

Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation



On the Edge!



**View of the CCC Bathhouse from the Park Overlook
(This picture was taken several years ago. The roof has deteriorated further)**

The Bathhouse

A question often asked by visitors to the Visitor Center/Canyon Gallery is, “What is that below the observation point?” Well, “that” could be a thousand “things,” but I know immediately the answer to the question. “That’ is the CCC bathhouse, or, rather, the ruins of the bathhouse,” I reply. Since the reproduction of a tent by the Park staff on the flat where the bathhouse is located, the question could refer to the tent, but most people can identify a tent. (I’ll leave it to other contributors to this newsletter to discuss the purpose of the tent.)

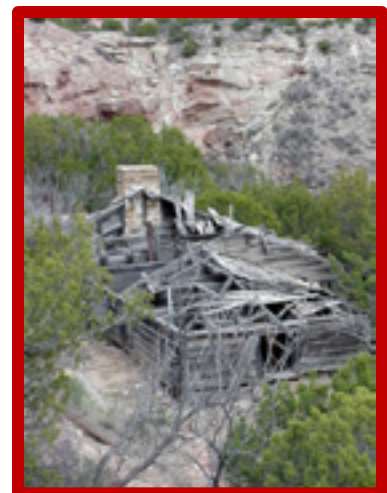
My answer to the question about the bathhouse sometimes opens up other topics for discussion, such as “What is a CCC?” Generally, however, the answer satisfies the questioner, and we proceed either to other topics or they to a tour of the museum and gift shop.

The CCC bathhouse is indeed in ruins. The picture on the preceding page taken a few years ago shows a roof which has now mostly collapsed. We can decry the neglect over the years which has caused this historical structure to

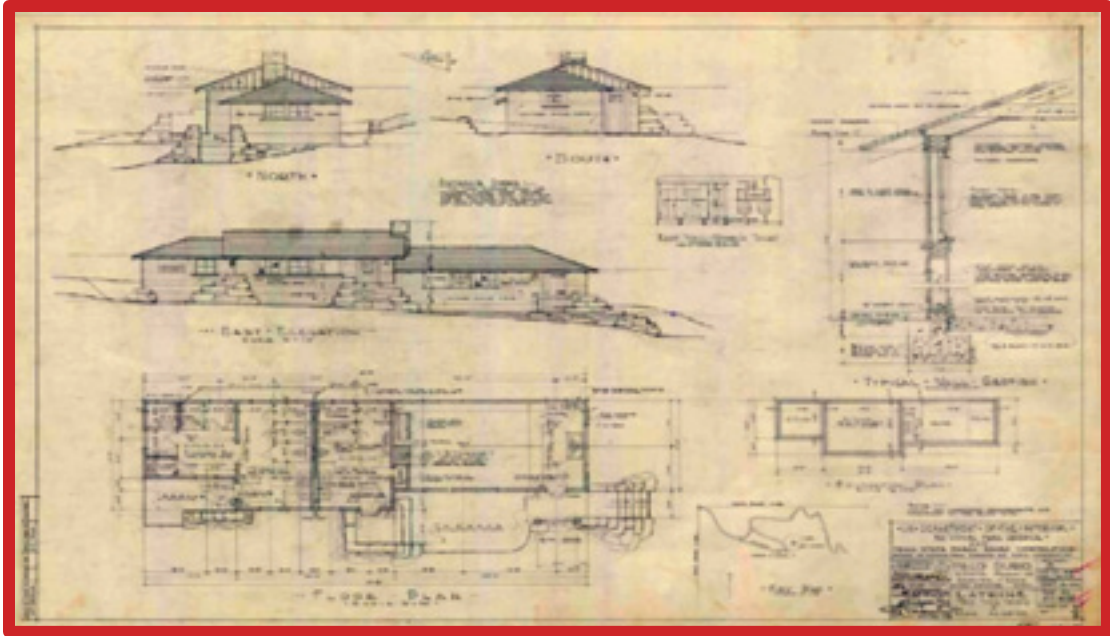
decay, just as we can decry the decay and destruction of many historical structures throughout the state and the nation, the result of disinterest or lack of money to maintain the edifice. When a building ceases to serve its purpose, it is abandoned, especially if it is out of the public view. The old adage, “Out of sight, out of mind” often applies.

In this issue of the Partners newsletter is a collage of the bathhouse as it is now along with a blueprint of the bathhouse as it was originally planned. According to Cory Evans, Park Superintendent, long range proposals may include restoring the bathhouse—probably very long-range proposals. Until then, plans are to shore up the foundation and open the trail to the bathhouse for visitors. Of course, for safety purposes, the structure will be off limits to exploration. When opened, the trail, which begins at the Visitor Center and is in the process of being improved, will have a name, such as, “The Art Colony Trail,” although no name is presently given to it. (This name is related to the purpose of the tent.) No date has been set for opening the trail.

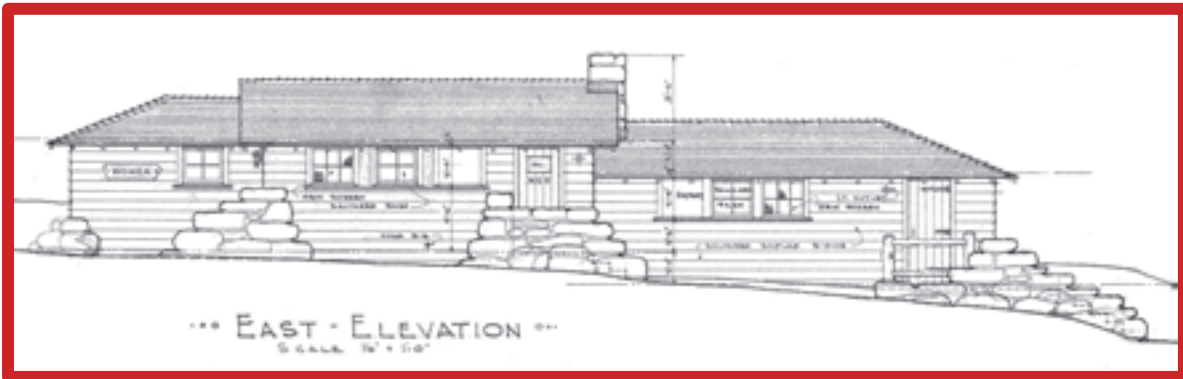
I suppose in the entire scheme of life, buildings could be likened to people: they are born, they live, they deteriorate, they die. It is hoped that someday they will be resurrected.



**Photos by Cory
Evans**



Original Blueprint of the CCC Bathhouse Elevations



Then



And Now



Ruins of CCC Bathhouse.
Cory Evans contributed photos to this collage.



**Thanks to the CCC
Boys
By
Cory Evans**

We just wrapped up the 80th Anniversary Celebration of the formation of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC). It was an honor and a privilege to be a part of the event and experience firsthand the stories and memories of the “CCC Boys.”

The 80th Anniversary gave us all a chance to see what the CCC has done for our park, the State Park system, and numerous other locations around the nation. However, to me, the most impressive part of the event was listening to the CCC veterans recount their personal experiences during that difficult time in our nation’s history. These memories only add to the human experience when visiting the sites that the CCC helped develop.

As I mentioned in my last article, watching the sunset from one of the three rim cabins, taking in the view from the El Coronado Lodge, and just being able to drive down into the floor of Palo Duro

Canyon are all things we owe to the “CCC Boys and their exquisite work. The CCC left its mark on the Canyon in a timeless manner and, in many ways, still guides future plans for development of the Park. As we construct new facilities and trails, the building style and architecture of the CCC, that blends in and complements the landscape, is still a key consideration of the planning process.

The next time you are in the Park, please take a moment to examine a CCC facility and reflect on the craftsmanship of the building and, more importantly, the lives and memories of those who made it possible.



CCC Veterans Attending the 80th Anniversary Celebration



**Bernice Blasingame
Park Interpreter**

Why is there a tent down on the plateau? How did it get there? Can we hike down to it? All are valid questions that have been asked lately. The lone tent seen from the Overlook Parking Lot and the Visitor Center was placed last month and is representative of the 25 tents that were built in 1936 by the Civilian Conservation Corps for use by the Palo Duro School of Art sponsored by West Texas State Teachers College (now WTA&M University) and Isabel Robinson, Director of the School of Art.

This story has not been told in the past, and it is an important piece of the history of Palo Duro Canyon. According to an article in the Canyon News, dated July 1, 1937, "The Village" had streets paved with cobble stones

and had names, such as Angelo Avenue, Zezanne Trail, and Leonardo Lane.

The tents were sturdily built and withstood a forty-five mile gale soon after their construction. They were floored and screened and furnished for two people. The cost was \$3.50 a week per person and included electric lights, running water, and clean linens. Unfurnished tents with lights and water cost \$2 per week per person

Nearby was a shallow stone pit in which a huge fire burned nightly. Split log seats surrounded the fire pit. The bathhouse [discussed elsewhere in this edition] was constructed for the use of students attending the summer sessions. To receive art lessons given by H.D. Bugbee, students had to hike up the trail to the El Coronado Lodge. The trail can still be seen and will be used again.

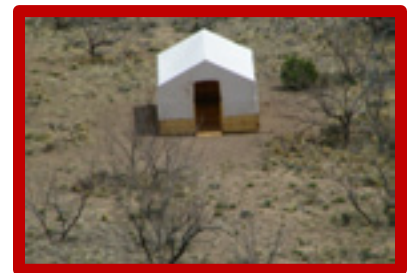
Other instructors over the summer sessions included Alexander Watson Mack, Mrs. Amy Jackson, Gene H. Brook, Hester Gates, and Francis O'Brien Garfield. Instruction was given in drawing, oil and water color painting, pottery, woodcarving, metal work, leather tooling, textile

designing, printing and dyeing.

Meals were served in the El Coronado Lodge at a cost of thirty-five to seventy-five cents.

Not all students stayed in the Canyon but had the option to commute daily. Each summer session was six weeks long and college credit was earned. Other activities were available in which students could participate. The summer sessions concluded with an optional trip to Santa Fe and Taos, New Mexico.

A more beautiful setting for a summer institute of art study cannot be imagined. The summer sessions ran from 1936 to 1942. More interpretive information is planned to be placed in the Interpretive/Visitor Center with pictures and plans drawn up for the exact measurements of the tents and the bathhouse and the placement of 25 tents.



**Photo by Mary
Fowler**



President's Perspective
By
Frannie Nuttall

I can't believe that summer is here. We have had a wonderful spring with lots of visitors to the Park. The CCC event was a huge success, and I want to take a moment to thank Lisa Jackson for her outstanding work toward remembering those men who gave us the ability to drive into the Palo Duro Canyon State Park in our vehicles. They worked hard giving the Panhandle a legacy that leads to the success of our economy in this area. Tourism is big business in Texas, and we truly have the jewel in our own back yard.

We are excited to let you know we are planning an event this fall to continue our efforts to support our Park. David

Townsend has secured a terrific band, friends of his, to play a concert for us in the Amphitheater.

An evening with the Gatlin brothers will be held on Friday, October 4th in beautiful Palo Duro Canyon. We will begin advertising during the summer and begin selling tickets August 1st. David has done a wonderful job working with Larry Gatlin, and the evening promises to be one that won't soon be forgotten. We will have underwriting opportunities for those of you who are interested and hope you will mark your calendar for the event.

Also, October 4th is WTAMU Homecoming. We are working closely with the WTAMU Alumni Association to have the concert included in the homecoming festivities along with Fair on the Square in Canyon and the football game. It will be an exciting weekend, so please save the date and look for our advertising to begin the first of August.

We are in need of some more volunteers to work in the Visitor's Center/Canyon Gallery during the summer months. We are very busy and need two volunteers to cover many of the shifts available. If you are interested, please contact

Tommy Nisbet at 806-355-4923 or email Tommy at tcminisbet@arn.net.

I hope you enjoy your summer and vacation time and remember to save some for Partners at the Palo Duro Canyon.



To Volunteer for Gift Shop

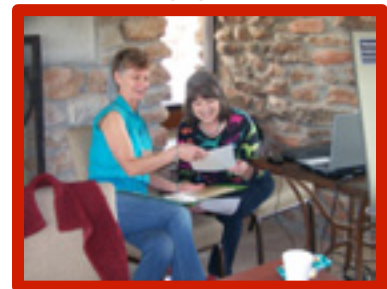
Tommy Nisbet
806-355-4923

tcminisbet@arn.net

For Park
Bernice Blasingame, Park
Interpreter

806-488-2227, ext.106

Bernice.blasingame@tpwd.state.tx.us



Cindy Meador and Pebbie Comer at CCC Celebration



Don Miller, Age 92, CCC Veteran, six years



Delbert Crespin, a jewelry maker from the Santa Domingo Pueblo in New Mexico has been creating these works of art for the last 25 years. He uses his outdoor surroundings for inspiration for his jewelry. These pieces are featured this month in the Visitor's Center/ Canyon Gallery in Palo Duro Canyon State Park

On the Edge!

June 2013, Partners in Palo Duro Canyon Foundation, Editor: Carl Fowler

NON-PROFIT ORG
US Postage
PAID
Amarillo, TX
Permit No. 573

