

ALEXANDRIA DAILY TOWN TALK

John E. Newhouse II**President
and Publisher****Jim Leggett****Opinions Editor**

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Remember men of CCC and their work

"If we didn't have the Civilian Conservation Corps we wouldn't have Kisatchie."

Dr. Anna Burns
Retired librarian

Louisiana State University-Alexandria

That statement is about as succinct a reason to be thankful for the Civilian Conservation Corps, sometimes fondly called President Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Tree Army," as there can be.

The corps, more than a million men strong, was created by Roosevelt 70 years ago this month as the country was embroiled in the Great Depression.

As with the attrition of World War II veterans, so are the numbers of CCC members, those unemployed so long ago, decreasing.

And that's why it is so fitting that there be an effort to honor those who worked in Louisiana on reforestation and creation of dams, roads, fire towers and recreation areas.

Nationally, millions of acres of federal and state lands were improved.

Now, there are local efforts to ensure that the CCC is remembered. Under way are efforts to erect a \$16,000 statue.

And Burns is spearheading an effort to have a museum right here in central Louisiana to honor the CCC. She will host a meeting from 10 a.m. to noon today in the Barbara Brumfield Caffrey Annex at LSU-A to discuss the CCC and her dream of a museum.

The CCC involved a lot of people in this area, and they must not be forgotten.

The CCC, unfortunately, disappeared from the scene in 1942 because Congress stopped funding it.

But that didn't mean a shortage of young men in these parts because soldiers were flooding here as the nation was plunging into and preparing for World War II.

And the CCC had ensured they were coming to a beautiful place.

**OUR
VIEW**