

Norfolk Insider

City of Norfolk, NE

www.ci.norfolk.ne.us

April 2, 2014

“A Tribute to the CCC Boys”

It wasn't glamorous but it was a job and it was food, clothing and shelter when times were tough. Bill Jamerson told an audience of 35 people at the Norfolk Public Library Tuesday about the work of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)- a Federal Works Program from 1933-1942. His presentation, “Dollar-A-Day Boys: A Musical Tribute to the Civilian Conservation Corps”, included guitar music, video clips from the CCC camps, and stories he has gleaned from years of talking to people who were CCC members.



Jamerson said 2.6 million men ages 17-25 worked in the camps, many who had very little at home and came to camp in rags and barefoot.

“The number one job they had in Nebraska was helping the farmers. First they would survey the property then draw maps to show where terraces, ponds, dams or fences might be needed. They would then work to get the land improved,” Jamerson said.

There were over 200 CCC camps around the country, operating under the U.S. Army control and organized to help ease the high employment of the time. Jamerson said 1,800 miles of telephone poles and wire were put up by the “CCC boys”, as they were referred to.

CCC workers also planted trees, dug ditches, put in tile for drainage and fought fires. In Nebraska, the camp members were governed by the Soil Conservation District. Each member received \$30 each month –\$25 of which was sent home to an average of six or seven dependents.

Jamerson said he has attended five national conventions of former CCC workers learning about how they transformed the nation in the 1930s.

According to the National Park Service, while CCC was in operation members spent nearly 6.5 million days fighting fires; planted 570 million trees, and assisted farmers and landowners with conservation methods that helped stem the Dust Bowl of the 1930's.