SOUTHERN INDIANA CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS PHOTOGRAPH ALBUM
CA. 1934–1936

Collection Information

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Cataloging Information

Processed by

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HISTORICAL SKETCH

The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was created in 1933 to provide jobs for unemployed young men between the ages of 17 and 23 who were U.S. citizens. (This was modified to include older men, too.) They were paid a base salary of $30 per month, most of which was sent home to their families. The men lived in work camps under the operation of the Department of War. Work that was done included reforestation, construction of fire observation towers, the laying of telephone lines, development of state parks, and the construction of dams, bridges, buildings, and roads. The men gained valuable job skills and were given the opportunity to receive their high school diplomas.

On 17 April 1933, the first CCC camp was established in Virginia. By 1 July there were 275,000 enrollees in 1300 camps across the country. The program was criticized by conservatives and liberals alike for various reasons, but President Franklin Roosevelt saw the CCC as a way to tap two wasted resources: young men and the land. During the Great Depression work and income were scarce, and the land had been impoverished as well by massive deforestation and erosion.

There were fifty-six CCC companies in the state of Indiana. Nearly 64,000 Indiana men were given employment in connection to the CCC, including junior enrollees, veterans, and camp personnel. At the beginning of 1934, there were 18 CCC camps in Indiana, engaged in a range of activities including gully-control work on private property, forest improvement and construction projects in state forests and game preserves as well as similar work in state parks.

Construction of a CCC camp (IN-SCS-8 [Soil Conservation Service]) 0.75 miles west of North Vernon, Indiana, in Jennings County began on 16 June 1933. Work was initially supervised by the Forest Service and staffed by CCC Company 1514. The camp was discontinued on 9 January 1936 but reoccupied on 15 March 1936 by Company 1599 from Bedford, Indiana. The camp was discontinued 14 October 1936.

There were three CCC companies in Indiana with the number 517, all of which were African American companies. The one represented in this collection began on 13 July 1933 in Brownstown in Jackson County, and was stationed at Camp S-55 (State Forest).

CCC Company 1536 was established 20 June 1933 in Lawrence County, three miles east of Mitchell at Camp Spring Mill (SP-1 [State Park]). The company made significant contributions to the creation of Spring Mill State Park.

Company 1594 was established a quarter of a mile northeast of Kurtz in Jackson County on 12 September 1935 as Camp Little America (F-7 [National Forest]).

The CCC program ended on 30 June 1942, after World War II had strengthened the U.S. economy. The CCC had employed more than three million men nationally, including almost 200,000 blacks and 80,000 Native Americans. Men in the program had built 3,470
fire towers and 97,000 miles of road. They had protected more than 20 million acres of land from erosion, and planted more than 2.3 billion trees. They had devoted more than four million man-days to fighting fires. The CCC was responsible for removing nearly 15 million families from welfare, and provided the Department of Conservation with labor that was badly needed at the time.

Sources:

SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE
This collection consists of one photograph album with 143 photographs on 47 pages plus seven loose photos. Indiana Civilian Conservation Corps camps and workers are shown in Jackson, Jennings, Lawrence, and Orange counties from 1934 to 1936. Included are companies: 517 (Brownstown), 1514 (North Vernon), 1536 (Mitchell), 1594 (Kurtz), and 1599 (Bedford).

This album may have belonged to someone named David. Some of the photographs are stamped on the back with names of photo studios in Minneapolis. The initials D.W.T. appear numerous times to identify a man in some of the photographs and are written on the backs of others. Written on the back of one photograph is "To my best friend David...."
CONTENTS


Pages 2, 3, and 4: Photos of men identified only by first names or by initials. [9 photos]


Page 6: "Horseshoe Court" "Log Cabin." Administration Building. Other buildings. Men unidentified or identified only by first names. [5 photos]

Page 7: "517th Co., C.C.C. Camp Jackson, S-55, Brownstown, Indiana" (panoramic photo by Spencer & Wyckoff of Detroit, 1934). "'The Real Co. 1514' (July '34–May 12 '35)" shows men by a truck and a building. Unidentified men. [3 photos]

Page 8: Men identified by only first names or a nickname, also a Mr. Milner and a Mr. Zimmerman. "Mess Hall." [5 photos]

Page 9: Men identified by only first names. Scenes of the camp. [6 photos]


Page 11: Camp scenes. Ten men identified as: Lashley, Goon, Happy, B. Deppe, Neal, Kniolesk[?], Chesla, Meadows, Antosz, and Stephenson -- some appear to be in baseball uniforms. [4 photos]
Page 12: Men identified only by first names or nicknames. "Chow Hall." Camp scene. [5 photos]

Page 13: Camp scenes including men lined up for lunch outside the mess hall. [5 photos]

Page 14: Garage with space for ten vehicles. A dog named "Rags." Men doing construction work. [3 photos]

Page 15: Camp scenes including inside of barracks. Unidentified men. [5 photos]

Page 16: Camps scenes. Company clerk identified only as "D.W.T." [5 photos]

Page 17: Camp scenes. "Reveille." [3 photos]


Page 20: Flower garden at Company 1514. Tents of Company 1594, North Vernon. One photo missing. [3 photos]

Page 21: Camp scenes including interiors of supply room, wash room, barracks, and recreation hall. Unidentified men. [8 photos]


Page 23: Group portrait of Company 1514. [5x7 photograph]

Page 24: Group portrait of Company 1514. [5x7 photograph]

Page 25: Buildings and grounds of Co. 1514 [5x7 photograph]
Page 26: Group portrait of Company 1514 by a building labeled "First Section." [5x7 photograph]
Album Storage, PAB

Page 27: Group portrait of Company 1514. [5x7 photograph]
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Page 29: Group portrait of Company 1514 by a building labeled "Third Section." [5x7 photograph]
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Page 30: "'Kitchen Force' Co. 1514" -- nine men in white kitchen worker clothing posed outdoors. [5x7 photograph]
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Page 31: "Mess Line" -- long line of men holding their empty dishes, waiting to get into the mess hall. [5x7 photograph]
Album Storage, PAB

Page 32: "Company Street of CCC Co. 1594 (while at Camp SCS-7)." Man identified as D.W.T. Photo missing of William H. Castle. Man identified as Dalrymple. [3 photos]
Album Storage, PAB

Page 33: Men in the kitchen. Flower gardens. "The Bunk" -- a bed in a corner of a room. [4 photos]
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Page 35: Bob Morrow and another man holding a line of fish by a tent in the woods at Yellowstone National Park. [4x6 photo]
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Album Storage, PAB

Page 37: "Views of the Jenkins Trapshoot located North of Orleans, Ind. on State Road #37." [4 photos]
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Page 38: Unidentified man with a shovel. Men by a truck. [3 photos]  


Page 41: "Lake in Spring Mill State Park, Mitchell, Indiana." Photo by Hilderbrand.  

Page 42: Scene showing gas station, church, and other buildings. Men on trucks. Stamped on the back of these is: Arrow Photo Service of Minneapolis, Minn. Written on the back are the initials D.W.T. and the date of 7 August 1936. [4 photos]  

Page 43: Unidentified man standing by building. Street scene with railroad tracks. Man by building. Stamped on the back of these is: Arrow Photo Service of Minneapolis, Minn. Written on the back are the initials D.W.T. and the date of 7 August 1936. [3 photos]  

Page 44: Man in truck. Stamped on the back is: Arrow Photo Service of Minneapolis, Minn. Written on the back are the initials D.W.T. and the date of 7 August 1936. [1 photo]  

Page 45: Hand-colored photo of unidentified woman. Stamped on the back is: Arrow Photo Service of Minneapolis, Minn. [1 photo]

Page 47: blank

Page 48: Recreation Hall, Co. 1536 -- room with tables and chairs and a fireplace. Stamped on back is: Ideal Studios / Minneapolis, Minn. [1 photo]

Loose photographs: Recreation Hall, Co. 1536 -- same image as on p. 48. Snow on lumber pile. "Custodian's Home at Spring Mill State Park. Mr. Caudell." Stamped on the back of each of these is: "Arrow Photo Service . . . Minneapolis, Minn." Written on the back of each of these are the initials D.W.T. and the date 6 November 1936. [3 photos]

Loose photographs: Damaged structures on the side of a road. Birdseye view of railroad tracks. Stamped on the back of each of these is: "Arrow Photo Service . . . Minneapolis, Minn." [2 photos]

Loose photographs: Young woman and man, written on back is: "To my best Friend David from Allen & Mary." Woman and man standing on a sidewalk. [2 photos]
CATALOGING INFORMATION

For additional information on this collection, including a list of subject headings that may lead you to related materials:

1. Go to the Indiana Historical Society's online catalog:
   http://opac.indianahistory.org/
2. Click on the "Basic Search" icon.
3. Select "Call Number" from the "Search In:" box.
4. Search for the collection by its basic call number (in this case, P 0520).
5. When you find the collection, go to the "Full Record" screen for a list of headings that can be searched for related materials.