

News Release



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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La Purisima Mission State Historic Park to Commemorate 75th Anniversary of CCC

Civilian Conservation Corps enrollees and their families invited to attend

Lompoc -- On April 26, 2008, La Purisima Mission State Historic Park will celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) on the grounds of the restored mission and the public is invited. Former CCC enrollees and their families are also invited to attend as special guests of the park.

Festivities will begin at 2:00 p.m. with the Dick Clark Band playing "big band" music from the 1930s and 40s. Antique cars and trucks from that era will be on display in front of the padres' residence building. Park staff is preparing a special photo exhibit of the restoration of La Purisima Mission by the CCC from 1934 to 1941. The restoration was the largest project undertaken by the CCC in California.

The CCC was part of President Franklin Roosevelt's New Deal. When Roosevelt took office in 1933 the United States was gripped by the worst economic depression in its history. One of his first acts was to ask Congress for a large appropriation for emergency conservation work. The result was passage of the Emergency Work Act or as it came to be called the "Civilian Conservation Corps." Thousands of unemployed young men were recruited and given gainful employment working in forests, parks and other public lands to restore and conserve the nation's natural resources and historic sites. 2,650 CCC camps were set up across the country and in Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Former CCC enrollees and their families who plan to attend this event are asked to contact the park at (805) 733-3713 or lpminfo@parks.ca.gov.

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