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Civilian Conservation Corps Camp #4733

By Paula Harmon Barnett

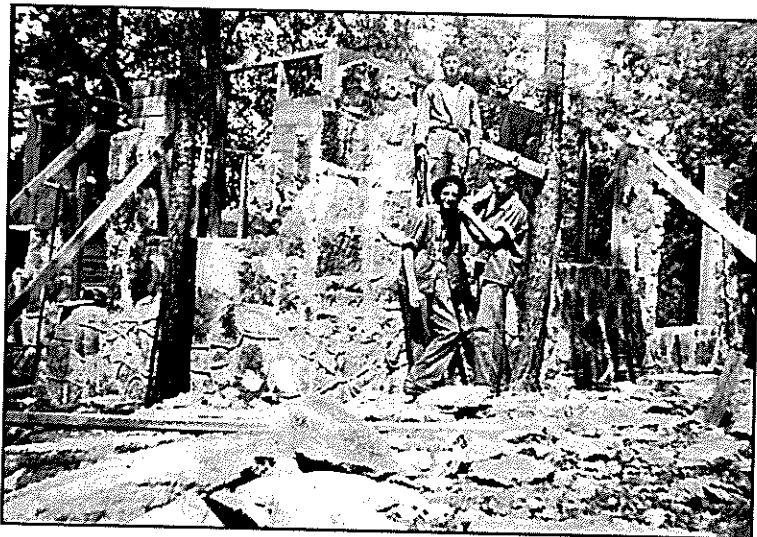
Photos Contributed by Jo Harmon

One of the most successful programs of the 1930s was the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), a work program for young men ages 18 to 24 to provide employment during the Depression era young men and to develop the country's natural resources. In return for job training and a paycheck, the men of the CCC provided labor for conservation and recreation projects nationwide. The rustic design that was a hallmark of the CCC work, utilized materials found in the local area to blend with and compliment the natural environment. Each element of a structure was considered integral to the design, whether it was a small rock path or the slope of the roof. The Arkansas State Park System was developed through the work of the CCC.

In 1938, the late Cortland Harmon of McCrory worked in CCC Camp #4733 constructing Buffalo River State Park. The Army administered the day-to-day activities of the camp, and the National Park Service provided technical assistance and design for the project. The CCC laid out the park roads, built retaining walls, an overnight lodge, a picnic pavilion and six cabins. The building stone was quarried on site, lumber was prepared at the camp sawmill and crafted by the enrollees. Sixty years later, the facilities they built are still in use.

Photos Harmon took during his work with the CCC are on this and following pages.

Information for this article is from the *Encyclopedia of Arkansas History and Culture* website and the *East Arkansas Planning and Development District* website.



"Typical CCC Boys," Cortland Harmon wrote on the back of this photo. He is the one in the center getting the haircut. Note the boy in front with his foot in his mouth.

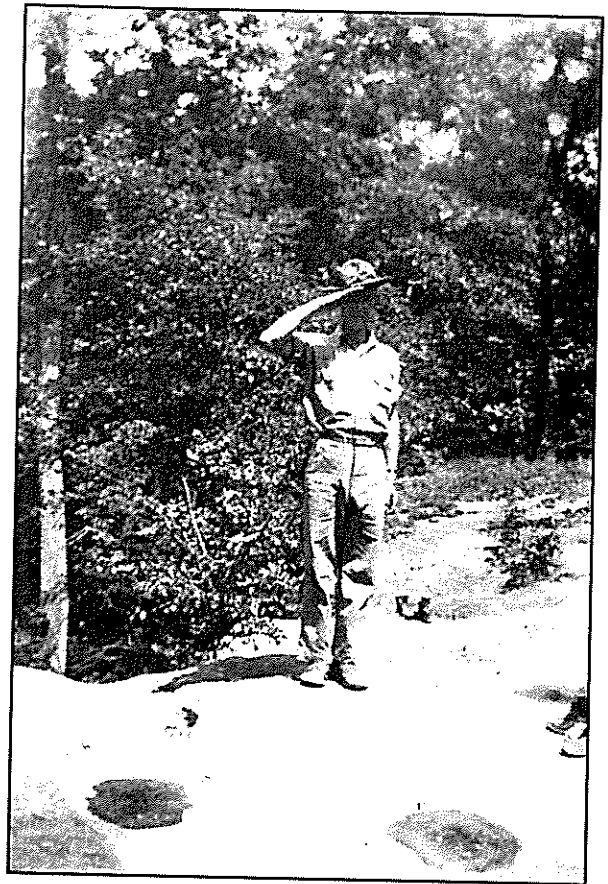


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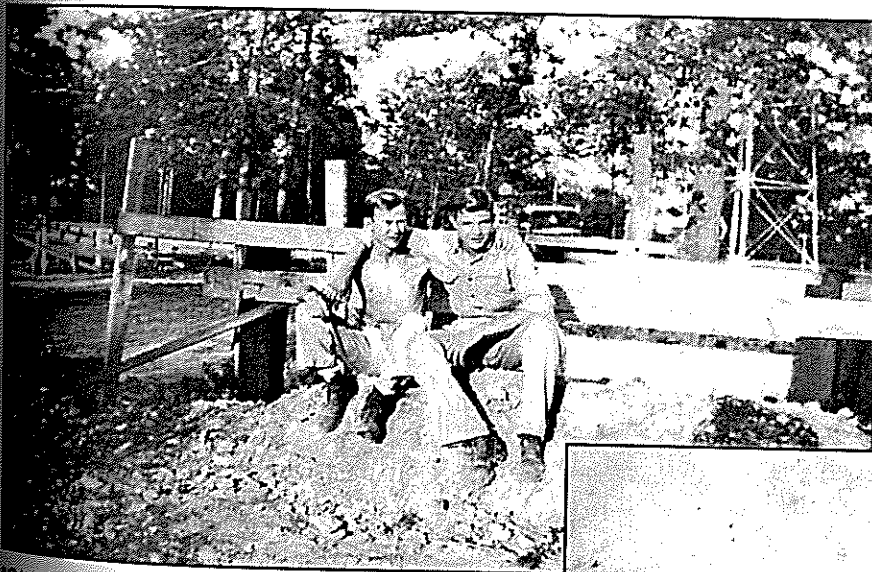
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Cortland Harmon at CCC Camp



Harmon (above) became a CCC Company "leader" with a \$6 increase in pay. Cash allowances were \$30 a month, and mandatory allotment checks of \$25 were sent back to families. Of the \$5 each man kept, \$1 went into the company fund, and they could buy \$1 worth of coupons at 25¢ each for the canteen.

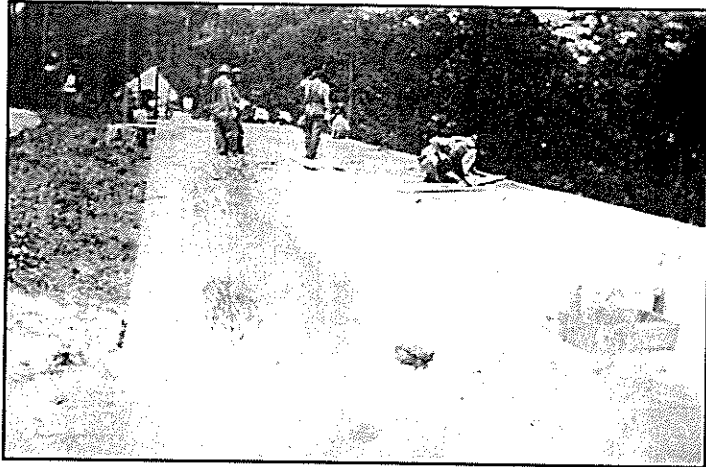


"Old camp pals," the photo above reads. Harmon is the man on the left.

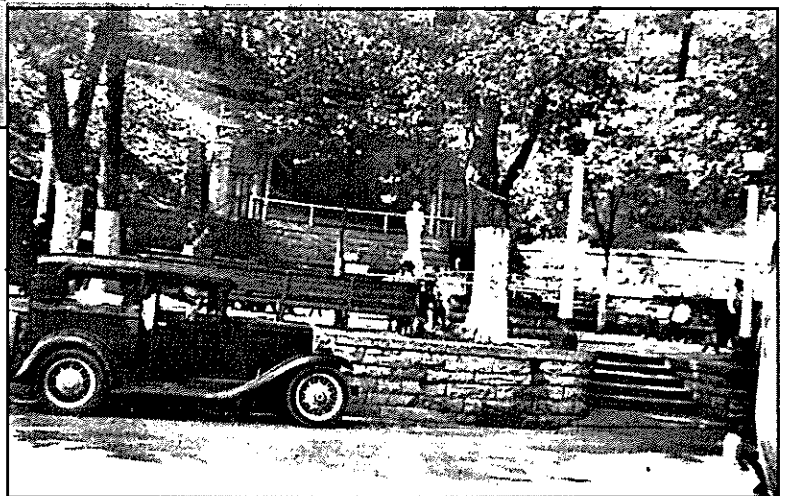
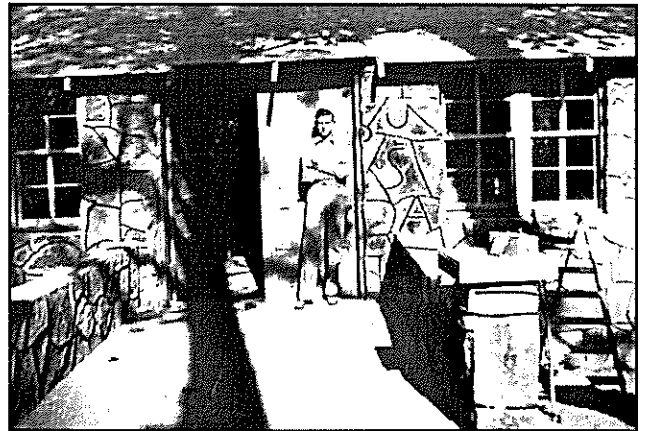
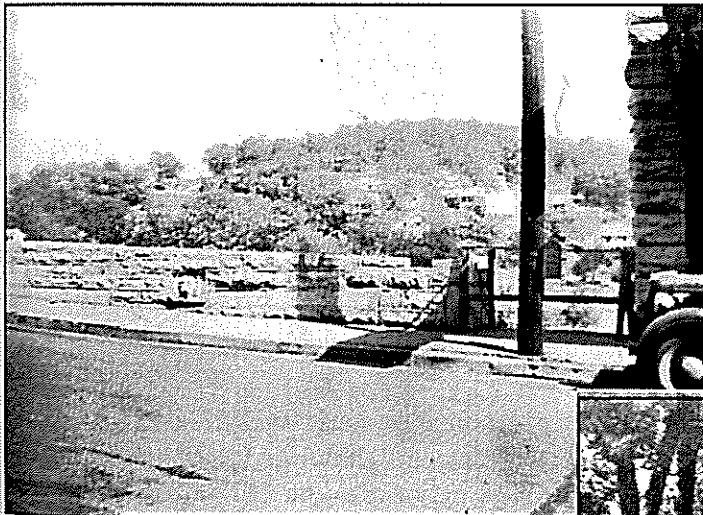
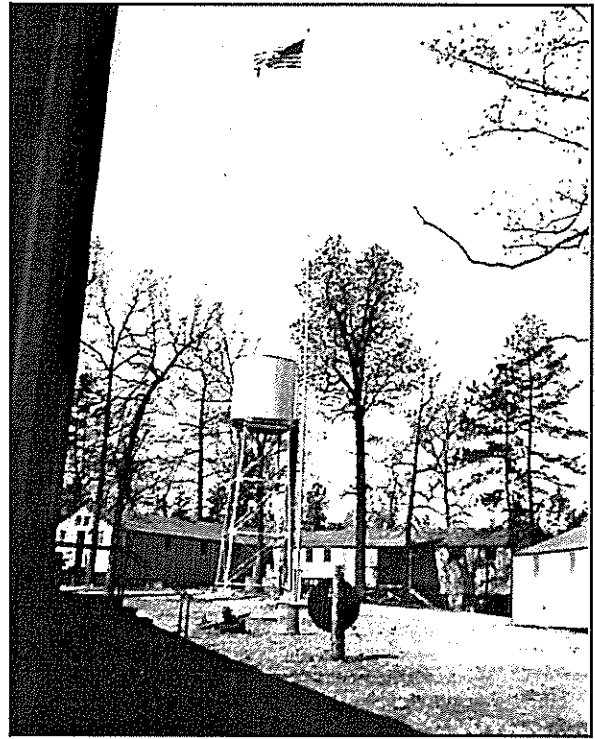
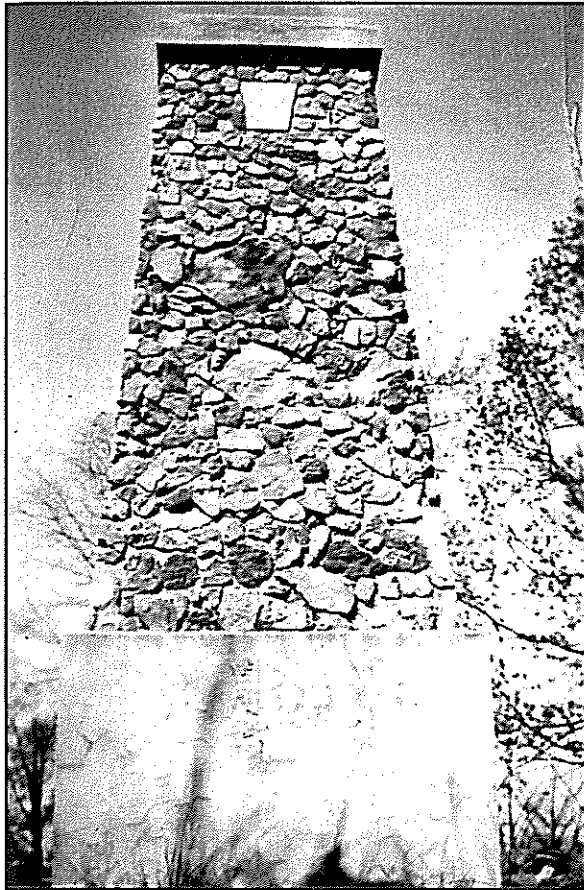


Cortland Harmon (right) in CCC Camp. The camps resembled small villages and included bathhouses, electric lighting plants, kitchens, storage, infirmaries, recreation halls, a softball diamond, and sometimes a football field.

CCC Camp Participants at Work 1938-40



The lodge, pavilions, and culverts built by the CCC are still in use. The River has emerged from the Civilian Conservation Corps projects. CCC designs are limited modern



The lodge, pavilion, stone retaining walls and culverts built by the CCC at Buffalo State Park are still in use. The Friends of Buffalo National River has embarked on a mission to renew the Civilian Conservation Corps cabins and other park projects. The goal is to preserve the original CCC design as closely as possible while providing limited modern renovations for health and safety.