

## Cabin Photo Albums

[In 2005, former club historian Margaret Crate sorted thru her personal treasure chest of photographs, photographs she had taken of the cabin's construction (along with a few donated to her by former club president Reese Lukei); she selected about 500 of them, put them in two photo albums, and donated them to the club. Mainstays of the cabin project, Margaret and her late husband Harold were there from the beginning; from 1979 thru 1995 (17 years) they all but dedicated themselves to the work, donating more hours, and driving more miles than probably anyone else involved (not only that, but a lot of preliminary work was done, by Harold and others, in the Crates garage or back yard—things like cutting and assembling the security shutters and doors, building the dining table and benches, etc.). The photos she donated mostly speak for themselves, but, besides some short individual captions, Margaret, in several spots, also added a bit of commentary. Her thoughts and observations deserve to be included here and, slightly edited, are found below. Note: Many of the photographs from the two albums she gave to the club are here, on this Cabin History web-site]

### **From page 1 of Book 1:**

"We are grateful to Phyllis Putman Sullivan and to her daughters, Debbie and Susan, for the gift which enabled us to purchase land and begin to build. It would be named "Douglas L. Putman Memorial Cabin" in memory of her son.

Stones from the mountainside became the beautiful structure you see today, 26 years after the first tree was felled and the first shovel of dirt was turned.

These photos are dedicated to the 100+ members who built and maintained this cabin. Special recognition must be given to the following:

Harold Crate—the quiet leader who always had the answers to "how", "what", and "why". He kept work moving in the proper sequence, purchased materials, assigned jobs and saw that everyone knew what to do.

Otey Shelton—the expert on laying stone upon stone upon stone! An ex-marine, he knew how to "inspire" the troops to work, work, work!

Jacque Jenkins—the cheerleader and morale booster. Famous for her culinary skills, she concocted delicious meals over an open fire and kept us well fed and happy.

Bill Newsom—a methodical engineer who kept count of every bag of mortar brought in—and mixed most of it to the call of "mortar on the board".

Lee Hulten—a tireless worker who tamed many a rebellious rock to fit where it didn't want to go.

Bob Adkisson—a minimalist except when applied to work! He never met a rock he couldn't move, smash, or kill: he considers this cabin to be his "home away from home".

Margaret Crate—who found time to work when she couldn't find her camera!"

**From page 27 of Book 1:**

[Photos here are of the May, 1982 Cabin Dedication]

“A photo of Douglas Putman, a song composed by one of his sisters and other personal mementos donated by the family were enclosed in a small box and sealed in the wall behind the cornerstone. The names of all the people who had helped build the cabin were also included.”

[This list of names can be found elsewhere on this web page.

Next Margaret wrote, in a more personal vein, about her (and Harold's) feelings about the Trail Club, something they'd been very much a part of for over 25 years]

“Now I have the opportunity to tell how much I cherish the friendships we made—Harold and I—as members of the Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club. For the next twenty plus years we were devoted members of TATC. Talk of having a cabin in the Blue Ridge for our members was just beginning. As a structural engineer, Harold was immediately interested. For the next many years the cabin was a constant in our lives. Through the many weekends, weeks, months and years, we were there. We saw the bloodroot [a spring flower] unfold, endured the hot summers, enjoyed the fall color and the winter snows. The structure we built is a thing of beauty. Every stone, every log, has a TATC members hand print somewhere on it. As well as making a pictorial of the building of the cabin, my motive [in assembling the photo albums for the club] was to honor the people who had a part in it. As you look at these photos, you may recognize only a few—therefore this is a very personal testimony. I consider every one of the people pictured to be my friend. Aside from cabin building, the trail club was a source of much pleasure to Harold and to me. I actually feel sorry for all of those people who don't belong to it! I think of all the great people we would not have met, the places we would not have seen, the exciting things we would not have done. Our lives were enriched. Our memories are priceless. Harold would agree.

*“Margaret Crate”*

**From Page 26 of Book 2:**

[This page noted the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held at the cabin on May 13, 1989, and Margaret wrote this short statement recognizing and honoring the event]

“The building of the DOUGLAS LEE PUTMAN MEMORIAL CABIN has been a labor of love—the love of a young man for the Trail, the love of a family who wished for the meaningful and lasting memorial to his life, coupled with the desire of club members to meet a challenge and make this wish come true.

We express our gratitude to Phyllis Putman Sullivan for her generous gift which made the vision of this beautiful cabin a reality, and to the hundreds of TATC members who contributed thousands of hours and who, out of stones long buried on Entry Mountain, have raised a monument of which all can be proud.”