

25 May, 1966

Elmo R. Richardson
Department of History
Washington State University
Pullman, Washington

Dear Sir;

This in answer to your questionnaire.

1. A. Employment was at a minimum
B. Enlisted Spokane, Washington on 15 October, 1934.
C. I was first stationed in a Soil Conservation Camp at Moscow, Idaho, later at Pullman.
D. I served until 1 July 1936.
2. A. The camp was staffed by Reserve Officers with little command experience who were responsible for food and shelter. They depended a great deal on their subordinates to handle the routine needs of the enrollees.

The project supervisors were very competent in assigning men to different phases of work. As a whole the enrollees had little contact with the Army officers in command of the camp, but were on a friendly supervisor-worker relationship. During work hours it was all business. In offduty hours I personally know of many enrollees being counseled by the project supervisors.

(Note) I was stationed in a LEM camp, designation for Local Experienced Man. Our camp was different in several ways. We were paid the full amount of our wages. Many of our personnel were in their fifties with grown children. I believe that it was due to so many older people wise in their way of showing a person the right way to do a certain task that tended to put the showoff in his place. There were several father-son combinations.

3. I heard several comments on President Roosevelt - all good. Politics was never discussed
4. We were required to stand reveille and Retreat in respect to the flag. Our free time was our own to spend as we liked.
5. Being outdoors as much as we were benefited myself very much as well as others. I learned a great deal from several of my supervisors who taught me surveying and drawing in my offduty time. I did a little volunteer extra work in the surveying office in working on project plans. All of this stood me in good stead in later years. I know of no planned educational program in our camp.
6. Generally speaking the experience was invaluable. We were engaged mainly in Erosion control and many acres of Palouse land was saved and the land owners were shown how to stop gullies from deepening, by building wire & straw mats which would silt over. Highway cuts were sloped for better visibility and sloped planted for erosion control. Our supervisors introduced contour plowing and planting.

Years later in 1940-41 in the buildup of our Armed Forces ~~army~~ many men who had served in the Corps were inducted into the army and their transition period was eased by their previous experience.

As for material waste, cordwood costing approxiamately \$9.00 a cord cost the government more than \$20.00 a cord by the time it was cut and hauled to camp for firewood. However a lot of exercise was obtained by the enrollees.

7. I can not recall of any crime incidents- as I explained previously the older and more mature personnel is probably responsible.
8. Most enrollees went home at least once a month. All personnel were not more than 150 miles from home. I personally had no contact with merchants or local towns people. There were few incidents, minor fistfights at local dances.

10. Personnel from our camp at Moscow laid out and helped to build the camp at Pullman and I was on the surveying crew that laid out the camp, the Airport and I remember the first planes that landed with Cougar Fans to see the Washington-Washington game in 1935. Personnel from our camp built the dam on land donated by a Mr. Robinson which I understand is now a Park, located in the mountains above Moscow Idaho.

Note: I have a few pictures showing crews going to work, one of the wood crews as well as a few showing enrollees playing sandlot football.

Sincerely,

Joffre J. Dubois
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Spokane, Washington