

A reunion of veterans of the Civilian Conservation Corps will be held November 10, 2001 on the LSUA campus. Former CCC members will discuss the Great Depression and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal efforts to combat unemployment. The CCC, the most successful of Roosevelt's "Alphabet" agencies, proved to be the foundation for Louisiana's present timber industry and played an important role in preparations for WWII. Historic photographs and of the CCC and pictures of some remaining CCC structures will be on view.

The CCC "boys" are eager to tell younger generations how bad times were in the 1930's and what the CCC meant to them and their families. Speakers will put the CCC in historical perspective and point out how the program in the South differed from that in the West. The discussion program will be open to the public.

We are excited about the Civilian Conservation Corps program that the Friends of the James C. Bolton Library at LSUA and the Historical Association of Central Louisiana are planning. Oberia Price, president of the LSUA Library Friends group, said that they have been collecting oral history tapes of men who were in the CCC and their accounts reveal an era that the present generation hardly knows about except the words "Great Depression."

Fortunately, there are a number of CCC veterans still around, and this reunion will provide an opportunity to honor these men and inform the public about the depression era and President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal program and his rivalry with Huey Long here in Louisiana, according to the Charles Charrier, president of the Historical Association of Central Louisiana.

Since the work of the CCC forestry camps is actually the foundation of Louisiana's present timber industry, the Friends of the Bolton Library will ask Lyn Neff, Supervisor of the Kisatchie National Forest; Paul Frey, State Forester of the Louisiana Office of Forestry; and Dwight Landreneau, Director of State Parks, to present the CCC veterans with certificates honoring their important work. Jim Caldwell from Kisatchie National Forest will prepare a video and displays.

The program will be held Saturday, November 10, 2001 in the Caffey Annex at LSUA at 10 a.m. Following a welcome and overview, the CCC veterans will share their experiences.

Sheriff William Earl Hilton will provide a free lunch but reservations must be made. Call Rachael at the LSUA Library 318-473-6438.