

SPRING HISTORY TOUR TO EXPLORE OLD CCC CAMP



The Meade County Historical Society spring history tour will be held Saturday, April 24. We will gather at the Meade City Park and start the tour promptly at 9:30 am. Participants are asked to bring a sack lunch and sturdy shoes. Trails can be a little rough, so anyone who can bring an SUV or pickup will be appreciated.

Suddenly there seems to be a renewed interest in the depression era, perhaps because the country is going through tough economic times, or perhaps because we are quickly losing folks who lived through it and we want to capture all the first-hand stories we can before it's too late. Whatever the reason, it was the inspiration for our history tour this spring.

Meade County was the recipient of several WPA (Work Progress Administration) and NYA (National Youth Administration) projects in the late 1930's and early 1940's. We will start our tour viewing some of them that are in Meade. One such project was the Dalton Gang Hideout, NYA crews built the tunnel and the rock work on the barn, and WPA crews did the landscaping. When city leaders first applied to Washington D.C. for the Hideout project they were turned down because the government wasn't about to fund work on a project that glorified ruthless outlaws. The application was promptly re-worked and submitted to Topeka as Meade Historical Park and was then approved.

After touring the WPA projects we will head for Meade State Lake. The story of the lake and how it came to be is great history. We will gather at the artesian well on the park grounds and Mark Goldsberry will be on hand to tell us about the CCC Camp that was located there. There are still two of the old barracks we can look at as well as photos of the camp in operation. This camp was also used as an internment camp during WWII, and we have a limited history of the folks who were housed there.

We will have our lunch at the shelter near the artesian well somewhere in this tour and Mark will show us the fish hatchery and some of the adobe buildings the “campies” constructed around the lake. We all remember the old adobe bath house that is long since torn down... it was also one of the CCC projects.

We encourage you to stay around after the tour and enjoy the lake. A reminder, though, that to drive into the lake property you need to stop and get a permit at the office.

This will be fun tour and you will surely learn something you did not know about our familiar old landmarks. Mark your calendar for April 24th, we will see you then!