

AN OUTPOST OF HUMBLE SERVICE

The men and women who have passed through Camp Dodge have tackled some of the most unsung tasks in the White Mountain National Forest. Their contributions—often unpaid—to trail maintenance, hurricane cleanup and outdoor stewardship testify to the prideful place of outdoor recreation in America.

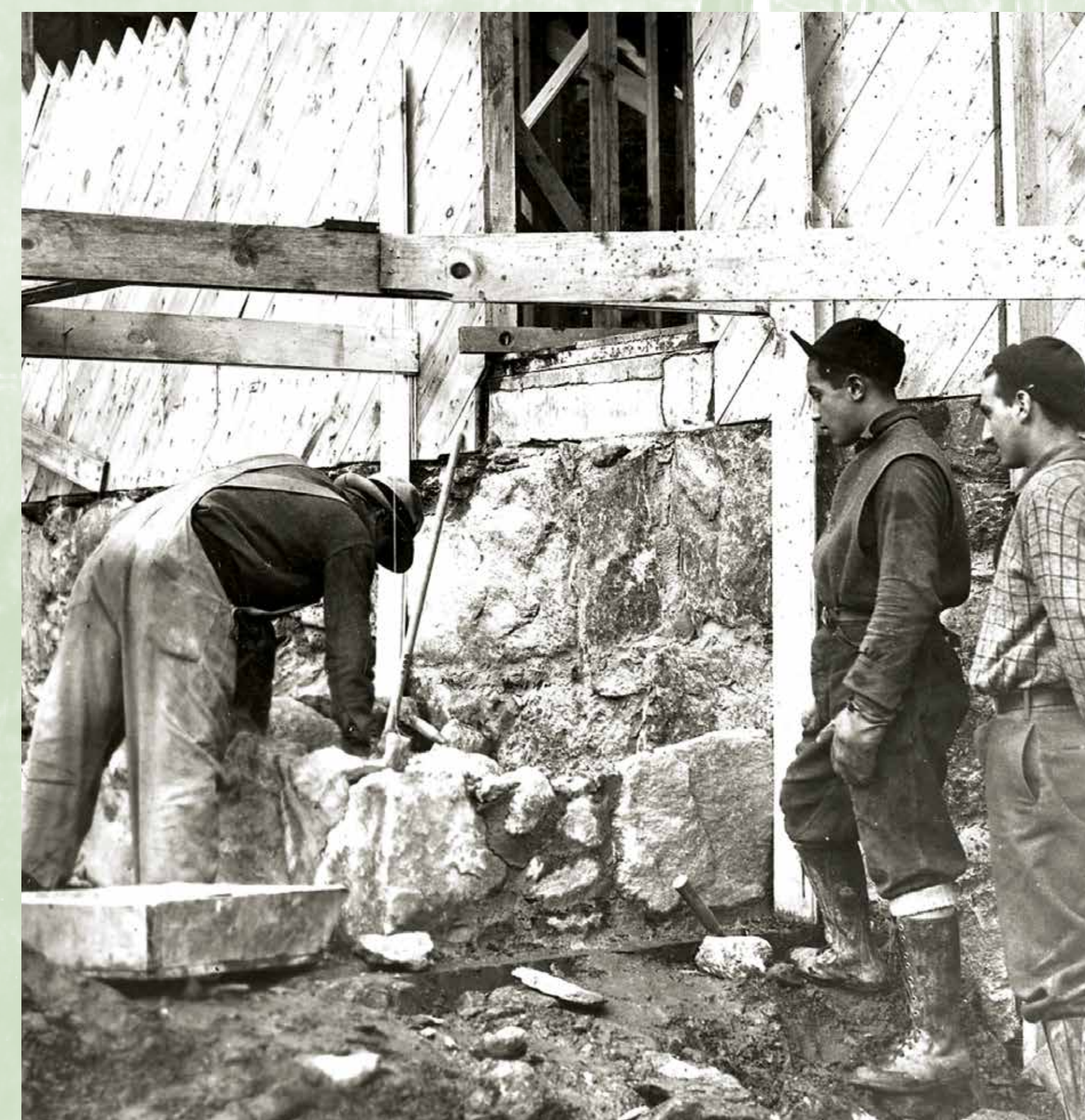
Honoring that service, the Appalachian Mountain Club and the US Forest Service worked jointly to upgrade these facilities. Originally established in 1935 as a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp, Camp Dodge reopened in 2020 as a regional trails skills training center to support all who labor in the back country. Add your stories to the chapters highlighted here. The work goes on. The cause of stewardship calls.



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CCC Changes Lives

Camp Peabody, as Camp Dodge, was originally called was one of 17 camps established by the CCC in the White Mountain National Forest to put jobless men to work during the Depression. The CCC was a model of federal relief, providing men opportunities for enrichment, vocational training and education. An example of the CCC's good work is the stone retaining wall behind the pavilion.



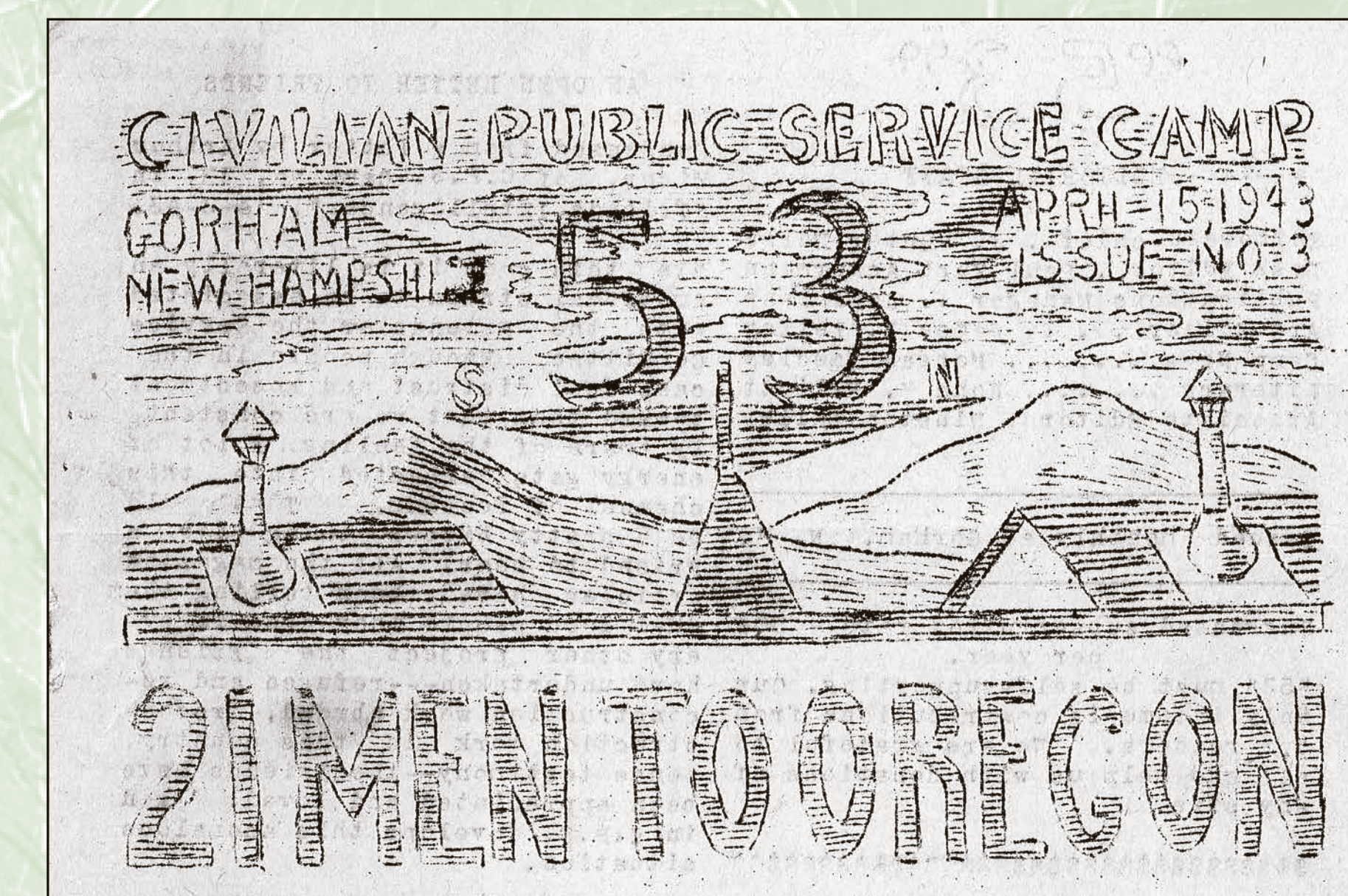
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Pacifists Model Values

During World War II, the camp housed conscientious objectors to war. Civilian Public Service Camp 53 was funded and run as a demonstration of pacifist values by American Friends Service Committee. Camp residents cut firewood for poor families, jointly ran the camp, and published a feisty camp newspaper.



AMC TRAIL CREW ARCHIVES

Soldiers Test Gear

During the Cold War years, soldiers in the US Army Quartermaster Corps tested cold-weather gear under extreme conditions. Men and women marched in snowshoes, bivouacked on Mount Washington, and took dunks in icy waters. By contrast, winter tenting at Camp Dodge was a relative comfort.



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Volunteerism Becomes a Business

The US Forest Service perked Camp Dodge back to life in the 1970s by launching a summer jobs program for youth. AMC took over in 1982 and with Forest Service support grew volunteerism into a serious business with tailored programs for inner-city youth, church groups, service vacationers, corporate outings, and college student orientation.

