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## Edmonson County, Kentucky - New Deal Program Files (MSS 95)

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Departments of Library Special Collections  
Western Kentucky University  
Bowling Green, KY 42101-1092

*Descriptive Inventory*

**MSS 95 EDMONSON County, Kentucky – New Deal Program**

3 boxes. 23 folders. 1,620 items. 1933-1940. Originals.

1994.57.1

**ORGANIZATIONAL HISTORY**

The New Deal was the collective name for the programs introduced by Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his staff to combat the economic crisis known as the Great Depression. The economic crisis had a number of causes, many predating the stock market crash of October 1929. Herbert Hoover made few attempts to alleviate the suffering caused by the crisis, believing that government should refrain from taking the role of private charity. Appearing stiff and uncaring, Hoover was defeated in the 1932 presidential election by former New York governor Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Roosevelt, surrounded by a cadre of bright advisors, began immediately to address the basic needs of Americans particularly the unemployed. Roosevelt opposed the dole, promoting work programs instead.

Three of these work programs are represented in this collection: the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), the National Youth Administration (NYA), and the Works Progress Administration (WPA). CCC was established in 1933 to help put young men to work in the nation's state forests. Originally, plans specified that the CCC would hire only unmarried men, eighteen years to twenty-five, from needy families and would place them in camps for six-month terms. By the time the program ended in mid-1943, over 2.5 million men had served at hundreds of camp sites and had, among other things, planted approximately 2.3 billion trees. In Kentucky, CCC men worked in almost all the state parks and at Mammoth Cave. The National Youth Administration, begun in 1935, was started to help high school and college age students find part-time jobs and remain in school. Although the NYA served more people than the CCC it never captured the public's imagination as the Corps did. The WPA was created in 1935 and became the largest and most expensive relief program ever. By the time it closed operations in 1943, the WPA had spent approximately eleven billion dollars and employed as many as three million workers at one time. An estimated nine million Americans were on its payroll at some time during its existence.

For information about the New Deal in Kentucky, see George T. Blakey's *Hard Times and New Deal in Kentucky, 1929-1939* (Kentucky Library, F456.B53 1986)

## **COLLECTION NOTE**

The Edmonson County New Deal Program Files contain information about the CCC, NYA and WPA work in Edmonson County, Kentucky from 1933 to 1942. The materials consist of administrative files for registrars and deal more with enrolling workers than any projects on which they were involved. Approximately two-thirds of the collection consists of CCC applications and collateral information for 236 young Edmonson County men. These applications contain basic information about the men applying, such as: age, birthplace, height, weight, family members at home, work experience, educational and vocational interests, school attended and last grade level attained, and the camp to which they were assigned. The NYA records consist chiefly of administrative correspondence, but it too contains applications for 17 young people. The brief applications include the following information: age, address, marital status, grade in school, family members at home, and provides a brief place for comments. The correspondence does include information about a NYA program at Western Kentucky University (then Western Kentucky State Teachers College) and Murray State University (then Murray State Teachers College). The WPA records consist of applications for clothing and nine work history files for individuals employed by WPA.

## **SHELF LIST**

<b>BOX 1</b>	<b>Civilian Conservation Corps</b>	<b>1935-1940</b>	<b>533 items</b>
Folder 1	Descriptive inventory	n.d.	3 items
Folder 2	Applications, A-C	1935-1940	83 items
Folder 3	Applications, D-G	1936-1940	92 items
Folder 4	Applications, H	1936-1940	90 items
Folder 5	Applications, J-L	1936-1940	71 items
Folder 6	Applications, M	1935-1940	149 items
Folder 7	Applications, N-R	1936-1939	45 items
<b>BOX 2</b>	<b>Civilian Conservation Corps</b>	<b>1936-1940</b>	<b>538 items</b>
Folder 1	Applications, S	1936-1940	115 items
Folder 2	Applications, T-V	1936-1940	100 items
Folder 3	Applications, W	1936-1940	33 items

Folder 4	Bulletins	1938-1939	20 items
Folder 5	Correspondence	1936-1938	55 items
Folder 6	Correspondence	1939	121 items
Folder 7	Correspondence	1940	44 items
Folder 8	Monthly application reports	1938-1940	37 items
Folder 9	Roster of CCC Junior Selectees...	1938-1940	13 items
<b>BOX 3</b>	<b>National Youth Administration &amp; Works Progress Administration</b>	<b>1933-1942</b>	<b>549 items</b>
Folder 1	National Youth Administration - Applications	1939-1940	17 items
Folder 2	National Youth Administration - Correspondence	1939-1940	82 items
Folder 3	Works Progress Administration - Certification orders and receipts for clothing	1939	96 items
Folder 4	Works Progress Administration - Clothing applications	1939	123 items
Folder 5	Works Progress Administration - Correspondence	1937	12 items
Folder 6	Works Progress Administration - Work history files	1933-1942	183 items
Folder 7	Citizenship and birth records	1939	36 items

## ***BIBLIOGRAPHIC RECORD***

MSS EDMONSON County, Kentucky – 1933-1942  
95 New Deal Programs

Administrative files, chiefly applications and correspondence, for three Edmonson County New Deal programs: the Civilian Conservation Corps, the National Youth Administration, and the Works Progress Administration.

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## ***SUBJECT ANALYTICS***

Civilian Conservation Corps – Edmonson County – Participants from, 1935-1940  
Depressions, 1929 and after – Edmonson County  
Murray State University – National Youth Administration, 1939-1940  
National Youth Administration – Edmonson County – Participants from, 1939-1940  
New Deal, 1933-1939 – Edmonson County  
Western Kentucky University – National Youth Administration, 1939-1940  
Works Progress Administration – Edmonson County – Participants from, 1933-1942

Jeffrey 07/07/2008