

*From Judy Rowe
Oct 24, 2000*

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Former Member of "The
Civilian Conservation
Corp" 2303 P.111 Alps
NY 1940
March 22, 2000

MS. JUDY ROWE
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Dear Ms. Rowe;

Experiencing life serving with "The Civilian Conservation Corp"; "The C.C.C, " Camp 2303 P.111 Alps N.Y. in 1940 was one that I hold close to me. I served six months in Camp 2303 P.111 from January to June in 1940. The pay was \$31.00 a month. The uniform was given to you and they supplied free room and board. The age requirement was 18.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt "1933-1945" founded such organizations as "Social Security, " "The Workman's Project Administration; ("The W.P.A."), and "The C.C.C." During "The Depression" many people needed some kind of work to help themselves and their families. President Roosevelt created "The C.C.C" and "The W.P.A." for that purpose.

I first joined "The C.C.C" in 1937 at Camp 226 located in Orange County, Cornwall on the Hudson approximately three to four mile from West Point United States Military Academy. Our job was to clear the roads and etcetera from flood waters, and mud slides due to inclement weather. We even worked in the academies swimming pools. The only proof I have of this is my shoulder patch with "US C.C.C 226."

Again I needed to help my family so I joined "The C.C.C" in 1940. I didn't know where I would be sent to, but I got lucky and was sent to Alps New York. Camp 2303 P.111, which is now "The Alps Family Camping Ground." The camp like the others were for unmarried men 18 to 25. This job was to search the Berkshires near Pittsfield Massachusetts for Gypsy Moths.

I was a patrol leader being familiar with hiking and finding my way around the woods, with or without a compass. We found many Gypsy Moths and destroyed them by fire. We would receive extra pay for finding more nests than required. The Leader would divide the extra monies with the rest of the crew equally.

If someone in "The C.C.C" wanted to leave for a steady job or better paying job, they could. Of course I liked working in the camps. As far as I knew all the camps had barracks to sleep in, a library to read, or study in, a place to get food and eat in, and a church to attend services on Sunday. I found some work outside the camp doing construction work approximately ten to fifteen miles South of the camp on route 43. We worked from Westsand Lake to Averill Park. As I was working on the road I found out that the camp would close in June 1940. This was caused by the United States getting involved in WW II. We all had to register for the draft. During my time in the camp, and working on route 43 I would go home for the weekend. I signed up for the draft October 14, 1940. I turned 21 in July 1940.

I have very good and fond memories from my experiences serving at Camp 226, and Camp 2303 P11. It took me many years and a few travels up toward Westsand lake and the Alps to find my old camp site. I finally located the site in October of 1998. That is when I discovered that when I found "The Alps Family Camping Grounds" was in fact my old camp site. I have snapshots of when I was stationed there and from the two times since after October 1998. I still possess my shoulder patch and believe that the uniform was blue-green, similar to the Vietnam uniforms. If all goes well I plan to make another visit this year.

PS. I also have
A Hot Coal Spreader that I may have used.
To spread the New Coal over the
Hot Burning Coals Evenly then Bank it
For the Day and redo it for the next day.
Jin,

Cheerfully Submitted;

Joseph J. Duvo

JOSEPH J. DUVO