

## Letter from Margaret Crate

[This letter, written in 2010, appeared in the Aug. / Sept. edition of the TATC Newsletter. In it, Life member Margaret Crate, now living far from the Tidewater area, in the western part of the state, responds to the fact that two new club members had recently contacted her, thanking her (and her late husband Harold) for their part in helping to create the Putman cabin.]

TO: Tidewater Appalachian Trail Club

A couple of our members were so impressed with the Douglas Putman Memorial Cabin that they sat right down and wrote a letter of appreciation for those people who built it! It is gratifying to know that it is protected and enjoyed by the current membership.

Through the years of construction, over a hundred people gave their time and muscle to this rather huge project. No one said that it couldn't be done! The necessary leadership came from a group who were always on site to work, instruct and keep the building on schedule. By name they are: JACQUE JENKINS, cook and cheerleader; HAROLD CRATE, engineer and project manager; OTEY SHELTON, master stone mason; BILL NEWSOM, chief mortar mixer; ETTA BURCH, landscaper; JERRY BURCH, LEE HULTEN, MARGARET CRATE, laborers par excellence; and BOB ADKISSON, who still remains a stalwart supporter of our beautiful cabin. Bob's specialty was doing anything no one else COULD do such as moving huge rocks from where they grew to wherever he wanted them to be! We are grateful to all whose names are recorded in several Little Golden Books.

I am proud to have been a participant in the building of something of value and proud to be a Life Member of the TIDEWATER APPALACHIAN TRAIL CLUB.

*Sincerely,*

*Margaret Crate*

[The "Little Golden Books" Margaret refers to are the three log books that were kept (and that are still kept), recording who participated in the countless cabin work trips over the years—who donated their time and added their labor to the project, and what work was accomplished]