



C. C. C. Speech

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MISCELLANY

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C. C. C. SPEECH

About 360,000 of America's young men are enrolled in C. C. C. camps throughout the country. Naturally among such a large assemblage of youth characteristic linguistic usages arise. There is a substratum of army slang under the C. C. C. lingo, brought in by officers of the camp and by boys who have done C. M. T. C. or R. O. T. C. duty. General slang is brought in from various colleges and communities near or remote. But in addition to these borrowed terms, many of which are in general usage, there are coinages, originated by the camp wit and rapidly caught up by appreciative hearers. Out of such diverse sources and origins, one may well expect a characteristic body of terms to emerge since they are taken from camp by members of athletic teams, by officers and enrollees who are transferred from one camp to another, by the publications of the various companies, and by the official C. C. C. publication, *Happy Days*.

A rough classification of current terms is attempted in the following list:

Terms for food: *sorority sauce* — catsup; *lye-water* — coffee; *come* — gravy; *foreskins* — creamed dried beef; *seconds* — second servings of food.

Terms for persons preparing, serving, and eating food: *keeper of the keys* — storekeeper; *belly-robber* —

cook; *bean-jockey* — tablewaiter; *chow-hound*—food glutton; *pelican* —food glutton.

Medical expressions: *C. C. C. cottontail*—dose of salts; *St. Anthony highball* — an enema; *pill-roller* — member of medical corps.

Implements: *idiot-stick* — shovel, pick, axe; *Irish pluggy* or *Irish buggy* —wheelbarrow.

Terms pertaining to officers and enrollees: *skipper*—captain; *old man* —commanding officer; *brass hat*—officer; *tent Johnny*—second lieutenant; *shavetail* — second lieutenant; *top-kick*—first sergeant; *lance corporal*—first class private; *dog-robber*—officer's orderly; *woodpecker*—C. C. C. enrollee; *rookie*—recruit; *trooper*—cavalryman; *K. P.*—kitchen police, kitchen helper; *suicide squad*—machine gun squad; *gold bricker*—duty-shunner, lazy soldier or enrollee; *guardhouse lawyer* — a soldier who knows the regulations thoroughly but attempts to evade punishment and discipline by 'loopholes'; *boot-licker, suck* — one who seeks favors and considerations (special) from superiors by catering to the whims and fancies of the superiors.

Terms for recreations: *rat-race*—dance of low-grade nature; *belly-rub, crab-exchange* — dance of low-grade nature; *shindig* — dance.

Miscellaneous terms: *eighteen-holders* — latrines; *ball and chain* — girl friend; *mugging* — necking; *latrine rumors*—unofficial rumors that originate and spread through the sol-

diers or C. C. C. boys without official verification; *over-the-hill*—desertion; *swindle sheet*—expense account; *bob-tail*—(yellow-colored) dishonorable discharge; *hitch*—enlistment period; *re-up*—re-enlist; *piece*—rifle; *soldier*—perform duties of soldier in conscientious, military manner; *fatigue*—work; *bunk fatigue*—resting on one's bed; *buzzycot*—large boiler for cooking; *long John*—increased pay for length of service; *hash marks*—bars on sleeve, one for each three years of service; *suntans*—summer uniform, made of lightweight material with sheen; *police*—clean an area by picking up all trash; *butts*—'let me use that when you finish with it' (first used in asking a comrade to be permitted to smoke his cigarette butt when he is finished with it); *hustler*—prostitute; *stake*—act as house orderly for an officer; *broad, bag*—uncomplimentary terms for woman, *bag* referring to a woman of lower character than *broad*; *giggle-water*—gin; *get honey on one's legs*—accumulate money or wealth; *put the kife on*—steal; *chill your store*—arouse antagonism against yourself; *evening*—afternoon (a Southernism commonly used in Kansas); *gear jammer*—truck driver; *mule skinner*—driver of mules; *soup strainer*—mustache.

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KENTUCKY PIONEERS

The danger, humor, and sadness of pioneer life in Kentucky are clear from the interview made in 1844 by

the Rev. John Dabney Shane with an aged pioneer, Mrs. Sarah Graham of Bath County and recently printed in the *Filson Club History Quarterly*, vol. 9, no. 4. From the interview come these words.

Words in brackets are additions made for clearness' sake by the editor, Lucien Beckner.

GOURD (head). Her brother, Jesse Yocum, before the battle of the [Lower] Blue Licks would fall out with his father, tree him, and tell him not to show his damned old gourd [head]. Were both behind trees.

SQUAW PLAY, SQUAW AX, SQUAW TRICK. Malumphy [the old Indian Chief] said: he commanded there that day. Well, McGary said, he would give him squaw play. [it was a] squaw ax he did it with [killing the old chief as he was surrendering]. The Indian women laughed and said it was a squaw trick [and not a warrior's act].

SQUARE-LOG HOUSE. There was not at that time a hewed log house in Kentucky. . . . The first square-log house was put up this side [north side] of the Kentucky River, in Jessamine. . . .

PUMPKIN LOAF; COHEE. (A Cohee was a person, usually a Virginian, living west of the Blue Ridge.) The first man I met was old Col. Logan. Met us just above the Crab Orchard, where he lived, and gave us a pumpkin loaf. His wife did not do anything else but bake in the ashes what he ground on the hand-mill, and give it to the people moving out; he was so glad they were coming. Logan was a Cohee.

TO CHAIN OFF. One year . . . Elias Fisher . . . planted his corn very thick on purpose to raise a big crop. They chained off and measured an acre carefully . . .

TO SETTLE OUT. Settling out: 1781 was the year they [the pioneers] attempted to settle out [moving out of stations to their future homesteads], and the Indians beat them back.

GORE. The Indians killed him. . . . She got away but went back that night and laid in her husband's bosom all in a gore of blood.