

Cabin Work Trips

[These two excerpts are from the so called Golden Books, log books detailing construction done at the cabin during the various work trips over the years. They are both from Book # 2. The first excerpt is a description of the work trip the weekend before the big 10th Anniversary Celebration, as a small group of members tried to get things straightened up and in order. The 2nd excerpt, dated May 13th, 1989, describes the 10th Anniversary itself. Both were written by Margaret Crate]

May 5 - 8, 1989

Etta and Jerry Burch (and a friend, Joanne)
Bob and Evelyn Adkisson (and Leigh)
Stan Pearson
Margaret and Harold Crate

What a weekend! The amazing thing is that we got any work done at all. It rained late Friday afternoon as Harold and Margaret arrived at the cabin. Stan and Bob were already here—Bob having come on his way back from several days canoeing. Evelyn and Leigh came in late, after a harrowing drive over Afton Mtn. in fog and rain. No one seemed to be sleepy so we played cards and talked til midnight.

Saturday started out to be a beautiful day, so we got busy fast. Etta and Jerry and Joanne came in the morning and started planting flowers and pulling weeds. Evelyn went out to the cars to help Harold bring in groceries. We all moved rocks from one place to another (every rock on the mountain has been moved at least 3 times, I'm convinced!—and that won't be the last time!). But—it did look a lot neater around the cabin with the woodpile straightened, old cinderblocks hidden behind the 'A' frame, broken twigs and branches picked up—Margaret was obsessed with raking up every leaf around the area. She stopped short of doing the whole 15 acres. Etta finished painting the eaves in the rear—Jerry finished plastering—Bob cleaned up the area around the spring—made a trail to the 'A' frame. Evelyn pulled weeds and planted wild flower seeds. All work Saturday was done between rain showers. But Sunday was the All- Weather day! It rained, it blew so hard the trees bent over—it snowed hominy snow (like tiny Styrofoam balls), and regular snow—and it was cold! Margaret vacuumed the loft—ran out of gas—had to sweep downstairs. In the 20 minutes it took Evelyn and Margaret to get to the Parkway, it blew like a blizzard with stinging snow—but the sun was shining and all was calm when we got to the cars!

We were ready for the pig-out next weekend.

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10th Anniversary May 13th, 1989

"It was a good party. We had fun, and we'll do it again in 10 years!"

We were all at work early on Saturday morning. Weather was ok, slightly overcast but it did not rain! Dogwood blossoms held on and made the setting beautiful.

About 65 people came—we prepared for 80—so had plenty of food—and drink. We did run out of rolls but Bob and Ev came to the rescue with a loaf of bakery bread. Menu was—Pig. Beans. Coleslaw. Apple Salad. Corn on the cob. We had asked a few people to bring

desserts, and Bea Rogers supplied the lemonade.

Mike Brewer was the Hero of the day—with Otey Shelton running a close second. Mike and his dad Dave pulled a pig cooker all the way from Hampton (OK—so they're pretty strong guys!!). A friend of Mike's in the police dept. let him use it free of charge, with everything needed for B.B.Q'ing, including BBQ sauce! We probably would have had to cook in the parking lot but Other Hero came along just in time—with Big Blue [Otey's large, old pick up truck] and a load of W.Va. stones. A few law-abiding rocks stood in the path but little things like that never bother our Other Hero (Thank Goodness!). Fragile manpower would never have made it to the cabin—that was a very heavy piece of equipment! [Otey used his truck to tow the pig cooker right to the cabin, at the same time dropping off a load of flat W. Va. rocks for the patio and outdoor cooking area]

Mike, Dave, and Otey got to sleep till 4 a.m.—pig was ready by 12, easily. We used hams and loins instead of a whole pig—but I think the cookers were a little disappointed in not having the whole pig, and probably some others were too.

Jerry Cobleigh and his accordion music added a nice touch. He played informally, walking around to different spots. He is really good and it would have been nice to have featured him more predominantly-- and given him recognition for the fine musician that he is— at least we found a musician!

Bill Newsom was happy to be there—it was a kind of sentimental journey for him. He really misses not being able to help maintain the cabin. We were glad he could come. Lee Hulten was another of the 'originals' who has not been to the cabin for a long time. She has not been well so it was good to be able to thank her publically for her hard work in the early years.

Margaret and Bill Newsom and Bill Rogers gave speeches—UGH! Next time NO SPEECHES!—just food and fun!

Bill Rogers presented the outhouse with a new decoration, a sign: TINKLETORIUM, and also gave us the beautiful photograph of Three Ridges Mtn (given to the club by forest ranger Dave Benovitch) to hang in the cabin (pray for its safety, please!).

Our guest who came were:

Forest Service: Dave and Claudette Benovitch
B.R.P.: Bruce Bytner
Bonnie (rangers from Humpback Rocks_
A.T. Clubs: Jack Albright—Old Dominion Club
Pat Doyle

Also invited and rsvp'ed:

Putmans (expecting grandchild)
Ed Page (Natural Bridge A.T. Club)
Lynn Barrett

Thanks to: Etta Burch, Jerry Burch, Bob Adkisson, Evelyn Adkisson, Linda Signorelli, 'Sig' Signorelli, Mike Brewer, Dave Brewer, Dot Brewer, Gae Caudill, Art Caudill, Otey Shelton, Larry Blett, Bill Newsom, Harold Crate, Margaret Crate.