

## **Time Line of Rim Rock Drive Roadbuilding Events**

**May 24, 1911:** Colorado National Monument established by Presidential Proclamation.

**1911:** John Otto, first custodian of Colorado National Monument, works with civil engineer J. F. Sleeper, county surveyor James H. Fisk, and Grand Junction Chamber of Commerce to plan, sponsor, and promote first rough-cut automobile road through monument, eventually known as Serpents Trail.

**1912 – 1921:** Construction phase of Serpents Trail.

**August 1930:** Frank A. Kittredge, Chief Engineer for National Park Service (NPS), evaluates a new proposed road.

**November 1931:** Park service engineer Thomas W. Secret comes to the monument to plan a scenic drive along the canyon rims. He remains to become project superintendent.

**November 21, 1931:** Preliminary work begins on the new road.

**1933:** Congress passes the Federal Unemployment Relief Act.

**April 1933:** President Franklin Delano Roosevelt creates the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), advancing park development by many years.

**May 1933:** Local Experienced Men (LEMs), skilled in carpentry, masonry, construction, etc., are hired by NPS in the roads and trails division to train and work with the CCC at the monument.

**May 22, 1933:** CCC Company 824 moves into camp NM-1-C at the Coke Ovens.

**June 1933:** NM-1-C reaches full strength at 220 men. Road construction begins at Coke Ovens.

**November 9, 1933:** Company 824 moves to more permanent camp NM-2-C at Saddlehorn (near present-day visitor center). Caretaker's residence constructed.

**November 1933:** Company 825 from Mesa Verde National Park moves to the monument, eventually occupying the "last word" in CCC camps: camp NM-3-C at mouth of Fruita Canyon. They continue road construction and begin the steel fence that will protect the monument's bison herd.

**December 12, 1933:** An accident at Half-Tunnel kills nine local men when blasting brings the cliff down upon them.

**December 1935 – July 1937:** Works Project Administration (WPA) men occupy the vacant NPS camp at Glade Park, now designated WPA Camp WC-2. They install water mains and continue road improvements.

**December 7, 1941:** Attack on Pearl Harbor.

**February 1942:** National defense needs end all CCC projects.

**June 1942:** WPA projects end. All, including custodian and rangers, called to active duty.

**October 1949:** Work on road from Cold Shivers Point to Grand Junction entrance resumes.

**1950:** 22.42-mile Rim Rock Drive completed. Serpents Trail made into a hiking trail.

In addition to Rim Rock Drive, these organizations (and many others) worked together to build the open storage building, the roads and trails shop, the building and utilities shop (all located in the maintenance area), the comfort station in Loop C of Saddlehorn Campground, the picnic shelter at Devils Kitchen Picnic Area, and the caretaker's residence and garage (commonly called the stone house and stone garage). All are listed on the National Register of Historic Places.