

CAMP RIVERSIDE 626

"More important, however, than the material gains, will be the moral and spiritual value of such work."

-President Franklin Roosevelt

In the height of the Great Depression (1933-1942), President Franklin Roosevelt created the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). The purpose for this countrywide project was to put men back to constructive work. Camps were created for the men to stay while they were working on reforestation, parks, and other recreational facilities.

Camp 626 was on this site in Burnett County.

Each young man received a cash allowance of \$30 a month, with \$25 being sent home to assist his parents. The remaining \$5 was used for spending money. While at the camp, they also received clothes, room and board, medical attention, and entertainment.

An average service was one year in length for thousands of boys nationwide.

This project took boys and turned them into men.

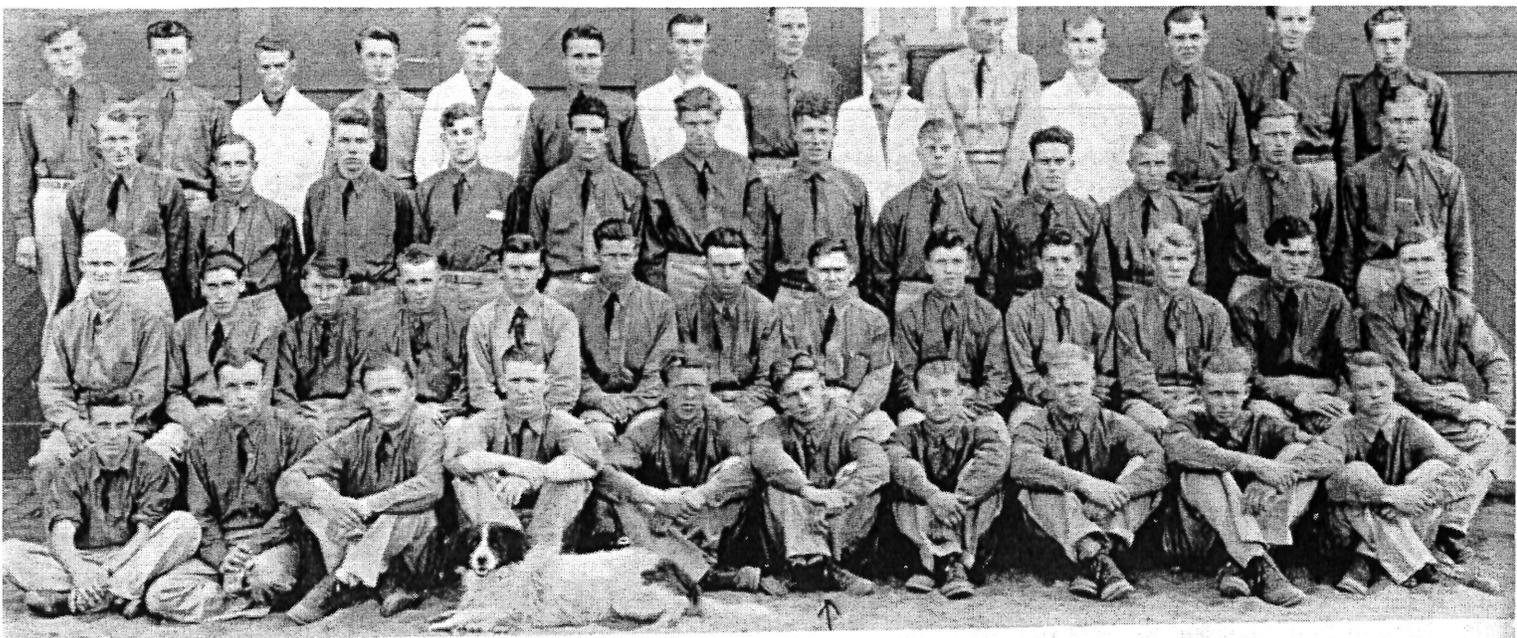
*As quoted in *The Power of Sand: Burnett County and the Civilian Conservation Corps*, author Carole M. Fure states,*

*"They nurtured the land, and the land nurtured them.
They knew what it meant to be alive - really alive."*

CCC CAMP RIVERSIDE S-53
COMPANY 626
1933 - 1942
Danbury, Wisconsin

Notable projects completed by Camp Riverside workers (as of 1939):

- Clean-up and reforestation following a 1,500 acre fire; including planting of 2,500,000 Jack, Norway, White Pine and spruce trees
- Construction of a 130-foot, two-span timber bridge on St. Croix Trail over the St. Croix River
- Approximately 75 miles of truck trails with the primary purpose of moving fire-fighting trucks and machinery
- 107 miles of metallic circuit telephone lines for the use of the Burnett/ Washburn County fire protection district
- Two fire towers: the Sterling Tower in Polk County; and the McKenzie Tower in Burnett County
- A large earthen dam situated on Loon Creek for the purpose of raising the level of the many lakes in the Loon Creek Chain
- Park and campsite construction
- Lake and fish habitat improvement
- Raised and released approximately 3,000 pheasants
- Timber stand improvement
- Water table survey and mapping



Members

Reading from left to right→

FIRST ROW: Francis Quigley, Robert Kaminski, Matt Rautio, Kenneth Lundgren, Ray Anderson, Elmer Keppen, Arnold Block, Robert Jackelen, Irvine, Melin, Bennie Tarbox.

SECOND ROW: Dennis Cornelison, George Davis, William Sackett, Hobert Jansen, Harold Brewer, Hugh Blair, Woodrow Rabideau, Charles Tschumperlin, Byron Kain, Garth Ravey, Edwin Braaten, Kenneth Weeks, William Oranger, Kenneth Ball, Alfred Briggs.

THIRD ROW: George Chase, Donald Moschel, Elmer Depner, Herbert Sewall, James Chapman, Edwin Wold, Alfred Millette, Martin Frasl, Alex Kaszubowski, Roy Blandford, Walter Newcomb, Lester Gunem.

FOURTH ROW: Philip Coppens, Paul Vacho, Arthur Dishaw, Juluis Slonski, Merle Hanson, Ray Traczyk, Harold Goodman, Jay King, Lester Johnson, Roy Taft, Alvin Zeffery, Louis Tomasowich.

Officers

CAPT. P. L. THOMPSON, CA-Res. *Commanding Officer*
 SECOND LT. CLARENCE W. HUFFMAN, CW-Res. *Junior Officer*
 BENJAMIN KAPLAN, M. D. *Contract Surgeon*
 WILLIAM L. HADRICH *Educational Adviser*

Technical Personnel

M. M. DeBOW *Project Superintendent*
 MARTIN JOHNSTON BILL O'GARA
 NORMAN DUNN HENRY SNYDER
 KEITH STAFFORD DONALD SEEBACK
 ALFRED WEST MR. ERICKSON

History

THE first day after their arrival in Burnett County along in June, 1933, an inexperienced company of Chicago men started on their first project just north of the camp to clean approximately 1,500 acres of slash and debris caused by fire. Today there are nearly half a million Jack and Norway pine that the boys planted on 400 acres of this territory, and there are 400 acres more of this same project which is ready to be planted.

With the use of only a tractor, a grader, and fresno, the boys have built 73 miles of truck trails according to Forest Service specifications. Included in this program of trail building has been the construction of three small log bridges.

Probably the most consequential project completed by this camp was the construction of our 130-foot bridge over the St. Croix River. This bridge is located about half way between the County Trunk-T Bridge in Douglas County and the Riverside Bridge on Highway 35. The camp logged 100,000 board feet of Norway and White pine for the bridge and auxiliary projects. After

626th

COMPANY

S-53



Members

Reading from left to right—

FIRST ROW: Leonard Schultz, Lyle Frederick, Clarence Gruentzel, Ray Noel, Francis Faehling, Elmer Bruch, John Drew.

SECOND ROW: Marvin Dishaw, Edwin Vobejda, Morgan Huglen, Ellery Hansen, Leonard Davy, Harold Jeffers, Stephan Mavtan, Fred Kunkel, Kenneth Sweedey, Bernard Brault, John Johnson, John Mikolajak, Harris Larson.

THIRD ROW: Harold Sigal, Pearl Jacobs, Malcolm Murphy, Steve Pagac, Ray Peterson, Bob Simons, Leonard Johnson, Gene Armstrong, Edward Freisleben, Roger Larson, John Frederick, Avery Wisner.

FOURTH ROW: Henry LeValley, Percy Spice, Douglas Foststad, Robert Vincent, Leon Forsberg, Russell Knuth, Billy Jasicki, Donald Frank, Carroll Collier, Lloyd Wilson, Simon Barlow, Harold Harres.

Members Not in Picture

James Densmore, Arnold Sander, William LeMere, Wilfred McNeal, Henry Poeschl, Maxwell Leggett, Thomas Benge, Bert Lund.

the timbers were sawed, a substantial foundation was built at the mill site, and the bridge was framed and fitted completely before any of the timbers were moved to the bridge site. When the timbers were moved to the river, a creosoting plant was set up so that the creosote could be heated in a large vat and then the timbers were placed in this vat.

The abutments on either side of the stream and the pier in the center of the river, which are filled with rock, are very substantially made of log frame work and support-timbers.

In less than a month's time the bridge was moved out over the water, timbers put in place, and the bridge made ready for use.

During the winter of the year, nearly all of the boys are working on what is known as cultural or forest stand improvement, roadside clean-up, and trailside clearing, because a good deal of burning is necessary in connection with this work, and this can be done with safety during the winter months. The cultural work or forest stand improvement includes the thinning, pruning, and release cutting in dense stands to better increase the growth rate of our forests. The roadside and trailside clean-up projects include the burning of all inflammable material along our trails and roads so that there will be less probability of a fire originating along the roads, and also so that the fire fighting organization may have a better opportunity of stopping fires along the highways.

Riverside CCC Camp has spent a good deal of time improving our lakes and streams for fish.

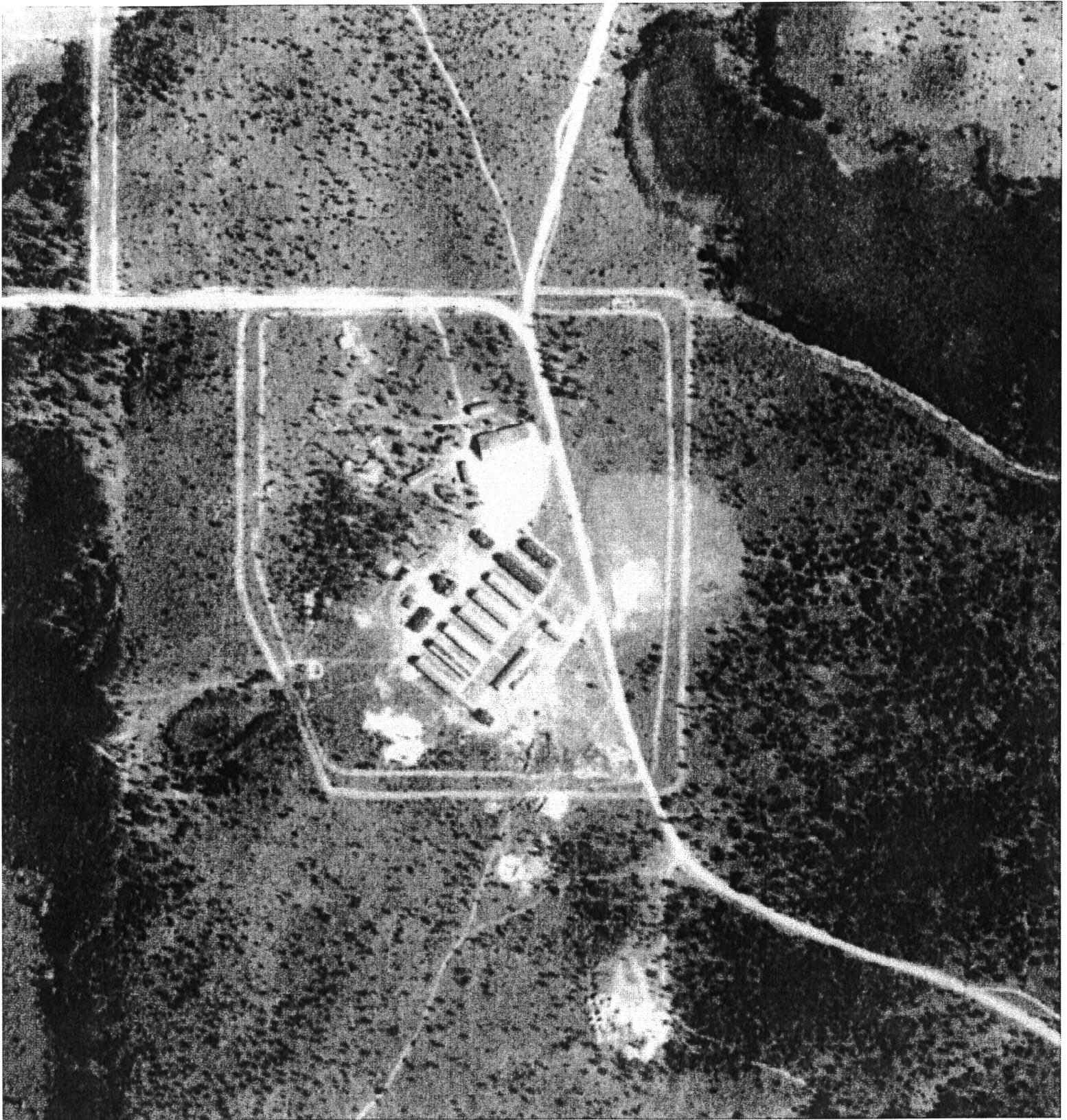
In most of our larger lakes one of our crews has sunk brush refuse, log tangles, spawning boxes, and blunt-nose minnow spawners.

The improvement of our streams include the placing of log deflectors in various ways to cut long, deep holes and also to wash away the sand which has settled on the gravel layer. Different types of covers are also built to provide shade and to keep the temperature of the water at a minimum during the winter months of the year.

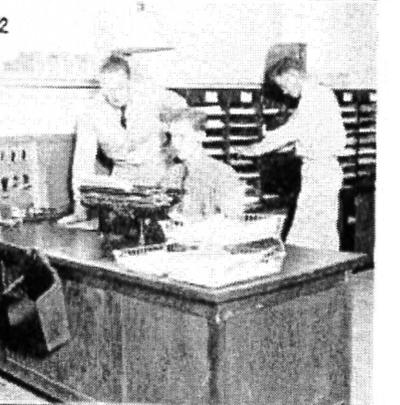
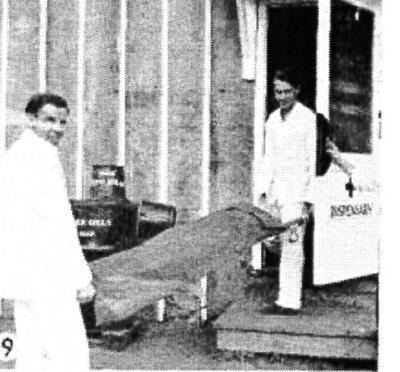
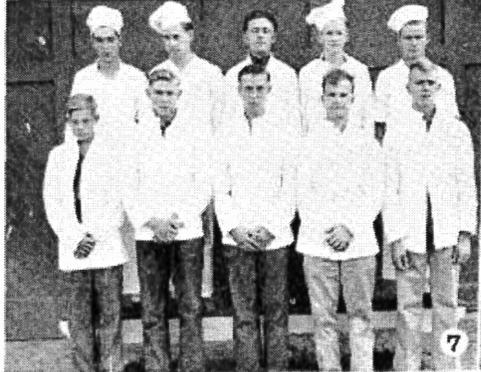
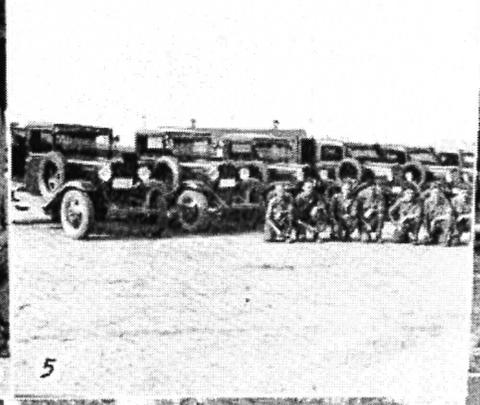
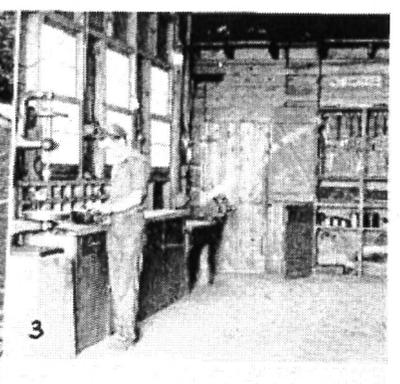
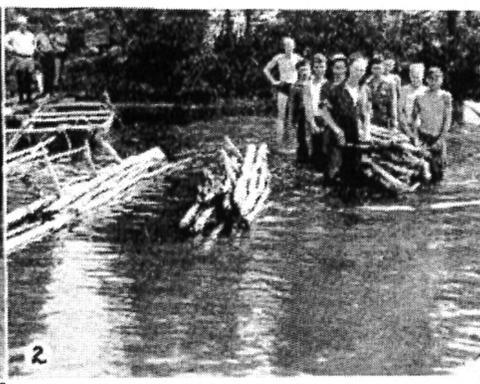
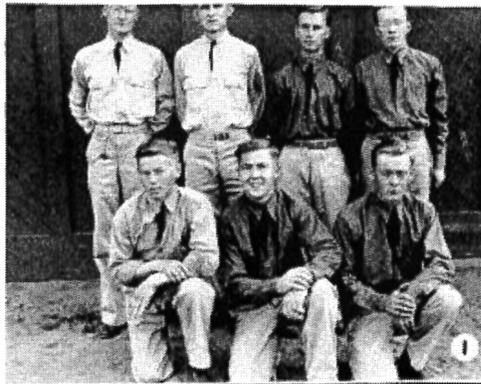
The camp has maintained two side camps for the purpose of fire suppression—one at Spooner, Wisconsin, and one at Grantsburg, Wisconsin.

We have built eighty-five miles of metallic telephone lines to connect the ranger station at Spooner with the lookout towers. The CCC boys here logged 2,500 cedar poles for these lines and built the lines according to Conservation Department specifications. We have completed a sub-station garage located at Web Lake which is constructed of logs at a very low cost. A solid brick, six-stall garage has been built for the Conservation Department at Webster.

The present members of the Army Agency of this company are: Capt. P. L. Thompson, CA-Res., Commanding Officer, and Lieut. C. W. Huffman, CW-Res., Mess and Exchange Officer. Of the Forestry Staff are: M. M. Bow, Chief Foreman, CU-10; M. C. Johnson, Construction, CU-6; Norman Dunn, Construction, CU-6; John A. Heibel, Construction, CU-6; Wm. O'Gara, C. & M., CU-6; W. F. Erickson, Assistant to Tech.; Alfred West, Squad Foreman of Laborers, CU-3; and Keith Stafford, Unclassified Mechanic.



1938 Aerial Photo



1. Army overhead.

2. Sinking log and pole tangles to be used as spawning beds for minnows and for fish food.

3. The workshop.

4. Leaders and Assistants.

5. E. C. W. truck drivers.

6. The surveying crew.

7. Cooks and K. P.'s.

8. A view of a Camp building.

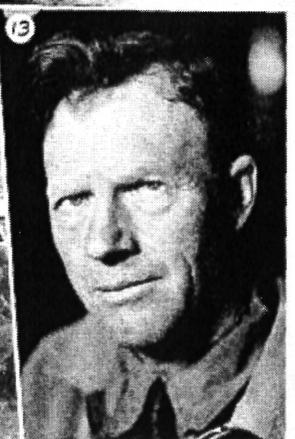
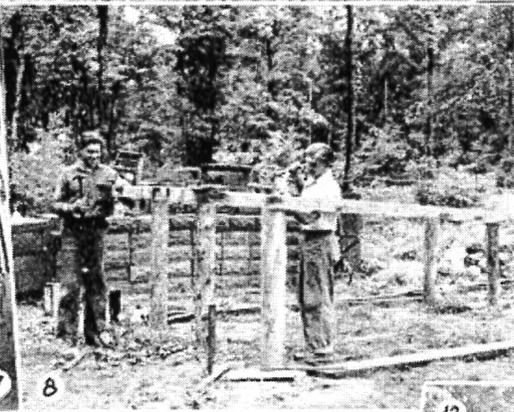
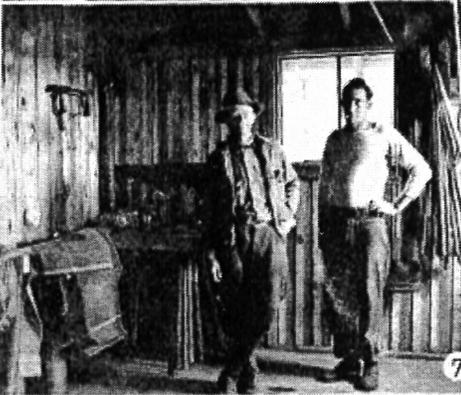
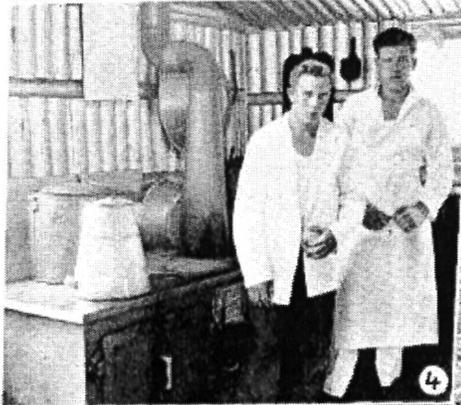
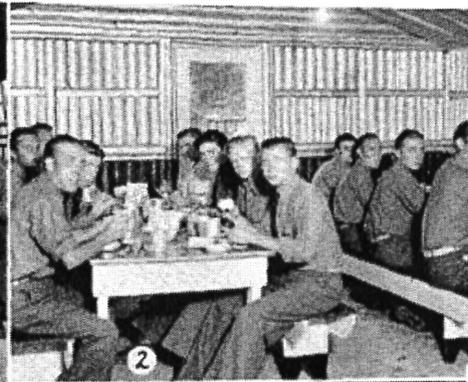
9. Orderlies entering the Dispensary with a stretcher.

10. Pheasants for restocking the woods.

11. The subsistence supply room.

12. The Army office.

626TH COMPANY, DANBURY, WISCONSIN



1. Members of Side Camp, left to right:

First Row: C. Lewandowski, Jesse Black, Arthur Schultz, Lyle Chelmo, Vernon Johnson, Mario Jensen, Charles Thornton.

Second Row: W. Gillis, Ronald Palmer, Rudolph Rolko, W. Senbiewski, Martin Targerson, Max Schilling, Frank Kollman.

2. The mess hall.

3. Enrollees in the reading room.

4. Two cooks in the Camp kitchen.

5. Enrollees eat lunch away from Camp.

6. Enrollees loaded in trucks ready to go to work.

7. The tool supply room.

8. Enrollees building a loading platform.

9. The surveying crew at work.

10. An enrollee pressing pants.

11. A building near Camp.

12. Enrollees on the job.

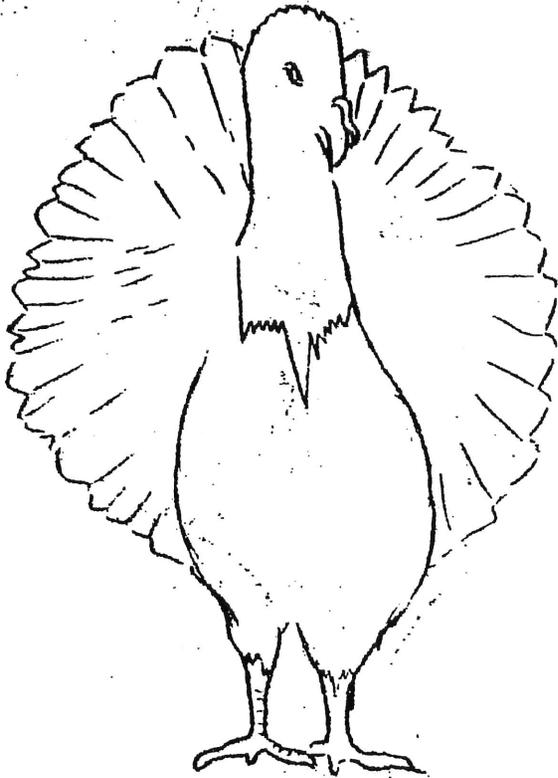
13. Alfred West, Foreman in charge of Side Camp.

626TH COMPANY, DANBURY, WISCONSIN

> Menu <

Thanksgiving

Dinner



CAMP RIVERSIDE CO. 626

DANBURY, WIS.

FRUIT SALAD

OLIVES

RADISHES

CELERY

ROAST TURKEY

SAGE DRESSING

MASHED POTATOES

GRAVY

BUTTERED CARROTS

LETTUCE & TOMATO SALAD

BUTTER

BREAD

MINCEMEAT PIE

CIGARETTES