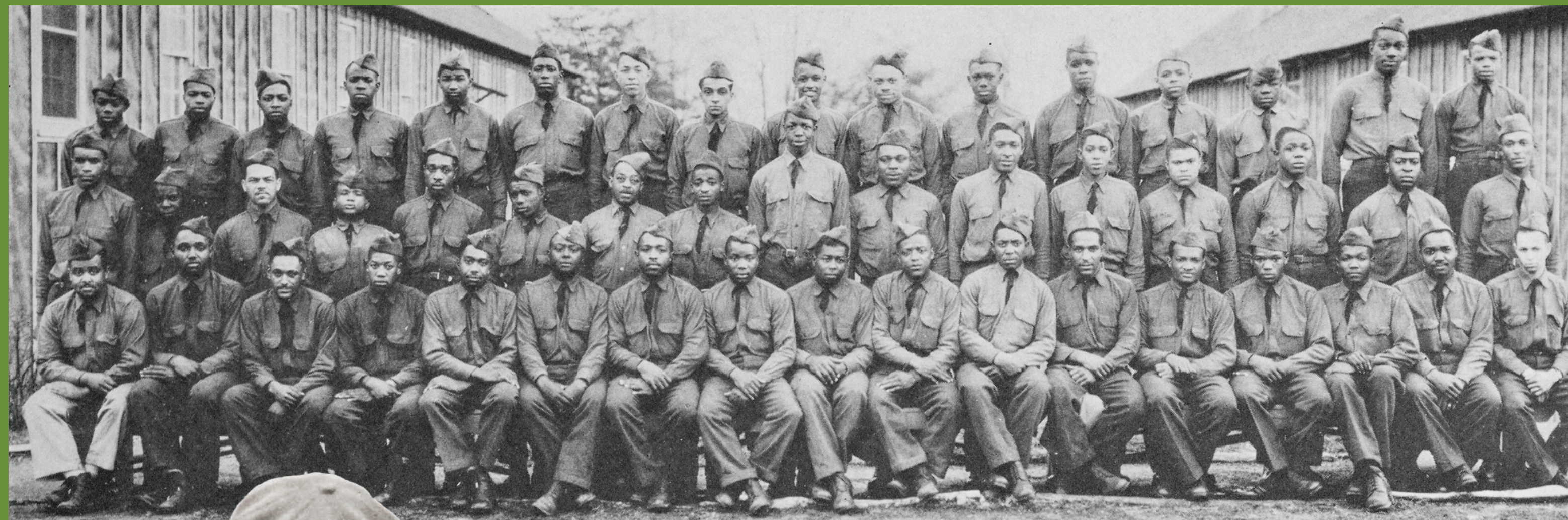


# The Men Who Made The Arboretum



The men of Company 1360 at the end of 1937.

Camp portraits and collage photos courtesy of the Civilian Conservation Corps Collection, Archives Center, National Museum of American History, Smithsonian Institution



A member of Company 1360 works on road construction.

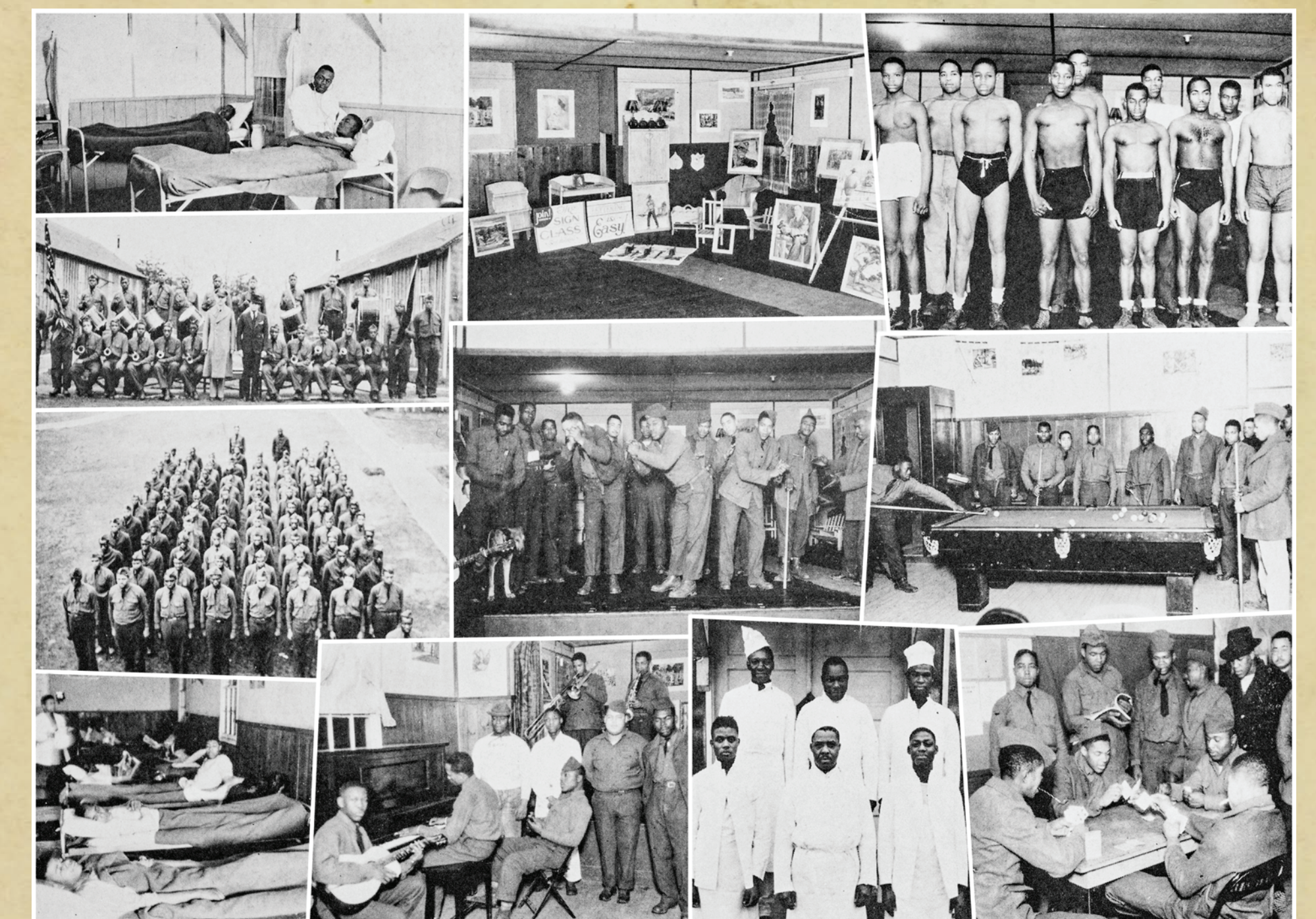
***“Learn by Doing.”***  
– Co. 1360 motto

Civilian Conservation Corps Camp NA-1 occupied this area from November 1934 until December 1941. Hundreds of local young Black men called the National Arboretum home while enrolled as members of Company 1360. Per CCC policy, the camp was racially segregated.

These men, aged 18 to 25, came mostly from Washington, D.C., Virginia, and Maryland. Some had experience as cooks, truck drivers, mechanics, and couriers. A few had professional backgrounds as office workers. There were even a handful of self-proclaimed “hucksters.” Some were high school graduates, but most left school early.

As the Great Depression raged, these men were unable to find paying work. Their families desperately needed the \$22 or more that every CCC enrollee sent home monthly.

Camp NA-1 could house about 200 men, and enrollees slept in six large barracks. Army officers, who managed the camp, and the Park Service employees, who oversaw the enrollees’ work, also lived here. Days started early, around 7 a.m., and the men worked a standard 40-hour week. Most worked on Arboretum construction projects, but some worked as maintenance, medical orderlies, cooks, and clerks.



It wasn’t all work at Camp NA-1! In their free time, enrollees could take classes in many academic and technical subjects. There were clubs for art, drama, and music, including two singing quartets with a regular slot on Saturday morning radio. Sports were popular, as were cards, pool, and ping-pong.