

Born 1923 in Flint. Family moved to Gaylord in 1930 to King Farm, east of town. Dad had 60 acres of 120 farm and someone else farmed other 60 acres.

His dad went to work for CCC. Spent 3 years as carpenter in camp. He was "rated" and received \$45.00 a month. Most of his time was spent at the Pigeon River Camp. He was a WWI vet.

Tom's older brother, Oscar, spent 2 years in CCC as an enrollee and received \$30.00 a month. Tom enrolled after high school graduation in CCC in 1941. He was 17 years old and this was his only chance at getting a job. He spent 4 months at Camp Wolverine and then went to Camp Higgins for 9 months. For both boys \$25.00 was sent home and the boys kept \$5.00 for their personal use. After enrolled in CCC for 13 month, WWII was on the horizon and he enlisted in the Navy.

Description of CCC:

Camp Wolverine had about 100 guys; Camp Higgins had about 200 vets and 15 enrollees. The military ran the camps but the State ran the projects.

Typical day:

Reveille at 7:00 a.m.

Breakfast, then work on a crew. Finished in late afternoon and then had 1 hour to take classed or have personal rec time.

Type of work:

In Wolverine Tom

Worked with pine seedlings in raised beds

Had KP duty

Trained as a cook

Became a camp baker

Camp Wolverine

Worked in pine nursery

Drew maps of state-owned land based on description provided by DNR

Survey of lakes, depth of lakes – DNR

During his extra time Tom took art classes. He learned to be a sign painter. Worked for State doing signs later.

Facilities:

At mess hall all men ate at once, family style on long tables with benches. Three cooks with 2-3 helpers. Assisted by table hoppers. Officers ate in different room and were served by waiters. State Workers joined them.

Bunk House – 50 people to bunk house

Infirmery – 4-6 beds with person in charge staying there.

Canteen had pool tables, music. In separate building with snacks and chips.

Library was separate building

Generated electricity with gas generator.

Had weekends and Holidays off and so hitched hiked home and back. CCC insured men.

King School Had 52 students and one teacher.

On farm got first tractor in 1939. Electricity in 1941 and telephone in 1947 when they moved to Gaylord.

KEY WORDS

CCC

King School

Depression

Pigeon River Camp

Higgins Camp

Wolverine Camp