

TRAILS IN HISTORY

Official Newsletter of the Lee County Historical Society

Volume 42, Number 2

April 2009

Published Quarterly

LCHS Spring Meeting

April 19, 2009

2:30 PM at the LCHS Museum

The Civilian Conservation Corp in Lee County, Alabama: Company 4448, Camp SP-12

Speakers:

Mr. Robert Pasquill, Jr.

*Author of **The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942: A Great and Lasting Good**, Mr. Pasquill will share a USDA Forest Service Southern Region video celebrating the 75th anniversary of the CCC.*

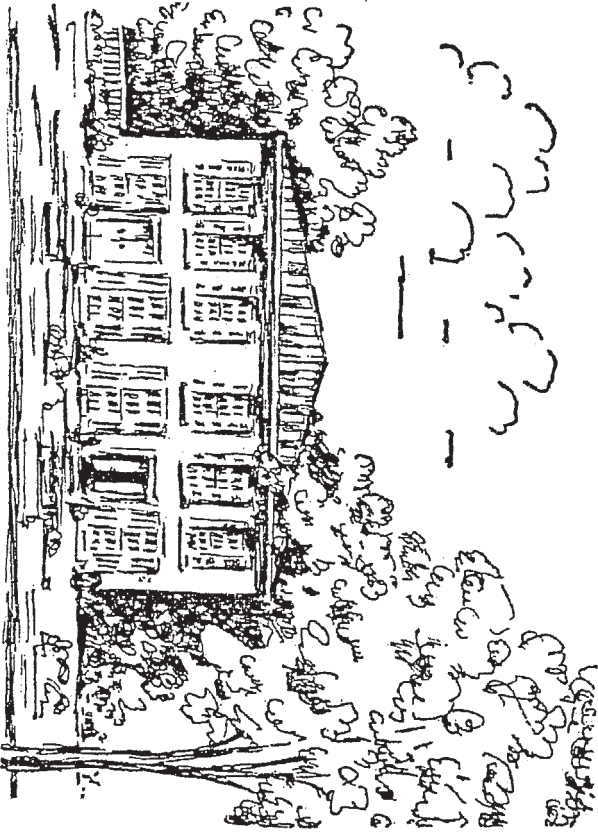
Rep. Pete Turnham

Rep. Turnham will speak about his experiences at the CCC camp at Chewacla.



The CCC Camp pavilion near Chewacla State Park

Lee County Historical Society
P. O. Box 206
Loachapoka, AL 36865



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LEE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

P. O. BOX 206
LOACHAPOKA, AL 36865

Organized October 25, 1968, chartered as a non-commercial, non-profit corporation under the laws of the State of Alabama, Charter filed with Probate Court, Lee county, Alabama, November 8, 1968.

OFFICERS

President: Deborah McCord
Vice-President: Charles C. Mitchell
Treasurer: Harvey Gosser
Secretary: Jeannette Frandsen
HCC Delegate: Ann Pearson
Trails Editor: Janet Sugg

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Term expires December 31, 2011
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Kay Campbell
Pat Conover
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Carl Summers, Jr.
Term expires December 31, 2010
Dottie Marcinko
Arvle Marshall
Deborah McCord
John Ross
William Wilson
Jim Witte
Term expires December 31, 2009
Doyle Keasal
Charles H. Mitchell
Betty Patterson
Janet Sugg
Peggie Webster
Barbara Gosser

MUSEUM CALENDAR

April 11, 2009 - Second Saturday

living history, 10am - 4pm
Alabama Infantry Company A
Civil War re-enactors

April 19 - LCHS Meeting

2:30pm - Chewacla CCC Camp,
Speaker - Pete Turnham

April 24-26, 2009 - Lee County Gathering Old Time Music Festival

- For more information, please see the web site at <http://leecountygathering.com>

May 9, 2009 - Second Saturday

living history, 10am - 4pm
Planting the Gardens

June 13, 2009 - Second Saturday

living history, 10am - 4pm

June 14, 2009 - LCHS Board Meeting, 2:00pm

July 11, 2009 - Second Saturday

living history, 10am - 4pm
July 12, 2009 - LCHS Meeting
2:30pm - program to be announced

LCHS MEMBERSHIP

Due: January 1 of each year
Individual: \$20 per individual
Family: \$30 (spouse and children)
Additional Donations Appreciated

All memberships and donations to LCHS are tax deductible. Please send your check (payable to LCHS), your mailing address (and e-mail address if applicable), to

Lee County Historical Society
P. O. Box 206,
Loachapoka, AL 36865.

Museum Report

Jessie Summers, LCHS Museum Curator

We are planning to update many of the exhibits and have started by transforming the east room of the log cabin into a one-room school. Desks have been moved in and there's a cast iron stove for heating. If you have items that may have been used in a 19th Century school room, please consider donating them to our newest museum addition. The spinning, weaving and sewing exhibits that were in the log cabin are now temporarily located in the Trade Center.

Pat Conover has given us a wrapping paper dispenser for a store counter and a twenty hole punch used for ledgers. These will enhance the store exhibit downstairs in the Trade Center.

Bill and Samera Baird donated several old family pieces. These include a single tree for the Taylor

Whatley farm equipment building, four pieces of cast iron cookware, three working table top electric fans circa 1930's, two framed prints (an Audubon bird and a horse sale), one framed charcoal of a man and his mule, four pieces of pottery, a wooden wall telephone, a folding rocking chair, an oak rocking chair, a needle point foot stool, a combination foot/sewing stool, and a sewing machine in fine condition.

Al Reese donated a very large number of family linens. A few of these were brought home from Belgium, where his mother worked for the Red Cross in 1918 and 1919.

Chad Mitchell gave us a well used Mauser, a German rifle, dated 1878. This will be a fine addition to the military room.

DO YOU HAVE TIME OR TALENT TO SHARE?

Barbara Gosser, Special Events Committee Chairman

LCHS is expanding, and new and exciting events are being planned for the present and future. **Membership Chairperson** is a newly created position, a **Special Events Committee** is being developed, and there are opportunities for those interested in serving as **host or hostess**, along with another person, one afternoon per month so that the museum can be open to the public more days during the week. Your ideas and help are needed. We welcome your input and hope that you will consider becoming an active member of a committee or volunteering one afternoon a month, or if you have a special talent, sharing it with us. Please give this some thought and be prepared to say "YES" when you are called upon so that you, too, can be a part of the future of LCHS.

If you feel that you do have time or talent to share,

Deborah McCord: 821-1301 or bigalmccord@bellsouth.net

Jessie Summers: 502-8313 or jessieesummers@bellsouth.net

would love to hear from you. Thank you for your interest. We look forward to seeing you at the museum.



Shannon Kipphut, graduate student in history is currently involved in a project to describe the McLain building and to suggest any changes that could be made to help the visitor understand and enjoy the exhibit.

AU Students Get Involved at LCHS

Jessie Summers and Board member Sheila Eckman attended a “Community and Civic Engagement Symposium” sponsored by Auburn’s College of Liberal Arts, which is developing an undergraduate minor in “Community and Engagement.” They described a Summer Academy, attended by liberal arts faculty, where community opportunities for faculty and students projects are explored. Numerous student projects in all of the liberal art disciplines have come out of the Summer Academy. LCHS was invited, along with other community non-profits and organizations, so that we might know that students projects are possible.

Dr. McLain’s Original Office Destroyed by Tornado



Photo: Joe Mcadory, Opelika-Auburn News

Saturday morning, February 28, 2009, a Force 2 Tornado hit Salem, Alabama, destroying the original office of Dr. McLain. Sunday morning, March 1, 4 to 5 inches of snow fell.

Dr. McLain practiced medicine in Salem, Alabama, from 1902 until 1956. His office in Salem was made into a museum. In 2006 the museum in Salem was closed and the exhibit was moved to the LCHS Museum in Loachapoka, where it is now housed in the McLain building.

LCHS Spring Meeting
April 19, 2009

2:30 PM at the LCHS Museum in Loachapoka

The Civilian Conservation Corp in Lee County, Alabama: Company 4448, Camp SP-12



Speaker: Mr. Robert Pasquill, Jr.

Mr. Pasquill is Forest Archaeologist for the U. S. Forest Service in Montgomery, Alabama. He graduated from the University of New Hampshire in 1980 with a degree in Anthropology, and began his career with the United States Forest Service in January of 1981. Through a local historical society, he got his first chance at historical research and writing. The Berkeley County Historical Society published *Battery Warren and the Santee Light Artillery*, a book about a local Civil War Battery, in 1987.

In July of 1986, Bob transferred to the National Forests in Alabama. As the Heritage Program Manager, Bob is in charge of the cultural resources work on the forests both as the Forest Archeologist and Forest Historian. The University of Alabama Press published Bob’s book *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942, A Great and Lasting Good* in July 2008. The book covers the 100 plus camps in Alabama between 1933 and 1942. During his research, Bob conducted over 120 interviews.

Speaker: Rep. Pete Turnham

Pete Turnham grew up on a small farm in the Abanda Community of Chambers County. He came to Auburn in 1939 and joined the CCC camp that was building Chewacla State Park. He took courses part time at Auburn University while in the CCC, and graduated from AU in 1944. He served as a combat infantry officer in France, Germany, and Austria during WWII, and received the bronze star with V for Valor. He returned home in 1946 after serving a year in the army of occupation in Germany.



Pete attended graduate school at AU from 1946 to 1948 receiving his M.S. degree in Dairy Science. He served on the staff of the Extension Service for five and a half years as a dairy specialist. In 1966 he started his own company, Alabama Contract Sales, Inc., and still serves as president.

In 1994 AU awarded him the LLD degree. He served in the Alabama House of Representatives for 40 years, the longest service in the history of the state. He is active in church, community and statewide activities.

LCHS President's Report: Museum Update

by Deborah McCord

We are embarking on an exciting year for the Society. Along with several new programs, new partnerships, and new exhibits, we will have new "hours" for the Museum. Yes, that's right! We hope to be open to the public three afternoons a week beginning in May. The board has approved long-range plans to expand the programs we are currently offering, and to work towards being open to the public on a regular schedule.

The board members have worked to keep the vision and mission of the Society founders alive. We feel that we have one of the best kept secrets in Lee County, but we don't want it to remain a secret. With the help of the Society members we can move forward to create a truly magnificent facility. Our current successes include:

- **Trade Center Restoration:** The windows and doors are being restored, and the exterior of the building is next. **Carl Summers, Charles**

H. Mitchell, and Bill Wilson are supervising this efforts.

- **Second Saturday Re-enactments:** Attendance has been steadily growing and new activities are being added. Last month more than 100 people came by for the fire place cooking, blacksmithing, gardening, Valentine making, Dulcimer Playing, Spinning and Weaving, and general fun. If you have not visited on a Second Saturday, you are missing a real treat.
- **The Education Program:** We are preparing for spring school fieldtrips. Students, teachers and parents rate our fieldtrips as highly effective and enjoyable. Partial funding for all fieldtrips has been provided by the West Point Fund Grant Program. Our many volunteers make the education programs so successful. Please consider becoming a demonstrator for this program.

SCARECROWS: A new fall project for LCCHS



The LCCHS Board approved a new fall fund-raising and public relations project for the Society. This project is patterned after a very successful event held every fall at the Huntsville Botanical Gardens. Businesses, organizations, schools, and individuals may sponsor a "scarecrow" or scarecrow scene to be displayed on the Museum grounds. The public is invited to view the exhibits on Saturdays and Sunday afternoons during October.

Anyone can sponsor a scarecrow (free to Lee Co. schools), but they must also make it or arrange to have it made and displayed. Scarecrows will be set up on, October 2 and 3. The sponsor is responsible for setup and takedown. The Museum will be open Saturdays and Sunday afternoons in October through Historical Fair on Saturday, 24 October. The cookhouse will be open when visitors are present selling seasonally appropriate snacks and beverages. Please let us know if you can volunteer to help with this event.

Upcoming Events on Second Saturdays

LCCHS Museum, 10am - 4pm



Esther Marshall spins wool into thread the old fashioned way.

- **April 11, 2009.** LCCHS hosts the 28th Alabama Infantry Company A Civil War re-enactors on the grounds of the Museum. This group of local citizens camp out in true 1860 style, prepare their meals, and demonstrate weaponry that might have been used in defense of Alabama at the end of the Civil War. Other activities are going on throughout the museum grounds as well.

- **May 9, 2009.** This is planting day for the Crops Garden and the McLain Garden. There's a flurry of activities around the gardens, the blacksmiths, spinners and weavers are busy, and there is cooking in the Log Cabin.

- **June 14, 2008.** Outdoor cooking, spinning, weaving, and blacksmithing is in progress. As the weather warms, things slow down in the South. 19th Century Alabamians were mostly focused on growing crops. There are lots of crops growing in the Crops Garden: cotton, corn, sweet potatoes, sweet sorghum, sugarcane, peanuts, broomcorn, and tobacco. Herbs from the McLain garden are used in preparation of today's meal.

Dulcimer Players. In addition to all the other Second Saturday activities at the Museum, the **Whistle Stop Pickers** dulcimer group meets at the Museum at 11:00am every Second Saturday. If you've ever wanted to learn to play this authentic American instrument, come join the group. Contacts are Deborah and Allen McCord, phone 821-1301 or e-mail.bigalmccord@bellsouth.net.



The Whistle Stop Pickers Dulcimer players practice and entertain in the Trade Center every Second Saturday.

CCC in Lee Co

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and kudzu all over the county to prevent soil erosion. Mr. Sanders recalls that they planted the kudzu in the red clay and it would grow quickly. They also dug ditches, cut logs and cleared forestry.

Mr. Sanders remembers that on July 5 of that year, while using a cross saw to cut down trees with Speedy Price, he became overheated and sick. The leader washed his face in the creek, and he rested until they went back to the barracks.

The only time he remembers anyone getting hurt was when his third cousin, Bruce Hilyer, was bitten by a copperhead snake while cutting down trees.

He was taken to Fort Benning in the

Army ambulance at the post. He stayed at Fort Benning for the summer. Mr. Sanders remembers that when Bruce Hilyer returned he was pale and his legs were covered in pin marks where he had received so many shots.

Once, one of the men was in some kind of trouble, and the sheriff picked him up at the barracks and took him to jail.

The men were up early for exercise. After getting dressed, they lined up to march to the mess hall. As they entered the mess hall, they were given a small box of cereal and a half-pint carton of milk. There would be plenty to eat for breakfast, including biscuits, which they called hardtacks, meat of some kind, and fruit, always an apple or orange.

As the men worked around the county, they carried a mess kit with them. Each one had a cup, which he kept on his belt, and a plate. Their lunch was taken to them where they were working. Mr. Sanders remembers in was nearly always beef soup, which they called slum gullian. This would be placed on his mess kit plate along with peach cobbler, running together. There would be a barrel of iced tea, chocolate milk or lemonade. There was plenty to eat, and they could have all they wanted.

When they returned to the post, they put their mess kit in boiling, soapy water. They showered and changed. They stood at attention and lowered the flag.

Dinner in the mess hall offered a variety of foods and dessert was generally chocolate or banana pudding. They ate chicken on Sundays.

Lights went out at 9 every night. A few of the men walked to town to take classes at API. Mr. Sanders enjoyed going to the library to read books and the newspapers. At 9 the sergeant would come around checking to be sure everyone was in bed. If a person was not in bed at 9, they received three hours extra work. They would have to dig a hole and then refill it.

They were allowed to go home on Saturday evenings and sometimes on Friday evenings.

Mr. Sanders remembers coming in to the post on Sept. 1 when the radio man had the radio turned "wide opened". World War II had started. After the War began, the CCC was closed in Auburn and moved to Dothan.

They planted pine trees and kudzu all over the county to prevent soil erosion. Mr. Sanders recalls that they planted the kudzu in the red clay and it would grow quickly.

- **The Crops Garden: Charles C. Mitchell** is preparing for another great crops garden. This garden is used to help teach students during fieldtrips and for teacher workshops. It is also a great hit during the Historical Fair in the fall.
- **Herb Garden: Peggy Mitchell** and **Doyle Keasal** are working on the McLain garden, displaying vegetables and herbs that are reminiscent of "kitchen gardens." Boy Scout Troop 11 built the fence around the Herb Garden.
- **New partnership with Auburn University History Department:** The History Department will supply student interns to assist us with properly storing and displaying historical documents. We will host our first intern this summer. Graduate student **Shannon Kipphut**, is currently scripting the exhibits in the McLain building.
- **West Entrance: Charles H. Mitchell** and **Chad Mitchell** reworked the West Entrance so that buses can make the turn into the parking area. New signs will soon be added to direct parking in this area. Charles is also working on a

camping area for the music festival to be held in April.

- **New Positions:** Our new treasurer is **Harvey Gosser**. **Sheila Eckman** is our publicity chairperson. **Betty Patterson** will chair the Volunteer/Demonstrators Committee. **Barbara Gosser** will chair the Events Committee. A membership chair is needed.
- **Our First Annual, Old-Time Music Festival, "Lee County Gathering"** will be held on site, April 24-26. Volunteers are needed for preparing and serving food, and for manning the gate to collect admission fees.

As you can see we are an active society, but none of our successes were made without the support of the membership. We need you. Please consider volunteering as a demonstrator or host for Second Saturdays, school fieldtrips, or for one afternoon a month on a regular basis. Our restoration project is only partially funded. Please consider making a donation towards the building fund. This is your society and the success of these programs depends on you. Together we can make the Lee County Historical Society great.

Lee County Gathering: Old-Time Music Festival

April 24-26, 2009

at the LCHS Museum in Loachapoka



This event includes two full days of instruction (4 class periods per day), continuous music jams, and a Saturday evening concert!

For more information, see the web site at

www.leecountygathering.com

Report on Old Trade Center Renovation

by Carl Summers

Thanks to very generous gifts from Ann Pearson and from Ruth Ann and Dwight Bond, the Society got off to an excellent start in raising funds to renovate the Old Trade Center. We are also extremely grateful to every one of the donors listed below for their important contributions to this important project.

Through March 1, 2009 the Renovation Fund has \$117,506 in the bank. The balance of the Community Service Grant of \$6,750 will be paid in 2009 to give a total of \$124,256. This is sufficient to rework the windows and to stabilize the building by replacing the exterior stucco. The window work is nearing completion and the exterior stucco replacement will soon get underway.

An additional \$106,000 is needed to finish the renovation including Central A/C and Heating and we are continuing to ask for funds for this purpose. We hope that those who have not yet contributed will consider adding their names to the list below. All contributions are tax deductible and should be mailed to LCHS, P. O. Box 206, Loachapoka, AL 36865.

List of Renovation Fund Donors as of March 1, 2009

Ann and Dick Amacher	Ralph Draughon, Jr.
Lisa Brouliette	Sheila Eckman
John E. & Lee R. Barker	Mr. Tom Eden
John Barker	Mr. Wesley Ellis
Ann Barr	Ronald & Barbara H. Estridge
Martin Beck & Virginia Goebel	Marjorie H. Fitzpatrick
Mr. Claes A. Blomquist	Mr. and Mrs. Warner Floyd
Ruth Ann & Dwight Bond	Jeanette & John Frandsen
Carol Bramlett	Mr. and Mrs. Richard Freeman
Dr. and Mrs. Robert Brewer	Mayor & Mrs. Gary Fuller
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Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Cadenhead	Sylvia Goldmann
Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Candler	Lt.Col (Ret.) & Mrs. Hardy Lee Graves
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Carolyn R. Coker	Ms. Eleanor Harris
Joan Colburn	Dr. and Mrs. Cleveland Harrison
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June Corley	Bert Hitchcock
Terry and George Crispin	Sarah Hudson
Chris Danner	Mrs. Henry Carson Jackson
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Nimrod D. Denson	Judy and Jay Jones
Jacquelyn and Urban Diener	Dr. Angela Lakwete
Mr. & Mrs. Walter Dorsey	Gail Langley
Ruth Downs	Dot and Wilson Lee

company was participating in the program. The camp library, with 800 volumes, was considered the most popular place in camp.

On December 2, 1940, Charles H. Kenlan, assistant to the director, wrote to the Department of Interior's representative to the CCC Advisor Council regarding the lack of work and Camp SP-12. H. E. Weatherwax, the acting representative for the department, responded to his letter on December 12, 1940. The national Park Service had been planning to terminate Camp SP-12 on September 30, 1940, and there-

fore only three months of work had been approved. Company 4448 was kept in Alabama as the National Park Service was trying to establish a camp at the Oak Mountain Recreation Demonstration Area. A revised work program at Chewacla State Park had been prepared, however, as the State of Alabama had acquired additional land in the park. This acquisition created work for the remainder of the fiscal year.

According to the *CCC Camp Directory for Alabama*, Camp SP-12 was abandoned after the sixteenth period, which ended March 31, 1941.

Civilian Conservation Corp in Lee County

by Ann Cipperly

Excerpt from the The Heritage of Lee County, published by Heritage Publishing Consultants, Inc., P.O. Box 67, Clanton, Alabama 35046, 1-800-568-1611.

In the 1930s there were two Civilian Conservation Corp groups in Lee County. One was located near Chewacla Park, post number 4448.

The other one, number 4447, was located on south college in Auburn, near the current Wal-Mart, across the street from what was Harry Pace's Farm. At that time, the area was swampy.

Joseph Sanders of Opelika entered the CCC on April 5, 1939 and was stationed at the post on

South College, about a mile from downtown Auburn. Mr. Sanders recalls that the CCC was set up like the army with ranks of captains, sergeants,

etc. "We were just like the Army," he says, "except that we didn't receive training. We wore Army uniforms."

There were four barracks, which slept 50 each, a mess hall, and a doctor's office, a library building and officers' quarters. They also had an Army ambulance.

Mr. Sanders remembers that he enlisted at the court house. He received a physical and was sent to the post. He received a salary of a dollar a day.

The men worked throughout Opelika, Auburn and the Beauregard community. They planted pine trees
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Mr. Sanders remembers that he enlisted at the court house. He received a physical and was sent to the post. He received a salary of a dollar a day.

CCC in Alabama

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CCC. There were also pool tables and a ping-pong table in the recreation hall (J. L. Hall interview, November 21, 2002; see the CD).

According to a Camp Inspection Report dated September 29, 1938, there were 191 men under 1st Lt. Lazarus H. Todd. Flynn E. Hudson

had replaced Mr. Ryan as the project superintendent. The main project was the bathhouse, which was expected to require 5,000 enrollee man-days and cost \$3,500 in material. A work detail was staying in

Five nights a week were devoted to the educational program, which had grown steadily over eight months with 55 percent of the company participating.

camp to build an educational building, to extend the woodshop, and to hang a ceiling the recreation hall. The new CEA, Thomas C. Harris, had expanded the educational program, adding high school level and vocational courses. He reported that courses ranged from reading and writing for semi-illiterates to academic work at the high school level. Every enrollee could find a vocational course that appealed to his interest. The army officers, the CEA, the assistant CEA, enrollees, and NYA teachers were offering the classes, and the technical personnel taught job training courses. Five nights a week were devoted to the educational program, which had grown steadily over eight months with 55 percent of the company participating.

A Camp Inspection Report dated September 11, 1939, recorded 192 men in Company 4448. They had been without a company commander since August 30. The subaltern, James N.

Luton, had been in camp since August 29. He was experienced, interested, eager to receive suggestions, and willing to do whatever he could to improve the camp. The work project, under the supervision of Mr. Hudson, consisted of general park improvement and was progressing satisfactorily. Projects included the construction of fireplaces, a parking

area, and combination tables and benches, extension of the park road, treatment of gullies in the park, tree inspection and pest control, educational and guide work at the contact station, and various improvements

around the Bureau of Animal Industry experimental farm.

The educational program under CEA Harris continued its success. Ten courses were taught in camp and three at Alabama Polytechnic Institute (API) at Auburn. Twelve vocational classes were offered. Thirty-five enrollees had started college work at API since January 1, 1939, and now 12 men were attending college full time. Six men had been promoted from the literacy class to elementary school level.

According to a Camp Inspection Report dated November 7, 1940, there were 194 men under the command of Captain R. F. Holcomb. The work project, under Mr. Hudson, was just about completed. Additional work projects needed to be approved, or the enrollees were to be turned back to the army because of an insufficient work program. Forrest P. Mathews, the new camp educational advisor, reported that approximately 92 percent of the

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Mr. Herbert Martin
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LCHS Receives Community Service Grant for Educational Programs



Senator Ted Little (left) and Doug Purcell (right), Historic Chattahoochee Commission Executive Director, present a check for \$2250 for LCHS to Carl Summers. The check represents the first installment of the \$9,000 grant from the State of Alabama to LCHS to forward our educational programs. The grant is paid quarterly through the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama: Company 4448, Camp SP-12, Auburn, Alabama

by Robert Pasquill, Jr.

From the book, *The Civilian Conservation Corps in Alabama, 1933-1942: A Great and Lasting Good*, by Robert Pasquill, Jr., published by University of Alabama Press, August 5, 2008. Mr. Pasquill is Forest Archaeologist for the U. S. Forest Service in Montgomery, Alabama.

Company 4448 was established on August 18, 1935, from an initial cadre of 26 men from three camps in District H. Under the command of Captain William Massey, the cadre cleared a campsite area of cotton stalks, stumps, and rocks, then constructed the buildings. The work project was the construction of the 600-acre Chewacla State Park, located 4.5 miles south of Auburn, and was to begin on September 15, 1935 (1937 CCC District H annual).

A Camp Inspection Report dated January 2, 1936, recorded 167 enrollees from Florida, Georgia, and Alabama under the command of Captain Clifford S. Urwiller. The work project, under the supervision of W. J. Ryan, consisted of the construction of park roads, culverts, bridges, and a concrete dam that would create a 26-acre lake. The lake basin was being cleared. Recreational equipment was provided for baseball, basketball, volleyball, boxing, and horseshoes. "Moving pictures" were shown in camp frequently, and trips were arranged to see shows in Opelika twice a week. The company received 50 magazines and 5 daily newspapers.

CEA Royal Mattice's education report for December 1935 recorded that 18 courses were offered with 96 enrollees, or 58 percent of the company, attending. Another 100 enrollees received training while working on the project. J. W. Drake, junior foreman, taught a well-attended course in rock masonry and construction in the evenings. Four NYA teachers were furnished by the Alabama Polytechnic Institute. According to the Center for Research Libraries, Company 4448 began a camp newspaper in 1936 entitled "???" (three question marks were the name of the newspaper), to be changed to the "Chewacla News" in August 1936.

Claudis G. Beasley of Brewton, Alabama, enrolled in the CCC in the fall of 1935 and was sent to Camp SP-12. He worked on various projects in the development of Chewacla State Park and recalled working on the construction of the dam and buildings in the park. He also worked in the quarry, cutting rock for projects in the park. In his free time, he played baseball and "visited a little gal" in Opelika (Claudis Greene Beasley interview, October 20, 2003; see the CD).

Dan Williams enrolled in the CCC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in May 1936. The enrollees were sent by train to Auburn, then trucked to Chewacla State Park.



Construction of the arched bridge at Chewacla.

Dan Williams enrolled in the CCC in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in May 1936. The enrollees were sent by train to Auburn, then trucked to Chewacla State Park. He worked on the construction of the dam and clearing of the lake bed and planted grass along the banks of the park roads. In his spare time, he taught himself how to type. He was assigned to the camp surgeon but fainted during his first surgery. He eventually became the company clerk (Dan Williams interview, August 10, 2001; see the CD).

A Camp Inspection Record dated March 17, 1937, recorded 156 men from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi under the command of 1st Lt. Cena V. Fertitta. The all-masonry dam was completed, the bathing beach 90 percent completed, the custodian's dwelling 50 percent completed, and a 23-foot-long stone and masonry bridge 85 percent completed. Two and one-half miles of a scenic road and four miles of foot trails had been built. The work project was expected to be finished by January 1940.

According to the 1937 District H annual, the masonry dam contained 6 million pounds of rock. The lake was to be used for fishing and recreation.

The custodian's dwelling, containing six rooms, was built of native stone quarried by the enrollees. The arch bridge over Moore's Mill Creek, at the head of the lake, was being constructed of reinforced concrete faced with stone. Plans were being made for overnight cabins, a large recreation building, and a bathhouse.

A Camp Inspection Report dated November 30, 1937, recorded 180 men from Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi under the command of Captain Henry K. Toenes. The work project under W. J. Ryan was progressing. The masonry dam was completed, as were two miles of foot trails, a masonry bridge, 2.5 miles of roads, a custodian's dwelling, and two rock and concrete overnight cabins. Work had begun on five more cabins, a parking area, a picnic shelter, and 12 outdoor fireplaces. During July and August 1937, 22,887 people checked in to Chewacla State Park.

In early 1938, J. L. Hall of Hope Hull enrolled in the CCC and was sent to Camp SP-12. He drove a truck taking crews and hauling materials to the work sites. He recalled a tennis court in camp and said that he enjoyed learning to play tennis while in the

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