[This unsigned article appeared in the Dec. / Jan. 1990 / 1991 Newsletter; it was written by the editor, Jeanne Everitt. The article pays tribute to Harold & Margaret Crate, and also acts as a sort of introduction (or 'member profile'—as some later, similar articles were called) to this unsung couple who, for so many years, gave so much of their time and energy to the club—especially where the cabin was concerned]

YOU KNOW WHO I MEAN!

When you talk about this couple, it is not easy to separate one from the other. Now, that is not to indicate they are clones. Rather, it attests to their support of each other in their mutual and separate interests.

Neither is it easy to get to a beginning point with this duo for they joined the TATC and immediately became an active part of the core of a major project [building the Douglas Putman Cabin]. They continue to devote a large portion of their energies to our activities yet have many interests outside the Club as well.

When they "found" the TATC, they were very quick to state, "we aren't joiners!" and along with that said they probably wouldn't attend meetings. However, they wanted to hike with others.

Nevertheless, for some reason, they did attend a meeting shortly after that. And, Margaret said, they "haven't missed a meeting since".

Their first, and a continuing, involvement with the Club was with the construction of the cabin. Harold, who had gained basic construction know-how by observing his father, arrived on the scene in time to draw up the floor plan for this one and a half story structure and to help choose the hill-side site.

Margaret recorded on film the hard work and the play, the sunshine and the snow, the people and the materials-- all the necessary ingredients for a solid building. Presently, she has three scrapbooks which follow the birth and maturation of this project to include current maintenance trips.

Both continue to support cabin maintenance. They also help with the annual open house which adds a delicious feast to this beautiful mountain retreat.

Photography is another interest which Margaret and Harold share-- Margaret taking pictures; Harold developing them. So, it is not surprising that Margaret has recorded and continues to maintain the history of the Club through photographs of day hikes, canoe trips, picnic and parties.

In addition to Margaret's role as historian, Harold has been a counsellor. They have served as social directors and also have led rappelling trips. Margaret was "older" when she first rappelled off a picnic table in their back yard and said she never would have dreamed of rappelling when was young and had more sense.

It is difficult to imagine the TATC without Margaret and Harold Crate. Yet they traveled to Boone, N.C. to find us. There, at an Appalachian Trail Conference [Biennial Meeting] they met some of our members.

It was their enjoyment of the outdoors and subsequent search for a hiking group which took them to the Conference, and it was out of the pleasant memories of a 6-week family vacation that enjoyment grew.

Anyone who has fun tenting with three teen-age sons while crossing the US has got to have lots of enduring characteristics! Seriously, Margaret assured me tenting came naturally to them, and they followed that trip with shorter outings to the Shenandoah National Park and to PATC cabins.

Margaret is a native to this area. Harold came to the peninsula in 1942 from the University of Illinois and worked until retirement as an engineer at NASA.

The teen-agers are adults now. David lives on the peninsula and Jeff in Christiansburg. Steven and his wife live in Blacksburg and are members of the club.