

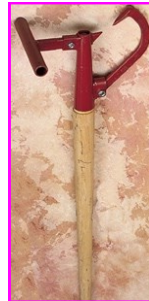
Main Room - North Wall: Tools of the Trade



Pulaski Tool



Pick ax



Peavey Timber Jack



Peavey



Fire Rake



Cant Hook



McLeod Fire Tool

Final Stop - Firefighting Equipment

The end of the CCCs did not end the need for forestry work in Connecticut's woodlands. The CT Forest Commission took over many of the forest duties and ultimately became the Division of Forestry within the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection.



Look for: A.) round bottomed fire buckets designed so they would be unusable for any thief's daily work; and B.) the water pump in the far corner of this display. This pump from the early 1930s features an external crankshaft and piston rods.

The CCC in Connecticut 1933-1942



We Can Take It!



A Museum Dedicated to the Legacy of
President Franklin D. Roosevelt's
Civilian Conservation Corps
and the men who made it work.

The CCC Museum at Shenipsit State Forest
Stafford Springs, Connecticut



Introduction The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) was President Franklin D. Roosevelt's solution to the nation's dual need of environmental conservation work and the large number of unemployed young men during the Great Depression. The Corps began in 1933 and ran until camps closed in 1942 after the bombing of Pearl harbor. The "CCC Boys," mostly ages 18 to 25, lived in military style camps and were paid one dollar a day to work in what are now state and national forest and park systems.

In 1935, CCC Camp Conner was established at the present site of what has become the Shenipsit Forest Headquarters and the 2,000 square foot CCC Museum. The Museum is located in the only remaining CCC barracks building in the State and pays homage to the dedicated men who worked in Connecticut camps. The museum displays more than 900 artifacts from its collection of tools, equipment, photographs, and memorabilia from the 21 camps in the State. In Connecticut the legacy of the CCC's work continues through our continued use of the buildings, forest roads, recreation areas, and forest areas they constructed.

Entry Room - the Trunk Wall

Every enrollee brought a trunk from home with their clothing and personal items to last for their six month enlistment period. Processing of enrollees was generally at one location from which the enrollees were assigned to various camps across the state.



Highlight: Of the several trunks on display the earliest were homemade out of wood plank - and very heavy.

Main Room - Telephone Lines

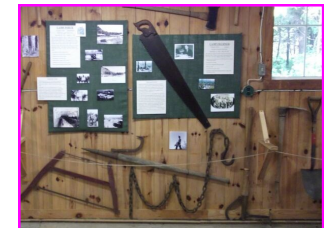
Miles of phone line was strung along cleared roadways. Insulators to provide a continuous clear signal, climbing gear and phone testing equipment were all tools of the trade.



Notice: The combination of waist and leg harnesses made pole climbing quick and safe. Look for two inch spikes attached to leg harness to facilitate each step digging into the pool for solid anchoring.

Main Room - North Side: Tools of the Trade

Occasional pieces of heavy equipment helped the labor pool, but most work was done by hand. A wide variety of hand tools was needed to complete the broad array of tasks.



Highlight: Road building crews felled many trees and removed the stubborn stumps. Dynamite aided this difficult task. Sticks of dynamite were kept in cases in a dynamite shack at some camps. Blasting caps and other accessories were kept in another shack distant from the dynamite for safety reasons.



Main Room - Right Side: Intro

Connecticut's CCC enrollees made the best of their free time by participating in recreational activities and a variety of educational classes. Throughout this display area take note of baseball, boxing and smoking gear available to all CCC boys.



Look for: statement of mandatory criteria to be met by each enrollee.

Look for: aluminum "coins" brought back from a Colorado camp where they were used within the camp in the CCC store; contents of the shaving kit issued to each CCC'er; denim round hats which were standard issue to all CCC boys.



Main Room - Right Side: Camp Connor

Camp Connor is where you are today. This is the only barracks style building left of the 21 camps in the state. Today the 2,000 square foot Connecticut CCC museum it is the second largest in the country displaying more than 900 artifacts of the era.



Highlight: Since groups of enrollees served six months per year, team pictures were taken twice annually. With an average of 200 men in each camp rotation, over the seven to eight year life of the camp approximately 3,000 individuals passed through.

Main Room - Right Side: Business Office

Set with typical office furniture and equipment of the period the office had the duties of registering and discharging enrollees, monthly payroll, ordering vast quantities of food and keeping each of the 200 men well armed with a variety of tools.

Highlight: the initials scratched into the glass of one Mr. Topeka were made as he waited in the office after being dishonorably discharged for reasons unknown today.



Main Room - Right Side: Tool Sharpening Bench

Nearly all the work of cutting trees, clearing brush, building roads and erecting buildings was done by manual labor. Keeping the tools of the trade sharp was imperative. Here a typical shop's sharpening bench is depicted. The other two work benches here depict various tools for other maintenance tasks.



Main Room - Right Side: Buildings - Yesterday and Today



Dozens of buildings, roadways, dams and bridges were built by the CCC. Many of the structures still standing today are depicted here contrasted with photos of their original appearance.

Main Room - East Wall

Each camp had its own sign. The CCC Museum was fortunate to have collected the Camp Filley sign that hung at the Haddam camp from 1933 to 1941.



While many hundreds of photographs were taken during the CCC years, Harry Leith Ross was commissioned to make paintings of the camps, their projects and the men at work in 1934. Here the CCC are seen constructing a forest road with an infrequently available piece of heavy equipment.

Main Room - North Side: Power Equipment

Here for felling large trees is a two man chain saw with its original carrying case.



Main Room - North Side:

Rural electrification still had not reached everywhere in the 1930s and the primitive science of consumer-grade refrigeration was not mastered, thus, ice making during the winter months remained a needed task.

Look For: the ice saw, pick, tongs and even skates to facilitate this cold weather task.



Main Room - Left Side: Barracks

Once assigned to their camp the CCC boys each had their own bunk which was made up in crisp military fashion every morning before work assignments. It was a matter of pride in many camps that no locks were used on their personal trunks - a testament to the honesty and trustworthiness of the group.



Look For: blue rectangular box on the trunk. It contained a shaving kit and was standard issue to each CCC enrollee.

Main Room - Left Side: Mess Hall

The work was hard, conditions were rough and the CCC boys were hungry. Almost to the man each CCC enrollee raved about the food - both in quantity and diversity. The average enrollee gained eleven pounds in their six months in camp.



Breakfast and supper were hot meals served in the mess hall. Lunches were typically out in the forest work areas where the boys were trucked for the days' work.

Take Note: the three round aluminum plates on the table are the same plates as those in the photograph.