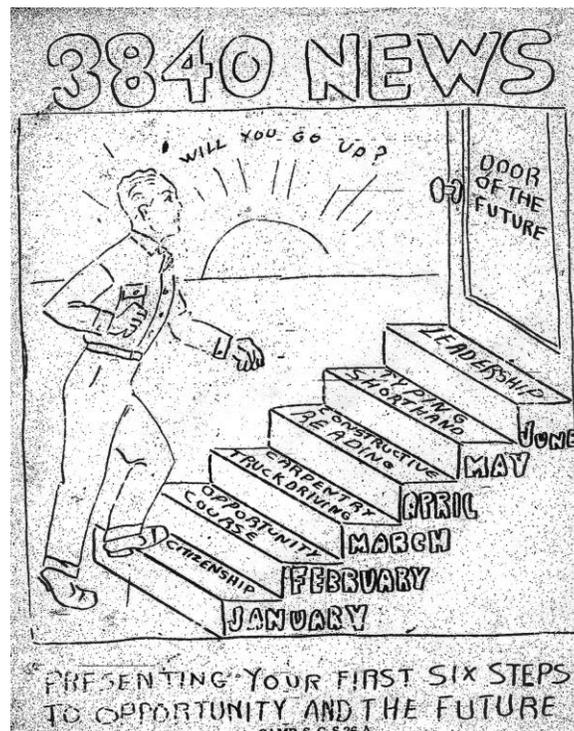


In Their Own Words

*The Story of the
Civilian Conservation Corps
As Told in the
Civilian Conservation Corps
Camp Newspapers
of Santa Cruz County, Arizona*



3840 News, Patagonia, AZ

By Sharon E. Hunt

Tucson, Arizona
©2011

Table of Contents

Preface	iii
Acknowledgments	iv
The Civilian Conservation Corps.....	v
History	
Camp Newspapers	
The Civilian Conservation Corps in Santa Cruz County	
Individual Camps	
Company 2847, Camp F-63-A, Flux Canyon	
<i>Flux Canyon Reporter</i>	
Company 1826-V, Camp F-30-A, Madera Canyon.....	
<i>The Veteran; The Alibi</i>	
Company 3840, Camp SCS-26-A, Patagonia	
<i>3840 News</i>	
Company 2847, Camp F-64-A, Walker Canyon, Nogales	
<i>Walker Canyon Reporter; Live Oak</i>	
Selected Bibliography.....	

Preface

This work grew out of my fascination with the camp newspapers of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The newspapers offer a valuable glimpse into the daily life, thoughts, feelings, and activities of the enrollees who published these newspapers, a glimpse that a study of official documents cannot offer. They contain articles, illustrations, poems, and jokes about the educational program, camp life, camp food, enrollees' real and fantasy love lives, trips to neighboring towns, safety issues, sports events, work projects, and recreational activities.

As an editor, indexer, and writer, I work to help individuals tell their stories and make these stories available to others. I wanted to help the CCC enrollees tell their stories in their own words and make these stories available to today's audience. As the descendant of a nation of storytellers (my great-grandfather was from County Limerick, Ireland), I am honored to present the story of the CCC in Santa Cruz County, Arizona, through the words of its enrollees.

Acknowledgments

I have many people to thank for helping me with this publication. First and foremost is my father, who instilled in me the values of hard work and perseverance and who always supported my efforts.

I received encouragement and research information from the following individuals:

Chris Schrager, U.S. Forest Service: information on Coronado National Forest CCC camps

Dr. Kevin Horstmann: assistance with maps

William G. "Bill" Gillespie, U.S. Forest Service: map of Camp F-63-A and photographs of the Patagonia Ranger Station

Ernest Bruss, son of Camp Commander Ernest H. Bruss: information and photographs on Camp SCS-26-A, Patagonia

CCC enrollee Eduardo "Buck" Castillo and son Daniel Castillo: information on Camp SCS-26-A, Patagonia

CCC enrollee Elson Alvarez: photographs and information on Camp SCS-26-A, Patagonia

Company 2847

Camp F-63-A

Patagonia, AZ

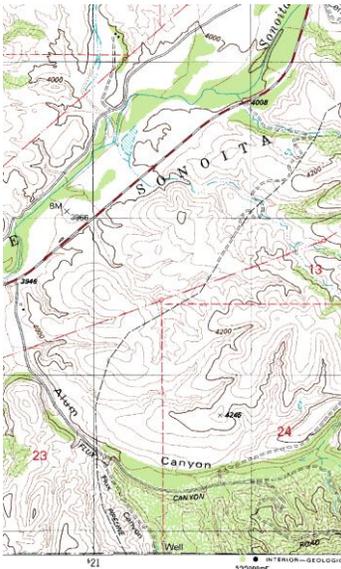
Flux Canyon, AZ

Camp Newspaper: Flux Canyon Reporter

Vol. 1, No. 1, Patagonia, AZ (Flux Canyon), Nov. 19, 1935, FCR 1(1)

Vol. 1, No. 2, Patagonia, AZ (Flux Canyon), Dec. 3, 1935 (last issue), FCR 1(2)

Succeeded by *Walker Canyon Reporter*, Nogales, AZ



Topographical map of Patagonia area. Flux Canyon is in the bottom left quadrant of this map, near the U.S.-Mexico border. The town of Patagonia is located to the northeast of the canyon. Courtesy Kevin Horstmann.

History of Camp F-63-A

The CCC enrollees at the Flux Canyon camp had originally been at Camp F-11 in Box Canyon and then in Gardner Canyon. The camp had to leave Gardner Canyon because of lease difficulties, so the men moved to Flux Canyon in November 1933. In 1934, the camp was designated F-63-A. The CCC enrollees worked on projects for the Forest Service.

The enrollees lived in large tents with wooden floors for the first several months and then built wood-frame barracks and other camp buildings.

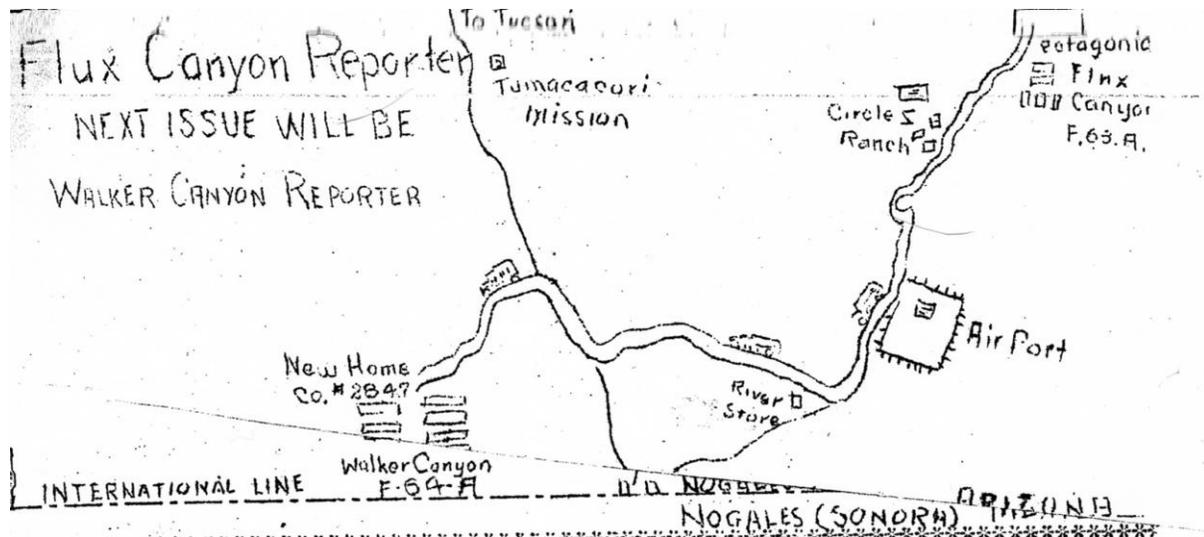
Camp F-64-A, Walker Canyon, Nogales was formally opened and dedicated at Walker Canyon on Sunday, Nov. 10, 1935, and the company moved there in December 1935.

The boys of F-63-A have proved themselves to be real men. They have performed men's work in a manner that brings commendation to our camp. [*Flux Canyon Reporter* FCR 1(1):2]

It appears that there was a small "fly camp" (temporary camp) at Flux Canyon through the early months of 1936. The camp newspaper for Walker Canyon noted in its February 1936 issue:

From the Fly-Camp at Flux Canyon

With the project road at Flux Canyon completed, all the boys except those in the powder crew have moved here to Walker Canyon. Those remaining there will build a fire trail from the Air Port to a point five miles toward the Flux Canyon Road. This will complete the entire project. [*Walker Canyon Reporter*, 1(4):5]



Map of CCC Camp F-63-A site and surrounding area. [*Flux Canyon Reporter* 1(2):1]

Company 3840, from Camp SCS-19-A in St. David, Arizona, moved into the F-63-A campsite in October 1939. The camp was designated SCS-26-A, and the men worked on projects for the Soil Conservation Service.

**Company 2847
Camp F-64-A
Walker Canyon
Pena Blanca Canyon
Nogales, AZ**

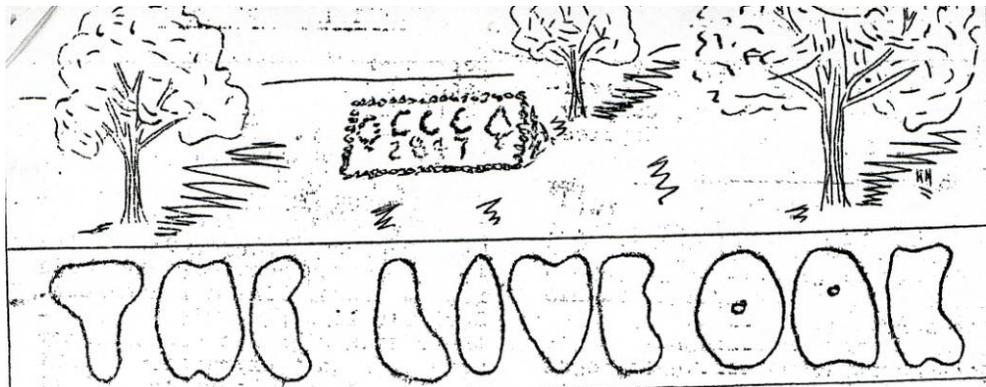
Walker Canyon Reporter (January 1936 – June 1936)

Jan. 20, 1936 = WCR 1(3)
Feb. 13, 1936 = WCR 1(4)
Feb. 29, 1936 = WCR 1(6)
April 16, 1936 = WCR 1(9)
May 10, 1936 = WCR 1(10)
May 30, 1936 = WCR 1(11)
June 27, 1936 = WCR 1(12)

Succeeded *Flux Canyon Reporter*

Succeeded by *Live Oak* (beginning July 5, 1936)

7/5/36	1/37
7/19/36	2/37
7/26/36	3/37
8/9/36	4/37
8/23/36	
8/30/36	
9/6/36	



History of Camp F-64-A

Company 2837 moved to Walker Canyon, Nogales, in December 1935 from Camp F-63-A, Flux Canyon near Patagonia. They moved to Pena Blanca Canyon in December 1936. Company 2847 was organized in July 1935 and sent from the camp at Sunnyside to the Flux Canyon camp. Most of the enrollees were from the southeastern part of Texas. In May 1936, enrollees from Oklahoma joined the camp.

U.S. Army

U.S. Army personnel for Camp F-64-A included Lt. Paul J. Leavens, commanding officer, Lt. B.F. Lofffield, 2nd in command, William C. Chaney, Camp Surgeon, and Ross Hendrix, educational advisor.

Work Projects

The enrollees worked under the supervision of Technical Services personnel from the Forest Service: camp superintendent Earnest White; forest foremen Don Egelmayr, Bill Coyne, Fred Baugh, W.R. Covell, C.G. Puffer; mechanic Ted Miller; and blacksmith John L. Schad.

From July 1935-February 1936, work projects included constructing and maintaining roads, developing springs, constructing stock dams, building and maintaining fences, cattle guards, and telephone lines, and the construction of a recreational area at Pena Blanca. According to the Feb. issue of *Walker Canyon Reporter*, the government cost of these projects was estimated to be approximately \$30,000. The enrollees worked in Walker Canyon and at Pena Blanca Canyon, both near Nogales, AZ. They built the road to Ruby from six miles north of Nogales and the road to Bear Valley.

Educational Program

The educational program included academic courses, such as a Spanish-language class, and job training classes.

The job training also occurred on the job, with the Technical Services foremen instructing the men in job skills. When the mining industry in Arizona started ramping up, 23 enrollees from the camp resigned from the CCC to take jobs for the Eagle-Picher Mining and Smelting Co. branch at Ruby, AZ, most to work as “muckers” in the mine. An Eagle-Picher official wrote the camp commander: “Taken on the whole, we have found them to be a worthwhile bunch of boys, far better than a like number of inexperienced men we would pick up from the rustling line and we are glad to say that we believe their training and discipline in the CCC camp has been responsible for the good showing that they have made with us” (*San Pedro Valley News*, April 30, 1937)

Tenemos dos clases de espanol cada semana. Convidamos a todo los miembros nuevo a nuestro clase y en particular a nuestro teniente nuevo senior Leavens.

Lectures and the variety of class room instruction common in school and college is resorted to as little as necessary there. In its place we use informal methods consisting of discussions, round tables, and stimulation along individual lines of thinking and endeavour. Some educators have recently called this type of instruction “creative education.”

Food

Woods: I turned my eggs over this morning.

Maddox: What do you mean?

Woods: to the Museum of Natural History

Snider: (at table) We were lost and slowly starving to death but we cut up our boots and made soup of them.

Fisher: Sh-h-h-! Not so loud, the Mess Sergeant might hear you.

Jokes about Enrollees

Presswood: Listen, I wouldn't cash a check for my own brother.

Maddox: Well, of course ou know your family better than I do.

To the floor committee for the dance—please keep the floor clear of saxophone cases.

Patter has a mania for colliding with them.

Love Lives of Enrollees

Will it ever happen? That Raymond Kelly will fall desperately in love with some bonita seniorita while near Nogales?

Mother: Didn't I see you kissing that Marcontell boy last night?

She: Well, Mother he told me that he had just lost an Uncle and I felt so sorry for him.

Mother: If I know anything about that young man, he won't have a relative left within a week's time.

Ueckert (to young miss): May I have this dance?

Young Miss: Yes if you can find some one to dance with you.



Poetry

“Ode to Worry”

When we all get to Heaven
Beside that crystal sea;
Come, tell me Lieutenant
Please answer this for me:

What can a “CCC” boy do?
Just twiddle a harp string,
Or site in a golden chair
And hear the Angels sing?

There’s no morning gong
For the gang to awake,
No fires for us to build
Or any old beds to make.

No line for us to form
In answer to breakfast call
No dirty mess-kits to wash
By the dear old mess hall.

Also that morning police-up
We learned to love so well,
And the morning roll call
Can we there be AWOL?

I won’t know what to do
If I get beyond the Sun,
Because up there they say
There’s no ditchin’ done.

Come tell me, Lieutenant,
Please answer this for me:
Where eveything’s complete
What’s the use of a “CCC”?

So what’s the use of dying
If our work here isn’t thru?
Come, tell me, Lieutenant
Before I go plumb Coo-coo.



Recreational Activities

The U.S. Forest Service maintains movie equipment which they circulate among the camps known as the "Show Boat." These films usually are those of an instructive nature dealing with such subjects as soil erosion, plant life, stream pollution, and forest conservation. Always a comedy is attached which is a sure fire hit with the men.

Our cowboy singers whose popularity has been increasing by leaps and bounds since the February Fiesta, have been invited to sing for the Lacie Club in Nogales on April 7th and to broadcast over XEAF.

The company library boasts as many magazines and newspapers as any ordinary small town library. Over forty magazines are placed in the rack as they are received. A fine assortment is to be found there including science, sports, travel, news and innumerable story magazines.

Sports

Boxing is on the verge of leading the sport field in the camp as a result of the invitation received here to the boxing tournament to be held at Douglas on February third.

With the new court completed the basketball boys no longer have to wait until arrangements are made in Nogales for practice. And practice isn't limited to nights only now, as the boys are fastly whipping themselves in shape for their coming game with SP-15-A, from Tucson, January 26th.

Value of the CCC

What the "CCC" has done for me

Here we eat and sleep regular and are not loafing day and night like many of us would be if we were at home without a job. We have plenty to do in our spare time such as keeping the camp clean, washing our clothes, playing ball, writing letters, and many other things. Therefore, we are not apt to be doing things we shouldn't do, and I think parents will agree that tis the best place for us to be at a time like this. [Billy Guest, *Walker Canyon Reporter*]

