was at zero. Railroads and other industries had reduced their purchases to a vanishing point. Result was that in 1932, the industry produced only nine billion board feet -- less than one-third its production in 1929. A board foot is one foot long, one foot wide, one inch thick. Somewhat more than one thousand board feet was required to house one enrollee. In nine months of 1933 the CCC's requisition on the lumber was for two hundred million board feet!

Furthermore, in 1935, when for economy reasons it was decided to replace the fixed type of barrack with the portable type (because of the necessity of moving from a completed project to a new one), the Corps instigated the biggest production volume of pre-fabricated portable building construction in the history of the Nation.

The automotive industry in that period also was at a stalemate. Starting its purchases of passenger cars, trucks, and heavy motorized equipment in 1933, the CCC built its fleet up to the largest peace-time level in the world -- 45,000 units.

The little merchant, too, benefited by the largesse of the CCC's needs, farmer, butcher, grocer, because wherever feasible, provisions were bought locally.

Creation of the CCC started hundreds of thousands of families of enrollees on the road to moral and physical regeneration through the compulsory cash allotment system that required every enrollee with dependents to send \$25 home monthly out of his \$30 wage. It was not left to chance. The Army Finance Officer mailed the checks direct to the beneficiaries. In the nine and a quarter years' existence of the CCC, dependent parents and others were allotted almost \$700,000,000. Hunger and despair gave way to hope and new strength when the window envelope arrived on the first of the month with the green check inside.

CONSERVATION

ACCOMPLISHMENTS GREAT

The full story of what the Civilian Conservation Corps did for conservation never will be told. Suffice it is to say it revolutionized conservation policies that had dominated national policy for generations and started the country on the way toward something like a balanced natural resources budget. In the decades prior to formation of the Corps much valuable conservation planning was done and many new policies were developed and adopted officially. It was not until the CCC came, however,

that foresters and conservationists were given the man power and the funds necessary to make a real start on the huge tree planting, forest protection and land protection and development program that had to be done to assure future generations their fair share of the country's once great heritage of natural resources wealth.

The Corps attacked the conservation program in many ways. It engaged in forest protection, soil erosion control, grazing control, the development of land for public usage and flood control as well as water conservation. In the end it bent its energies largely toward development of military areas as training grounds for the war and the protection of basic natural resources wealth.

The Corps attacked the forest fire problem in two ways. For offensive purposes it was formed into a national forest protection patrol and integrated with the regular fire fighting forces of federal, state and private governments.

As a second approach to forest security, the Corps initiated a program to perform a truly Paul Bunyanish task of fire proofing the forests by constructing new facilities for detecting and reporting fires and for moving fire squads rapidly to danger points. This latter assignment was carried out by constructing fire towers, truck trails through the forests, telephone and radio lines of communications, building air fields and cutting fire breaks.

While the Corps operated, CCC camps in forests and parks were the backbone of the national forest protection system. In the beginning federal and state forest authorities acted promptly to integrate the new fire fighting forces into their protection machinery. Arrangements were made to train all CCC foremen and enrollees in proper safe practices and up-to-the-minute fire fighting methods. Regulations were adopted forbidding the sending of enrollees to the fire line until they had been thoroughly trained and approved as physically fit for fire fighting duty. Each company had its own picked fire fighting squad and its area to protect.

But while forest protection held the spotlight, the Corps engaged in many other types of work. Before the end of its first year the work programs were taking on the familiar pattern that characterized the work activities of the Corps throughout the middle thirties and the early forties. Throughout its life, the Corps fought to reduce the ravages of fire, insects and disease. It emphasized reforestation and each year tens of thousands of enrollees planted trees, thinned out dense timber stands, worked in nurseries expanding seedling production collected seeds and worked on projects which improved forest areas for

public usage. The real value of the Corps in increasing our timber supply was not confined to the trees it planted and the nurseries it expanded. Given an equal chance, cutover and burned over areas reforest themselves and the CCC by extinguishing fires promptly and affording protection to areas where new trees were growing enormously decreased the mortality rate among seedlings.

Erosion control which took up little space on the Corps' first work program gradually expanded until at the end it was utilizing almost one-third of all camps. The number of projects on grazing, wildlife, reclamation and drainage rehabilitation work also increased substantially. Throughout the years, the CCC devoted much of its efforts to protecting and improving the national parks, stimulating the states to acquire new state parks and otherwise increasing outdoor opportunities for the public at large. Civilian Conservation Corps funds also were used to expand the national forests and other public lands including areas set aside for wildlife protection and propagation, and new additions to national parks. Altogether some 20,000,000 acres of land were added to public lands by the CCC.

A comparison of the tented CCC camps of 1933 and the neat carefully arranged and highly efficient barrack camps of 1940 and 1941 discloses many changes and many improvements. The first camps were tents. The modern camps were of portable construction, electric lighted and well equipped with training facilities and school rooms, recreational buildings, kitchens, mess halls and all types of modern machinery.

The men who entered the first CCC camps came from families on relief. They sought economic safety, a chance to work, to help their families and opportunity to gain work experience. There were no schools and life was principally work with some hours for recreation and then more work. The daily schedule was simple and while food was ample it was not of great variety and not always well prepared.

The men who entered the CCC in the late thirties and early forties were out of work and in need of employment but barely a majority came from families actually on relief rolls. While the 1933 youngsters averaged in the twenties, were under nourished, and usually had been without employment for many months, the 1940 youngster was about eighteen, adequately fed and rarely had worked. Most of them, however, had finished the upper grades in the public schools or had attended high school.

CCC PATTERN OF LIFE

The men who entered the Corps in its later days had the advantage of a carefully worked out and developed pattern of CCC life which

included not only work but calisthenics, marching drill, strict discipline and excellent training in numerous vocations as well as academic subjects. The main emphasis in 1933 was on work. In 1939 and 1940 it was on work and training. The desire of youth to get ahead despite any obstacles and forced the CCC to develop and gradually strengthen its training programs. The demand of youth for machinery to accelerate production caused Corps officials, as far back as 1933, to abandon the earlier idea of making the CCC largely an army of men using hand tools. When it closed its doors the Corps had thousands of tractors, graders, trucks, jack-hammers, transports, bulldozers and other equipment built to speed work and to get results.

The men in the modern CCC camps had opportunity to operate machinery. Thousands learned to drive trucks and operate both light and heavy equipment. The need for tractor drivers, operators of trucks, bulldozers, graders and jack-hammers caused Corps officials to establish special classes for training men. Special schools were established to train cooks and bakers to man the CCC kitchens. Special schools also were set up to train radio operators, company clerks and junior officers to command the CCC camps.

An innovation in operating procedure, inaugurated by the Director's Office, was the establishment of central motor repair shops for the maintenance and rebuilding of motorized and other heavy equipment. All CCC motor repair work was concentrated in fifty strategically located repair shops rather than the two hundred and twenty shops which previously had been operated by the cooperating Departments. The object of this policy was to secure uniformly good major repairs, thus prolonging the effective life of vehicles and to put into effect a reasonably uniform system of costs, techniques and inspection which would assure the most effective and economical maintenance of the large fleet of vehicles operated by the CCC.

In addition to their strict repair functions, these central motor repair shops also trained thousands of enrollees in motor vehicle maintenance and in the more complex mechanical operation required for complete major overhauls.

The Civilian Conservation Corps was a practical organization based upon sound workable techniques and principles. It had two primary jobs to do and it did them without fanfare and with great thoroughness. Its major task was to aid unemployed and underprivileged young men grow into useful active citizens. Its next important assignment was to halt the waste of national resources which for years had been sapping our economic strength and start the country on a sound national resources policy.

It accomplished both its major objectives through a common sense

procedure which required that every young man work a normal work day, five days a week, under conditions which gave each youth opportunity to build up his health, strength and stamina and at the same time develop work skills and practical work experience as well as character under competent and inspired leadership.

When the Civilian Conservation Corps closed its doors it had completed an amazing amount of useful conservation work - work which today stands as a living monument to our youth. Its greatest contribution was made in the field of human conservation.

Where would the 3,000,000 despairing, broken, idle youngsters, who served as enrollees, be today, when we need their strength, their loyalty, their skill - even their lives - had there been no CCC?

That is a national question the United States can be glad it does not have to answer.

CONCLUSION

No better description of the human values of the CCC camps has been written than the following extract from the American Youth Commission's publication, "Youth in the CCC" written by Kenneth Holland and Frank Ernest Hill:

Whatever may be the future of the CCC, its past will be long remembered in America. ***Let us *** consider the vitality, the color, and the force of the Corps.

Let us remember that the CCC has seen millions of American Youth pouring into the camps with doubt and often desperate hope, often passive and discouraged and wondering about the future. Let us remember that millions have streamed back from the camps browned and stalwart and vigorous, with renewed courage, with better routines of living, with work-skills they had not possessed, and with ambitions born in the camps.

Let us remember that CCC has been youth planting new forests, building great dams, building roads and bridges, making lakes and airports, erecting buildings for the public use, fighting destructive fires, fighting floods, finding lost children, building camps for national defense. Let us remember that the Corps has been foresters and rangers teaching youth about conservation, foremen guiding their hands and minds in the ways of work, commanders teaching them order and responsibility, advisers teaching them to read, to carry on school

work, to know more of the occupational world they were soon to face. Let us remember that the Corps has been all these officials teaching new skills. Let us remember that it has been men in Washington and in corps area and district headquarters patiently planning better facilities, fighting for schoolhouses and camp equipment and better camp routines.

Let us remember that the Corps has been a gloriously aggressive agency, with a spirit of accomplishing the impossible -- ***** 'Our boys need these things and they are going to have them!' and it has been enrollees full of the same spirit -- 'Sure, we'll build a schoolhouse out of hours! Can't we get logs from the forest?' 'Let's build a baseball field!' Let us remember that these boys have been proud of their work, and recognized its meaning for their land *****

And let us remember that CCC youth have carried this spirit of accomplishment back into farms, little towns, and cities. Let us remember that they have set tens of millions of Americans to talking about them, to praising their labor and their spirit.

Yes, the CCC will live through its accomplishments and its energy. It has put an imprint upon service to youth and by youth which will not easily be effaced, and which future agencies for young American manhood must seek to match or excel. Its positive vitality dominates its imperfections and frustrations, and promises that, whatever may happen to names and regulations and administrative frame work, the Corps will go on!