History of Company 811, Camp F-49-C, South Fork, Colo.

The history of this company began at 8:00 P.M., May 22, 1933, when two officers, Capt. Edward M. Fickett and 2nd Lieut. M. C. Johnson, four enlisted men and 100 CCC boys were assigned to the company at Fort Bliss, Texas. At 12:30 A.M. the following day the company left Fort Bliss by truck and entrained at 1:30 A.M. via the Santa Fe Railroad for Camp F-3-N at Vallecitos, New Mexico. Lieut. Dwight Lawson, Med.-Res., joined the company enroute at Santa Fe, New Mexico. He was the first of the three medical officers that have served the company to date.

The company detrainted at Taos Jct., New Mexico, at 7:45 P.M. and left by truck for Work Camp F-3-N, arriving there at 9:15 P.M. The next few days were spent in pitching tents and arranging camp. By the end of May the company had been filled to a strength of 203 by the enrollment of seventy-one New Mexico Juniors and twenty-eight local experienced men. Vallecitos is located on the Rio Grande River about fifty miles south of the Colorado line. The company remained at this location until November 1, 1933, and while here the command was changed twice. On Oc-

J. P. Veerling, Foreman; W. A. Lyall, Foreman; J. D. Chisholm, Camp Supt.; Quayle Knox, Mechanic; Capt. V. R. Stonecipher, C. O.; Capt. W. D. Willis, Camp Surgeon; Doyle J. Smith, Ed. Adv.; Lieut. M. J. Bonesteel
October 11, 2nd Lieut. George H. Bennett succeeded Capt. Edward M. Fickett as Company Commander and Lieut. Bennett was relieved October 17 by Capt. Paul J. Roberts.

The project work here was under the Forestry Department. On November 1, 1933, the company moved to Work Camp F-33-N in Peralta Canyon near Pena Blanca, New Mexico, by truck convoy. Upon arrival the men were confronted with problems of a big snow, a new camp and no water. The weather cleared in a few days and continued pleasant during the winter.

28-N, near High Rolls, New Mexico. This was a beautiful location in a canyon about thirty-five miles from Alamogordo and within a 'G. I. truck haul' of the famous White Sands. The boys did splendid work in the forest, and also in erosion control work, while at this camp. The Project Superintendent, friend and advisor of the boys, in charge of the work here, was D. W. Smith. Mr. Smith was a graduate of Purdue University, a Spanish-American War Veteran, an honorary Chieflain of the Tribal Council of the Ute Indians, a former Speaker of the House of the New Mexico State Legislature, and by profession a civil engineer.

At F-28-N the company had its first Educational Adviser. Adviser Cook divided his time between F-28-N and F-24-N. While at this camp the Dramatic Club of the company put on a Negro play in the recreation halls of F-28-N and F-24-N, before audiences at Tularosa and in several rural schools in the community.

Lieut. Homer E. Fanning reported for duty January 16, 1935, and succeeded to command January 29, 1935. May 15, 1935, the company entrained at Alamogordo and arrived at South Fork, Colorado, at 2:00 P.M., the following day. The movement to the campsite, F-49-C, was completed at once, and as had been the case at Pena Blanca in November, 1934, they again found disagreeable weather for setting up camp. The ground was covered with a wet, slushy snow, but by this time most of the men were seasoned CCC'ers and 'fell to the job' of pitching tents and arranging camp. The following day the camp was inspected by Col. Willing, District Commander.

The tent camp was abandoned about November 10, 1935, and the company occupied barracks of a portable structure, which had been erected on F-49-C campsite.

Mr. J. D. Chisholm is Project Superintendent. The camp has an enviable record, both from the point of man-day records and actual work accomplished. The following report concerning the work being done here is quoted from an editorial in the Alamosa Daily Courier:

"Recently published reports of the accomplishments of the Civilian Conservation Corps camp on the South Fork of the Rio Grande leave no doubt, in the San Luis Valley at least, of the value of the CCC as a government agency. . . . A glance at the work completed by the South Fork Camp shows that its men have engaged in bridge building, insect extermination, road building, running telephone lines, equipping camp grounds, constructing fish ponds for protection of trout fry, forestry work and almost every other type of outdoor endeavor."

The truck trails on Beaver Creek and Rock Creek, which have been constructed by the men of this camp, will stand as lasting monuments to their efforts on the job.

The educational program in this camp has been under the direction of Adviser Doyle J. Smith. He has been assisted in his work by the services of army and technical service personnel, a number of enrollees and W. S. Hoffman of the adult education program. A workshop has been constructed by volunteer enrollee labor.

Eppie Herrera, welterweight boxer from this company, won first place in the District Boxing Tournament in 1935. Johnnie Martinez, Harrison Masker and L. J. Land placed in the A. A. U. Boxing Tournament held at Alamosa in January, 1936. Albert Maestas was runner-up in the 135-pound class at the V. F. W. Boxing Tournament held in Denver in the summer of 1936.

In addition to Lieut. Fanning, who brought the company to Colorado, officers who have been in command at this camp are: 1st Lieut. Edward K. Burns, who relieved Lieut. Fanning December 9, 1935; 1st Lieut. Thos. W. Donnell, January 11, 1936 to March 10, 1936; Capt. L. W. Varner, March 10, 1936, to April 21, 1936; and Capt.
V. B. Stoncipher, who took command April 21, 1936. Capt. W. D. Willis is the camp surgeon now on duty. He relieved Lieut. V. E. Franklin March 11, 1936.

The first serial number of this company, CCO-811001, was assigned to Armando Alvarado, El Paso, Texas, who took the oath of enrollment May 20, 1933, and was honorably discharged to accept employment December 1, 1933, being a leader at the time of his departure. The last serial number in this company, CCO-811923, belongs to Herman Sheperd, a recently enrolled L.E.M.

Doubtless there are many incidents and facts about the company which are not matters of official record but would add to the interest of this history. It is said, for example, that at one time during the "early days" the company operated a "left-hand kitchen"—the Mess Sergeant and the entire kitchen force were left-handed.

The facts for the above story have been drawn from official records and from some of the characters who have helped make the history of Company 811. The real history of the company remains and will probably always remain unwritten. It is being and will continue to be rehashed and told in piece-meal fashion by the 923 men and others to come, who have made and who are going to make it.

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View of Mess Hall of Company 811, South Fork, Colo.

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Roster of Company 811, Camp F-49-C, South Fork, Colo.

**Army**

- Capt. E. B. Stoncipher, Inf., Res., Commanding
- Phoenix, Ariz.
- Oklahoma City, Okla.
- Capt. W. D. Willis, Med., Res., Camp Surgeon
- Dallas, Tex.
- Doxie J. Smith, Education Advisor
- Hopkins, Mo.

**Forestry Personnel**

- J. D. Crisholm, Project Superintendent
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- McEnery, Branson, Machine Operator
- Denver, Colo.
- Frank E. Henry, Foreman
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Quayle F. Knox, Mechanic
- Colorado Springs, Colo.
- W. A. Lyall, Foreman
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Earl G. McCrae, Senior Foreman
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Homer T. Tryre, Foreman
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- John P. Veirling, Jr., Landscape Foreman
- Boston, Mass.

**Leaders**

- Allen, Sam J., Snyder, Tex.
- Bradle, George
- Hinton, Okla.
- Brock, A\n\n- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Chish, Rufus
- Anson, Tex.
- Ethridge, Lester
- Amarillo, Tex.
- McCleary, Ramsey
- Irene, Tex.
- Plummer, Ross R.
- Denver, Colo.
- Villarreal, Ramon
- San Antonio, Tex.

**Assistant Leaders**

- Commerford, Stephen
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Hicks, Alfred
- Antonio, Colo.
- Hodges, William
- Streetman, Tex.
- Jones, Rubie
- Durango, Colo.
- Montano, Paul
- La Jara, Colo.
- Rogers, Rupert E.
- Whitney, Tex.
- Romero, Bonnie E.
- Antonio, Colo.
- Stone, George H.
- Ladonia, Tex.
- Thomas, Aubrey A.
- Corpusica, Tex.
- Turner, James
- Paducah, Tex.
- Wilkins, Clyde A.
- Lubbock, Tex.

**Enrollees**

- Allison, Malcolm
- Corpusica, Tex.
- Aragon, Marcelino
- Saguache, Colo.
- Archuleta, Antonio
- Antonio, Colo.
- Archuleta, Ben O.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Archuleta, Bill
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Archuleta, Jose G.
- Conejos, Colo.
- Archuleta, Manuel
- Antonio, Colo.
- Artega, Lorenzo
- Mercedez, Tex.
- Beckley, James O.
- Cedaredge, Colo.
- Brandenburg, Orren
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Cabeza, Jake
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Candelaria, Orlando
- Saguache, Colo.
- Casted, Leslie
- Cordisana, Tex.
- Chacon, Metro Joe
- Saguache, Colo.
- Chavez, Armando
- Antonio, Colo.
- Chavez, Willie M.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Cole, Cel
- Manassa, Colo.
- Cordova, Claudio
- Ortiz, Colo.
- Cordova, Roberto
- Garcia, Colo.
- Carby, Dave P.
- La Garita, Colo.
- Dolan, Jack M.
- Denver, Colo.
- Duran, Raulos
- Antonio, Colo.
- Duran, Juan
- Antonio, Colo.
- Espinoza, Carlos
- La Garita, Colo.
- Esplinza, Eddie
- La Garita, Colo.
- Gallegos, Anselmo
- Saguache, Colo.
- Gallegos, Fred
- Saguache, Colo.
- Galvez, Samuel
- Antonio, Colo.
- Garcia, Andres
- Saguache, Colo.
- Garcia, Herman
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Garcia, Tony
- Sanford, Colo.
- Gates, Richard L
- Saguache, Colo.
- Gomez, Benicio
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Gonzalez, Carlos
- Saguache, Colo.
- Gonzales, Fred B.
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Gonzales, Victor Jr.
- Ortiz, Colo.
- Good, Thomas J.
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Hackett, Haakyn W.
- Plainview, Tex.
- Havens, Ed.
- Denver, Colo.
- Hayes, Ernest L
- Saguache, Colo.
- Hotz, Bert L.
- Pagooga Springs, Colo.
- Horvath, Kenneth
- Pueblo, Colo.
- Huffman, Arthur U.
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Kottila, Russell
- Lone, Colo.
- La Cumb, Luciano
- San Luis, Colo.
- Lara, Narciso
- Antonio, Colo.
- Lewis, J. Dan.
- Lubbock, Tex.
- Lucas, Alfonso
- La Jara, Colo.
- Lobato, Victor
- Garcia, Colo.
- Lucero, Joe E.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Levan, George
- Antonio, Colo.
- Madrid, Ruben T.
- San Pablo, Colo.
- Madrid, Albert E.
- Antonio, Colo.
- Mares, Andrew
- Blanca, Colo.
- Mares, Tony
- Saguache, Colo.
- Maestas, Armando
- Manassa, Colo.
- Maestas, Manuel
- San Luis, Colo.
- Mares, Bernabe
- Antonio, Colo.
- Marquez, Manuel
- San Luis, Colo.
- Martinez, Gilbert
- Saguache, Colo.
- Martinez, Joe
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Martinez, Joseph B.
- Pagosa Springs, Colo.
- Martinez, Manuel
- Antonio, Colo.
- Martinez, Tony
- San Pablo, Colo.
- Mc Hale, Edward
- Denver, Colo.
- Montano, Eli
- Sanford, Colo.
- Myers, Edward A.
- Saguache, Colo.
- Newton, Charles C.
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Noriego, Perfecto Joe
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Pecka, Charlie J.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Quintana, Ambrante
- San Luis, Colo.
- Quintana, Louis
- Antonio, Colo.
- Rodriguez, Armando
- Saguache, Colo.
- Romero, Felix J.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Romero, Joe
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Romero, Rudolph
- Conejos, Colo.
- Ross, Milton
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Ruybal, Adonis
- Sanford, Colo.
- Ruybal, Rafael
- Antonio, Colo.
- Ryan, George
- Crestone, Colo.
- Samworth, Charles
- Rye, Colo.
- Sanchez, Phil
- San Luis, Colo.
- Sanchez, Rupert
- Chama, Colo.
- Santistevan, Fred
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Santistevan, Solomon
- Fort Garland, Colo.
- Sheperd, Herman P.
- Monte Vista, Colo.
- Sisneros, Amsrante
- Antonio, Colo.
- Sisneros, Eliseo
- Antonio, Colo.
- Speight, Leo
- Pharr, Tex.
- Suazo, Ed
- Antonio, Colo.
- Torres, Seraphin
- Antonio, Colo.
- Trujillo, Jose Pablo, Jr.
- Antonio, Colo.
- Trujillo, Philip
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Trujillo, Tony
- Villa, Colo.
- Trujillo, Robert B.
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Trujillo, Robert R.
- Antonio, Colo.
- Valdez, Ernest
- Alamosa, Colo.
- Valdez, Joe F.
- La Jara, Colo.
- Valdez, Julio
- Antonio, Colo.
- Valdez, Leo C.
- San Luis, Colo.
- Valdez, Luis
- San Luis, Colo.
- Valdez, Ramon M.
- Del Norte, Colo.
- Velasquez, Porfirio
- San Luis, Colo.
- Vigil, Armando
- Antonio, Colo.
- Vigil, Jacople Capulin, Colo.
- Wile, Albert S.
- Saguache, Colo.
- Wheat, Ralph
- Cordisana, Tex.
- Wolf, Joe H.
- Center, Colo.