



The Society Scroll

Newsletter of
The Ocean County Historical Society
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"Telling The Stories Of Ocean County"

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GOVERNMENT IN THE PINELANDS

CIVILIAN CONSERVATION CORPS P. 39

Excerpted from Living With The Pine Barrens by Jack Cervetto 1908-1995

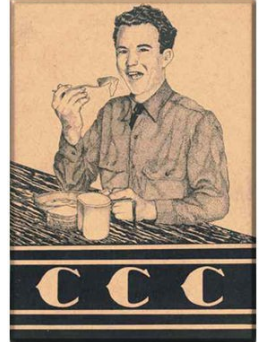
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1939 was the last year that Warren Grove was a quiet peaceful town. In the 1930's a Conservation Corps of young men was established and C.C. Camps laid out in state forest areas. The closest ones to Warren Grove were Penn State Camp and Manahawkin Camp. The supervisors of these camps were U.S. Army officers. These camps consisted of four long sleeping barracks, one large mess hall, one officers' quarters, a shower and latrine building and a tool shop. During the depression the young men in the cities had nothing to do. When the C.C. Camp offer was made to them these camps were soon filled. They were well fed and worked about six hours a day on projects laid out for them. These young men received some money also. The camp just west of Warren Grove is the one I am most familiar with. The main project was the building of a large lake due to the building of a dam across the Wading River Swamp. About midway across the dam a so-called bridge was made with flood gates to regulate water in the lake. This dam was



called the High Bridge Dam. On the west of this is the Wading River Swamp and on the east side of High Bridge Dam is Oswego Lake and also the continuation of the swamp to the head of it north of Howardville. The boys in the camp also improved many roads in the state forest. On the north side of the lake a large picnic area with latrines and a large roof supported by a square timber frame was constructed. A number of picnic tables were put under this roof and a large number of tables were placed around this picnic area. A large hand pump was there with an endless supply of good water. Many of the boys who helped build this recreational area came here many times years later -- first with their wife, then with children and still later with their grandchildren.



Manahawkin C.C. Camp had their boys working on the meadows digging ditches to drain mosquito breeding area. There was a double camp in Lebanon State Forest and one in Bass River State Forest. Both of these camps developed recreational areas with swimming and picnic areas. They also improved roads in their respective forests.

Living With The Pine Barrens by Jack Cervetto 1908-1995 is available for purchase at the Ocean County Historical Society.

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