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Pine Street School

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(Sept. 12, 1968) Herman Lasker, former physical education instructor at Pine Street School, became a trainer for the Conway High School football team. He was a physical education teacher at Conway Junior High and graduated from Philander Smith College.

The 1968-69 Conway High School cheerleaders were pictured: Seniors Barbara Baker (captain), Paula Hall (co-captain), Janie Halbrook, Carole Wood and Judy Reynolds; and Juniors Suzanne Dunaway, Pam Fuller, Nina McNutt and Laura Burford.

(January 19, 1993) Bessie McFarland, Dorothy Mattison, Rose Woods and Dorthuelia Woods were pictured singing the school song of the former Pine Street School during the second annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Day. The celebration honored teachers of the former school and also included a display of memorabilia from the school which closed in 1970. The guest speaker was Joe Hill, director of the Arkansas Office on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, who attended the school.

Pine Street School

Treating the Sick and Injured at Camp Halsey: Excavation of a "Car Infirmary"

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Faulkner County Survey Project

INTRODUCTION

With a population nearing 125,000, Faulkner County is one of the fastest-growing areas in Arkansas. Building and land development puts historical and archaeological resources, many located on private land, in danger of loss without sufficient documentation. The Faulkner County Survey Project, (FCSP) a long-term collaborative effort to record historic and archaeological resources in Faulkner County, was created to address this need for resource documentation.

Since 2014, the FCSP has collected archival data on the Sevier Tavern site near Mayflower and has established a long-term research project at Camp Halsey, located east of Greenbrier, approximately one mile east of Woolly Hollow State Park. The U.S. Army constructed Camp Halsey as the first Soil Conservation Camp in Arkansas.

The camp opened in October 1934. Its purpose was to work with local residents to curb widespread erosion from soil depletion and poor soil management during the Great Depression. Camp Halsey closed in 1935, standing vacant until 1937 when it re-opened as a Civilian Conservation Corps camp operated by the Forestry Service. The camp operated until 1939 when it again

closed. Despite locals' efforts to re-open the camp, the lease was not renewed, and the buildings were eventually removed.

The Halsey family, after whom the camp is named, privately holds the land, using it today as pastureland for horses. Mr. Larry Halsey, grandson of original landowner A.F. Halsey, lives on the property and has granted permission to conduct long-term research. He has also entered into a curation agreement with the Faulkner County Museum, where the artifacts recovered from Camp Halsey will be housed and displayed as part of the Museum's permanent collection.

In addition to excavation and mapping activities at the site, the FCSP has created a website for Camp Halsey (www.camphalsey.com), which was funded in part by an Arkansas Humanities Council grant. This website is regularly updated with current research, photographs, maps, copies of archival reference materials and students' work for the purposes of educating the public and assisting with other scholars' research.

2018 FIELDWORK

After concluding 2016 preliminary assessment excavations, planning began for a 2018 project at Camp Halsey as part of a University of Central Arkansas accredited field school. The field season would include a large-scale mapping of the site and excavations of the areas we believed might contain the officers' quarters and the camp infirmary. One balmy 19-degree day in early January, project directors met at Camp Halsey to identify potential excavation areas and to create basic maps of the areas in

preparation for the field school.

Using oral interviews with Mr. Halsey, and comparisons with historical documents, we identified two structures that were similar in size to camp report descriptions of Officer's quarters and Camp Infirmary. A 1938 Historical Record of CCC Camp Buildings for Camp Halsey report lists both a hospital, and Officers' quarters on site. The hospital is described as a 20 x 60 ft square, rigid wood frame building with six rooms, two wood heating units, water and sewer connections, in good condition.

The Officers' Quarters is listed as 22 x 58 ft square, rigid frame building with eight rooms, two wood burning units, water and sewer connections, in good condition. These buildings were some of the original structures built in 1934 by the Army, and later rehabilitated for the 1937 occupation. At this point in the project no site plan or historic map of the camp had been located.

In May 2018, Dr. Duncan McKinnon, Assistant Professor at University of Central Arkansas and myself, director of the FCM, led the first-ever UCA accredited archaeological field school at Camp Halsey. Ten students enrolled in a four-credit hour field school over the three-week May intersession. The field school's goals were to educate students in basic mapping, excavation, and laboratory techniques. The field school was divided into three parts: mapping and excavating in the field, artifact cleaning, analysis and accessioning in the lab, and final write-up of findings using artifact analysis and primary source documents to create final project reports.

At the beginning of fieldwork, students toured the site to

get a general feel for the landscape layout and remaining visible camp features. Students were then instructed on the use of a total station and how to establish a site grid. Grid corners for the geophysical survey were established followed by the collection of topographic and surface feature mapping. The remainder of the first field day was devoted to geophysical survey mapping.

With funding provided by the department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthropology at UCA, a Bartington magnetic gradiometer was leased from ACS Scientific. Funding allowed for a single-day rental. The goal was to survey a small area to evaluate feasibility of gradiometer use at the site in hopes of mapping the road through camp (known as Front Street) and to evaluate sub-surface components of the landscape terracing that was created around the camp.

Much of the day was spent instructing students in the use of the equipment with a total coverage of 3,200 square meters (0.79 square acres) surveyed. When the field day ended, students gathered in the archaeology lab at UCA to download the data and discuss results of the survey. The magnetic gradiometer survey identified a linear feature interpreted as the possible former location of Front Street. The gradiometer survey also identified two large high magnetic anomalies, which may represent a drainage pipe running under "Front Street" and the former location of a pump station on Front Street.

Combining data sets from the magnetic gradiometer and total station mapping, students created a map of both the surface topography and feature locations, and subsurface anomalies. They

used this mapping information to determine locations for a series of shovel tests in order to "ground truth" geophysical anomalies and gain exposure to shovel testing methods. A series of six shovel tests were excavated across the large subsurface anomaly that bisects the proposed location of Front Street. Each shovel test was excavated approximately 15-20 cm in diameter to a depth of 50cmbs. Data collection levels followed arbitrary 10 cm levels. Soils were screened through ¼ inch dry-screen. Soil colors were recorded at each level using a Munsell soil color book.

Shovel testing indicated that the top 10 cm of each test contained shale. Official Camp reports and Camp Halsey Newsletters both mention the use of shale to cover the roads and pedestrian pathways. Additionally, charcoal was recovered between 20 and 50 cmbs in all but one shovel test. Causes for this deposition are unclear, and students felt more analysis of the surrounding area is necessary. Through the use of geophysical survey, total station mapping, and shovel testing, students were exposed to a variety of archaeological field methods. We were also able to initiate a program of geophysical study at the site to build upon in subsequent field schools.

EXCAVATIONS

The remaining field time centered upon excavations at the proposed infirmary. This building is recorded as architectural Feature 10. The visible architecture consisted of poured-in-place cement knee-walls measuring approximately 24 x 48 feet square and 4 inches thick. Several sections of the wall foundations were

largely obscured and somewhat damaged by large cedar trees, which had been growing since the camp's abandonment in 1939. Threaded bolts (rods) were embedded in the cement approximately every 24 cm and were thought to be anchor points for securing a framed wooden stud wall.

Students divided into two-person teams to excavate 2x2 meter units placed inside the walls on the north and south, as well as in two outside locations at possible entrances (see map). Deposition was expected to be shallow owing to the brief period of site occupation. Soils were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels, using shovels and trowels. All soils were ¼ inch dry-screened. The entire area was covered with a heavy growth of poison ivy with a thick bed of roots. Students worked to remove the overgrown layer of poison ivy and cedar tree roots, which exposed a floor made of hand mixed, poured, and spread cement.

The floor was poured in sections eight feet across, spanning the width of the structure (approximately 23 feet). The cement mix consists of locally acquired shale and sandstone mixed with trash, such as wire nails, bits of metal, and threaded bolts. There was even a complete stoppered bottleneck from an alcohol bottle! This hastily and somewhat sloppily constructed floor seemed out of character for a sterile hospital-type environment.

After discovering the presence of a poured floor below the 20 cm thick overgrowth, excavation strategies inside the foundation knee-walls shifted from excavating 2 x 2 meter units to exposing the entire floor. The area was divided into three collection areas (west, north, and south areas). The north and south clearing

and collection areas were established based on a hypothesis that an east-west wall had bisected the building with each having its own outside entrance. The west area was delineated based on a large tree separating the north and south collection areas.

Only 60-70 percent of the Feature 10 foundation was exposed largely because of the significant amount of root growth (both cedar/juniper but also tons of poison ivy!). Nonetheless, numerous artifacts were uncovered. Students working in the west area identified a gap in the foundation along the west wall, which represented a large entryway with a poured-concrete ramp-like surface extending beyond the edge of the foundation. Artifacts recovered were door hardware possibly associated with a large swing-out door common on older garages.

In addition to clearing the floor, two excavation units were opened adjacent to Feature 10 in areas interpreted as the two outside entrances. Unit 1 was established within the proposed Feature 10 main entrance. At this location (SE Corner) two large cement blocks were present on the inside and outside of the knee-high wall. These cement blocks were made from a denser type of cement, using no gravels. They might have been made off-site using a form and were likely used as stepping platforms or stoops to step up and over the knee-high wall. Artifacts from Unit 1 were meager and small (small pieces of glass, some nails, and small bits of metal), which suggests an area regularly cleaned and with a fair amount of foot traffic. This is currently interpreted as the front entrance.

A second unit (Unit 2) was established in what was initial-

ly proposed as an entrance on the north. However, the Unit 2 location differs in that a cement stepping platform or stoop was not present on the outside of the structure. Excavations identified that the eastern half of Unit 2 likely represents a midden area situated immediately outside the door. The midden contained numerous car parts, such as large pieces of automotive glass, screws, spark plugs, and other items. Furthermore, the artifacts were concentrated on the eastern side of the unit and in the profile walls, suggesting excavations came down on only a portion of a large debris area. The concentrations of artifacts on the eastern (right side) of Unit 2 might result from right-handed technicians opening the door (which would swing to the left) and tossing unneeded parts into a pile. This is currently interpreted as the back door.

Interestingly, the first artifact found was a patent-medicine bottle fragment, which supported the infirmary theory. However, as excavation progressed, it became clear that the only things being "healed" in this building were automobiles! Subsequent artifact finds fell into two general categories: 1. building materials such as electrical wire, nails, hinges, window glass, and 2. automotive related items such as spark plugs, brake shoe pads, and automotive glass. Some artifacts retained patent numbers and were identified in the lab

LABORATORY ANALYSIS

The second phase of the field school involved students' learning artifact analysis and cataloging techniques in the lab. Students washed, sorted, catalogued, and photographed key artifacts. Students researched numerous individual artifacts and located patent history on some items. For example, an artifact from Unit 2 is a metal cylinder with a black wire was found to be an ignition condenser with the name Delco Remy on the side. Delco Remy was a company that sold auto parts in the early 20th century.

Another artifact was found to be an interchangeable tire valve. It bore a patent number. Upon further research, students discovered the patent was applied for April 1930, and granted March 4, 1933. A third artifact was found by scouring the E-Bay website. The patent number had rusted but the vendor name "Alemite" was visible. Students identified a similar part for sale by a classic car restoration company. It was identified as a grease fitting, patented by the Alemite Company January 1929. In all, the lab work was productive, and students were exposed to various ways to research historical artifacts.

FINAL REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS

The third and final phase of the field school consisted of students writing research papers using the archaeological data they had collected, individual research, and utilizing the primary source documents for Camp Halsey available on the Camp Halsey website. A mini end-of-the-class conference was held, and students presented their papers. Several submitted their work for review to be published in the Journal of Undergraduate Research in Anthropology, or JURA, a peer-reviewed online journal hosted by the UCA Department of Sociology, Criminology, and Anthro-

pology. Those papers were published in the most recent volume that is available on the UCA department website.

CONCLUSIONS

At the end of every project, we ask "What did we learn?" This project is no exception. The field school was an academic exercise for both students and instructors. We learned that five field days was not enough time to complete our initial mapping and excavation goals, and that a single day in the field with the geophysical testing equipment was insufficient. We also learned that despite the added benefits of both historical documents and oral histories passed through three generations, excavations don't always uncover what we thought we were looking for.

What began as an inquiry into a possible infirmary evolved into the realization that Feature 10 was an architectural space related to automotive maintenance and perhaps storage. Rather than a hospital, the space was likely the Army Garage (building #19), which is recorded on the Historical Record of CCC Camp Buildings present at Camp Halsey between September 1934 and November 18, 1938.

Artifacts suggest the former structure is the likely remains of an automotive garage, but questions remain. For example, the footprint of Feature 10 is roughly 23 x 48 feet, which does not directly match any of the dimensions recorded on the Historical Record of CCC Camp Buildings. In fact, the Army Garage (#19) is listed twice and with different dimensions. The Historical Rec-

ord also states that the Army Garage was razed in October 1937 and converted into a blacksmith shop (building #26). We found no evidence of smithing in Feature 10, although overgrowth prevented complete excavation during this first season.

The absence of an overall site plan, or aerial map, further added to the difficulty of locating the proposed infirmary. However, research after the field school was over yielded two series of aerial photos, dated 1936 and 1940 and shed new light on camp organization. The 1936 aerial photo shows buildings at the camp along with major features such as Front Street and the chimney on the Recreation Hall. Camp building inventories list buildings with water and sewer connections, including the Kitchen, Latrine, Officer's Quarters, and Camp Hospital.

The locations of the Recreation Hall, Kitchen and Latrine buildings have been positively identified based on visible foundations, and were situated along Front Street, with the sewage draining down the north slope of the site. The cement sewer clean-outs are visible today to the north. It is most likely that the Officers' Quarters and the Hospital, both with water and sewer connections, are also located along the north side of Front Street and near the east end. None of the buildings located along the south side of Front Street had water and sewer connections, and there is no sewer system visible today to the south. The 1940s photograph shows all of the buildings had been removed from the site.

Interestingly, the aerial photograph is equally significant for what it does not reveal. The stone message board, document-

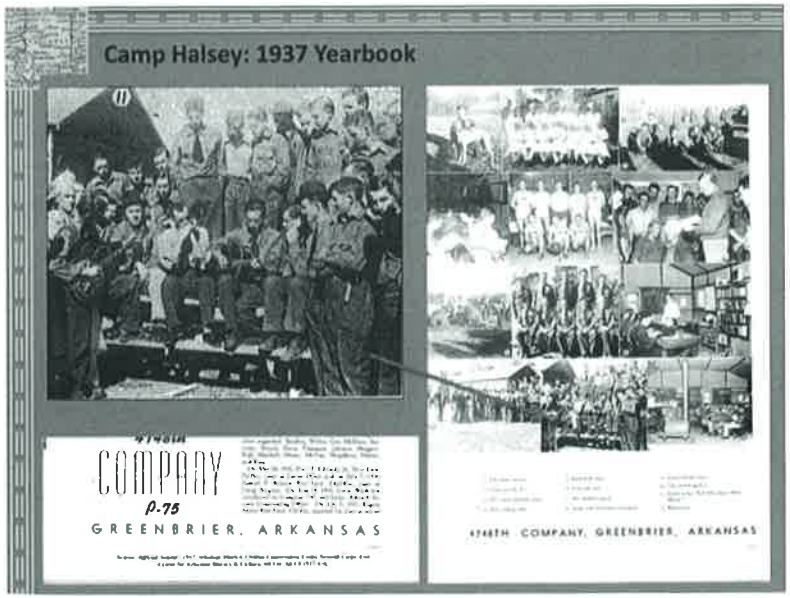
ed during the 2016 season, is located in what would have been the center of camp. The board is NOT visible in the 1936 photograph, but it is visible in the 1940 photograph. It remained after the buildings were removed when the camp finally closed and is one of two remaining standing structures today. A cartoon from the May 1938 Camp Halsey Newsletter mentions one enrollee, Virgil West, surveying his latest masterpiece-the message board. Based on this new information, the message board was clearly an addition during the second phase of occupation.

DIRECTIONS FOR FUTURE WORK

Work at Camp Halsey is only beginning. Each visit to the site presents us with new questions and possibilities for research. In the short term, the FCSP intends to revisit the site in the fall of 2018 to finish excavating the two units at the entry/exit points of the building. In the coming year we will apply for funding to lease a magnetic gradiometer for a full week, which will allow for greater coverage that can then be correlated with the newly found 1936 aerial data.

In the long-term, we hope to positively identify the location of the Officer's Quarters and the Hospital, and to eventually excavate these areas. The 2018 proposed Officer's Quarters was perhaps misidentified and remains unexcavated. We plan to identify this structure and eventually excavate in this area. In addition to the geophysical survey, we plan to complete mapping of the above-ground features paying particular attention to landscape features such as sidewalks, stone alignments, and ornamental plantings. To fully document the plantings will require seasonal visits.

Our goals for education and dissemination of information gathered on Camp Halsey are no less ambitious and are already in progress. We intend to continue research at the National Archives and other repositories known to house documents relevant to Camp Halsey to find additional primary documents and aerial imagery. We are currently working with Woolly Hollow State Park to install an interpretive display. The Faulkner County Museum will continue to house an exhibit on Camp Halsey, the SCS and the CCC. The results of our work are incorporated into that exhibit and will be updated as work progresses. Finally, to reach the broadest possible audience, many research materials, project maps, photographs, and related reports on the project are and will be accessible through the Camp Halsey website, www.CampHalsey.com.

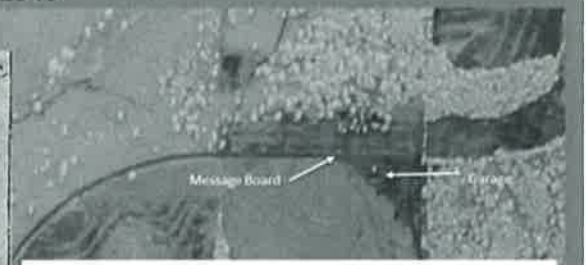


Camp Halsey: 1936

December 15, 1936 aerial of Camp Halsey W = Building had water S= Building had sewer
Note: Camp was not occupied at this time.
Images housed at the National Archives in Lenexa, KS
Provided by Flat Earth Archeology

View of Front Street Looking West from East End of Camp.

Camp Halsey: 1940



September 26, 1940 aerial of Camp Halsey
Note: All buildings removed. Message Board and Garage Foundation still visible.
Images housed at the National Archives in Lenexa, Ks.
Provided by Flat Earth Archaeology

"Virgil West , surveying his latest masterpiece- the message board"
-Cartoon from May 1938 Camp Halsey Newsletter.

Camp Halsey 2018 Project Area

Camp Halsey: Excavation

Bottle Neck

Threaded Bolts in Knee-Wall

Auto Glass and Ignition Part

Building Materials

Gear?

Threaded Bolt in Floor