(Demo) Civilian Conservation Corps
FWSCCC-0054

Mr. Jewett's Copy

STATION LIBRARY

Malheur Refuge

DECEMBER NARRATIVE REPORT FOR CAMP FIVE MILE DP-1
OREGON

SUBMITTED BY GEO. W. BEERS, CHIEF FOREMAN, CONSTRUCTION & MAINTENANCE

The "P" ranch house has progressed very satisfactorily however, the change of plans making this building into a duplex necessitated tearing out and remodeling of rooms which under the old plan had been completed other than the lathing. Boys have been making window and door jambs and casings. This entails ripping down of wide boards into the desired sizes, planeing them with a rabbit plane, cutting them to exact sizes, nailing together and setting and plumbing them into position. Several window sashes have been made by the boys. The large chimney built entirely by the boys is completed except for the top and the foundation set and laying started for the other chimney. Boys are cutting and laying the lava rock, hauled some twenty-six miles, for the porch floor. All this work is a real good job as good as 90% of all work done by skilled workmen paid $1.00 to $1.20 per hour. The plumbing, steam fitting, and electrical wiring is all roughed in ready for the plaster. Mr. Nelson, in charge of this work is to be highly commended on the way he has handled the boys under his supervision and has accomplished a great amount of output that is a credit to any workman, turning out work equally as good as if he were useing skilled laborers. Too, he has the good will of the boys, all wanting to work under his guidance.

The channel change, river cutoff, above the dam has been completed; this job entails the moving of earth and rock as follows:- 34 ft. wide on top, 30 ft. wide on bottom, an average of 8½ ft. deep and 850 ft. long. A swamp was encountered and mats were used under the dragline to prevent it from mireing down , three mats in all, two under the dragline and as the dragline moved along the rear mat was picked up and placed ahead. These mats are made of 2 x 12 x 12 ft. long, three laminated at right angles with a large ring morticed in the top center to hook dragline arm into and used to pick up the mats when moving them. We tried to use the clam shell to pick up the slush gravel as the bucket would not carry a load. It was found that the shell was too heavy for the angle of the arm necessary to remove the material from the cut, as it would tip the dragline over on its nose. This might be corrected by useing counter balancers on body of dragline.

The fence jobs have progressed nicely. This work consisted of making 187 posts in BridgeCreek canyon, some 14 miles from camp, and packing a total of 1023 posts out of this rough steep canyon 600 ft. to 1000 ft. from the bottom to the top where they were loaded onto trucks and hauled to be used in fence construction. The boys averaged six posts per day per man. These were juniper posts above the average in quality and are worth not less than 35¢ each at the top of the canyon. Two miles of old delapiEated fences, that is, stays removed, wires rolled up, posts pulled up, and materials hauled to junk pits, scrap piles, stock piles, and wood pile. We have made 3/4 mi. of rock jacks for fence over rocky country where holes cannot be dug without drilling and blasting (see picture). The rocky point above camp has been widened.

A crew widened out the rocky point to a 20 ft. road bed and the crew is now working below camp widening the road used to reach camp from Burns. The present road is very narrow with the road bed pushed out to each side thereby making a ditch or a canal down the center of the road with shoulders so high that water cannot run off.

When this road was constructed and in past maintenance (Biological Survey work exception) all rock and dirt has been pushed onto the shoulders and left. We are removing these rock, pulling the high shoulders into the center and making a ditch on each side and leaving a twentyfoot roadbed. Many rocks have to be drilled and blasted; willows cut on narrow places and culverts put in for drainage.

Our five Dodge dump trucks have been detailed with four drivers to Sod House, the side camp of Buena Vista, and are hauling cinders for the court and drivers about the refuge headquarters building. We also loaded the compressor, used for drilling, and hauled it to Sod House to drill holes for the lookout above the headquarters building.

Foreman Ash drove one truck to Deer Flat Camp and left it there for use by an E.R.A. crew.

Work here closes at noon on December 24th due to Presidential Holiday and does not commence again until January 4th, 1937 due to holidays granted by the War Department and accumulative; all re-enrollees are entitled to the six days of leave for re-enrolling except four men. Every foreman except the mechanic, Mr. Hile, who will work on repairs of the Sheldon Cletrac and Mr. Patterson who will be in charge of camp will be on leave during this period. The Army has various camp projects which must be done and plan on useing the boys one-half of each day during this period to complete these jobs consisting of moving the latrine, enlarging the water supply resevior, enclosing the main line water supply with a box where its above the ground and filling the box with rotten manure or sawdust, and changing the sewer system by adding a few lengths of pipe and digging a ditch some 300 feet long to divert the course of sewage.

This month we have had three "Cats" working most of the time breaking up shoulders and making levees along the road between the "P" ranch and Frenchglen. We completed breaking up about a mile of shoulders and built two levees 150 ft. long, 5 ft. high, and 10 feet wide on top with a slope of 5 to 1 on the water side and a slope of 2 to 1 on the lower side, completed six shorter levees about thirty ft. long the same heights and with the same slopes and one ramp of the road twelve ft. wide on top and about 20 ft. long from the shoulder of the road to the foot of the ramp. These levees will developes approximately thirty acres of pond. The work was done with a caterpillar gas "40" and a diesel tractor HD7.

For the last two weeks we have had a Cletrac "55" working on a levee 2,500 ft. long; this dyke will be on an average five feet high, twelve feet wide on top and with the same slope as the other levees when it is completed and when the lake formed behind it will cover approximately 400 acres. All the ground under the levee was ripped up so that the soil would bind together to keep the water from seeping thru.

Seven miles of the center road was partially completed using a Cletrac "35" gas crawler tractor and an Adams leaning wheel grader. This grader and tractor has also improved about three miles of the state highway below camp; this road is used by the camp to haul supplies over. An L.E.M. formerly connected with the old Co. #269, has been breaking in the cat-skinners...only one man of the new company #737 ever had any experience driving a cat and he had never done any bull-dozing; so the picking and making of tractor men has been a real job. It is interesting to see how much quicker some men catch on to a machine than others.

The spike camp at Sod House had most to our dump trucks borrowed so we didn't get but very little road gravelled. Three of the GMC dump trucks are hauling rock for check dams. One man of my crew put in three galvanized headgates on culverts on the center road. Another of my crew spent most of the month widening out a dangerous blind curve on the state highway just outside of camp. Most of this work consisted of blasting out the side of the hill.

I have seen several coyotes lately and they sure are tame; they will only trot away 50 or 60 yds., stop, look at you and then go on as nonchantly as the there wasn't a human being within miles. I drove above the center road last week and saw about 20 or 30 ducks already using a little pond that has formed behind one of the dykes. The ducks never seemed to notice when I passed and never even acted like they we going to fly away. All other wildlife seems to be getting tamer every day.

Elmer Ash,
Junior Foreman C&M

The boys working at the "P" ranch house have been very busy, lathing, etc., and have nearly completed the lathing. During the month the windows arrived and are all installed, the boys doing all of the work. The large chimney is finished except for the top and is a credit to the CCC boys who constructed it.

The plumbing and steam pipe have all been roughed in; the electrician has completed the installation of all of the conduit for the wiring. By the first of January the whole building will be ready for the plaster job.

For a few days a crew of boys have been very busy giving the premises a general cleanup in preparation for winter.

During the month of December over 248 cu. yds. of gravel was washed for use at Camp Sod House.

Bartheolin Nelson,
Carpenter Foreman

There has been little change in our routine of work this month from that of last month. It has consisted of construction of fences and the rasing of old fences. As our fence construction progress, we clean up along the fence leaving no wire or pieces of wood to mar the looks of the refuge.

Last weekend I looked for the Ruffed-Grouse that were liberated here last spring. I found three of them, all females, and all three were very tame. Without a doubt there are more, and should be some male birds as seven males were liberated last spring. This species of grouse ought to do well here as there is plenty of natural feed for them; also plenty cover to hide in. Their only hinderance to increasing is the predators. It was too late last spring for these grouse to do much propagating, as they had already started laying before coming here and the move tended to stop them from laying. This spring they ought to do well in producing as they will be right at home on the refuge.

Wesley Batterson,
Squad Foreman of Laborers

During November I had many varied jobs to proform. After transportating and transferring the HD7 Diesel tractor and the "55" Cletrac to the Malheur Migratory Waterfowl Refuge in Oregon, I began the job of repairing the "35" tractor belonging to the Charles Sheldon Refuge in Nevada.

It took about ten days to make all the repairs so as to leave the tractor in the same good condition as it was when borrowed by the Board Corrals camp for use during the past summer. New parts used to replace worn out ones were clutch assembly, two brake drums, brake lining, valve body of roadbuilder control and a new carburetor. Cleaning, valve grinding, and many adjustments had to be made.

Another job taking about five days, was that of installing a new engine in the Ford truck retained by the Sheldon Refuge for use there. The transmission was in need of new parts; the plugs that hold the shifting fork shaft in place were worn also and needed repairing. Parts for the above truck did not arrive until about the 20th of November.

Next, the Chevrolet pickup was given a thorough going over. The valves needed grinding and the battery carrier was repaired; heat indicator was installed; water pump repaired, and other adjustments made.

By November 28th those three jobs were finished and I began a general cleanup of the garage and tools. I helped the custodian check the tools and the following day sent a telegram to Mr. Gregson at Burns, Oregon informing him that I was ready to be transferred as all of the equipment at the Charles Sheldon Wildlife Refuge was now in good condition.

During the first week of December I was transferred from Camp Board Corrals, Charles Sheldon Refuge, Nevada to Camp Buena Vista near Burns, Oregon.

After working a week at Buena Vista I was transferred to Camp Five Mile as mechanic to take the place of the mechanic who was going on annual leave.

Arriving at Five Mile camp I began to repair the "40" tractor. With the help of an efficient assistant I soon had the cat taken apart for repairs; repaired, and returned to the work projects.

The "55" Cletrac that formerly was at Board Corrals is here and is now being taken apart to be repaired.

Due to the poor condition of the state roads in the vicinity of camp, the trucks are constantly needing minor repairs to keep them in condition.

Mr. Beers has personally seen that all trucks are governed at low speeds and has suggested at meetings for truck drivers ways that they might better keep their trucks in good running condition. Not only will his suggestions reduce the repair costs but also will improve safety factors in the field projects of this camp.

Robert T. Hile,

The first week in December a crew of eighteen men packed out of Bridge Creek canyon, 630 fence posts. One crew of men completed 3/4 mile of fence construction. This finishes a fence line two miles long that fences off what is known as the primitive or wilderness area.

A crew of men cleaned up a-long the fence line and around two of the "P" ranch buildings. They also hauled away old post and lumber to the "P" ranch woodpile.

Four men dug test holes near the old gravel pit, trying to find new gravel but were unsuccessful. Two crews of men worked on reconstruction of road between Camp Five Mile and Camp Buena Vista. One bunch of lads worked ahead of a dynamite crew, removing small rock and dirt so that the dynamite crew could drill and blast rock; another crew followed behind with a grader throwing out rock and smoothing up road.

My observance of bird life has been very limited this month. Most of the birds seen were a few mallards, widegon and a few teals. I have also seen two fairly large bands of mountain quail, quite a few chinese ~~quails~~ pheasants and two large bands of geese. The geese were feeding in the Wetzel grain field.

Louis L. Mace,
Junior Foreman C&M

On December 21st we finished the new river channel above the dam and also a dyke across the old channel to turn the river into the new one.

During the last week of December the gravel in the bottom of the channel was so hard that the dragline was unable to dig it loose. To overcome this we used a bulldozer in the channel to loosen up the gravel and push it up where the dragline can pick it up. We also used the bulldozer in building the dyke which when finished will be about 15 ft. high with a 30 ft. bottom and a 15 ft. top.

The last two days were spent overhauling the dragline bucket and making minor adjustments on the machine.

C. G. Claasen,
Skilled Workman,
Dragline Operator

View of "P" ranch house showing change in windows, south side view.

A close up view of "P" ranch house from south side.

Tebo the caretaker at the "P" ranch who is very sick and is in the hospital with heart trouble.

The old method of loading gravel.

The new method of loading gravel with power; it only takes two minutes to load. The gravel has fallen thru the trap into the trucks.

A side view of bulldozer loading trucks with gravel.

Loading lava rock to be used for the porch floor on the "P" ranch house. This rock is hauled some 26 miles. The derrick used in loading is on the other side of the truck out of sight; it picked up the rock and landed it on the truck.

The derrick used in loading the lava rock.

The "P" ranch house view from south side before remodeling started.

Clearing sagebrush for fence right-of-way.

Rock jacks used in place of posts in rocky country where holes cannot be dug without drilling; the wire is stapled to the right side of the tripod (see picture) and about 150 lbs. of rock layed upon the floor of tripod to prevent it from moving. The rocks are not put on until the wires are stretched. Note the large rocks to the right of the rock jack.

Cattle being sorted (near the "P" ranch), that is any strays removed and the mothers separated from the calves to wean them. There are over 3,000 head in this bunch; not all can be seen.