

INTERVIEWEE NAME: ART JETER

Interviewer: Bob Schierbaum

Date: January 3, 2002

DNR: My name is Bob Schierbaum and today I am interviewing Art Jeter in Harlan, IA.

DNR: Art, nice to talk to you today.

Art: Thank you.

DNR: Have a few questions for you about your days in the CCCs. Could you start off by telling me where your hometown was?

Art: My home was Hatfield, MO.

DNR: Do you recall how old you were when you enrolled in the CCCs?

Art: I was 18. I waited until I was 18 and went in when I was 18.

DNR: What did you do before you enrolled in the CCCs?

Art: Pick up a little work here and a little work there. There just wasn't any work then. This was Roosevelt's way of getting rid of the depression.

DNR: Why did you enroll in the CCC program?

Art: To have something to do, a job.

DNR: How did you find out about the program?

Art: I guess my dad found out for me. I waited until I was 18. Some of the boys lied about their ages.

DNR: What camps were you assigned to?

Art: I was at a camp at Bethany, MO (#736), and then there was a camp at Moapa, NV – right next to an Indian reservation.

DNR: You said there was a third one.

Art: Yeah, in Grimes Pass, ID.

DNR: You said you were in 3 different camps. Were you transferred from one camp to another?

Art: No, There were 2 different camps. I worked at Bethany, Mo and we went to Ft. Lenardwood and then on a train to the one at Moapa, NV. I got out of the CCCs camp for 6 months and I signed up again and went to Grimes Pass, Idaho.

DNR: Do you recall what the dates were that you went in the camps?

Art: I was 18 years old. 87 now –

DNR: We can figure that out – first at Bethany – then in Nevada.

How long was that each – was that a year?

Art: No, we were at Bethany, Mo a year and a half. We went to Moapa, Nevada from there for 6 months. Then I mustered out and came back to Leavenworth, KS. And I signed up again in 6 months and went to Grimes Pass, Idaho.

DNR: And how long were you in Idaho?

Art: Was in Idaho 6 months. Was in CCCs for 2 ½ years all together.

DNR: Can you tell me about your first day at camp? Was it like an induction in the army? Did they give you the haircut and shots and things like that?

Art: No, it wasn't like that, we got shots, but they didn't cut our hair. We were allowed to have our hair the way we had it.

DNR: Was there anything else that they did, did they give you tests to see what you were good at or any other sort of thing like that?

Art: No, not as I recall, nothing like that. Just manual labor that we done. In Grimes Pass, Idaho the last 6 months I was a jack hammer operator. They gave me a bonus for that.

DNR: Going back to when you first came in, did they give you like shaving equipment or anything else like that, any personal items?

Art: They gave us a razor, toothbrush, toiletries, soap dish w/a bar of soap. We could always go get more when we ran out.

DNR: How about towels and washcloths, were you issued some or was there some like in where you took a shower or something like that, that was for your use.

Art: We each received our own towels and washcloths.

DNR: How about uniforms, were you issued uniforms on your first day?

Art: Well they weren't much for looks the uniforms, mostly not the right size, had to make them fit.

DNR: What kind of uniforms were they?

Art: Mostly the ones that you really worked in, they were work clothes.

DNR: Were they bib overalls?

Art: No, they weren't bib. They just came up to the waist.

DNR: Like a jeans material.

Art: yes

DNR: Were they blue in color or do you recall what color they were?

Art: They were blue.

DNR: O.K.

Art: But then they later issued us some kaki that were suppose to be just for dress.

DNR: O.K.

ART: Everybody got the same size. You might be a big guy and you would get a little uniform and you would trade it with someone else to get a better one that would fit you a little better.

DNR: I see, probably you just came through the line and you got the one that was on top whether it fit you or not.

Art: You still got it and had to make it work with someone else.

DNR: Were those wool uniforms?

Art: Yeah they were wool. The blue ones were denim.

DNR: They were denim.

Art: And the others were wool.

DNR: With the denim, was there a shirt involved too?

Art: Yep, there was a shirt.

DNR: Do you recall anything about the shirt?

Art: No, not really.

DNR: O.K., that's fine. Were you able to bring any personal items with you to the camp?

Art: We were not allowed to have a car.

DNR: No car.

Art: If you were caught operating a car, you could be kicked out. Because they figured if you were able to buy a car, you could make it on your own.

DNR: Sure. Did you have a car when you went in?

Art: No.

DNR: O.K.

Art: My dad didn't even have a car.

DNR: Oh really, o.k.

Art: When we got to go to Bethany somewhere for Patsy that was 30 miles from Hatfield to Bethany.

DNR: Did you have a team then, a team of horses or something, is that how you got to town or not?

Art: Well, as I recall I think my dad's cousin Adrian had a car – an old model T. And took us down to Bethany. And there were some boys in there that I could catch a ride back home with them once in a while. They didn't have a car, but their dad would pick them up.

DNR: They didn't have a car.

Art: They didn't have a car.

DNR: Were there any items that you were not allowed to keep, things that you could not bring to camp – except the car.

Art: Can't recall anything except the car.

DNR: Where were you put up as far as lodging?

Art? We had the barracks built.

DNR: You showed the picture of the barracks. Any idea how many beds would have been in the barracks?

Art: I think around 30.

DNR: Around 30 –o.k.

Art: Had the beds so your head would be up here and the other guy's heads were be on the inside.

DNR: So the beds were alternated.

Art: Yeah.

DNR: I have seen some pictures of the war and stuff where they had mosquito netting and things, did you have anything like that?

Art: No.

DNR: O.k. You were at 3 different camps, were there barracks at all 3 of the camps?

Art: Yeah.

DNR: All about the same, about 30 people in each barracks.

Art: I forget, hard for me to remember. I think there were about 5 or 6 barracks as I recall it. That's why we called them the barracks.

DNR: What did you have for heat in the barracks?

Art: Wood stoves.

DNR: How many were there in a barrack?

Art: About 3.

DNR: 3 in a barracks?

Art: Yeah. You had to get your own wood and you took turns firing the stoves.

DNR: Sure. Did you have to actually cut the trees for wood or was there some odd?

Art: It was mostly hauled in to us.

DNR: It was hauled in to you. Ok Who supplied your bedding and your sleepwear?

Art: That would come from headquarters.

DNR: And what did you sleep in – did you just sleep in your skivvies?

Art: We weren't issued pajamas or anything like that. Mostly slept in your underwear.

DNR: O.k. and what did you have for blankets? I assume you have blankets instead of sleeping bags.

Art: Oh, yes.

DNR: O.k. What, a couple of sheets and a couple of blankets or something like that?

Art: yes. We were issued sheets once a week. And the blankets you took care of yourself. If you wanted to clean them, it was up to you.

DNR: Do you remember any of your bunkmates, any of the people who were in the same barracks as you?

Art: Oh, yes, I remember them. I don't recall what happened to them or where they went.

DNR: Do you recall any names?

Art: Yes, I had a good friend in Bethany and with the Bethany CCCs by the name of Glenn Mathis.

DNR: Glenn Mathis.

Art: Yes

DNR: o.k.

Art: When we went to Idaho, there was a Bob Creeder; he was from Bethany, MO.

DNR: Bob Creeder?

Art: Yes. And his dad was in the 3 c camp there at Bethany – one called the local experience man. Actually what he done was, worked in the kitchen cooking one thing or another.

DNR: I see, his dad was a LEM. Good. Any other names you can think of?

Art: A lot of them went by nicknames. As I was telling my grandson the other night, I was kind of raised just a little ways north of where the James boys lived and we had a boy in there by the name of Younger. We called him "Stud".

DNR: So you called him Stud Younger. Do you think he was related to the Youngers or not?

Art: He was a distance relative.

DNR: He was a relative.

Art: Of course the Youngers and the James boys were cousins.

DNR: Sure. How did you guys get along?

Art: I think good. I don't know, seems like if anyone got in an argument, they mostly just made a circle and you just fought it out among yourselves. They more or less let you run your own camp.

DNR: I heard other places where they said if you had an argument, they had you strap on the boxing gloves.

Art: Yes.

DNR: Did they have boxing gloves there?

Art: Yes, they had boxing gloves for you.

DNR: Or did you just fight it out bare fists?

Art: Mostly with gloves.

DNR: Mostly with gloves, O.K.

Art: Unless something would happen real quick – sometimes they would get a black eye.

DNR: Can you tell me about the food in the mess hall?

Art: Mostly it was good. We had a little problem with the Army Lt. that was with us. What you called a mess Sergeant. He was spending his money for something else besides something for us to eat, so we went on a little strike down there at Bethany for a while.

DNR: Do you know where he was spending the money?

Art: He had a horse that he kept close to camp.

DNR: Did your strike work? Did you get more money for your food?

Art: He fed us or we wouldn't go out to work until they fed us.

DNR: Food is pretty important. Do you recall who did the cooking?

Art: It was the guys, if you wanted to sign up for what they called KP work, you could work in the camp and not have to go out in the field and work. In Bethany we learn building pits and checks and soil raising deals.

DNR: Do you remember anything about holiday meals? Did they have like special things like for Thanksgiving?

Art: Yes

DNR: Would they have had turkey or that sort of thing? Do you recall any meal in particular?

Art: I don't remember exactly what they had now. Mostly if you stayed in camp they would feed you like big baloney or one thing or another. Which I liked, we hadn't had a whole lot of meat to eat at home for a while.

DNR: Were they any particular meals that you liked better than others? Or were you just happy to be fed?

Art: Yes, it was mostly good. They did a good job of feeding you good food. If they would have eggs for breakfast, they'd go by and get them warmed so they weren't cold, or anything like that. My cousin was in the same camp at Bethany, MO too. His name was Jones, Raymond Jones. Getting you all mixed up.

DNR: That is fine – that was a cousin.

Art: Yes

DNR: Is he still around today?

Art: His dad and my mother were brother and sister.

DNR: Is he still living or not?

Art: No, he is dead. In fact, I am about the only one left around; the rest of my family is about all gone. I had 3 sisters that lived in Mt Ayr.

DNR: That is what we are finding, why we wish we had done this 10 years ago.

We would have got a lot more people to talk to.

Art: A lot of them are dead and gone.

DNR: What did you have for lunch when you were out in the fields? Did they bring you sandwiches and stuff when you were working?

Art: Almost every hour they would come out on what they called a mess run. We would have sandwiches and coffee.

DNR: In the morning when you had breakfast, did they line you up like in formation or something, and then march you in to eat or anything like that, or was it more informal when you went in to eat.

Art: It was different. Once in a while to get served in camp, you would have to line up in order to go in and other times you could just go in and out at a certain time. Sometimes we would get on the work truck.

DNR: Did you have like trays or something that they put the food on or did they serve you at your table or how did that work, did you have to go through like a cafeteria line or something?

Art: Yes, you would have a tray that you go through and they would put the food on the tray. Like in Idaho, we were out fighting forest fires for a while and they would have fried potatoes and a little bit of everything out there.

DNR: They would take it out to you?

Art: Yes

DNR: Do you recall when your payday was?

Art: It was always on the first.

DNR: Do you recall how much you were paid?

Art: I was paid \$30 supposedly, but \$25 went to my folks. I got \$5 a month. My dad and mother fed the kids with it. The \$25.

DNR: How did you spend your \$5?

Art: Mostly at what they called the PX. I would buy candy bars or something like that. I didn't smoke because I didn't have enough money to smoke, I guess.

DNR: Now days they would probably have soda pop and that sort of thing. Did they have soda pop back then at the PX?

Art: No, mostly you could buy cigarettes there or buy candy bars.

DNR: Candy bars and cigarettes.

Art: Cigarettes and I don't recall no soda like we buy now.

DNR: Did they have anything like beer or anything like that at the PX, did they?

Art: Not beer, you had to go down town to get that.

DNR: What were your days off?

Art: You worked 5 days a week.

DNR: So did you get the weekend off?

Art: We got Saturday and Sunday off. If you could catch a ride home, you could go home on the weekend.

DNR: Did you always go home?

Art: Not always.

DNR: If you stayed in camp what would you have done?

Art: I guess play ball or exercise some way. That was one of the good thing about it, we had activies that you could run one day and hold.

DNR: Did they have – you said play ball – would that have been like softball or hardball.

Art: A little bit of both.

DNR: Anything else, any other sports activities?

Art: Oh, tag football, anything that you could run at and get your exercise.

DNR: How about basketball? Did they have anything like that?

Art: Didn't have any basketball courts.

DNR: Anything like horse shoes or anything like that?

Art: Yes, they did have although I didn't participate. It was available.

DNR: Anything else, was there anything like pool tables or ping-pong tables?

Art: They had pingpong tables. We didn't have any pool tables that size. They were more expensive to purchase.

DNR: How were Sunday observed in camp? Did they have formalized church services or anything like that in camp?

Art: We had a chaplain. He didn't hold a regular meeting as such. If you wanted to talk to him, he was available.

DNR: Was he there every Sunday or was he on a rotating basis?

Art: I think he was mostly on a rotating basis. He had more than one camp.

DNR: Going back to the sports – you just played softball or hardball.

Art: Yes.

DNR: Can you tell me about any personal conflicts you might have had with someone else and how you dealt with it? Did you ever get in the boxing room with anybody?

Art: Yes, there was a time or two I would in get in a little skirmish with somebody. I was always sticking up for the little guy. I was pretty good size guy. If somebody was being mistreated I tried getting in and evening the score.

DNR: Can you think of any ways people would pick on others – you mention picking on the little guy, what form of harassment would they have done?

Art: We had an incident, where the guys knew one another, and this one guy was a much bigger guy and he beat this guy up a little bit so I took it up for him.

DNR: I see

Art: One of the people in the camp in Idaho came from down in the southern part of Missouri – around Kansas City or there. I didn't know the name of the person.

DNR: Can you think of any other problems that occur in the camp between difference guys, you know, anything you can remember that would have sparked something, you know, just calling people names? Or anything like that you can recall?

Art: No, outside of just the little fights that they would have. They didn't amount to much. There were always enough guys around to keep one guy from getting hurt too much. I guess one incident I was talking about where the guy was in the shower room with no people in there only the two guys and the guy beat him up pretty good. That was in Idaho.

DNR: What sort of discipline was used to punished people that broke rules, say if you were lazy, didn't work or if you didn't get in on time at night or went awol or whatever?

Art: If you went AWOL, you wouldn't have been there very long.

DNR: They just kicked you out if you went AWOL.

Art: Yes, because you what you were doing there was making some funds available for your family at home so they would be able to eat and if you weren't working, you wouldn't get paid, and that wasn't any good.

DNR: Did you have anyone who was a slacker, that would make believe they were working, but wouldn't really work?

Art: No, once in awhile there would be someone who drank too much beer and would come to work sick. He was given a reprimand of some kind.

DNR: Do you remember what kind of reprimand they would get?

Art: Kind of hard to remember.

DNR: That's o.k.

Art: I never have any problem that way.

DNR: Sure, o.k.

Art: But there was people who would come to work sick or hung over.

DNR: o.k. Boys will be boys.

Art: Oh yes.

DNR: I understand there some educational or trade opportunities, did you take advantage of any of them?

Art: I took a typing class and through that I got a job right there in Soil & Earth Office right there in Bethany where I could walk to it and I wouldn't have to get on the truck and ride down.

DNR: This was while you were still in the camp, right?

Art: Right.

DNR: Who were your teachers as far as your classes? Was it a CCC boy or was it someone from town?

Art: No, it was as I recall, it seemed – you just took a typing class, you just signed up for it, you wouldn't be with a bunch of people. You would check out a typewriter and you would practice.

DNR: Where were the classes held, were they right there in camp?

Art: Right in camp. In the recreation room we called them.

DNR: Did you get any benefit out of learning how to type later in life after you were out of camp? Did you ever use that skill?

Art: Yes, I got to where I could type pretty good – I really don't remember too much about it.

DNR: Ok, let's talk about the type of work that you did. What was some of the main project that your camps were involved with? You can go camp by camp if you want to. What did you do at Bethany? What kind of work projects were you involved with at Bethany?

Art: Well, we went out in the field and build ditch checks, we called them. With wire mostly. A lot of them are there yet, I think.

DNR: Just slowed down the water.

Art: Just slowed down the flow of the water. Then they had a certain amount of rock they would use, and had a corner we could work in with a crusher. With the crusher we would break rock.

DNR: They put the rock in the ditches as well.

Art: Yes.

DNR: Now in Nevada, what kind of work did you do in Nevada?

Art: Mostly building what they called gist fence. In Nevada you only had about 6 inches of dirt so you would have to drill by hand you would make a place to put a stick of dynamite down in there. And then blow out a hole and then you would put the rock back in around it.

DNR: That's how you built fence.

Art: That's how you built the fence.

DNR: Oh, my goodness. There was only 6 inches of dirt.

Art: Mostly there was only 6 to 8 inches of dirt and then you had to have something to put the post in.

DNR: Building fence with dynamite, now that's a new one for me. O.k. what did you do in Idaho then.

Art: In Idaho we ran jackhammers. There was a guy there (trying to think of his name) this is me and that Bob Creeder I told you about. This is J. L. Rawlings. In later years, he went to South Milwaukee, WI. Got a good job there.

DNR: What did they make?

Art: They built big draglines and shovels. Watch it on tv, watched some old tv just a few days ago. The big muskee.

DNR: The big muskee.

Art: We built 220 cubic yds of cover fill. The biggest in the world. What I started to say there was J. L. Rawlings, I ran into him up there in WI. He lived at Milwaukee, WI.

DNR: Is he still around or do you have any idea?

Art: I have no idea. I have been retired for about 37 years. I often say I have been retired for more years than I worked.

DNR: That's ok. The jackhammer work, you were obviously cutting rock. What was the rock and that sort of thing, what was the rock used for?

Art: Well, what we were doing was blowing out roadways.

DNR: Oh, so you were making roadways through the mountains?

Art: Through the mountains, it was mostly widen the road that was already existing. We had our own compressors and our own jackhammers. We had to learn how to take them apart, knock them jackhammers down and put them back together. We had to take care of them, as it was all we had to work with.

DNR: What kind of skill did you learn while you were in the CCCs then?

Art: I had a diploma for the jackhammer work. I don't seem to be able to find it.

DNR: You learn how to jack hammer. Did you blow up the dynamite then? Or did you just dig the holes?

Art: I didn't do any of the blowing the holes; I helped load the dynamite back in the holes. See we got to drill the holes in like this, stake holes, then the concentrate of the dynamite was all in one spot and we would blow it out. Then they would come along with a big bulldozer and pushed it out of the way.

DNR: Did you ever have any LEM or local experience men working with you?

Art: Oh, yes.

DNR: Was that at every one of the camps?

Art: Mostly, more or less buses full of reps out in the field.

DNR: What kind of skills?

Art: This guy here is a local.

DNR: He is a LEM?

Art: Yes.

DNR: So did they have any particular knowledge on things? Any skills?

Art: Oh yes. They were – in fact this guy here wore a uniform like you got.

DNR: Really, I see. Was he in the military or was he working for the state?

Art: Working for the state. The army part of it came in, trying to think ?

DNR: The army part of it was the camp, was it not?

Art: Yes.

DNR: Then it was pretty much civilian when you went out of camp.

Art: Yes. I'm little mixed up.

DNR: O.K. We were talking about the local experience men, were they your leaders all the time or did you have a leader?

Art: No, we had a section leader. They drew more money. They would get like \$30 I think, the leaders pay amounted to around \$45. That was the section leaders and then we had the same as a corporal in the army.

DNR: How did you get along with your leaders? Were they good to work with?

Art: Always, seemed to get along fine.

DNR: How did you get your work assignments everyday? Did you always know that you were going to do the same thing or did your work vary from day to day?

Art: No, they would tell you which truck to get on and the LEM would ride in the cab and he had the orders for where you were going and what you were going to do that day.

DNR: So when you left you didn't know if you were going to be blowing dynamite or cutting trees or what.

Art: Most of the time he would be right there with you mostly.

DNR: What kind of equipment did you get to use? Did you have any hand tools or anything of that sort?

Art: Oh, yes, lots of shovels and axes. One thing and another.

DNR: Any other tools you can think of?

Art: No, not on the job.

DNR: You mentioned bulldozers, did you have bulldozers or not?

Art: In Idaho we did, you had these that were owned by the forest service. They had them available to use to push the rocks in where you drill the holes, to more or less leave them level.

DNR: Did they have a front blade on the bulldozer or was it something they had to drag?

Art: They had a front blade.

DNR: You mentioned fighting forest fires one time, what kind of equipment did you have for fighting forest fires?

Art: Mostly shovels and axes.

DNR: Did you have any water pumps or anything like that?

Art: No, you just cut the underbrush. My job was to get water and go by and give everybody drinks of water. You have seen canvas bags that you can put right on your shoulders. We would just go find a nice clean little ditch with running water in it and drink what was available.

DNR: Can you think of any other workers that you worked with? Any other names of any of the people?

Art: No, mostly these guys here.

DNR: Do you have any contact with any of your fellow CCCs workers today?

Art: No. It is possible that this Bob Creeder, this guy here, he was from Bethany, Mo., he might still be around.

DNR: Did he stay around Bethany or do you know?

Art: Yes, I think he did, his folks were from around Bethany. His dad, brother and mother. His brother was a local experience man. He worked in the kitchen.

DNR: Did they have a combination of like city kids as well as country kids in the camp? Were you all pretty much from the country?

Art: Well, I think they wanted them to experience things, I don't think the other was of any significance.

DNR: Were there any, you mentioned in Bethany there was a black camp, did they have in the camp you were at, were there any blacks or Hispanics or native Americans or any other ethnic types?

Art: There may have been some Mexicans, but there was no blacks in our camp, only white people in my camp.

DNR: So the camps were separate.

Art: Right. That was good even years later when I went into the army.

DNR: It was still separated.

Art: They still separated them.

DNR: Did the black camp and the white camp work together on any project?

Art: No, not in the camp. Not out in the field. They had their people go out to certain places.

DNR: Were they involved in soil work as well? Do you know what kind of work they were doing? Were they doing soil work?

Art: I don't know. I just don't know what they did, they went out in the field. But they didn't work in the same jobs that we were.

DNR: O.K. You mention the Mexican kids in your camp, were they treated any differently by their superiors?

Art: No, I don't think so.

DNR: Any problems between them and fellow workers.

Art: No. We didn't work in the same areas.

DNR: Any skills that you learned in the camp that helped you out in later years?

Art: No, I don't think so. No, I don't believe there was any.

DNR: Do you recall anyone getting injured at the camp?

Art: The only thing they made a mistake with this one kid. They had a bunch of cases of mumps. This one guy sitting in a machine and everyone thought he has mumps. This one guy by the name of Summe from down around Albany, Mo. This one guy got an infection in his throat and lay there and died and they thought they were treating him for mumps. That was about the only thing that happened that was real bad.

DNR: You said his name was Summe?. Did they have like a first aide station or hospital or anything at the camp?

Art: At the camp they had one – not like a hospital they have today, but they were able to have an ambulance. If you had something different, they would take you right to Ft Leavenworth, KS, in the ambulance.

DNR: Were you ever injured?

Art: No.

DNR: We were talking about diseases in camp, you mentioned mumps, were there any other diseases or any flu or any thing like that?

Art: Yes, I think there was a certain amount of it – no different than it is today.

DNR: Just normal stuff. Was there any insect or rodent problem?

Art: No, as far as I know. In the summer time they would leave the doors open to make it as cool as possible and rats would come in sometimes. I woke up and I had a rat in bed with me a time or two. Them barracks weren't rodent proof either.

DNR: I am sure they weren't. I am sure they were temporary structures at best. Did you ever work outside the camp in the local community while you were in the CCCs?

Art: Yes, we went out in the field.

DNR: I guess what I am thinking is that we have heard before of a flood or a snowstorm where the CCCs boys would come in and help out the town.

Art: Around Bethany there was a lot of snow and the CCCs boys would sometimes be called out to shovel snow. So that they could get through, like Hatfield in 1935, I guess, was snowed in – couldn't get in and out of there. A lot of snow.

DNR: Were you paid extra for that?

Art: No. Just the \$5 you got.

DNR: Did you have much contact with the outside community at the camps you were at, did you go uptown on your weekends off or anything like that?

Art: You would get passes to go uptown anytime.

DNR: Did you go to the movies or anything like that.

Art: A movie or to a beer joint.

DNR: Were there any fellowship organizations in the camp, like Masonic, Elks, Odd Fellows, or any groups like that in the CCCs camps?

Art: No, I don't recall any right in the camp although I later on joined the Masons. I belong to the Eastern Star. My wife belongs to the Eastern Star.

DNR: Can you tell me about any contact you would have had with females while you were in the camp? Were you able to date some of the local gals or anything like that?

Art: Well, it was common, I think.

DNR: Did you date any gals?

Art: Yeah, I – my and my wife were seeing each other at times at Bethany, and I went to Nevada, Moapa, and we wrote letters back and forth.

DNR: We always wonder if there was any problems between the some of the local boys and the town you were at? Would they have been jealous of the CCCs boys dating their girls or anything like that? Can you think of any altercations like that with the local boys?

Art: No, can't think of any conflicts between boys and girls, you know. More or less, if there was a fight some place uptown, we needed to call LEM, some of the local experience guys.

DNR: Oh, really, ok.

Art: I know one night they got me out bed, a guy by the name of O'Leary and another guy by the name of Kenders, these are the local experience people, and they got into with some local people downtown and they came and wanted a bunch of guys to go to the next town and beat up on somebody.

DNR: How do you think the local community felt about the CCCs camp?

Art: I think mostly they thought it was all right. It seems to me that we got along with the business that way. Mostly got along o.k.

DNR: What do you think was your most memorable experience while you were in the CCCs?

Art: I really don't know.

DNR: Were there any odd experiences, things that you would have dealt with in the CCCs that you wouldn't have any place else?

Art: Say that again.

DNR: Were there any odd experiences, things that you would have dealt with in the CCCs that you wouldn't have any other place?

Art: I can't recall any.

DNR: Do you think your life was changed by being in the CCCs?

Art: It was better than being out.

DNR: It was better to be working than not working.

Art: That's right, with the group it was different than if you were working for an old couple on the farm. When the day's work is done, you have nothing to go to, nothing to do. No one to play ball with.

DNR: So you had this sense of teamwork or whatever.

Art: That's right.

DNR: What did you do after you left the CCCs? Did you get a job after you left?

Art: Oh yeah I had different jobs, mostly working on farms. Various farmers, it was better than being by yourself. When you work on the farm, they furnished you a bed to sleep in, the farmers would, and give you a bed and furnish you meals, they didn't give you much money. I have worked for as little as 25cents a day, and some days I would get a dollar a day. It depended on the job I was doing or what I was working at.

DNR: Now did you go into the service after being in the CCCs?

Art: I went in the army for a short period of time. I went Ft. Leavenworth and took my physical. They sent me home and I was to get my affairs settled at home so I could go fight. I was in the process of moving my wife to her folks and we got stuck with the car and the pickup trailer we had on the farm. We got stuck with the car and I tried to lift it and I hurt my back. And I was no good. I was in the army only 2 months or something.

DNR: So you were discharge because of your back?

Art: Yeah

DNR: Now you said you were retired and stuff, what did you do in your life's work?

Art: Worked for a dragline company.

DNR: How long did you work for the dragline company?

Art: 25 years, I worked 25 years and retired and I have been retired more years than I worked.

DNR: You mentioned that was in South Milwaukee.

Art: Right.

DNR: Now is that where you worked all that time?

Art: Yeah.

DNR: And then you moved back to Iowa after you retired?

Art: Yeah. I moved to Iowa when I retired. Probably you won't make points with this interview.

DNR: Well, every interview has its own little things. Now you worked at different camps than anyone else has and I have not talked to anyone else that ran a jackhammer. So everybody has things that they do, that somebody else doesn't do, so that is the whole thing, you are filling in some of the cracks in the story, but that is pretty much all I have for questions. Is there any other comments you would like to add about the CCCs and how it affected you?

Art: I think some camp had just older guys, now the camp I was in just had younger guys. Older guys they had their own camps. I foget what they called them.

DNR: I think there was some veteran camps. They were WWI veterans.

Art: That is right, that's the ones I was trying to think about. There was one of them at Bedford, Iowa.

DNR: Oh, were there?

Art: In the park there. Near the town of Bedford was a camp.

DNR: Lake of Three Fires. I have talked to a couple of people that worked at Bedford camp.

End