

The home of CCC Company 1475

Site of Civilian Conservation Corps Camp S-67, "Camp Alvin C. York," from 1935 to 1938



South Cumberland State Park

Born in the depths of the Great Depression...

...the Civilian Conservation Corps, or "CCC," was a public work relief program that operated from 1933 to 1942 throughout the United States. The CCC was designed to provide jobs for young men and relief for their families during the tough times of the Depression.

During the program's nine-year existence, 3 million young men participated in the CCC, which provided them with shelter, clothing, food and training, at a wage of \$30 per month, \$25 of which was sent home to their families.

The American public made the CCC the most popular of all the New Deal programs. It was said that a young man's enrollment in the CCC led to improved physical condition, heightened self-worth, and increased employability. The CCC also fostered a greater public awareness and appreciation of the outdoors and the nation's natural resources. The "CCC Boys," as they were commonly known, performed manual labor jobs related to the conservation and development of natural resources on rural public lands.

The CCC was organized in a quasi-military manner, with approximately 200 young men constituting a "company." Reserve officers from the U.S. Army were in charge of the companies, but there was no military training. A camp superintendent, typically a civilian, managed daily camp operations.

Company 1475 was created less than 60 days after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the legislation creating the CCC in 1933. It operated continuously until the CCC program was discontinued in 1942.

CCC companies were designed to be mobile, and were expected to set up camp near the projects on which they worked. Each camp location had a designation, separate from that of the company using it. Thus, Company 1475 established this location, Camp S-67, when it needed to re-locate from its original site, P-62, near Palmer, in northern Grundy County, in June of 1935. It was customary for companies to give nicknames to their camps; this one was known as "Camp Alvin C. York," for Tennessee's famous World War I hero.



CCC Recruiting poster and patches, circa 1935



The camp's main gate was at the northern end of the site, opposite where you now stand.

Meet the "CCC Boys" of Company 1475



D&R Photo Service
Grundy Hill, Ala.

Civilian Conservation Corps
Camp S-67 "Alvin C. York"
Company 1475
Grundy City, Tennessee

Charles F. Shaw, Capt. in Charge
Paul A. Lanning, Sgt. in Charge
George O. Schaeffer, Sgt. in Charge
R.N. Cole, CEF
W.E. Baggenstoss, Proj. Supv.

« Photobomb THIS!

As you walk this interpretive trail, you'll pass directly through the spot where this photograph was taken. Though their numbers varied between 160 and 210, the young men of CCC Company 1475 provided valuable service to the southern Cumberland Plateau throughout the company's nine-year existence. For three of its nine years, from 1935 to 1938, Company 1475 called this location in Grundy Forest its home. In this photo, the men are sitting on a portion of the perimeter road that circles the camp. One of the camp's four barracks can be seen at the top left.

This interpretive project has been generously funded by the following:



Special thanks to the following for invaluable research assistance and access to historical images, objects and information:

- Jack Baggenstoss
- Robert Ernest Henley
- Judy Phillips
- Travis Turner
- William Ray Turner
- CCC Legacy organization
- Grundy County Historical Society
- Franklin County Historical Society
- Living New Deal organization
- National Park Service
- Tennessee State Archives
- United States Archives

CCC Camp S-67 Interpretation Project Team

- South Cumberland State Park**
- George Shinn, SCSP Manager
- Bill Knapp, SCSP Assistant Mgr.
- Park Greer, Park Ranger
- James Holland, Park Ranger
- Friends of South Cumberland State Park**
- Naullain Kendrick, President
- Margaret Matens, Education Ctte. Chair
- Rob Moreland, CCC Team Lead
- Rick Dreves, Interpretive Writer/Designer

This interpretive trail is dedicated to the memory of all who served here
April, 2019

Company Bath House and Latrine

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

Keeping the CCC Boys Clean...

Here, on the southern edge of Camp S-67, was the Bath House and Latrine. Most of their days consisted of doing hard, dirty, physical labor, so the nearly 200 young men of Company 1475 required plenty of room to shower, and enough sinks and toilets to efficiently handle large numbers at clean-up time.

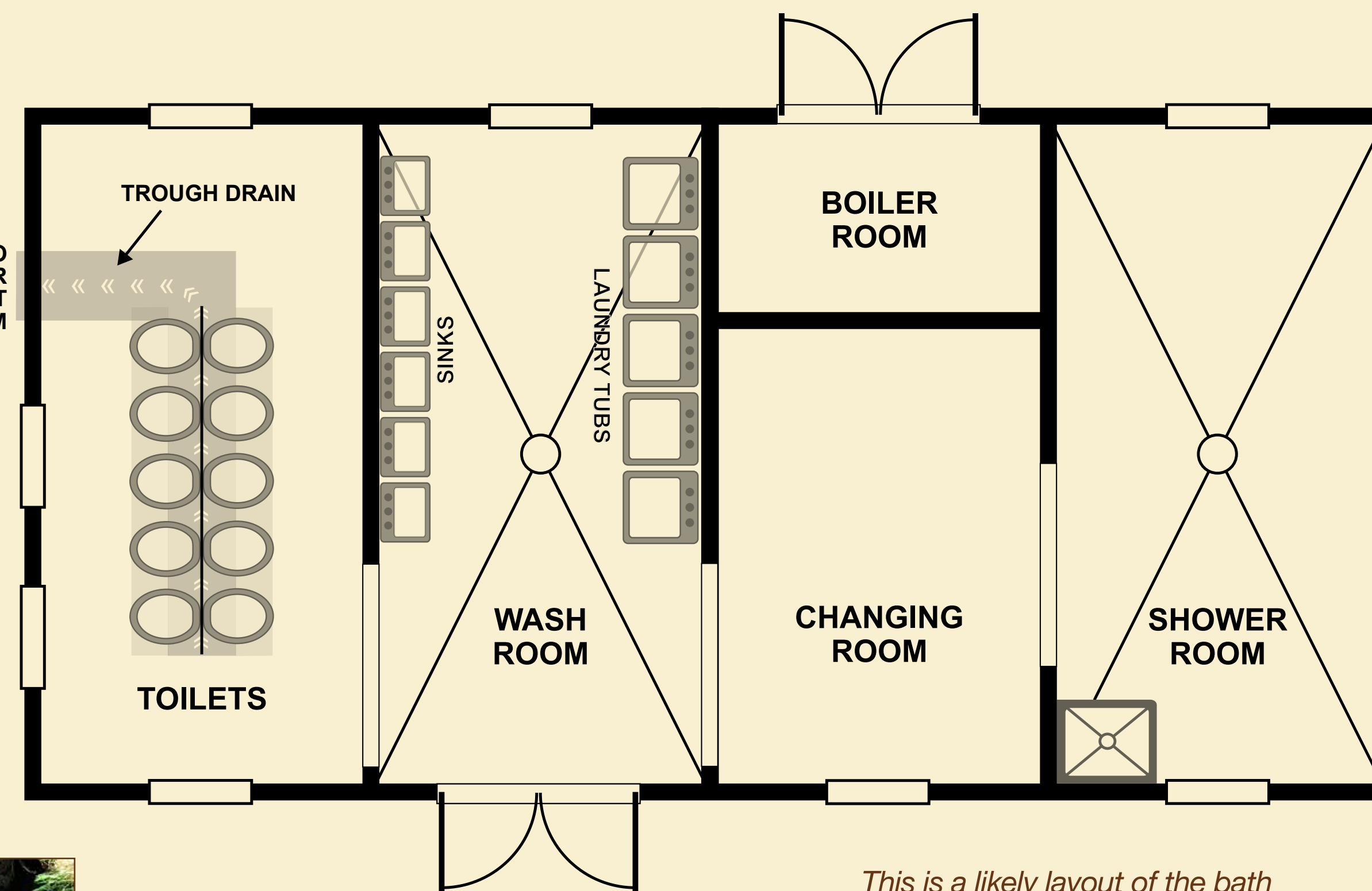
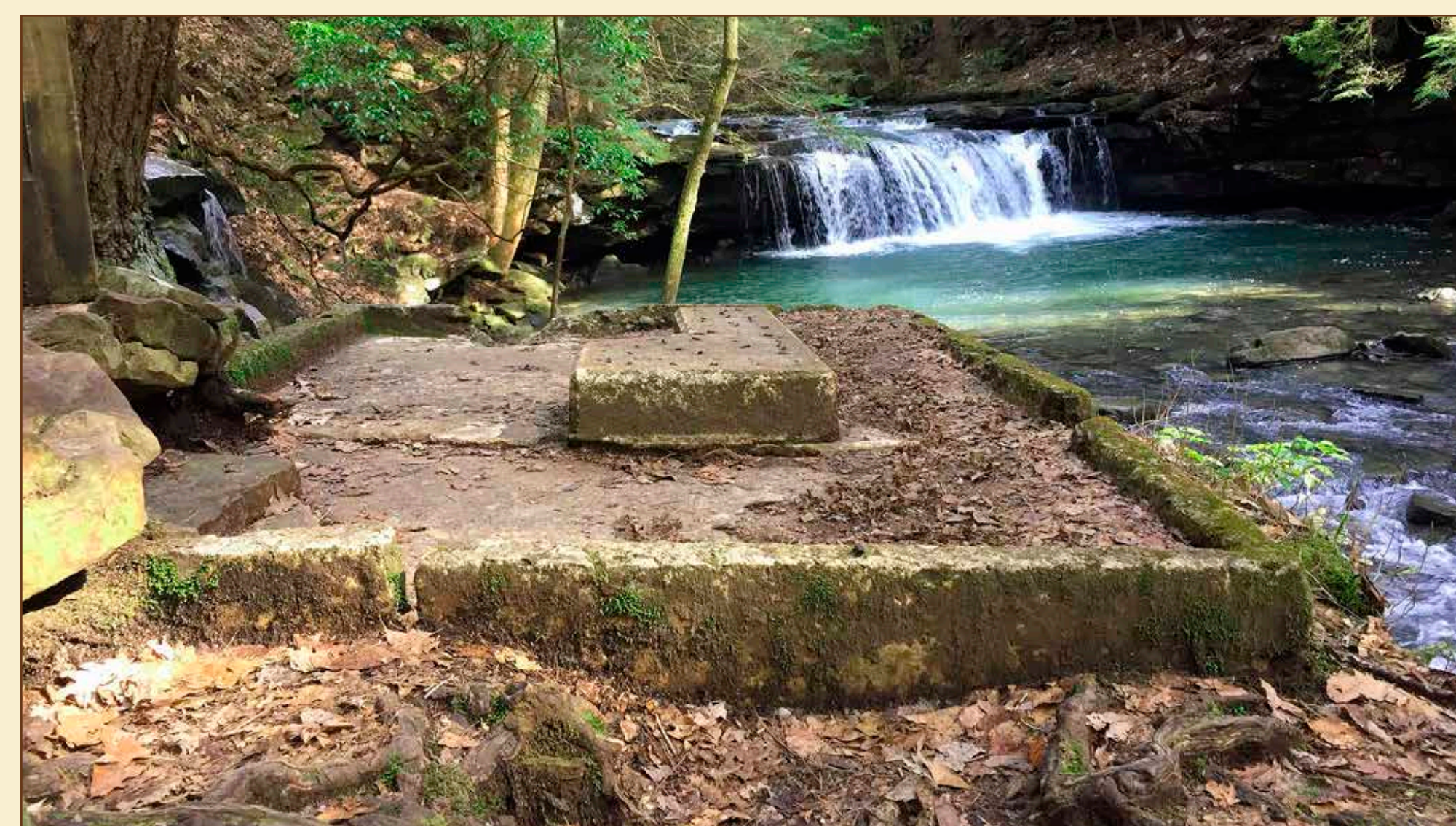
Water for the bath house came from Little Gizzard Creek, in the canyon below the camp. It was brought to this facility using an electric pump that was housed in a small building at Blue Hole, on the creek. As you walk the Grundy Day Loop trail, you'll pass the old concrete foundation of that pump house.

While there is no known diagram of exactly how the bath house was laid out, the remains of its foundation, as well as documentation from other CCC camps, provide clues. It stands to reason that the water would have been pumped into a holding tank, and heated in a boiler before being delivered to the shower and wash rooms. You can identify the shower and wash rooms by looking for the X-shaped, sloping floors with the drains in the center.

At the far left you can see the large channel, or sluice, that ran below the toilets. It collected the waste and carried it out of the bath house to a series of settling pits, where the effluent was treated, typically with powdered lime, on a daily basis.

Although no photos of this bath house have been found, the building was likely similar in appearance to most of the other buildings at "Camp Alvin C. York" — a wood frame structure with high windows, clapboard siding and roll roofing.

While CCC records indicate that a standard camp configuration would have had separate shower and latrine buildings, that was not the case at this site. However, camp leaders did have some latitude on such matters, and so it is not unusual to see the two functions combined in one building at Camp S-67.



YOU ARE HERE

This is a likely layout of the bath house, based on what can be seen by examining the foundation, combined with information from other CCC and military facilities of that period.

«« As you walk the Grundy Day Loop trail, look for the old concrete foundation at the base of the steps and footbridge next to Blue Hole. This is what remains of the CCC pump house that supplied water from Little Gizzard Creek to this bath house, as well as to the Camp's laundry facility, which you'll also see on this interpretive trail.

...and Sanitary!

From the time of the camp's inception in June of 1935 until January of 1937, the sewage from this bath house was treated by running it through a series of open pits that were dug into the hillside beyond the end of the bath house, to your left, which were treated with lime to control odor.

As the waste gradually moved from pit to pit, solid matter settled out and the remaining water was gradually cleaned as it passed through layers of sand and mud. The last pit in this chain (in the photo below) can be seen next to the Grundy Day Loop trail; you may have noticed it as you passed by.

While this system for treating the camp's bath house waste wasn't perfect, it was a reasonably effective way of cleaning up a messy by-product of camp life. In January of 1937, a more efficient septic tank system replaced some of the settling ponds, and flush toilets were installed. Inspection reports say that the tank was "pumped out as required."

Modern septic tanks work on the same basic principles as the camp's system -- but with a modern septic system, all of the settling, percolation and purification happens in special pipes, known collectively as a drain field -- out of sight and underground.



Don't be concerned – these settling ponds haven't handled wastewater from the camp's bath house since 1938. Nature has long since neutralized any unpleasant microbes in these depressions.

Laundry and Leaders

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

This foundation appears to be that of a utility building, likely a laundry facility which was probably filled with washtubs, owing to the concrete floor, rusted water supply pipe, large central drain and open drainage ditch beyond the foundation, but no settling pits.

CCC enrollees were expected to do their own personal laundry; one



inspection report noted that "...all men have been instructed in the proper method of washing wollen garments." Sheets and pillow cases were described as being "very dirty," but these were sent to an off-site laundry to be cleaned, three times per

month. The men of Company 1475 likely washed their personal laundry in this building, and hung their clothes out to dry on clotheslines, as did the men in this CCC photo (above left) from a camp out west.

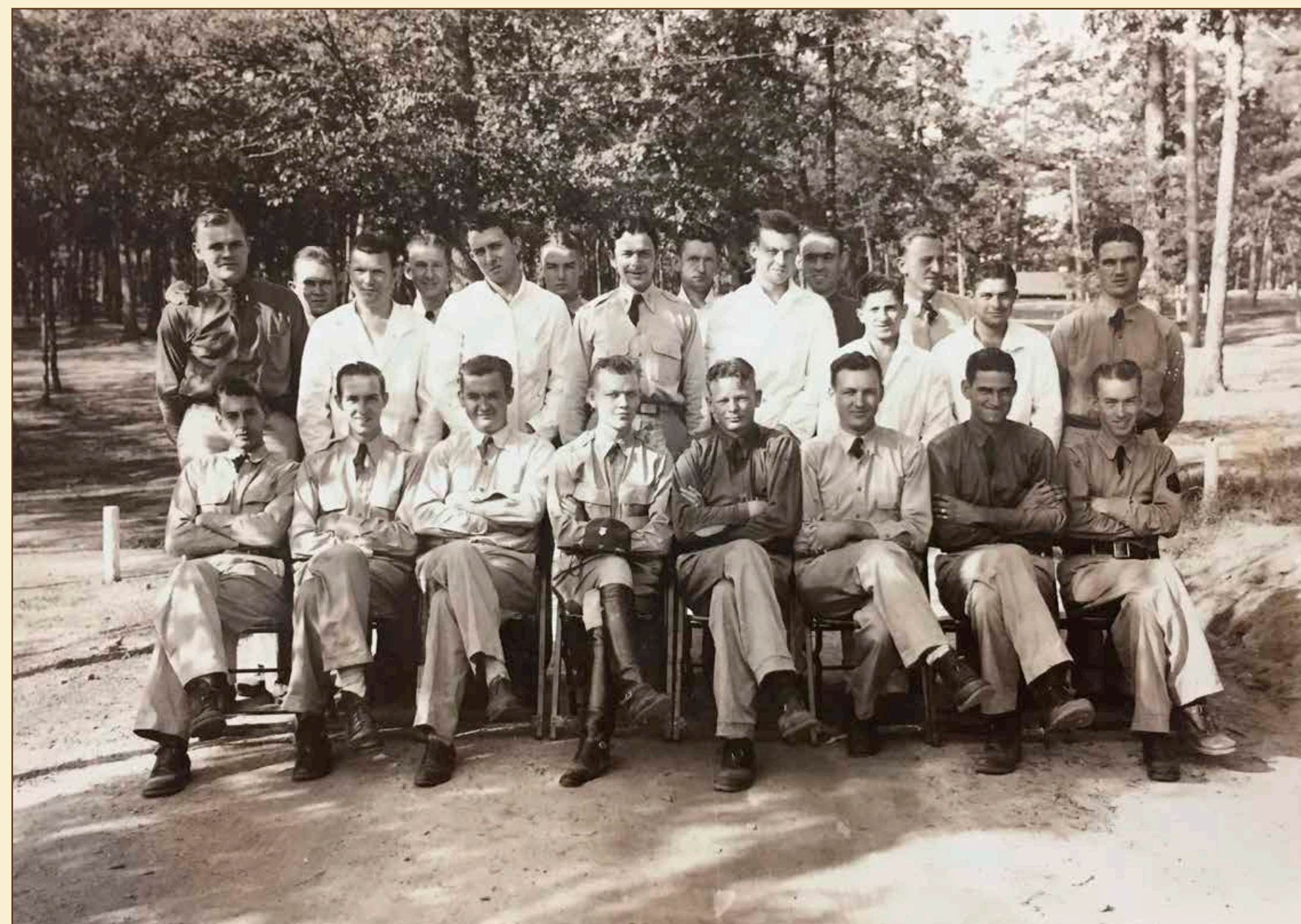


This foundation, as it appeared prior to being uncovered.

Camp Leadership

When the company was created on June 22, 1933, it began as a tent camp, P-62 in Palmer, about 10 miles northeast of where you now stand. Whether by design or chance, the company had a number of different Army officers in charge, including the camp's Corpsman (doctor), who was shared with several other camps in the region, and an Education director.

For much of the company's tenure in Palmer, and later, here at Grundy Forest, civilian Herman Baggenstoss served as the Camp Superintendent. When Herman stepped down in 1936, one of his assistants, William V. Lightfoot, by training a Civil Engineer, took over as Superintendent, and oversaw the company's move from this site to a new camp, S-80, about 11 miles southwest of here, near what is now Jumpoff Road in Sewanee.



A group photo of Company 1475's officers and leaders, posed on the camp's perimeter road, looking south toward the Mess Hall (visible at the far end of the road). When you reach the interpretive panel labeled "Life in Company 1475," you will be standing roughly where this photo was taken. This photo appears to have been taken shortly after the camp's establishment in 1935.

Education was a major component of the CCC's mission. In the company's early days, George Adams and William Metcalf led Company 1475's education effort; later on, here at Grundy Forest, Robley N. Jobe guided the delivery of classes on topics as varied as Taxidermy, Cooking and Blasting (the safe use of dynamite), and also offered literacy classes for the many young men who came to the CCC unable to read or write.

Uncovering the Story of Camp S-67

Almost 80 years to the day after "Camp Alvin C. York" was abandoned, volunteers from the Friends of South Cumberland State Park, working under the supervision of South Cumberland State Park Rangers, began to carefully remove eight decades of nature's reclamation of this site.

They made detailed notes as they went, piecing together the story of this camp by combining what they saw as they uncovered these concrete foundations with what they learned by researching old CCC records, documents, news archives, photos and oral histories from area residents.

Not all the pieces of this story have been found, but they have provided enough information to offer plausible hypotheses about some of the missing pieces.

As you walk through the camp today, be your own history detective by being observant about things you see on this site, and by carefully studying what you see on these interpretive panels. Perhaps you'll be able to put together some new pieces of this history puzzle!

The photos at right show part of the process of uncovering the foundation of the company bath house and latrine. Old CCC records helped confirm many of the volunteers' hunches about the purpose of the buildings that once stood on these concrete slabs.



Herman Baggenstoss and the CCC

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

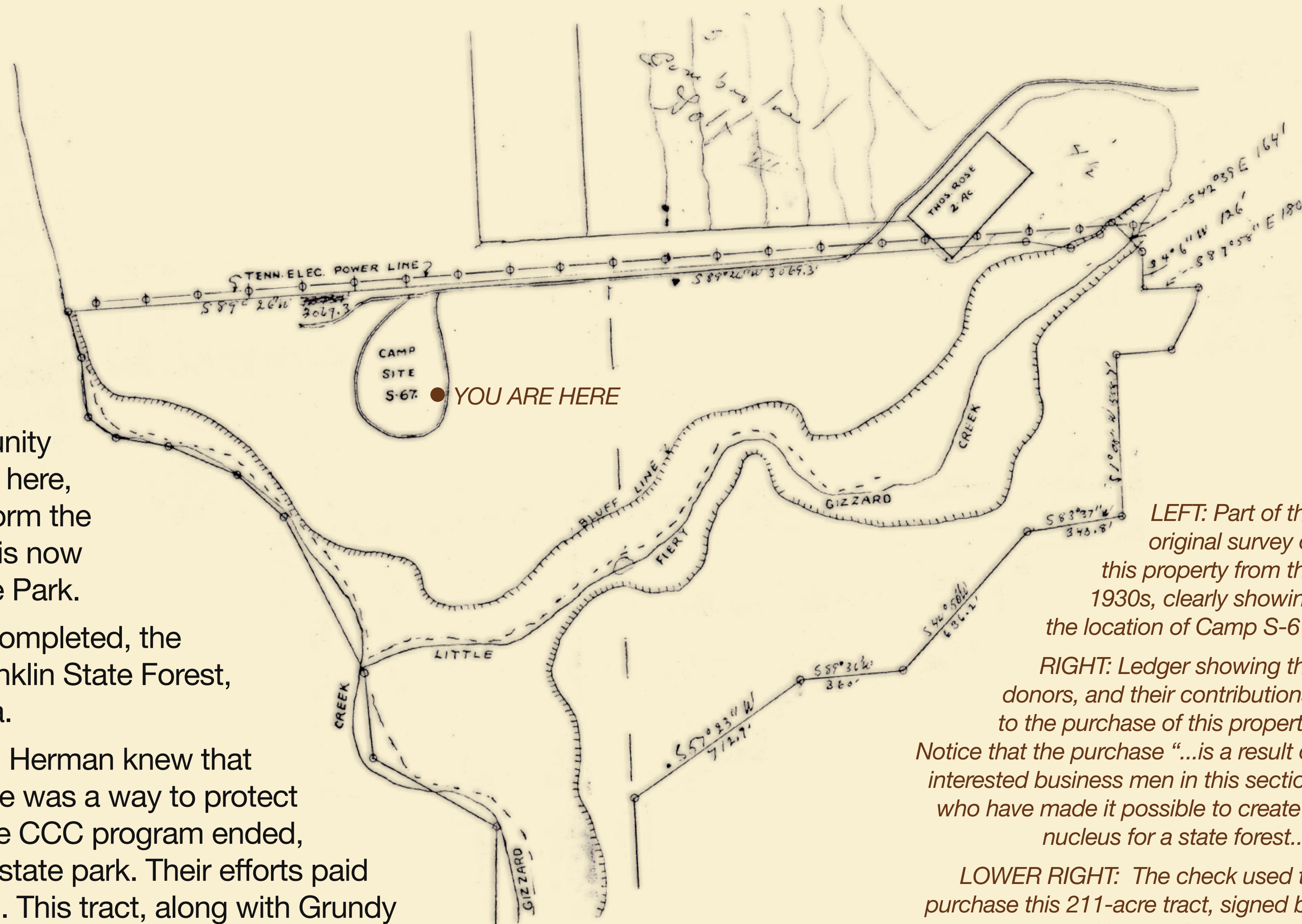
A Vision for Good

As Company 1475's Camp Superintendent, Tracy City native Herman E. Baggenstoss had a vision for what the company could do. Even in its early days, while the company was located in Palmer, Herman knew there were bigger projects the company could tackle in the southern end of the county.

He mounted a fund-raising campaign among Tracy City businesses to purchase 211 acres near the head of the Fiery Gizzard watershed, and donated it to the State of Tennessee for use as a State Forest. By doing so, he created an opportunity to relocate Company 1475 to this site in June of 1935. From here, the CCC Boys could work on the ambitious project to transform the Lone Rock Coke Ovens, a coal processing facility, into what is now known as the Grundy Lakes area of South Cumberland State Park.

Once the "Tracy Lakes" project, as it was then known, was completed, the company was relocated to a new site at the north end of Franklin State Forest, where it continued to do important work in the Sewanee area.

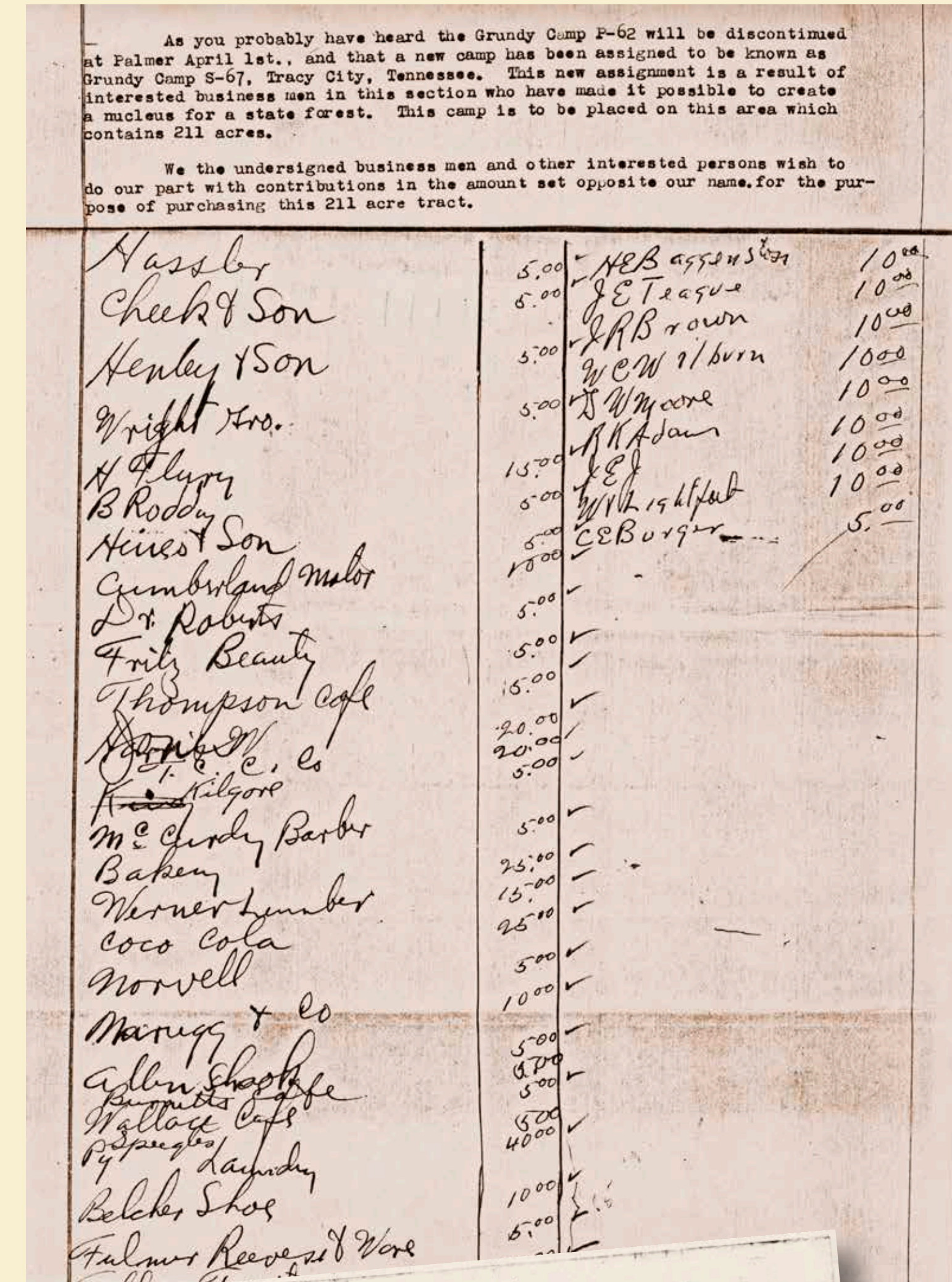
Although the company was only located here for three years, Herman knew that purchasing this land and donating it to the State of Tennessee was a way to protect it from logging and future development. For decades after the CCC program ended, Herman, and others, continued to advocate for creation of a state park. Their efforts paid off in 1978, when South Cumberland State Park was created. This tract, along with Grundy Lakes – and Savage Gulf, in northern Grundy County – became the nucleus of the new park.



LEFT: Part of the original survey of this property from the 1930s, clearly showing the location of Camp S-67.

RIGHT: Ledger showing the donors, and their contributions, to the purchase of this property. Notice that the purchase "...is a result of interested business men in this section who have made it possible to create a nucleus for a state forest..."

LOWER RIGHT: The check used to purchase this 211-acre tract, signed by Herman Baggenstoss.



Herman Baggenstoss (above and right, standing) was a tireless advocate for conservation. Although he led the fund-raising effort to purchase this land for the CCC Camp, Herman's first desire was always to preserve this unique natural area forever. His wish became reality in 1978 when Grundy Forest became one of the first parts of what is now Tennessee's largest state park.

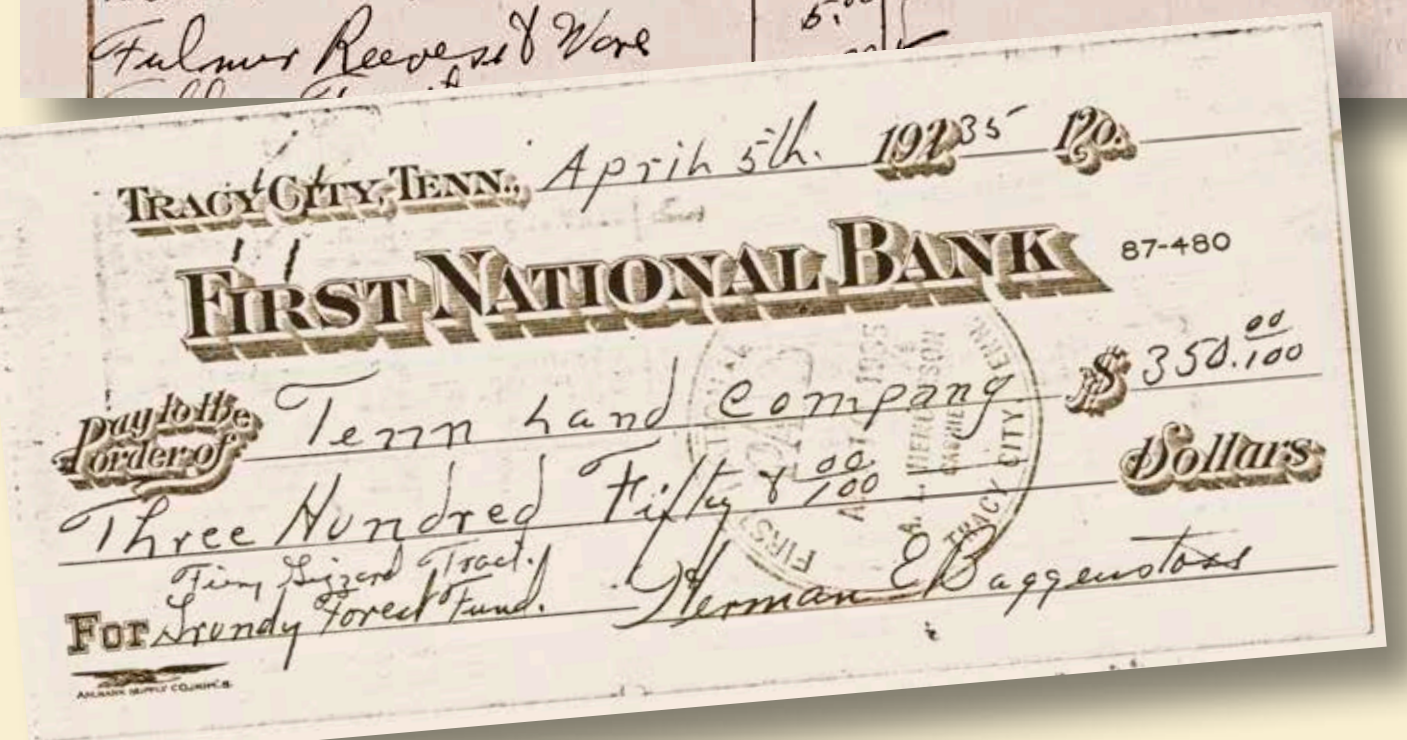


ABOVE: Herman in his Tracy City office, ca. 1970.



LEFT: In the 1980s, Herman also organized a reunion for the CCC Boys of Company 1475.

RIGHT: Memorial to Herman in the Fiery Gizzard gorge.



Life in Company 1475

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

Life in the CCC was clearly hard work, but as you can see in the photographs on the right, life in Company 1475 also built comradery, allowing these young men to develop important teamwork and social skills – while having some irreverent fun in the process, as you can see in the song lyrics for “Three Cheers for the CCC.”

The CCC provided structure, education, and experience that prepared many of these men to serve and lead in the U.S. military during World War II – an event which brought the CCC program to what many feel was a premature end.

THREE CHEERS FOR THE CCC

OUT OF THE CAMP AND INTO THE WOODS
EVERY DREARY MORN
I CUSS THE LIEUTS AND THE CCC
THAT EVER I WAS BORN

WORK ALL DAY IN THE BLISTERING WOODS
HOT AS SCRIPT'RAL HELL
CUSSING THE BOSS AND THE OFFICERS TOO
HATING THEIR SILLY YELL

THE INSECTS AND VARMIT, SNAKES AND OWLS
BELONG IN THE WOODS, NOT ME
THIS AVE WOULD LOOK BETTER BACK ON THE WALL
OR BACK IN THE FACTORY

BUILDING ROADS AND BLASTING STUMPS
AND ALWAYS DIGGING TRENCHES
BUILDING TOWERS AND FIGHTING FIRES
AND WHILE WE REST, SOME FENCES

THEN BACK TO THE BUNK EACH EVENING
DIRTY, HOT AND RAINY
SOME TIMES I THINK I'LL UP AND SAY
"THIS LIFE STICKS IN MY CRAW"

I GRUPE AND FUME AND FUSS AND FRET
TILL HATRED TURNS TO GALL
AND THRESEEN MURDER, MAYHEM, DEATH
TO ALL WITHIN MY CALL

AND THEN WE HAVE SOME BASEBALL GAMES
SOME SHOWS, AND A DANCE OR SO
A DRINK WITH A FRIEND, AND A DATE WITH A GAL
AND MY CUSSIN' LL KINDA SLOW

NEXT THING I KNOW THE OFFICER SMILES
AND HANDS MY PAY TO ME
THEN I SMILE AND SING, AND YELL ALOUD
"THREE CHEERS FOR THE CCC."

HEADQUARTERS COMPANY 1475-CCC
Camp "ALVIN C. YORK" S-67
Tracy City, Tennessee

January 22, 1937

CAMP EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM

Classes in Camp

CLASS	MEETINGS PER WEEK
1. Adv. First Aid	Monday Night 6 - 8
2. Jr. First Aid	Monday Night 6 - 7
3. Leaders Meeting	Monday Night 6 - 7
4. Perseanship	Monday Night 6 - 8
5. Construction	Tuesday Night 6 - 7
6. Illiterates	Tues. & Wed. 6 - 8
7. Safety & Citizenship	Wednesday Night 6 - 7
8. Blasting	Wed. Night 7 - 8
9. 8th Grade	Wed. Night 7 - 8
10. Typewriting	Wed. Night 7 - 9
11. Cooking	Thur. Night 6 - 7
12. Forestry	Thur. Night 6 - 7
13. Auto Mechanics	Thur. Night 6 - 8
14. Taxidermy	Thur. Night 6 - 7
15. Carpentry	Thur. Night 6 - 7
16. Surveying (elementary)	Friday Night 6 - 7
17. Photography	Friday Night 6 - 7
18. Truck Driving	Sat. Morn'ing
19. Care of Tools	Sat. Morn'ing
20. Wood Work	Sat. Afternoon

Camp Exchange Prices:
Company 1475, S-67,
Tracy City, Tennessee

January 22, 1937

ITEM	UNIT COST PRICE
Prince Albert	.106
Chewing Gum	.03
Pecket Combs	.625
Gillette Blades 10¢	.766
Gillette Blades 25¢	.147
St. Regis Blades	.51
Tooth Blades	.06
Raleigh Cigarettes	.122
Camels Cigarettes	.122
Luckys "	.122
Chesterfields "	.123
Keels "	.088
Wings "	.04
Bull Durham	.04
Golden Grain	.04
Old North Star	.08
Country Gentleman	.1275
Raleigh Smoking Tobacco	.066
Dexter Tooth Brushes	.166
Masse Tooth Brushes	.0375
Mug Soap	.0743
Union Leader	.075
Ipana Tooth Paste	.075
Colgate Tooth Paste	.208
Lifebroy Shaving Cream	.233
Ingrams Shaving Cream	.066
Shaving Lotion	.0675
Lux Soap	.30
Yasoline Hair Oil	.066
Reso Hair Oil	.10
Shee Polish (15¢)	.071
Shee Polish (10¢)	.035
Pencils (plain)	.0375
Shee Strings	.033
Tablets	.066
Scripte Pencils	.075
Scripte Leads	.033
Leads	.233
Films (30¢)	.033
Candy (5¢)	.0375
Jacks Cookies	.033
Tans Cookies	.033

Tracy City, Tenn November 24-1937.
Camp S-67 Company 1475.
Supplementary Report.

Recreation facilities consist of the following, indoor, Piano, Radio, Two loud speakers on grounds, 2 Pool tables, 1 Ping pong table, 6 Sets of Checkers, 4 Sets of Dominoes, 2 Games of Monday morning, coach, Shuffleboard, Outdoor, Baseball, Volleyball, Softball, Football, Basketball, 2 Sets of Horse shoes, 1 Set of Tennis, horizontal bars.

Religious services are conducted at camp twice monthly by district chaplain, twice monthly by local protestant clergymen, No catholics or jews in the company, 70 % of the company attend religious services.

Educational adviser reported to this company on December 29-1934 his name is R.M. Jobe attached is copy of educational program now in force at this camp as submitted by the adviser.

General health of the men has been good. Average gain in weight per man has been 14 lb. All men have been issued a complete toilet kit. All men have two pairs of shoes. Shoes are repaired at Chattanooga, called for and delivered weekly. All winter clothing has been received and issued. Stoves are in good condition. Heat has been adequate during winter months. Lights are adequate. All men administratively Refrigerator is reported to be adequate. No communistic literature has been discharged have been given a hearing. No communistic literature has been received at this camp. Bath house is operated as per regulations.

One sheet and pillow case are sent to the laundry three times monthly. Sheets get very dirty. Most of them are very badly soiled, before they are changed. All men have been instructed in the proper method of washing woolen garments. All articles are checked before sending to laundry and again on return by the supply officer. Laundry is held responsible for all shortages. No bed bugs or other vermin at this camp. Grade A raw milk is received daily 1/2 pint per man approved by the District Veterinary and Camp Surgeon.

Company mess funds are on deposit with the First National Bank of Tracy City, Tenn. Following is statement of mess funds from May 31-37. to October 31-37.

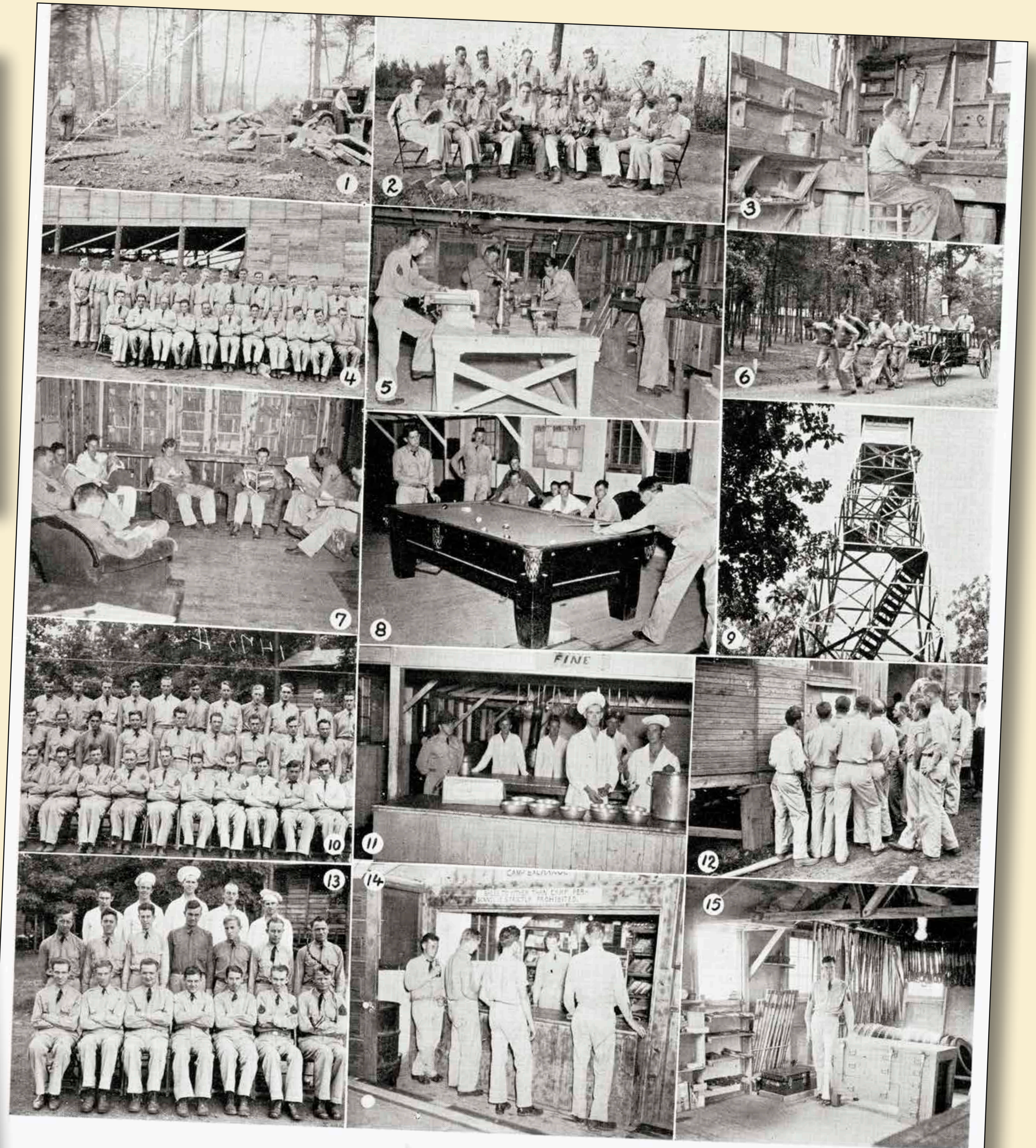
As of May 31-37.	As of June 30-37	As of July 31-37.
Cash in bank. \$ 174.66	Cash in bank. \$ 519.31	Cash in bank. \$ 449.83
Stock on hand. \$ 765.54	Stock on hand. \$ 797.66	Stock on hand. \$ 753.09
Net worth. \$ 940.17	Net worth. \$ 1316.97	Net worth. \$ 1202.92

As of Aug. 31-37. As of Sept. 30-37. As of Oct. 31-37.

As of Aug. 31-37.	As of Sept. 30-37.	As of Oct. 31-37.
Cash in bank. \$ 435.09	Cash in bank. \$ 502.49	Cash in bank. \$ 403.64
Stock on hand. \$ 615.70	Stock on hand. \$ 885.56	Stock on hand. \$ 991.28
Net worth. \$ 1050.79	Net worth. \$ 1388.07	Net worth. \$ 1394.92

This company has no funds impounded.

Balance of cash in other funds on October 31-1937. \$ 132.22 Loss over previous month of. \$ 47.47



1. Project work.
2. The Camp musicians.
3. The carpenter shop.
4. See Page 138.
5. The workshop.
6. A group of enrollees.
7. The reading room.
8. Shooting pool in the recreation hall.
9. The watch tower.
10. Where the food is prepared.
11. A group of enrollees receive instructions.
12. Overhead.
13. The canteen.
14. The tool house.
15. The tool house.

1475TH COMPANY, TRACY CITY, TENNESSEE

The Company 1475 page from the 1937 annual of the CCC's "C" District, 4th Corps Area, which took in a large part of the Southeast.

These pages are from inspection reports pertaining to Camp S-67. They provide an informative, nostalgic and occasionally humorous snapshot of what life was like for the CCC Boys of Company 1475. The Camp Exchange was a type of general store where the men could purchase personal items, such as toothpaste, shaving products, candies – even tobacco products – and other discretionary goods with the \$5 per month they were allowed to keep from their pay.

Barracks Area

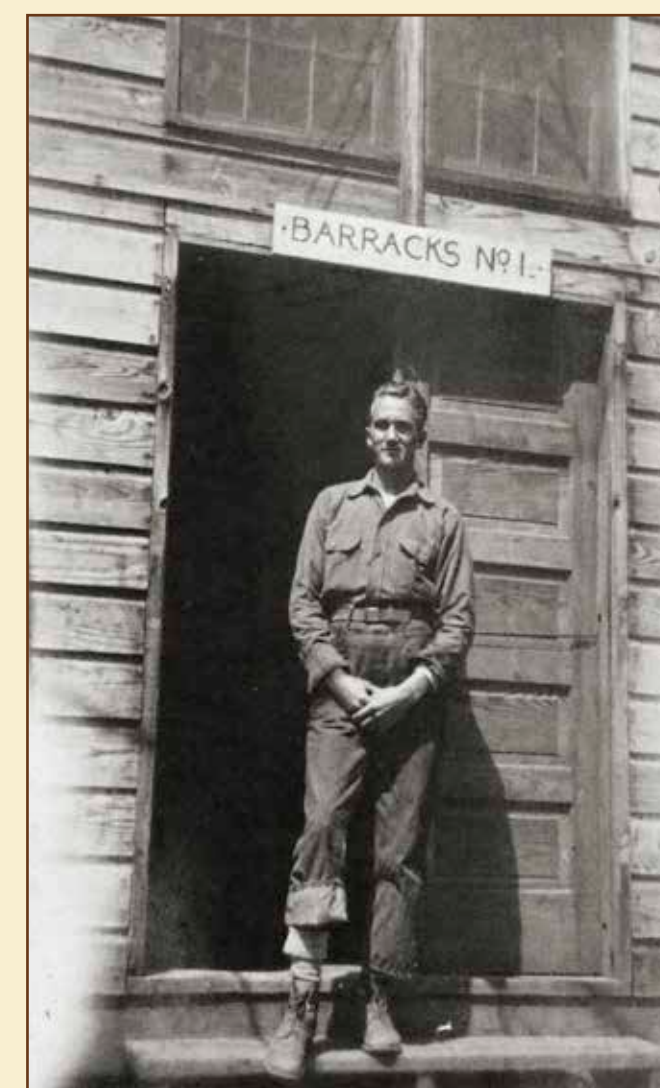
Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

Portable buildings with a permanent impact

Here, based primarily on photographic evidence, is thought to be the first of a row (extending to your right) of four barracks.



Inspection reports from 1935 indicate there were four barracks buildings at this site, typical of the standard building complement of many CCC camps at this time.

By the time this camp was created in 1935, the CCC had abandoned its initial concept of conventional, permanent buildings, and had begun using an innovative system of portable buildings, consisting of six-foot modular sections that could be bolted together, to allow CCC companies to more easily move their camps to new locations, in order to remain close to their work projects.

In 1935, when this camp was created, the standard CCC camp configuration consisted of the following:

- 4 Barracks (sleeping 50 men each), 20' x 130'
- 1 Mess (Dining) Hall, 20' x 180'
- 1 Welfare (Recreation/Exchange) Building, 30' x 120'
- 1 Forestry Personnel Living Quarters, 20' x 90'
- 1 Army Headquarters Building, 20' x 40'
- 1 Warehouse, 20' x 40'

This CCC standard made no mention of a bath house or infirmary, though both would be essential for camp operations. However, by 1937, both of those buildings, as well as a "school building" and several additional office and storage structures had been added to the standard camp components.



In this photo you can clearly see the modular sections that characterized CCC's portable buildings.

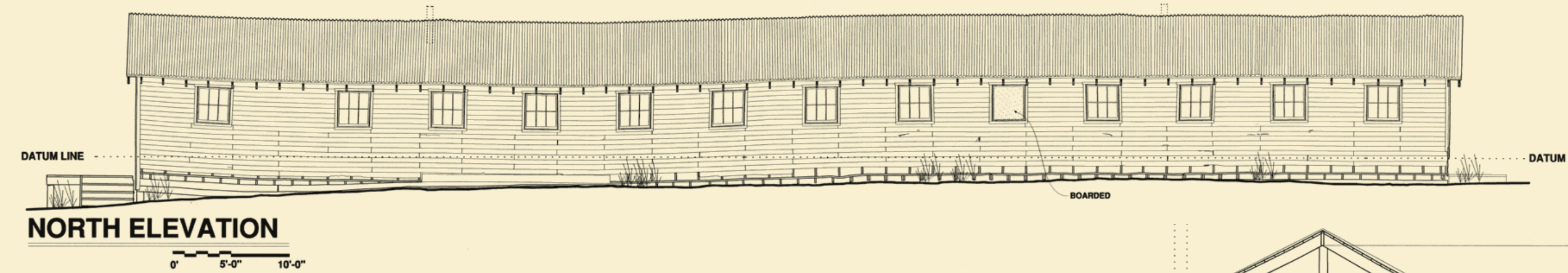
These portable buildings were typically shipped by rail to the depot nearest each CCC camp. CCC records indicated it took 12 railroad cars to ship a complete camp, and 100 truckloads to transport those materials from railhead to camp site. While the building materials may have arrived by train, CCC policy specified that local labor was to be hired for assembling the structures. The CCC put an emphasis on what we now refer to

as "buying local," in order to help the economies of the areas in which the CCC placed its camps.

From information contained in inspection reports, we know Camp S-67 consisted of the CCC's basic set of buildings, plus the bath house/latrine; an infirmary; a dynamite magazine; and what is thought to be an ice house adjacent to the site of the Mess Hall. The camp also had workshops, a warehouse, and motor pool area for the company's 23 trucks. The reports also suggest Camp S-67 had a baseball field, possibly located on a large, almost square and clearly leveled area, about 100 yards northeast of here, near the camp's main entrance.



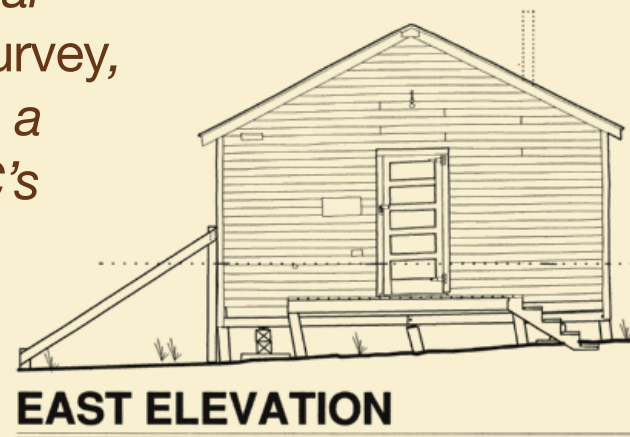
Of all Camp S-67 photos uncovered so far, this one (and a series of similar images, each with different CCC Boys in the foreground) provides the best glimpse into the overall layout of the camp. This is particularly important, since no camp map or layout has yet been found.



NORTH ELEVATION

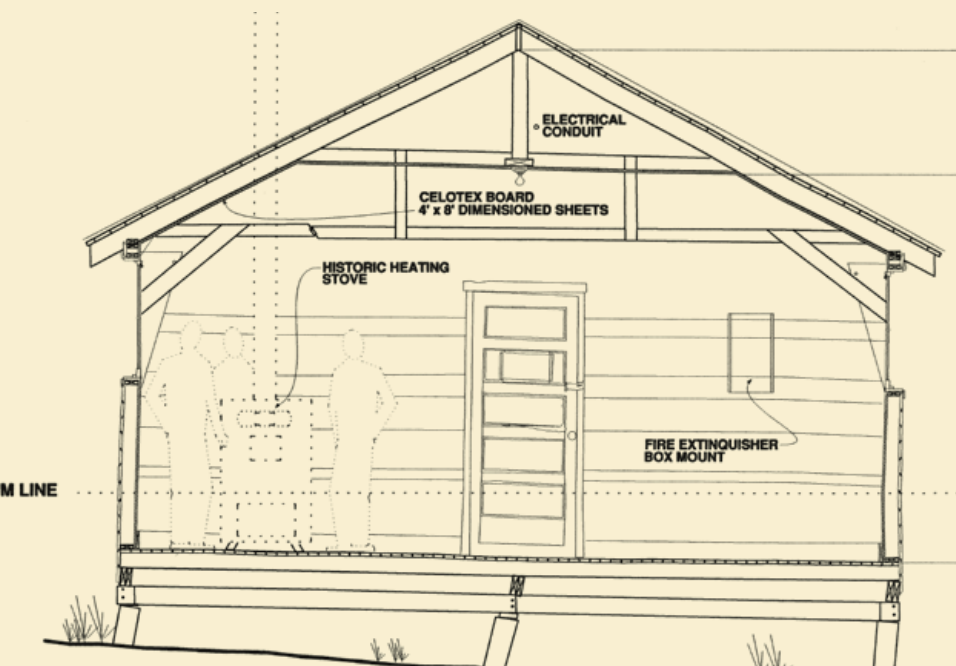
0' 5'-0" 10'-0"

These architect's drawings, part of the National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey, depict a still-standing barracks structure from a CCC camp in Colorado. Because of the CCC's emphasis on standardization and portability for its camp buildings, this bears very close resemblance to barracks structures from this camp, as seen in several of the photos on this page.



EAST ELEVATION

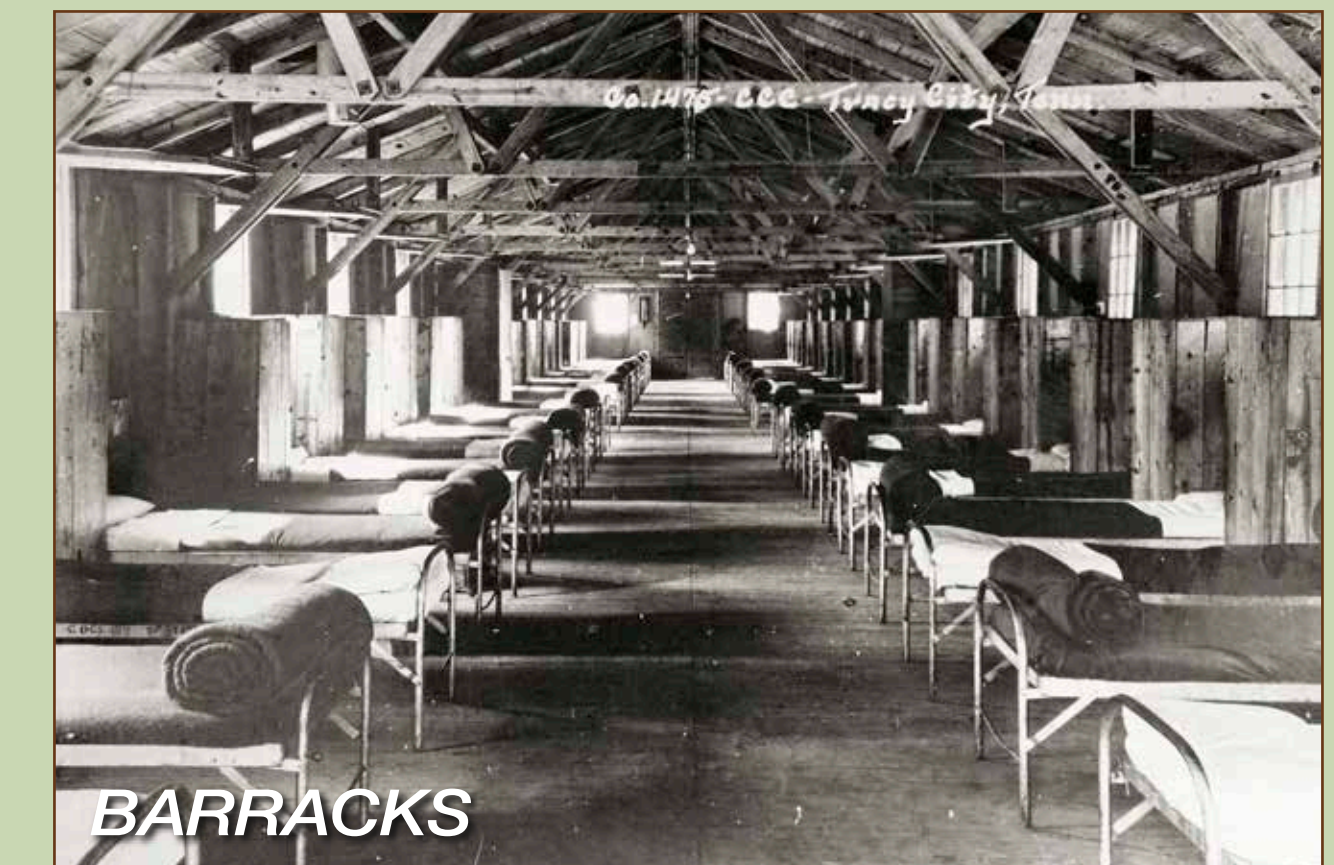
0' 5'-0" 10'-0"



SECTION A-A

A look inside the buildings of Camp S-67

There are a few good photos that provide a glimpse into the interiors of buildings at this camp. In the first two at right, you can clearly see that the roof trusses as held together with bolts, indicating that these were portable buildings. Camp inspection records confirm that this was, indeed, a portable camp.



BARRACKS

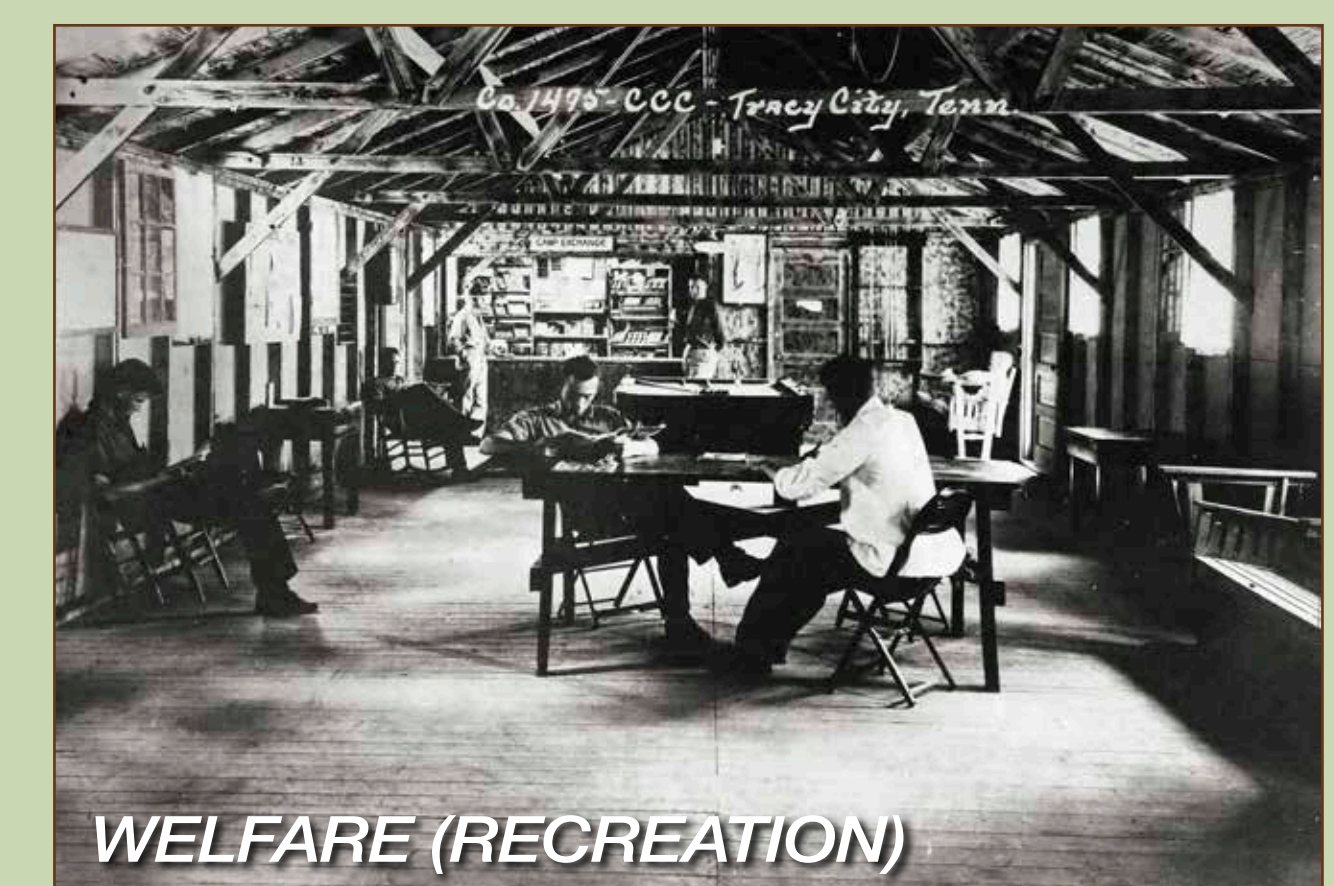


MESS HALL

Ca. 1936-38. Tracy City, Tenn.



WORKSHOP



WELFARE (RECREATION)

A Moment in Time

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

You're a Witness to History!

This photo, taken from the exact location where you are standing, shows CCC Boys lined up for roll-call, as well as a bugler, company officers, a flagpole and at least six buildings in the background (look carefully; many are hidden, back in the trees). While only fragmentary evidence of these buildings has been found, it is clear from this photo they were here.

This photo appears to have been taken in the very early days of the Camp (if not at its 1935 commissioning ceremony), because most of the trees still remained; later photos of the camp show all but the largest trees removed, with much more open area between buildings.

As you walk through the camp site today, notice how the trees have grown back in the years since the camp was abandoned in 1938. Try to imagine yourself taking a stroll through the camp as the bugler's call announced the raising of the colors, and the men of Company 1475 went about their daily routines.



As in the military, order and precision were values instilled in the young men of the CCC. These values were on display throughout the camp, from the carefully placed upright stones (above) bordering the path to the camp's headquarters building, to the neat rows of white posts (below) marking the edges of the camp's perimeter road.



A Vital Asset to the Region

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

To Change To Beauty

Hideous Scar On Cumberland to Receive Correction.

Tracy City, Feb. 8.—Through the combined efforts of the Tennessee Land Company, Damon Headen, the State Game Warden and James O. Hazard, State Forester, Tracy City, Tennessee will have a recreational area which will be one of the finest in the State. There will be provided fishing, boating and swimming facilities, picnicking grounds and scenic hiking trails for the public.

Eighty-one acres of gully land, the site of a State Prison Camp in the late sixties, was donated by the Tennessee Land Company to the State Fish and Game Department. Mr. Damon Headen, the head of this Department, was especially instrumental in securing the gift.

At the north end of the park two earth dams have been built. One was constructed under CWA supervision and the other which forms a fish-rearing pool was built by CCC labor from the Grundy Camp. The south end of the park is the scene of the most recent developments.

In general, the impression one retains after viewing the present park site is that of a mad jumble of abandoned coke ovens, barren heaps of coke cinders, smoldering coal-washing dumps, trackless narrow-gauge railroad beds, stagnated pools of water and scatterings of scrap iron and wagon-coal mines.

The black festering earth wound is to be rendered into a paradise under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry Division, thru the medium of CCC labor from Camp P-62. James O. Hazard has lent his whole-hearted support to the work which is being undertaken.

The key to the improvement of the area is an earth dam which is now under construction. It will be 440 feet long, 21 feet high, and will consist of a wooden core embanked on both sides with 15,000 cubic yards of dirt.

The dam when completed will surround 13 acres of water surface. It is estimated that 10,000 man days will be required to complete the project. Not included in the dam project proper but closely related to it will be the construction of fish-rearing pools.

In conjunction with this project a one-way traffic road is being built around the present and proposed water areas. Turn-outs at convenient and desirable places are being located. This road is being built with an eye to the esthetic. Also beautification, grading and planting work is planned and foot trails are to be established.

Thus through the public spirit of the Tennessee Land Company and the interest of two State Department heads, a community eye sore will be removed and means will be made available where a portion of the public can, in a wholesome way, spend their leisure time.

Article from the February 14, 1935 edition of the Sequachee Valley News

Dams, Lakes, Trails, Towers, Walls, Wires, Roads...

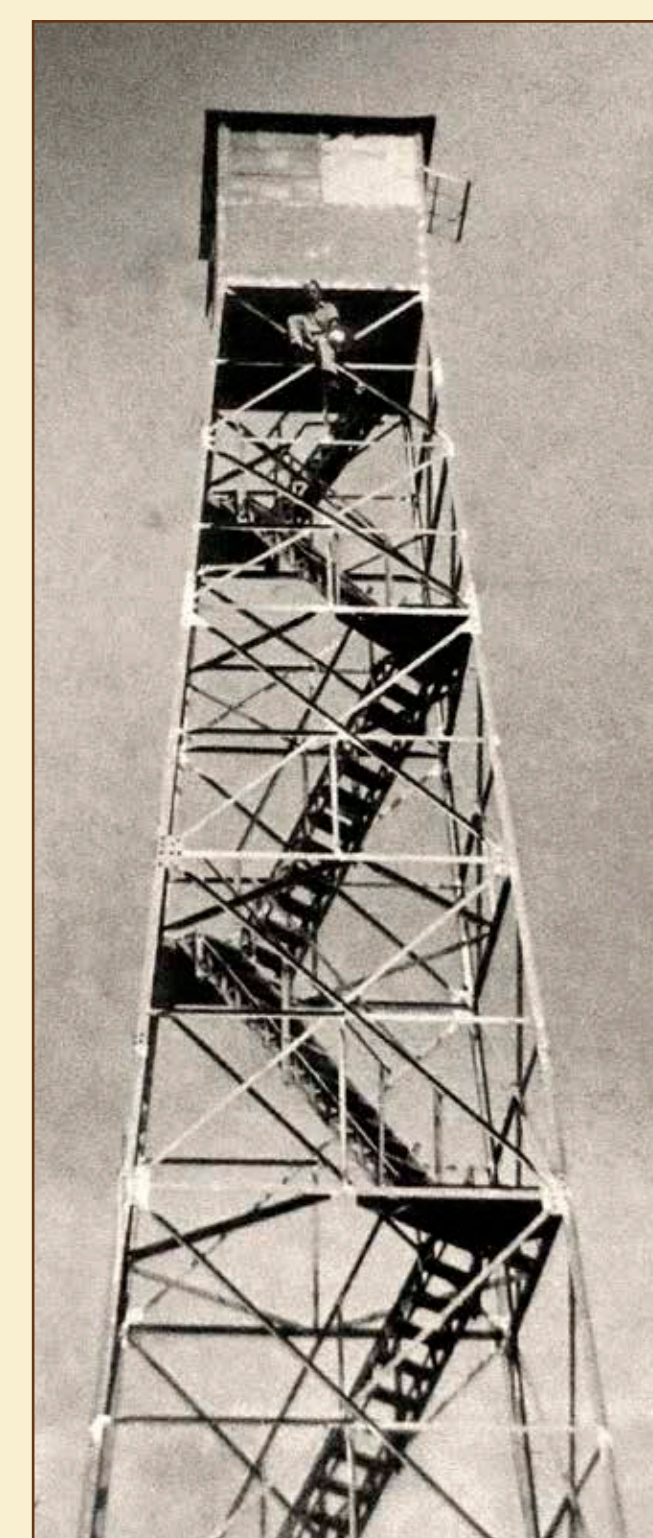
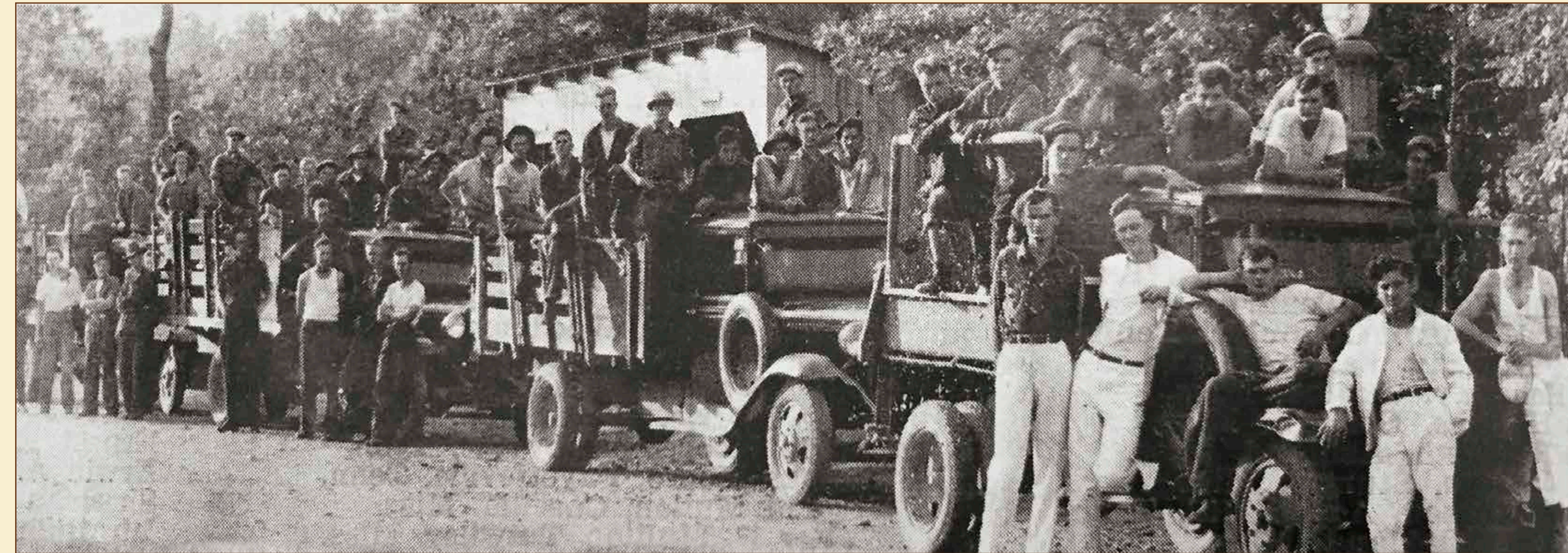
It was not uncommon for CCC companies to pick up and move; they were mandated to relocate wherever their work required, and by 1935, Company 1475's principal assignment was in the southern part of Grundy County, precipitating the move from its original camp, P-62 in Palmer, to S-67 in Grundy Forest.

The main reason for the move was the reclamation of the old Lone Rock Coke Ovens coal processing facility, just south of Tracy City. The highlight of the project would be construction of a new dam and lake. After the 154-acre property was donated to the State of Tennessee by the Tennessee Consolidated Coal Company, CCC Company 1475 reclaimed the land, built the dam that created the lake, planted new trees and foliage, and constructed recreational facilities.

To build Grundy Lakes, the CCC Boys had to move more than 15,000 yards of dirt, creating the new 13-acre main lake. The project also included rehabilitation of two smaller lakes for use as a fish hatchery.

This considerable effort transformed what had been a wasteland and an eyesore into new recreational opportunities for a community that had been devastated by the Great Depression. Today, Grundy Lakes is part of South Cumberland State Park.

But that wasn't all Company 1475 did while encamped at Grundy Forest. Company personnel constructed the first section of what we now know as the Fiery Gizzard Trail; built the first picnic shelter at the Grundy Forest Trailhead; fought numerous fires in the area, the



most notable being the blaze that nearly destroyed the Tracy City business district.

In January and February of 1937 Company 1475 was called to the Mississippi River, along with dozens of other CCC companies, to help control epic river flooding. It was rated by flood response leaders as one of the best organized companies in the endeavor.

By the time the company disbanded in 1942, it had accomplished all of those projects, as well as having erected seven fire towers and watchmen's cabins, including one on this site. It had strung 200 miles of telephone line to connect those towers to forestry headquarters; built 50 miles of mountain roads, 16 miles of gravel roads and 10 miles of graded road to further protect the forests from uncontrolled fires; and constructed several thousand feet of retention walls to control erosion.

No wonder the leadership of Tracy City was dismayed to learn that, in June of 1938, CCC Company 1475 would be packing up and leaving Grundy Forest for a new camp, S-80, at the northern edge of Franklin State Forest, near Sewanee.



TOP LEFT: Company 1475, loading up and ready to head out for another day of work. According to a 1937 inventory report, the company had a "fleet" of 23 trucks, 4 of which were listed as being in "good" condition; 10 being "fair;" and 9 being in "poor" condition. This photo appears to have been taken on the road to the camp's northern exit, just behind and to the left of where you stand while looking at the "Moment in Time" interpretive panel. The remains of that section of road are wide enough to have accommodated a staging area, a place to line up vehicles and load up the CCC Boys before heading out for a day of hard work.

TOP RIGHT: The CCC Boys of Company 1475 also learned to be linemen, setting poles and running telephone lines to connect the fire towers they had erected to area forestry headquarters, creating a network of fire-spotters with instantaneous communication.

ABOVE LEFT: Company 1475 crews putting the finishing touches on the new dam at "Tracy Lakes," what we now know as Grundy Lakes. The dam impounded a 13-acre lake, and required over 15,000 yards of dirt.

ABOVE RIGHT: In January of 1937, Company 1475 was dispatched to the Mississippi River, along with other CCC companies from across the region, to help control severe river flooding. Company 1475 was recognized as being one of the best-organized companies in the response.

Fire Towers and Fire Prevention

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

For the CCC, Fire Prevention was a hot topic

A major part of the CCC's mission was wildfire prevention and control, although their training allowed them to be incredibly helpful in fighting all kinds of fires in the communities where they served. In rural America, fire was an ever-present danger, as many still cooked and heated their homes with fire, and most buildings, in the days before building codes and fire resistant building materials, were extremely susceptible to burning.

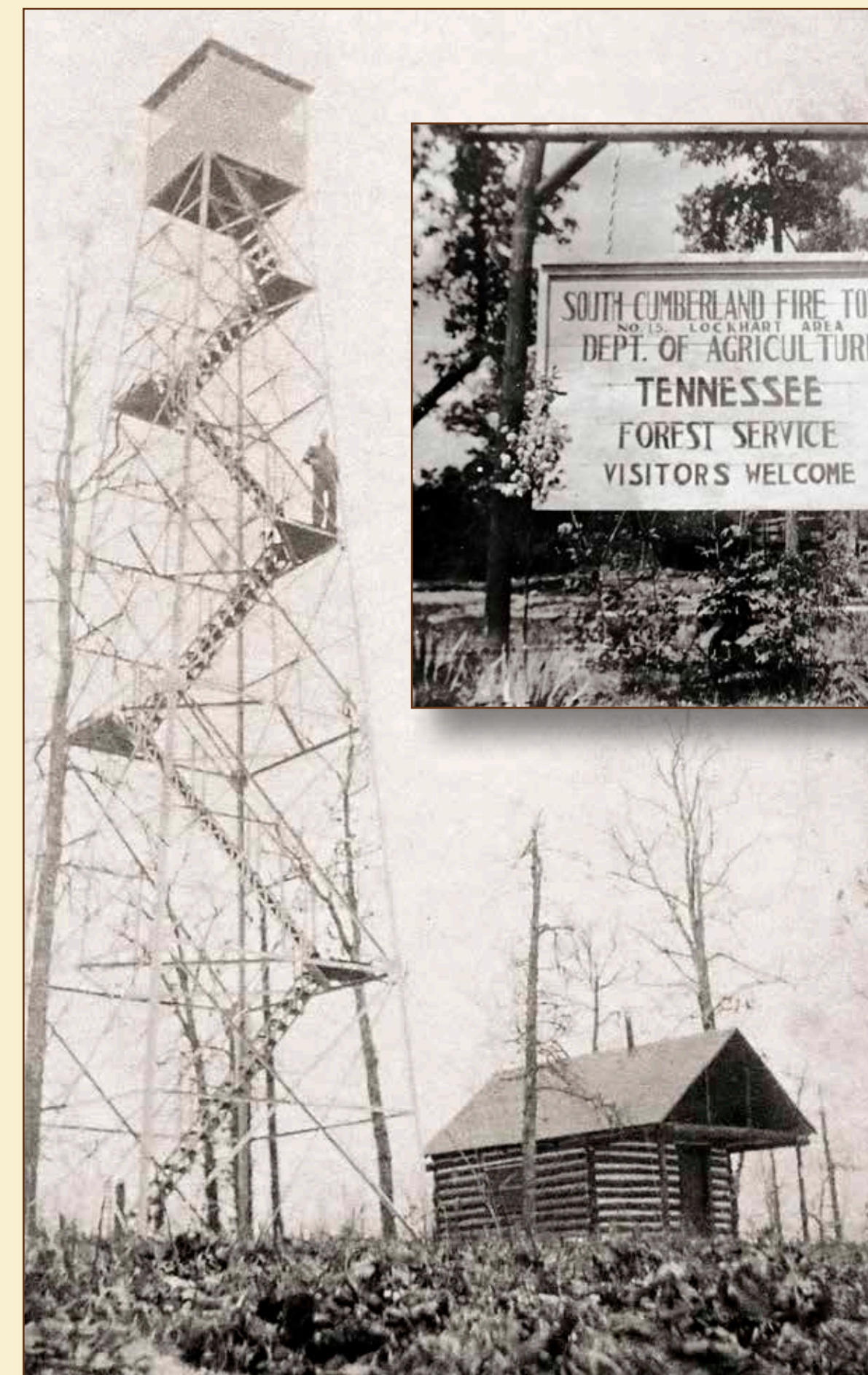
CCC company duties included both rural and urban fire-fighting. They helped fight fires in nearby Palmer, Monteagle and Whitwell. Perhaps most famously, on April 27, 1935, the company saved downtown Tracy City from destruction by a massive fire, later determined to be arson.

According to a news report in the *Grundy County Herald*, "Eighty CCC boys from Palmer, led by Captain Johnson, rushed to Tracy City about midnight and used their expert fire-fighting knowledge to turn the tide of almost certain defeat into victory for [many local businesses] almost certainly would have gone with the others had not exhausted town folks been aided by the CCC boys in their fight against the raging elements.

Many fire-fighters, local men and CCC boys suffered burns from flying sparks and flames, and ammonia fumes and smoke caused much discomfort. Lack of adequate water supply and fire-fighting apparatus handicapped the bucket brigades working on rooftops and beside nearby buildings. Danger from falling walls menaced the men at all times and made their job hazardous...

At this time the CCC boys and their helpers did the most valiant work, pouring streams of water on the wooden awnings over the sidewalk, covering windows and wooden surfaces with corrugated tin and canvas sheets kept moist with water..."

Company 1475's outstanding work that night endeared the CCC Boys to Tracy City residents, beginning a close working relationship between the community and the company that only grew stronger after Company 1475 moved to its new home at Grundy Forest, about two months later.



The first few fire towers erected by the CCC may have been made of wood, but the U.S. Forest Service, who utilized a great deal of CCC's services, quickly switched over to metal girder towers, many of which still stand today.



This is one of the seven fire towers (and accompanying watchmen's cabins) erected by the young men of Company 1475 in locations across the southern Cumberland Plateau in the 1930s. The men of CCC Company 1475 also built dams, roads, trails and even ran telephone lines during the CCC's presence in this area from 1933 to 1942.



Downtown Tracy City following the April 27, 1935 fire. The damage could have been much worse, had the CCC Boys not arrived from Palmer to help fight the blaze.

What were these foundations?

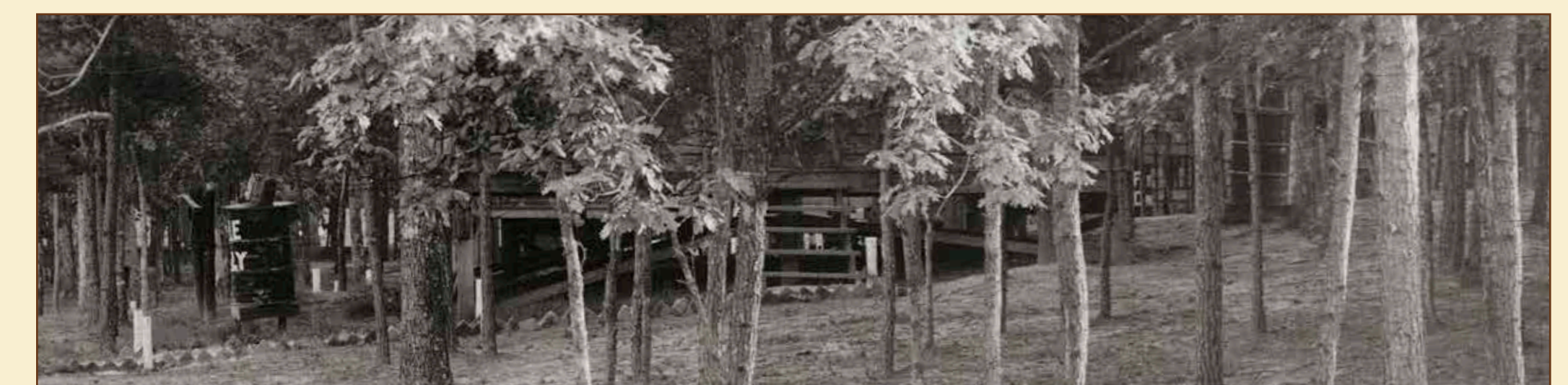
The six block-like concrete structures were anchors for the fire tower that Company 1475 erected here in the mid-1930s. The wider concrete blocks anchored the staircase to the tower. Typically, for each tower, the company would also build a watchmen's cabin at the tower's base. The small concrete pad, to your left, is believed to have held this watchmen's cabin. Look carefully and you'll see a clay-tile pipe in the middle of the far wall, which may have been the drain for a sink.

Turn around, look closely at the contour of the ground, near the trail, and you'll notice one corner of a carefully-leveled rectangular area, roughly 40 by 80 feet in size, perfectly proportioned to serve as a multi-purpose outdoor recreational court, where tennis, volleyball or half-court basketball could have been played.

Camp inspection reports from 1935 and 1937 listed all of those sports, as well as baseball, softball, football, horseshoes and horizontal bars as outdoor recreational options for the CCC Boys of Company 1475.



The white box in this photo outlines the rectangular leveled area, just behind you, that may have been a multi-purpose recreational court.



The CCC took fire safety very seriously. Large 55-gallon barrels, painted black and boldly labeled "Fire Only," were scattered across the Camp. They were always filled with water, to be used in the event one of the Camp's wood-frame buildings caught fire. How many fire barrels can you see in this photo?

Grease and Discipline

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

No way out of a slippery situation...

Directly across the perimeter road is a rectangular trough with a drain in its center. While no specific mention of this structure has been found, there is reason to believe that it was the kitchen's grease trap, which typically had a container sitting atop the concrete, into which greasy dishwater and other kitchen effluent was drained.

This theory is based primarily on recollections from CCC alumni, many of whom have vivid memories of being ordered to clean out the grease trap, particularly after having been caught violating company rules. Said one alum: "Cleaning out the grease trap was a dreaded punishment for any CCC Boy."

Said another: "Have you ever experienced a grease trap? It's like changing a diaper, only it's bigger and messier! If you had to clean out that grease trap a few times, you didn't cause any more discipline problems."

And another: "My assignments were to clean the latrine and the grease trap down from the mess hall. The latter job was the worst, as all the fats and grease from the cooking process were collected in a stinking stew-box installed for that purpose, about 50 feet down from the Mess Hall..."

The universal theme is that the CCC boys hated cleaning them out, and that such duty was often assigned as punishment for misbehaving.

Every Mess Hall kitchen had a grease trap; a few were actually located beneath the kitchen area, under the dining hall. Judging from the descriptions of their notorious smell, however, it seems clear that most were placed some distance behind (and downhill from) the kitchen, which is where it is thought this camp's grease trap was located.



While these lads from Company 1475 were simply jesting for the camera, most CCC Boys knew that fighting, or violating company rules, could result in severe punishment: cleaning out the Mess Hall grease trap!



The Company 1475 grease trap, as it appeared soon after being uncovered in 2018.



Former South Cumberland State Park Ranger Park Greer (left) works with a volunteer to take measurements of the "Puzzling Platform."

... and other puzzling pieces around the camp.

Not all the "history mysteries" at Camp S-67 lie along your path today. There are a number of other interesting, yet puzzling artifacts and features in need of an explanation.

For example, there is the "Puzzling Platform," a small, tiered stone structure, well away from the center of the camp (photo below). Could this have been a stand where a bugler stood to summon the men of Company 1475 to roll-call; a convenient loading dock, where the stepping-stones made it easier to get heavy items out of the back of a truck; or the base for a water or other storage tank?

Not far away, on a gentle hillside, there is an elongated depression in the earth, flanked on one side by a low stone wall. Is it a partial foundation of a long-gone structure? A "Baffling Basement?" Or simply a retaining wall? If so, why is it here, away from the center of camp?



Or are both of these stone edifices much older than Camp S-67, perhaps part of an early settler family's homestead?

And what about a pile of bulldozed cement and rubble, which also contained shards of clay tile pipe, like the one you see here? Is this what happened to the remaining pieces of Camp

S-67 after the portable buildings were disassembled and taken to Company 1475's new camp in Sewanee? Or, because this area was essentially "no man's land" for the 40+ years between the camp's closing and the creation of South Cumberland State Park, did it simply become a dumping ground for unwanted debris?

Being a "history detective" is challenging, but also rewarding. Think you'd like to try solving one of the CCC Camp mysteries? If you're between the ages of 10 and 21, and have an idea, or would like to learn how to help the Friends of South Cumberland on our next "history mystery," send us an email, or leave your contact information at the front desk of the South Cumberland State Park Visitor Center, on Highway 41 in Monteagle.

What do you think?

We'd like to hear your ideas! Email us: FriendsOfSouthCumberland@gmail.com.

Keeping it Cool

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

Even in the Age of Refrigeration, the Ice House still had a role.

To keep food cold, the CCC camp did have modern refrigeration, but in those days, the “ice boxes” were small, and a kitchen that had to feed 200 or more people every day needed to keep more food cold than even multiple refrigerators could hold.

Although there is no specific documentation to this effect, it appears the foundation in front of you was, in fact, that of an ice house.

The tell-tale clue is in the concrete floor itself: Ice houses typically had part of their floors reinforced to hold the great weight of the large ice blocks that were brought in to maintain the cool of these small buildings (photo at right).

Walls of ice houses were typically filled with sawdust, a good insulator (inset photo), and had short walls, and a heavily-insulated roof, as in this photo (below) of another CCC ice house in Michigan. The small drain in the floor let water from the melting water exit the building.

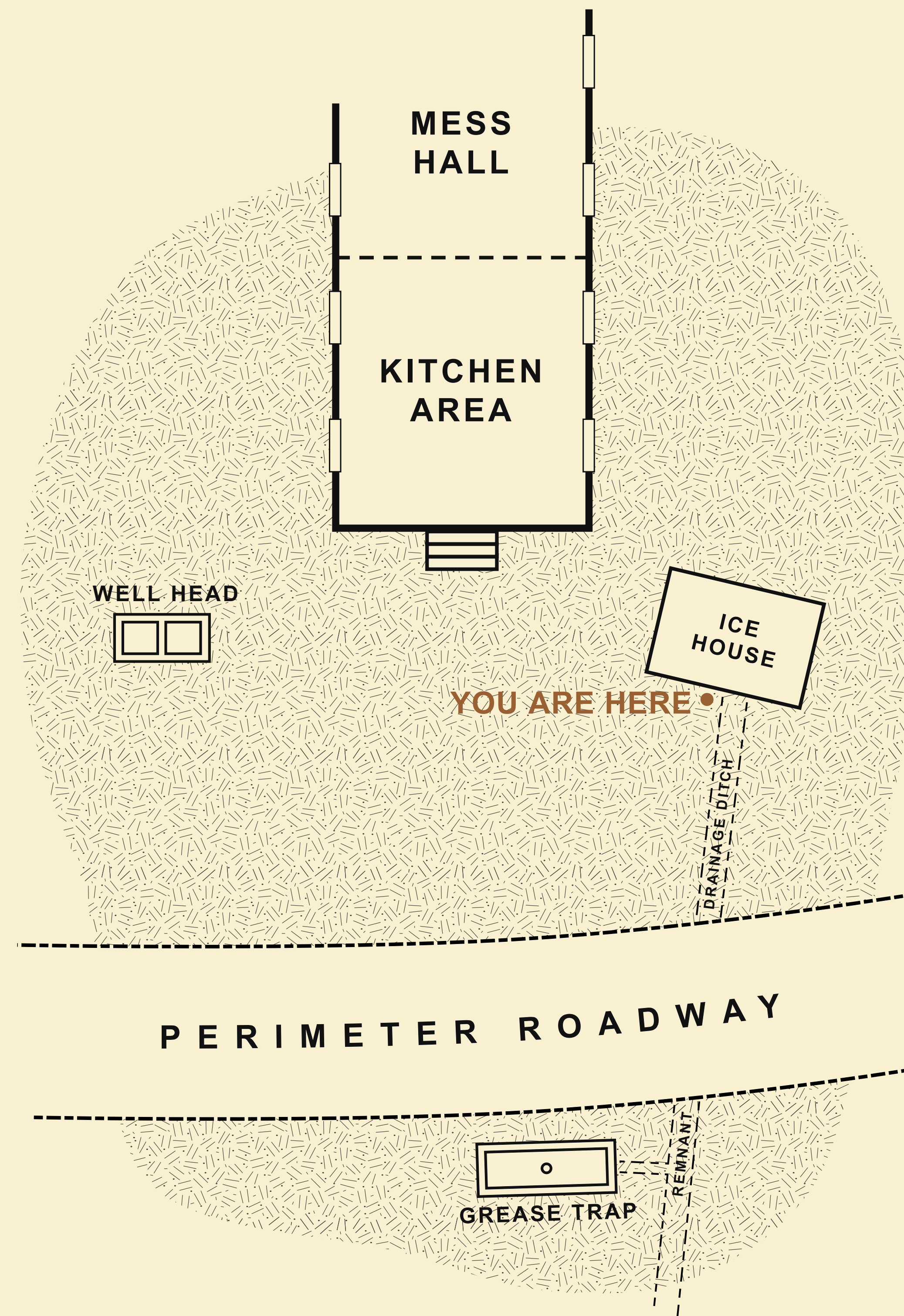


Cutaway view of an ice house wall, showing the sawdust fill typically used as insulation.

Logically, the ice house would be located near the camp’s Dining Hall kitchen, so cooks could easily retrieve cold items at meal prep time. This structure’s location, in close proximity to what is believed to be the well and the grease trap for the kitchen, further reinforces the theory that the kitchen area, at the back of the Dining Hall, was close by.



Though the ice house at Camp S-67 likely had wood siding rather than stone, the general shape and design of this CCC ice house, in Michigan, was likely quite similar.



This conceptual diagram shows the proximity of the three kitchen-related structures (well-head, ice house and grease trap) to the presumed former location of the Camp S-67 Mess Hall and kitchen.

(NOT TO SCALE)



This feature, embedded in the concrete floor of what is believed to be an ice house/food cooler, is thought to be special concrete reinforcement to bear the extra weight of huge blocks of ice, placed inside the small building to keep food chilled. The small trench, middle-left, was part of a drain that collected melting water from the ice; a clay-tile pipe carried the water to a drainage ditch outside the building.

What Became of this Camp?

Civilian Conservation Corps Company 1475, Camp S-67, Tracy City



South Cumberland State Park

A community that didn't want to see the CCC Boys leave

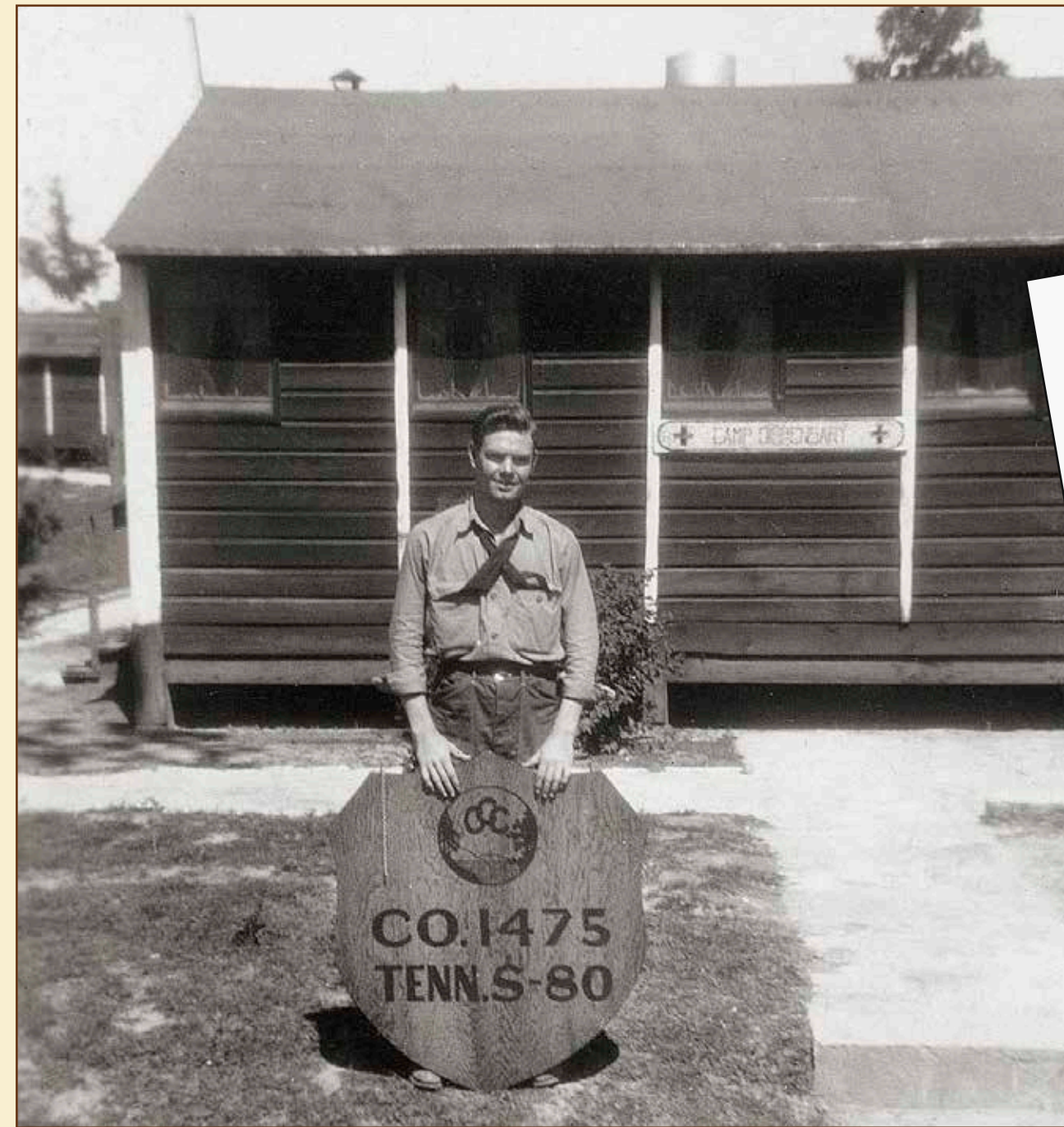
In spite of local pleas to keep Company 1475 in Tracy City, the company was moved, in June of 1938, to Camp S-80, south of Sewanee, at the northern edge of what is now Franklin State Forest, where it was completed many projects, including part of the first modern road from South Pittsburg to Sewanee — what is known today as Jumpoff Road. Their assignments also included construction of a fire tower, watchman's cabin, roads and trails within the State Forest. A camp inspection report also indicated that a variety of work was done at the University of the South.

If you drive down US 41A to Cowan, you'll see guard rails and retaining walls built by Company 1475; visitors to the Sherwood Forest area of South Cumberland State Park drive down "Old CCC Road" to reach the park's trailhead. You can still see dams, shelters and other structures built by the young men of Company 1475 in and around Sewanee, and on the University of the South campus.

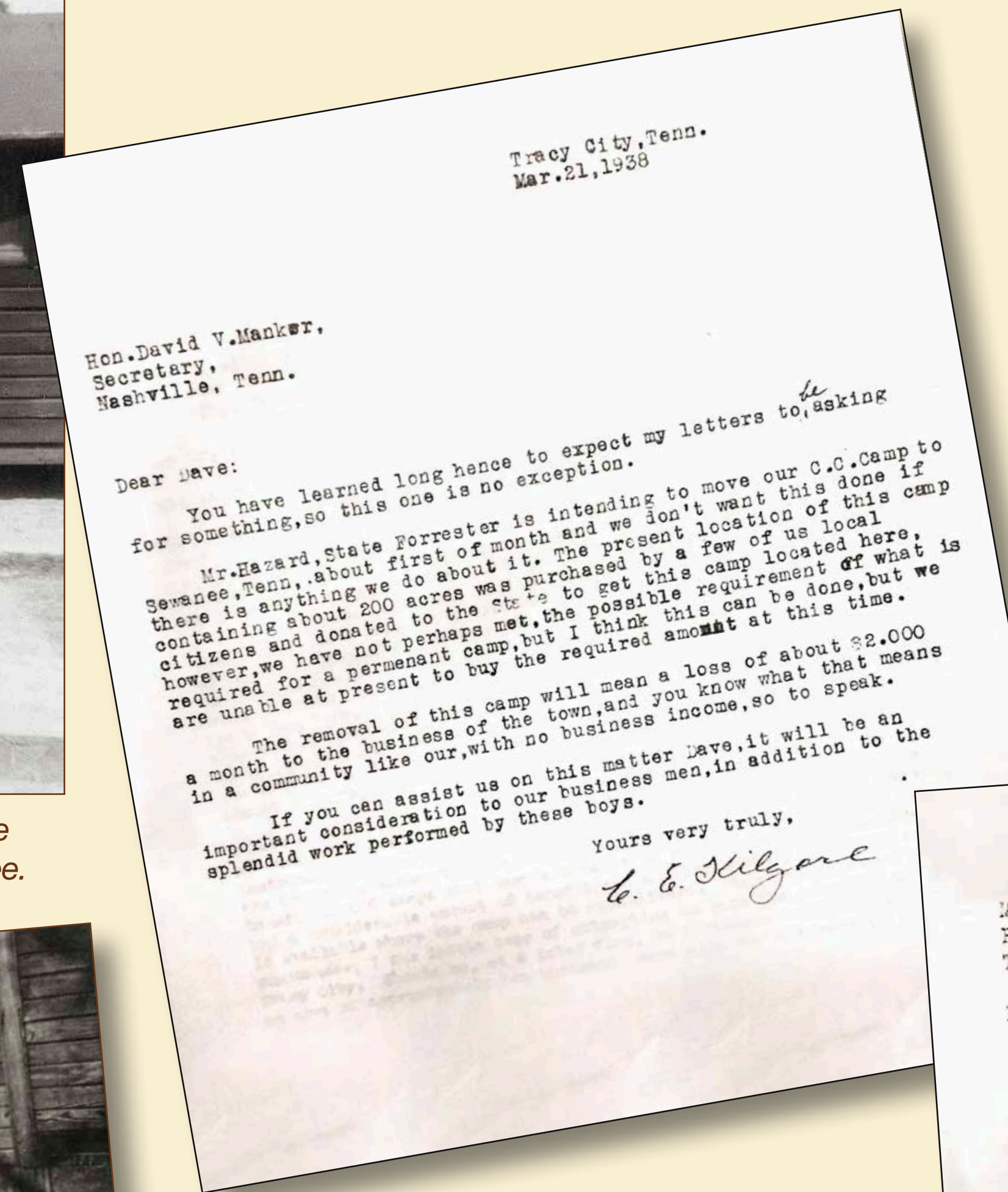
Company 1475 was officially disbanded when the CCC program ended in 1942, due to the onset of World War II. Because of the war effort, the CCC's portable buildings were used by the military to quickly build training bases. It is thought that many of Company 1475's buildings were moved to Camp Forrest in Tullahoma (now Arnold Air Force Base), originally a U.S. Army training facility that became a prisoner of war camp for German soldiers later in the war.

Many of the men who had participated in the CCC program used the skills they'd learned to become effective military leaders. It was said that if a recruit came to the armed forces with a CCC background, he could count on a higher starting grade or a quick promotion up through the ranks, because the military understood the value of his CCC experience.

According to the 1937 CCC Annual, "Many men have been taught to read and write and have gone back into civil life better prepared to make a living. Hundreds of men have been taught trades which have benefited them in securing jobs. Practically all men are better trained in discipline, character, mental alertness and associations with their fellow men than they were before coming to the Company."



This photo shows the front of the infirmary, a portable building at Company 1475's new home near Sewanee.



ABOVE: Letter requesting that the State Forester not be allowed to relocate Company 1475 from Tracy City.

RIGHT: Reply letter from the State Forester, diplomatically explaining why the relocation was going to proceed.



Mr. C. E. Kilgore
Postmaster
Tracy City, Tennessee

Dear Mr. Kilgore:

This is in reply to your letter of March 20.

When I succeeded in having the CCC camp located at Tracy City, I had great hopes that the State Forest which you and others purchased to donate to the state could be enlarged by the donation of other out-over lands to a sufficient size to justify permanent improvements and a simple, yet effective, type of administration. The Tracy City Lakes Project gave us a definite reason at the time for the possibility of securing added acreage with Herman Baggenstoss, R. K. Adams, and others, and I know of some definite efforts on the part of your group to secure a large forest area. However, nothing has been accomplished and the camp has been there for a long time. It is against the policy of the federal government to have a camp located at a considerable distance from the main bulk of its work. Accordingly, it has seemed best to the federal authorities to move the camp to the border of Marion and Franklin Counties where a considerable amount of work is available on the new State Forest.

I have always been pleased when it was possible to locate a camp in a community where its presence would be appreciated and was glad to be instrumental in getting the present camp located at Tracy City. However, the federal government feels that so many communities have not had the benefit of CCC camps that they should be moved whenever one community has had a considerable amount of benefit and another equally deserving community is available where the camp can be established. Under the present circumstances, I see little hope of attempting to have the camp remain at Tracy City. Should we, at a later time, be fortunate enough to secure an area of approximately ten thousand acres as a State Forest in connection with the present Brandy Forest, I will be glad to make another effort to have a camp established there. The success of this effort, however, will depend upon the extent to which the federal government is able to make camps available for such purposes.

With much appreciation of your work on this matter in the past, I am

Very sincerely yours

J. C. HAZARD
State Forester