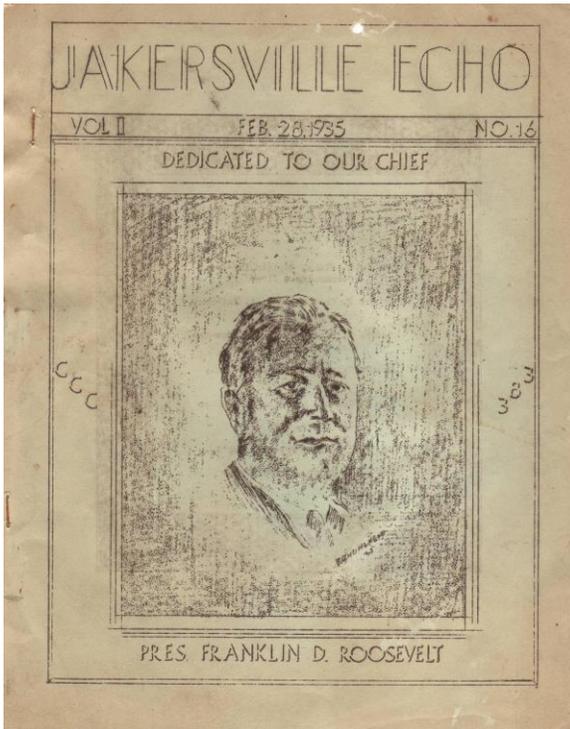


October 30, 2013

## TOURING SULLIVAN COUNTY'S MUSEUM ... while dusting



In the course of cataloguing items donated to the museum over summer months, we very often discover things that fill in a gap in an existing compiling. Such was the case with an acquisition from Gary Fiester of Elkland Twp. who contributed a Jakersville (CCC camp S-95, 383<sup>RD</sup> Co.) Echo newsletter, Vol. II, No. 16 of Feb. 28<sup>th</sup>, 1935. Because we already had the Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> issue, this volume was next in line to fill a void within the collection.

An interesting excerpt begins with "CCC Boys Make Record Gains!!!! How is your belt line? Do you feel a little bit fuller where you once had such a time keeping the belt tight?"

"A recent survey of men selected at random from various camps throughout the nation proved that the average enrollee had gained from four to seven pound during his first month in the Corps, and from two and a half to four and a half pounds during his second month." Western Corps were registering

anywhere from 6.91 pounds their first month and 4.32 the second. "In the Third Corps Area, in which we are located, the group of selected men gained an average of 4.94 pounds during the first month and 3.03 pounds during the second." "This gain recorded in the Corps proves the fact that wholesome food and pure air is an aid to good health. Almost without exception, it has been proven, men leaving the Civilian Conservation Corps camps are better physically and mentally than when enrolled."

Following the First World War and the Depression of 1929, the economic straits in this country often laid waste to the human condition for many young men and their families. Without work; soup kitchens, homelessness and family abandonment soared. On a tribute page in the published District No. 1, Third Corps Area (CCC) printed in 1936, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt states from his NBC radio broadcast " Since the Corps began some 1,150,000 of you have been graduated, improved in health, self-disciplined, alert and eager for the opportunity to make good in any kind of honest employment. Our records show that the results achieved in the protection and improvement of our timbered domain, in the arrest of soil wastage, in the development of needed recreational areas, in wild life conservation and in flood control have been as impressive as the results achieved in the rehabilitation of youth. Through your spirit and industry it has been demonstrated that young men can be put to work in our forest, parks, and the fields on projects which benefit both the nation's youth and conservation generally."

It became a sign of the times that most men not only improved their lot in life but also chose to remain in the areas of their camps. And that weight gain mentioned in the beginning was a positive effect for their benefit, stemming from hard times.

Another piece in the CCC newsletter, written by John Sweeny was entitled "To The President":

"Life is what you make it,  
Just take this tip from me,  
For I like many others,  
Have become a C.C.C.  
Yes Sir, we knew its meaning,  
Its very plain to see,  
We are going to be the best of men  
When we leave the C.C.C.  
What power has changed our vision?  
What light now shines for me?  
'Tis a ray of light from Heaven,  
Is the U.S.C.C.C.  
And long may it continue,

Is a fervent prayer from me;  
And may God protect Our President,  
The father of the C.C.C.”

For more on this, other subjects or an appointment please call 570-946-5020 or email us at [museum@scpahistory.com](mailto:museum@scpahistory.com) or see our website at [scpahistory.com](http://scpahistory.com) or facebook.