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Memorandum for Field Officers

United States Department of the Interior, Office of National Parks

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UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of National Parks
Buildings and Reservations
Washington

Emergency Conservation Work
(N.P.S. Circular No. 44)

August 15, 1933.

(Also SP Circular No. 10)

MEMORANDUM FOR FIELD OFFICERS:

"Happy Days"

"Happy Days", published by the Happy Days Publishing Co., National Press Building, Washington, D. C., is the authorized weekly newspaper of the C.C.C., and is an important factor in helping to build and maintain morale in the various camps, and in keeping each camp informed so far as possible of the entire organization. The paper, in our opinion, deserves the support and co-operation of the men in charge of the camps, both in the matter of subscriptions and along editorial lines. It will be helpful to the editors if news of the various camps in the national, military and State parks is sent to them regularly each week.

In some camps the men contribute five or 10 cents per month each toward a fund to buy 100 or 200 copies per week of "Happy Days", in that way making the paper available to all the men in camp each week. In other camps a quantity of papers is purchased each week out of company funds. Many of the men subscribe to have the papers sent to their relatives as a means of keeping them informed regarding the work that is being done in the nation's parks and forests.

The editors of "Happy Days" have recently increased the size of the paper to 16 pages each week. They plan later to send correspondents into the various parks and forests to cover and report at first hand the activities in the various camps. This expansion of their work, however, will depend in large part upon the added support that is given the paper both on the part of the men in charge of the camps and by the enrolled men themselves. We believe that "Happy Days" merits the support of all who have the welfare of the C.C.C. at heart.

At a recent meeting of the Advisory Council the question of subscriptions for "Happy Days" from ECW funds for distribution to Government officers and camp superintendents was discussed and Mr. Fechner very emphatically stated that no such subscriptions should be paid from ECW funds. If by any chance any subscriptions have been made from this fund the matter should be promptly adjusted. The enrolled men in the camps are required to pay for their own subscriptions and no reason is evident why others interested should not do the same.

Leave of Absence for Enrolled Men

Reports are received which indicate that some company commanders are granting leave of absence from duty in cases not involving emergencies, with resulting injury to the accomplishment of work projects. Attention is called to the instructions under the heading "Absence from Duty" on page 4 of N.P.S. Circular No. 35 of July 24 which state:

"Under such instructions as the camp commander may prescribe with the approval of the chief supervisor of the work project, leave of absence with pay, in an emergency, may be granted a member of the Emergency Conservation Work Corps * * * "

These instructions from the Director of Emergency Conservation Work provide ample authority for preventing abuses of this privilege by having the granting of leave conditional upon the approval of the camp superintendent as well as the company commander.

Additional Replacements Not Permitted

In response to requests for blanket authority to keep companies filled up to 200 enrolled men by local selections, or for special authority to bring individual companies up to 200 where serious shortages have developed, the Director of Emergency Conservation Work has very definitely stated that no further authorizations for replacements will be granted during the balance of the present enrollment period. It is therefore needless to send in further requests of this character.

Complaints to the War Department

Mr. Fechner calls our attention to the fact that the War Department here in Washington is receiving many complaints of a nature which could be promptly adjusted if the matters involved were taken up by the local authorities directly with the camp commanders, or if it cannot be adjusted with the camp commander then with the district commander, or if necessary, with the corps area commander either direct or through the liaison officer.

The War Department does not communicate directly with the camp commanders nor with the district commanders, but acts through the corps area commanders, so that matters referred to Washington for the attention of the War Department must be referred by it back to the field through the corps area commander. Time would therefore be saved by taking matters up through the proper local agency first.

In case of inability to secure satisfactory adjustment through those regular channels of any matters which are of sufficient importance to be referred to the War Department here for action, you may refer such matters to this office and every effort will be made to secure prompt and satisfactory action.

Relief Models

Where relief models and relief maps have been prepared for any parks or national forests they have demonstrated their great value in a multitude of uses, serving all branches of the organization. For example, they may be used in connection with the master plan to show the location of existing and proposed roads and trails, buildings, and all other physical improvements; by the educational branch for illustrating geological features, vegetative cover and zones, etc.; by the protection organization in connection with visibility studies, forest types, fire hazards, protection facilities, etc.; and are a never failing source of interest to the park visitors both in planning trips and in gaining a knowledge of the most interesting features of the park.

This subject is brought to your attention with the thought that possibly some of the parks which have good topographic maps but have no satisfactory relief models may be able to accomplish part of the preparation of such models through the use of ECW labor. The preparation of such models is certainly an important part of the conservation and forestry program of each park and worthy of inclusion in the ECW activities where suitable men for this purpose can be found among the C.C.C. There is a large amount of work, particularly in cutting and assembling, that takes a large amount of time but comparatively little training. In connection with the emergency conservation work, there will be rainy days when work of this nature could be accomplished and when it might be far better for the men to be occupied in such activities than to be idle.

Many members of the educational branch probably have the necessary knowledge and training in the preparation of such models to be able to direct the work. Ansel F. Hall, Chief of the Division of Education and Forestry, 333 Hilgard Hall, University of California, Berkeley, Calif., has had valuable experience in this work and so has Park Naturalist C. F. Brockman of Mount Rainier National Park. Either of these N.P.S. officers will be glad to furnish information in this regard to those who may not be familiar with the technique of preparing such models.

THOSE NATIONAL PARKS AND MONUMENTS IN WHICH ECW CAMPS ARE ESTABLISHED
WILL PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE RECEIPT OF THIS MEMORANDUM.

STATE PARK PROCUREMENT OFFICERS PLEASE ACKNOWLEDGE.

(SGD)A. E. DEMARAY

Associate Director.