

Historians often begin their research at a library or archive. But to tell the larger story of forestry work undertaken by conscientious objectors during World War II, historian Jean Mansavage started her project by going through a closet in her parents' home. Her father's unpublished memoir and his wartime scrapbook (below) enabled her to tell it through the experiences of one man at one camp in Michigan. She then unearthed historical records at the National Archives, including her father's own service records. (At right is a petition that he and 62 others signed to indicate they would accept pay for their services.) She rounded out her research by combing through libraries for books and articles. "Doing Valuable Work: A Conscientious Objector's Wartime Service on the Manistee National Forest" begins on page 62.

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Walter
file

To: General Lewis B. Hershey
Colonel Lewis F. Koch
Warthen Service Committee
National Service Board for Religious Objectors

Gentlemen:

We the undersigned members of CIG Camp #42 would accept pay (not to exceed that of the Armed Forces) for our services to the Government of the United States.

1. Walter J. J. J.
2. David Kirk
3. David Vogt
4. Chas. M. Broshars
5. O. Marshall Rogers
6. Raymond Mitchell
7. Karl C. Lichty
8. Carroll Bogwill
9. Milo Jutila
10. Ralph R. Anderson
11. Elmer Daugherty
12. Warren Hughes
13. R. W. Herbert
14. Lawrence Stump
15. J. B. J. J.
16. Tom R. J. J.
17. J. J. J.
18. W. Harmon
19. J. J. J.
20. E. J. J.
21. J. J. J.
22. Francis W. Hart
23. Emil Mansavage
24. Cecil P. Bliss
25. C. Moneyheffer
26. Milo C. Wall
27. Howard D. Varnell
28. Richard D. Boynton



(Left) The radio went bad at the Boon Tower (in the Cadillac District) so Lanky Ladner and Joe Blodgett went over to take care of it. The Boon tower is one of the most important in that district as it's near the hills thru which the Ann Arbor RR passes thru and sets so many fires.

(Right) Harold McKimney and Harold Kintner climbing a spar pole on the Oxford-Manistee county line. These spar poles are used in cases of extreme emergency. When the hazard is very bad and visibility poor men are set on watch atop of them. While they have no fire spotting equipment like the towers they can spot a smoke for quite some distance and judge by landmarks as to where it is.



"Fire in the Cabarfae Hills"
This one broke out just at the time Lanky and Joe were at the Boon tower so they went out to give them a little help. Upon arrival there Mark Swietzer (Cadillac Dist. Ranger) told them they had it pretty much under control and wouldn't need any help from camp. Joe took a picture of this old codger mopping it up with a back pack pump.



Homer Peters was putting the "bead" on a smoke spotted from the Red Bridge tower. After sighting thru this Osborne fire finder and getting a line on the smoke a degree reading is taken and called in to the Guard Station. The degree readings on our maps correspond with those in the towers and that way we get the location of the fire.



Another view of the warehouse in back of the station. This was taken later in the summer when the leaves were on the trees making it look somewhat different. The scenery from up here as well as the towers looks quite nice in the summer time.