

HISTORY QUESTION OF THE MONTH

We have all enjoyed the many projects in our canyons that were completed by the young men of the Big Cottonwood CCC Camp that was located at the mouth of Big Cottonwood Canyon. What were some of the other benefits the community received at the time, from the camp being located nearby?

ANSWER

During July of 1935, a large brush fire raged near Butlerville, endangering valuable poultry farms, haystacks and granaries. The men from the CCC Camp worked with the County Fire Department to extinguish the fire.

In 1937 when the Big Cottonwood CCC Camp entered the Salt Lake Farm Bureau Baseball League, they had no suitable field on which to practice or play. The diamond at Butlerville was finally determined to be the best place, however it was in disrepair. Funds were obtained and the field was remodeled. The short left field that had previously handicapped playing was remedied by moving the backstop back some sixty five feet. The backstop was also repaired with new wire netting. Both infield and outfield were graded and leveled. These improvements made a suitable home field for the CCC Camp and Butlerville had a revamped baseball field.

Early in May of 1941, a two year old child playing on the front lawn of a neighbor's home located near Big Cottonwood Canyon Creek, disappeared. The parents fearing the child had fallen into the swollen creek immediately called the CCC Camp and they sent men to help in the search for the child. Unfortunately, the child's lifeless body was eventually found, about 1½ miles further down- stream, below the bridge by the "Old Mill".

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