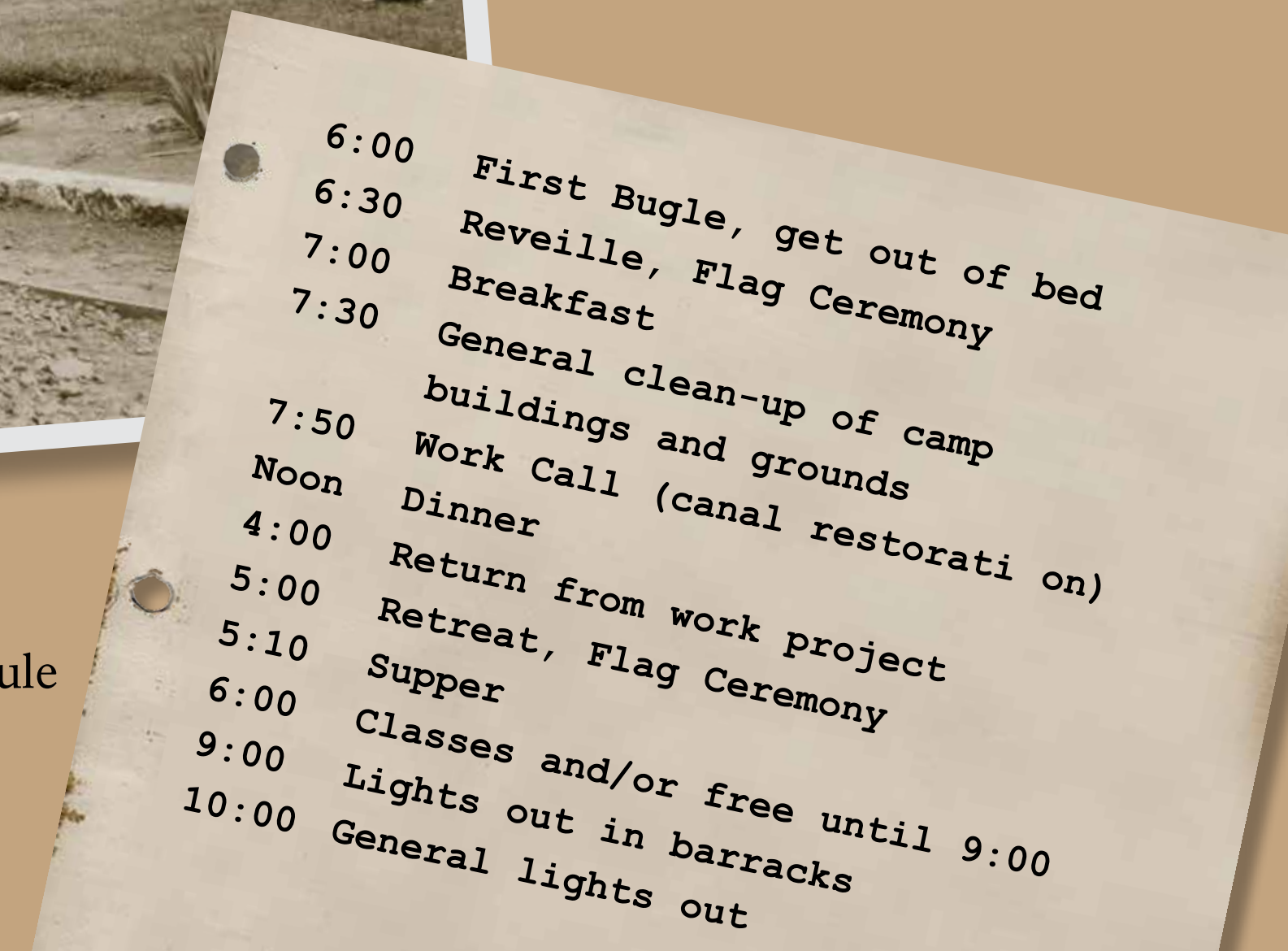




Enrollees learn auto mechanic skills during an evening class.



Imagine the sounds of reveille and taps played each day as the flag was raised and lowered in the area in front of you. The ritual set the tone for the camp's daily rhythm.



A typical daily schedule at Camp NP-2-MD.

# Unexpected Benefits in the Civilian Conservation Corps



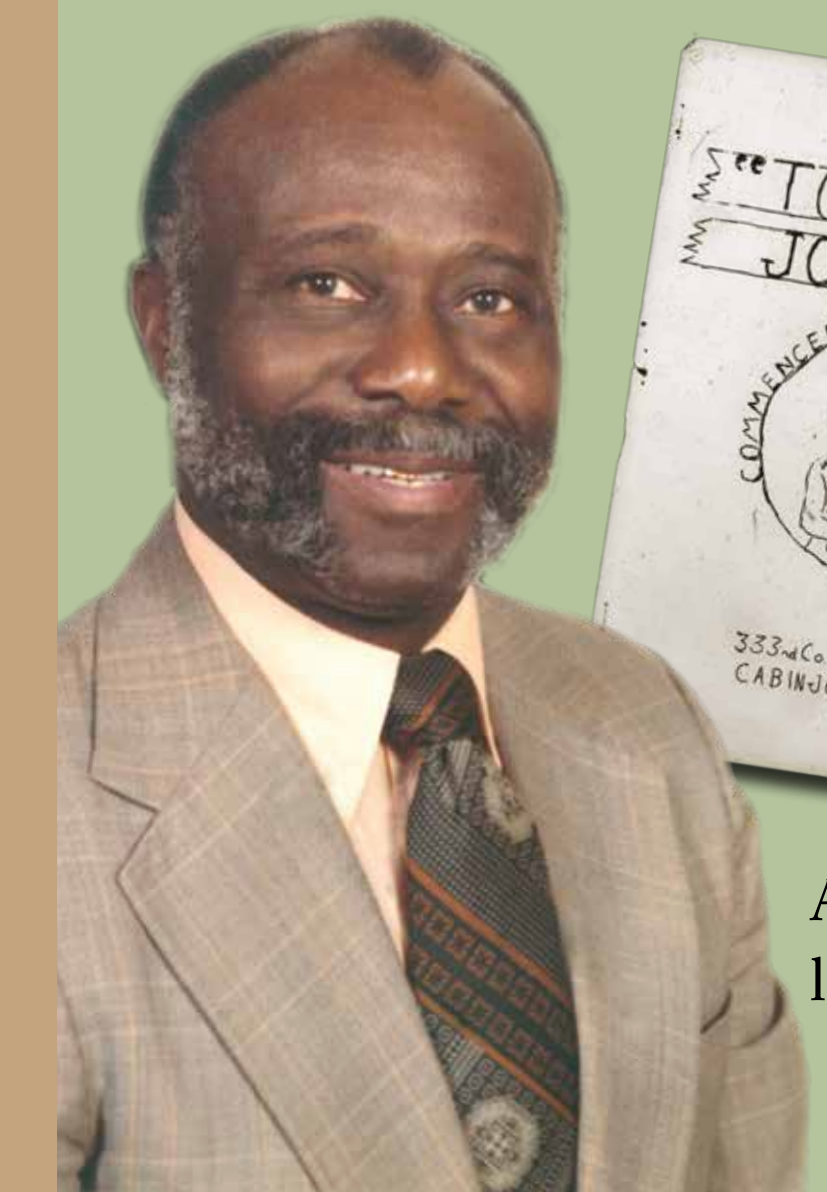
Has a job ever rewarded you with more than a paycheck? This was the case for many young African-American men who reported for duty each morning at Camp NP-2, where you are now standing. They lived a military lifestyle as CCC enrollees. During the day, the men worked hard restoring the C&O Canal. But during their free time on evenings and weekends, they had the opportunity to enroll in camp classes to finish their academic education or learn new technical skills.

Academic classes ranged from English and mathematics to world history and theater. Vocational training included auto mechanics, carpentry, stenography, cooking, and truck-driving. An active sports program, featuring baseball, basketball, and softball, played a large role in building teamwork. As the men wrote in their camp newsletter, *Tow-Path Journal*, the camp's military discipline, educational and social experiences, and spiritual support "helped prepare them for life ahead."

## Amos I. Custis

Amos I. Custis lived in a Virginia mill town before enrolling in the CCC in 1939. Assigned to NP-2 MD camp, Custis took an active role in camp life. He helped edit the *Tow-Path Journal*, played on many sports teams, and acted in theatrical performances. He also worked as a typing instructor—one of few enrollees entrusted with teaching.

The military discipline and collaborative spirit Custis learned at camp prepared him and other CCC participants for military service during World War II. After the war, Custis settled in Washington, D.C., where he was well-known as a community leader until his death in 1986.



Amos I. Custis, later in life.

**"...continue to improve yourself along all lines— education, work, and good clean recreation, God Spirit to All."**

— C. Rushton Long  
Educational advisor  
*Tow-Path Journal*, June 1939  
special commencement issue