



The Face of Fillmore

By Sherry Shepard
March 30, 2011

The Face of Fillmore this week has discovered the contributions of the CCC's – the Civilian Conservation Corps - to Fillmore and Millard County.

While visiting with a neighbor, I was told that more than one of our neighbors' homes were built by the CCC's. One of those homes, previously owned by Boyd Melville, is the combination of two such homes, put together and remodeled into a comfortable, modern home pictured here.

Other contributions to Fillmore included the construction of the dam east of town as well as the cement ditch. Interestingly, one of their projects, and also that of the WPA, was the construction of new and better outhouses to make the community cleaner. They built both the one and two hole variety in people's yards for the family use.

Spreading out from Fillmore, we find the CCC's were responsible for a lot of work at Adelaide Campground east of Kanosh, including the amphitheater. They also built Willow Creek Road, the forest access road on the northeast side of the Pahvant Range. They did a lot of work on water projects in the desert as well, including the building of Long Ridge Reservoir, among others.

Several CCC camps were built in the county including a large one at Kanosh and others at Callao, Indian Springs on top of the mountain and one near Marjum Pass.

Some men from the CCC's stayed in our area, married local girls and became members of the community.

The CCC's had its beginning when Franklin D. Roosevelt became president in March, 1933. The country was in the middle of the worst depression ever experienced in the United States. One organization established to help relieve the situation was the Civilian Conservation Corps. It was not only one of the first such organizations to start across the country, but it was one of the most successful. It was organized to solve two of the major problems facing the country. That is to provide financial relief and to help with conservation projects.

Several government agencies worked with the CCC's to supervise the work of the 116 camps that existed at one time or another in 27 Utah counties. Their many projects aided Utah in a number of ways including building fences, trails, phone lines, roads (see picture), buildings, and bridges. In some areas of Utah they replanted acres of land, terraced, or reseeded; and did fire-suppression and rescue work.





The CCC's also brought financial benefits to the state. Enrollees earned \$30 per month, of which \$25 was sent home to their families, while the young men kept the remaining \$5 to spend on themselves. It has been estimated that by the time the CCC operations came to an end in the summer of 1942, it had spent nearly \$53 million dollars in the state.

With the beginning of World War II, the Great Depression came to an end and the CCC's ended in July 1942. The army officers in charge of the camps were transferred to military assignments and many of the enrollees either entered the armed services or became involved in defense work.

In an editorial in *The Salt Lake Tribune* in July, 1942 we read: "More than all else it aided youth to get a new grip on destiny and obtain a saner outlook on the

needs of the nation. . . . The CCC may be dead but the whole country is covered with lasting monuments to its timely service."

Some of those monuments can be found throughout Fillmore, a reminder of another chapter in our history.

If anyone can add insight to the CCC's in Fillmore, please contact me.