

Cane Creek Community Club

by
Shelby Jean Snyder

The following are scans from a book created by Shelby Jean Snyder, twin sister of current club member Rosie Howell and scanned by Michael Harrison.

More information can be found at <https://canecreek828.com>

Dec 2023

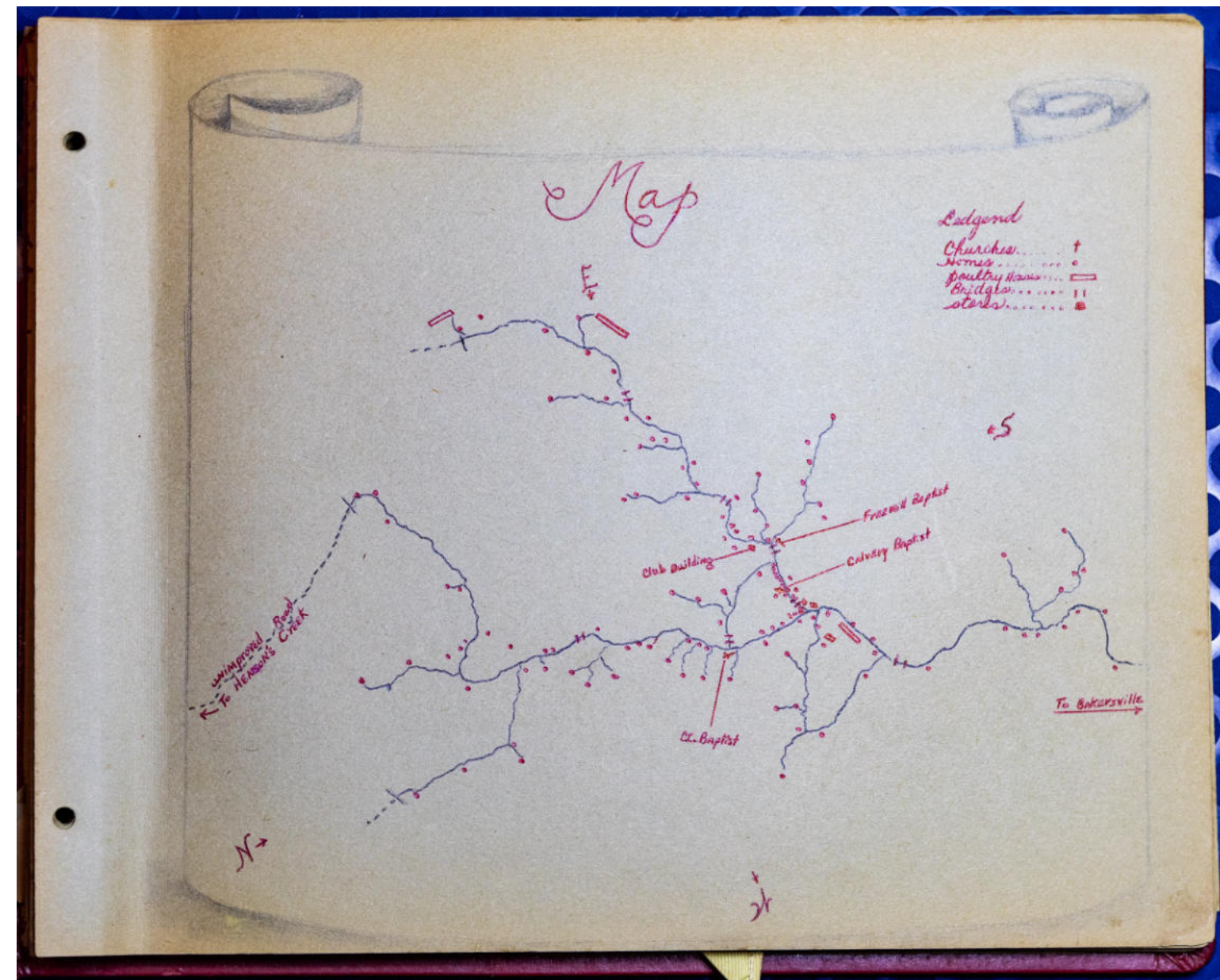
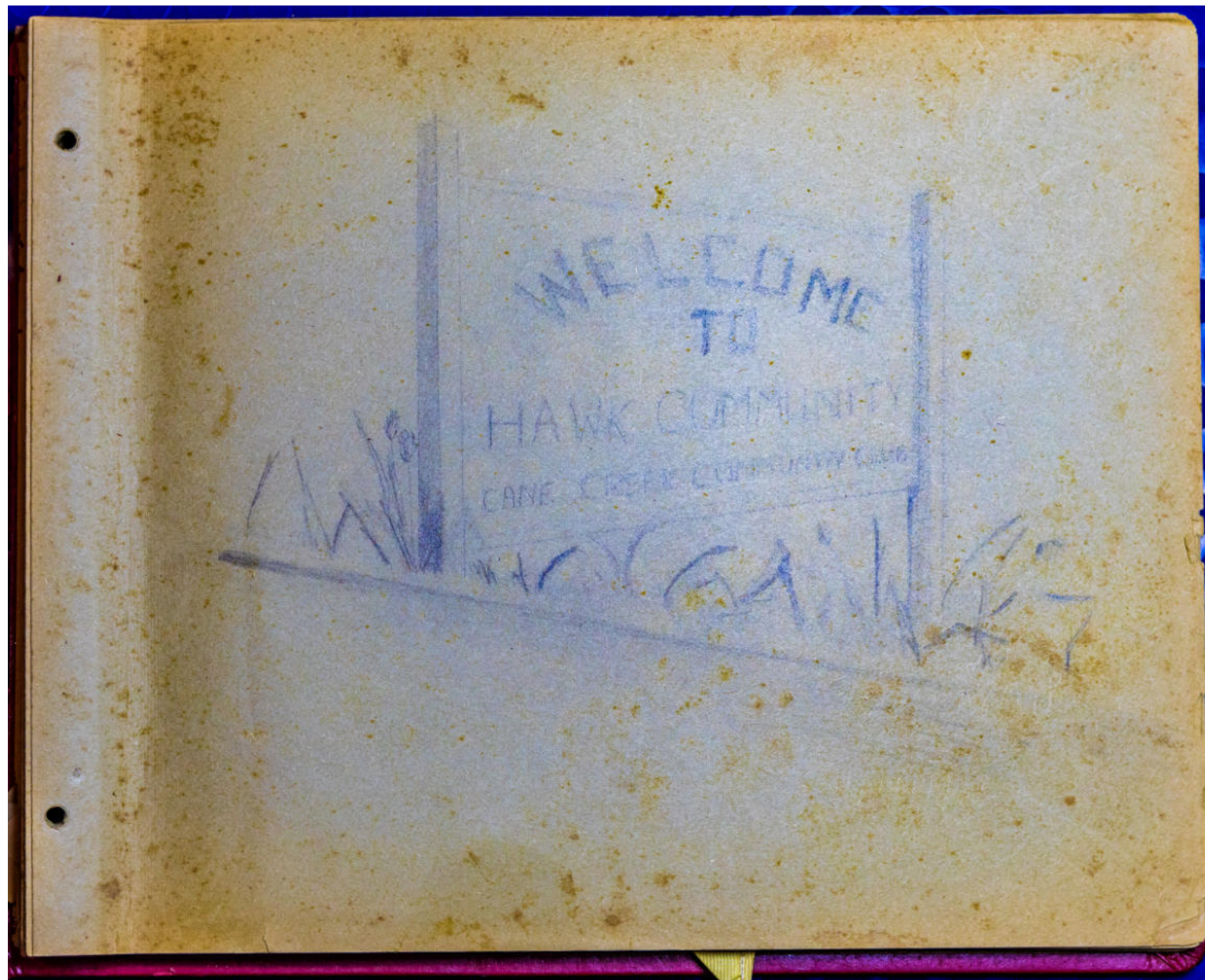


Officers

President	W. Ledford
V. President	L. Snyder
Secretary	F. Woolly
Treasurer	D. Snyder
Reporters	B. & S. Ledford

Committee Chairmen

Comm. Program	L. Snyder & J. Dunn
Activities	E. Cooke
Scrap book	L. Snyder
Boy Scouts	R. Snyder & F. Pittman
Church & Grounds	B. Ledford
Beautification	L. Stevenson
Home Imp.	J. Woody
Health & Sanitation	F. Woody
44 Club	D. Snyder
Advertisement	W. Pittman



The Idea



The idea of a Community Club was planted in the minds of the people by a friend who was the agriculture teacher of Bowman High School - Leta Beyer. For a couple of years it was just an idea. Then eventually this idea began to bloom and meetings were taking shape. These meetings were held in almost any temporary unoccupied building.

Rather than starting at the bottom and going up we thought we could start at the top. There we in for a fall! By this I mean our first projects were the most difficult ones and to maintain these odds we then had to turn to smaller projects to build our way up. One of these projects was to build a road across Cane Creek Mountain. Another was to promote industries in our Community. We apparently didn't realize the difficulties we would encounter.

We found the road to be a hopeless endeavor so we then turned our attention to promoting industry. Our drawback was we didn't have telephones. We then turned our attention to telephones. After many obstacles we do have phones now.

We, like all other communities, have had times when the lack of interest was overwhelming, and this lack of interest has managed to move in and eventually slow us up or put a temporary halt to our organization altogether. Of course the damage was done because we had an idea! To reorganize meant to meet, so we met,

anywhere we could - including old store rooms where we found seats on bags of stock feed. This small group had hopes and intentions that were high, so we re-organized our Community Club.

With the help and guidance of a few men we then saw a Boy Scout troop take place. They had more interest and enthusiasm than first expected, and by collecting junk they managed to get enough money to buy equipment they needed. They helped the older people get in wood and with other chores when they were needed.

A group of men interested in beautification then turned their efforts to the cemeteries which were masses of sage and trees. To my knowledge they had never then taken care of in any way. One member had a bull-dozer so he remodelled our unsightly bark and road which were both masses of clay mud. This had been an annual headache. People came to pay respects to the dead but couldn't find the graves! A committee then made white crosses for unmarked graves and got small flags for Veteran's graves. We now can take pride in our cemeteries.

With the help of donations we then started our building. It was very encouraging to see forty young boys and men working on a building at one time. We then could realize that it was not just a spark of interest - it was a flame!

To The Women

Even before the floor was poured the women started planning public suppers to raise money to complete the building and to eventually get utensils for the kitchen. They were very successful, and I think the Community owes them our thanks!

These women are Gladys Redford and Lucille Snyder. We need more women this willing to help.

Thanks!

The Women

As of yet we do not have a women's organization, for we do not feel we are yet prepared, but the women have played a great part in our projects. We have to say if they had not helped several things would not yet be done.

We have had several successful suppers which were prepared by the women and served also by the women. These suppers are successful enough to make enough money to eventually buy drapes and kitchen utensils.

The women have also made tremendous progress in the home, where each year they have to can and prepare food for winter. This year it has been hard for them to find time to work for the present Community projects are taking much of their time. Our present project is Tomatoes!

Youth Program

Late in the year of 1958 the young people began a Young Peoples Community Club, later shortened to Youth Program. We had several fine and well-attended meetings in Mr. C. B. Pitman's old store.

We had several ideas all concerning the Community Building, and, since we could only donate labor, many of the boys went to work to finish the roof on the building.

Much interest could be found in those who participated in the Youth Program. The girls usually supplied the refreshments, and we also had educational programs such as slides and short lectures on subjects concerning our type of living.

Our objective now is to get back into full swing and make enough money for equipment for indoor and outdoor recreation.

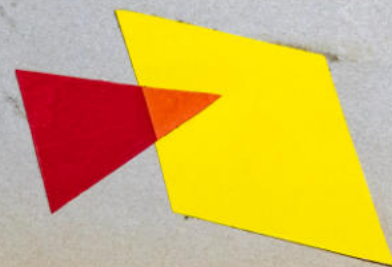
In our Community, we pride ourselves in having one of the best, if not the best, group of young people. We don't have any juvenile delinquents. The boys and girls are outstanding. They are good church goers, and, furthermore, participate. They all seem to be the material for future adults.

Our future projects consist of things like: cleaning the churches, upkeep of Community Building, projects to raise money to finish the inside of the building. Mainly, we want to try to make better people out of ourselves, and be an example.

4-H Club

For many years now we have had an idea of a 4-H Club in this Community, so this year one of our members established a branch in July. They got off to a good start by electing officers and starting their individual projects. The club has had about four meetings with only nine to fifteen members.

As time passes and interest mounts they are sure to have more and more members. They meet every third week in the month. Their aims are high and we intend to stay behind them, for our aims are also high, and they, our young people, will find a way to reach their goals.



Boy Scouts



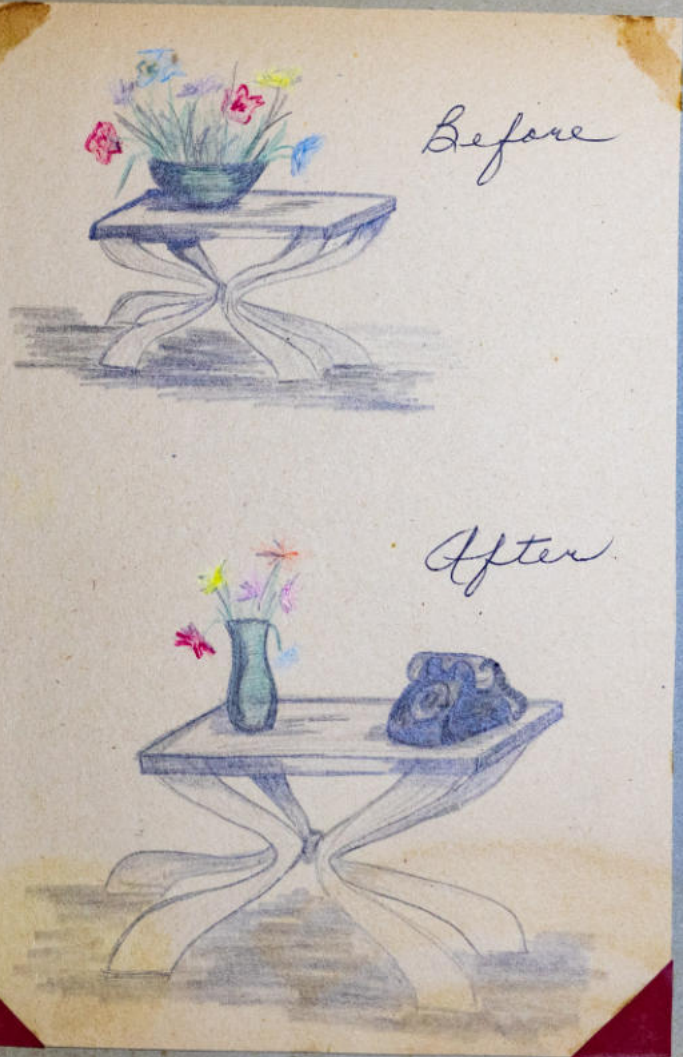
of
Cane Creek

To start a boy scout troop we had to have leaders, and the willingness of a group of about five men proved to be the solution. These men had to take training, or, to put it plainly, become boy scouts themselves. For about two weeks they suffered the ordeals of becoming scout leaders. Although they complained of having to sleep out under the stars, they really enjoyed themselves.

They then elected a scout master and an assistant, also three patrol leaders. Then they undertook quite a few projects mainly helping old people with their outside work and gardens. They built a swimming pool so they could have swimming meets and earn medals. Some of the scouts won swimming badges.

They seem to improve overnight and become more interested in church and the welfare of others. They were really helpful in helping build our Community Building.





Before

After

Sketches

Telephone Project



Before the C.C. was organized we didn't even have hopes of a telephone. They had been taken out once before, but a Committee was appointed to go out and get names of those wanting phones. They received names, insults, and other remarks, but finally through the effort of the C.C. we can pick up our receiver and dial anywhere we want. Another project of Cane Creek Comm. Club

Sketches

--- Telephone Project



This project was one of our first ones - one that succeeded, and one we are very proud of. We have no snapshot of the cemetery before the project, but the sketch on the opposite page will give an idea of just how it looked - and you can see why we were ashamed of this cemetery.

--- Cane Creek Cemetery Project



This was also
part of the Cemetery
project. This also
was improved
greatly! The crosses
were also a project
of the Community
Club for the
unmarked graves.
During decoration
a small U.S. Flag
is placed on
the Veteran's graves.

----- Free Hill Cemetery



Club had some trouble
in obtaining a site for
their building, but finally
settling on something
like this. Tin cans and
racks, along with unwanted
trees, rubbish and sage
brush dominated the site.

It required some cleaning
and mowing even before
digging the foundation.

This land was donated
by Tom Pittman and
Harold Pittman. Since

this site looked like
this, many people have
put forth much effort
to make a real site.



This project we
are most proud
of, as it has
supplied us with
a Community
meeting place,
which we have
needed for years.
It is used for
suppers, parties,
reunions, stock
showers, household
showers, and just
general meetings.
We use it so
much it is hard
to remember how
to do without it.

-----Community Club
Building

finish 'our biggest project thus far that it is as beautiful as in our minds. I'm sure no one will be disappointed. When we first started we had some trouble, but we had lots of help, and before we knew it we had a crude building with a top on it. We are still making plans for the landscape and the interior of our building. Much has been donated, and for this we're very grateful. We hope to

This project we are most proud of, as it has supplied us with a Community meeting place, which we have needed for years. It is used for suppers, parties, reunions, stock showers, household showers, and just general meetings. We use it so much it is hard to remember how to do without it.

-----Community Club Building



The inside of the Community Building roughly resembled this but now it has several improvements such as painted walls, tile on the floors, the roof is painted on the inside, window facings were painted, door painted, electrical fixtures improved, and all tables painted and re-topped. All of this is a wonderful improvement, but there's still room for much more, and with even a few regular members we can and will have our building finished - inside and out.

looks crude to other people, but to us it looks like the beginning of a dream.

We hope to complete it in a way we will all be proud of it.

We want to finish the kitchen and bathrooms in the near future and if we continue to work as we have been we will see our finished project soon.

The inside of the Community Building roughly resembled this but now it has several improvements such as painted walls, tile on the floors, the roof is painted on the inside, window facings were painted, door painted, electrical fixtures improved, and all cables painted and re-topped. All of this is a wonderful improvement, but there's still room for much more, and with even a few regular members we can and will have our building finished inside and out.

Tomato Project

The tomato project was the idea of Mr. George Conrad. The reason for choosing this community as a site for the trial project was because it was well-organized. There were three or four preliminary meetings prior to spring planting. About twenty-five members with approximately eleven acres who wanted to participate. Most of these men had never grown tomatoes commercially before. With helpful assistance and close cooperation of the County Agents Office the project was very successful and satisfying for the first year as an experiment. Most people in the community are only part time farmers, and work much chiefly, but since this program is being rapidly curtailed we realize some new endeavors must be undertaken if we hope to maintain or improve the present income of the community.

We are very much encouraged with the results of growing tomatoes commercially. This experiment alone brought in a gross added



income of some five to six thousand dollars. If all people interested continue with present plans this project is expected to grow in the next few years - both with the number of growers added and number of acres grown. We feel sure that we will be able to undertake almost any project and be successful if we maintain the help and advice of the County Agents Office and the co-operation of our community members.



How We Prosper



Mining



Mining (mica)

Poultry

Dairy

Farming

Cemetery

Projects

Cane Creek Cemetery

Burleson Cemetery

Free Will Cemetery



A NEW COMMUNITY CENTER for Hawk, Mitchell County. This is one of the improvements that brought this community the third-place award.

Matheson's Ensta Paper Division plant, Pisgah Forest in Transylvania County scored heavily in its recreation programs, also did considerable work for needy people and on general community, home and farm improvements.

There were a Christmas party for the needy, toys for needy children, clothing and shoes for needy families, for example.

Pisgah Forest people organized a general recreation program for the young people, staged community singings, plays and talent programs, and a Little League baseball team was established.

A lot of men-and-women power, given freely, went into work on the large, new community center, which is near completion, and in the landscaping of the grounds.

These are just some of the high spots in the picture of active community cooperation which brought Pisgah Forest the runner-up honors in the regional contest.

The community club's principal officers include Harry Senelle, president; Holland Corn, vice president; Mrs. Edith Brookshire, secretary; Mrs. Lola Brown, treasurer; and Miss Charlotte Senelle, junior president.

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Hawk
Hawk, a Mitchell County community of 123 families east of Bakeraville, also showed versatility in community, farm and home improvements during the contest year, winning the third-place prize in the area competition.

As in the other reports these are just samples of major work the Hawk people did during the past year. They successfully campaigned for extension of telephone service. A total of 27 families now have phones who didn't have them before.

They erected a community building, and every family in the community was represented in the workings. They started a wildlife conservation program, planting 10 acres in forage plant seed and setting out 3,000 multiflora rose plants.

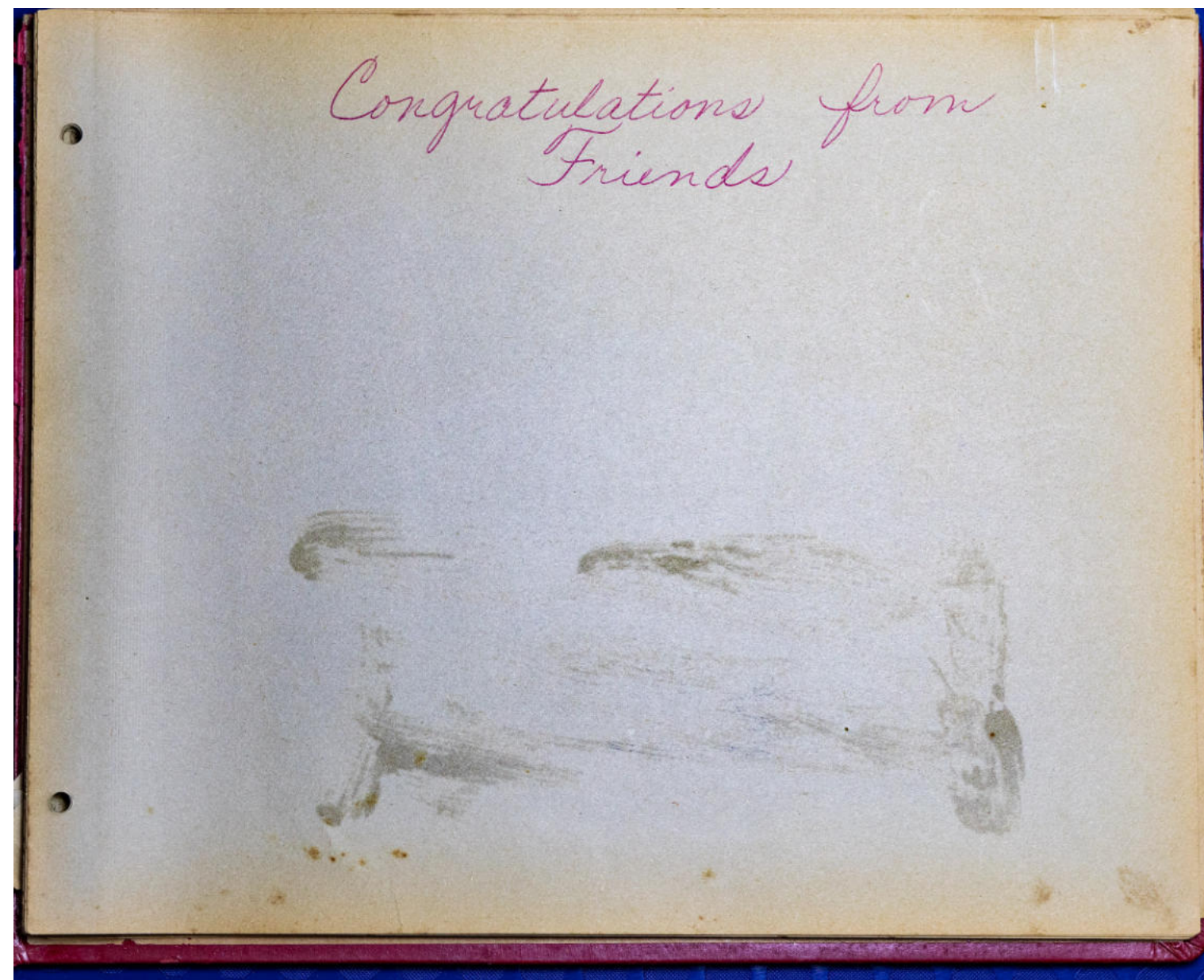
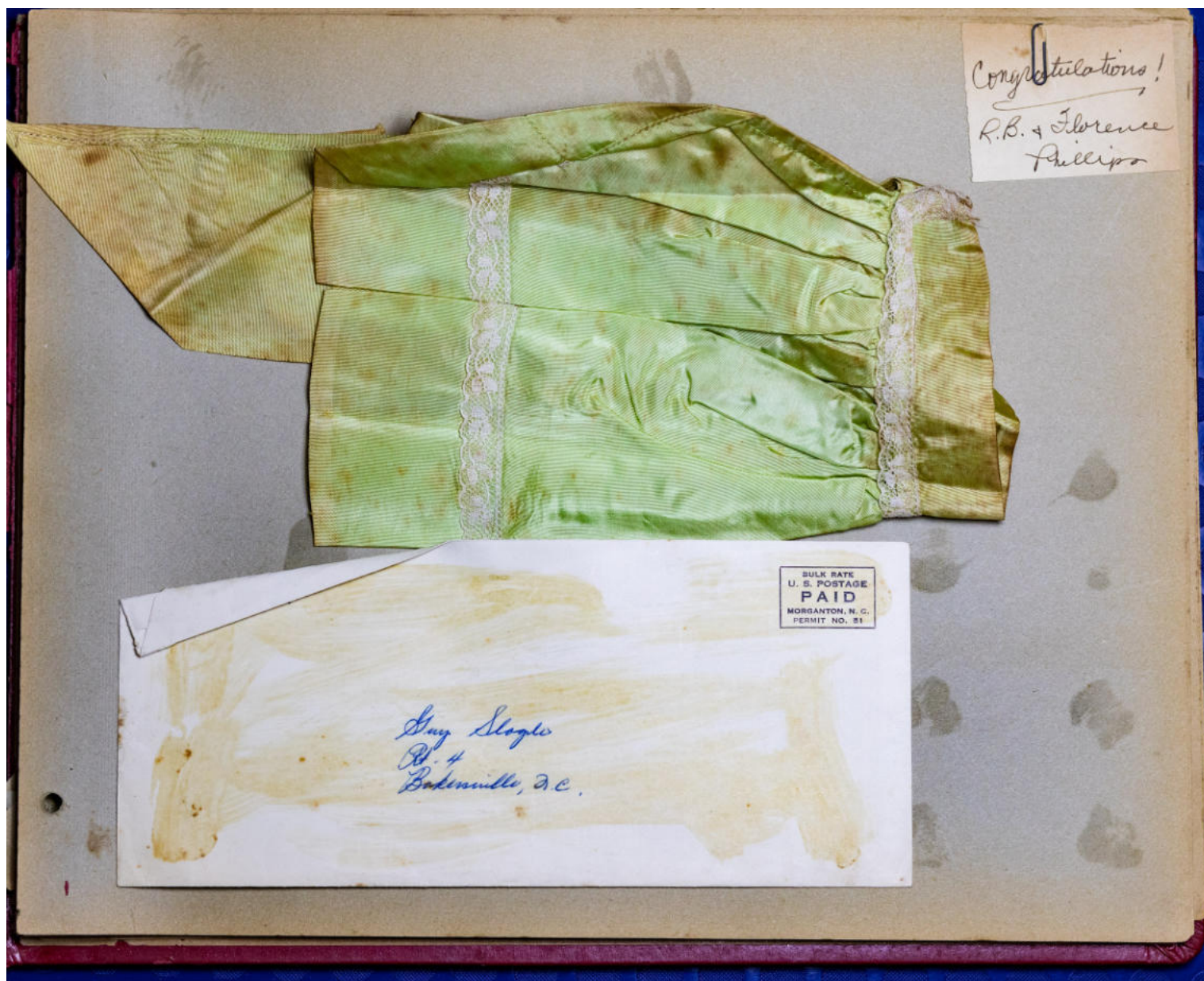
They established a swimming pool for the Boy Scouts.

When the home of Hadian Dillingham burned, they helped

build a new one to replace it. They improved two cemeteries. For the young people, they arranged volleyball, basketball and baseball games, hikes and camping trips.

The mica mining industry is Hawk's principal economic support. Of the community's families, 113 depend on farming for part of their income. Six derive all their income from farming, and two families do not farm at all.

The community club's principal officers are Hazel Lelford, president; Jerry Pittman, vice president; Lucille Snyder, secretary; and Dettie Snyder, treasurer.



Hawk Community

Guy Snyder Honored As Farmer Chosen State Short Course

According to an announcement released jointly by the Mitchell County Agricultural Agent's office and W.H. Lee, Cashier of the Northwestern Bank at Spruce Pine, Guy Snyder of Rt. 4, Bakersville has been selected as the young farmer, from Mitchell County, to attend the 1950 Short Course in Modern Farming at N.C. State College.

This Short Course is of two weeks duration and is held on the campus of N.C. State College in Raleigh. While at this Short Course, Mr. Snyder will receive very intensive training in all the latest phases and ideas in farming today. These courses will be taught by the regular college and Extension Service staff.

Mr. Snyder's attendance at this course is being sponsored by the two branches of the Northwestern Bank in the county at Spruce Pine and Bakersville. W.H. Lee, Cashier of the bank in Spruce Pine, was designated as County Key Banker and as such has made the necessary arrangements financially to enable Mr. Snyder to attend the Short Course. This Farm Short Course is sponsored each year by the Banker's Association and each year one young farmer or more is picked from each county in the state to attend.

Hawk Community To Be Judged In District Contest Nov. 14

Hawk Community has again won 1st prize in Mitchell County in the WNC Rural Development Contest. Little Switzerland Community took second place.

This is the second year in a row that Hawk Community has won 1st prize. They also were awarded 3rd place in 14 WNC counties in Asheville for 1950.

Hawk Community has been doing some very fine things through their Community Club Organization. They now have a fine Community Building which was not completed last year, but this year a new Kentile floor has been laid which has 2 shuffleboard designs worked into the whole pattern. This not only makes a beautiful floor but also gives recreation facilities to the community. The building has been painted inside and out plus new shingles on the gable ends.

Hawk also has a scout troop y fine work.

One very interesting experiment was originated with Hawk Community this year. Some 24 people took part in growing tomatoes commercially. Some 10 acres were grown and nearly all growers showed a net profit. One man in particular, Stokes Ledford, netted some \$900.00 on 1/2 acre.

George W. Conrad, County Agent, and his office worked very closely with the tomato growers. Much was learned

and this project is expected to expand this coming year.

Our hats off to Hawk Community and the many fine things they are doing in co-operation with their Church Organizations and all concerned. We look forward to seeing them place in the top 5 on November 15, in the final WNC Judging.

Hawk Community won by the following points:

New income project of commercial tomatoes with 24 farmers started.

Community Club house finished on inside and kitchen built.

Two cemeteries renovated and program set up to maintain them.

Two churches repaired and signs put up at 3 churches.

Wildlife programs sponsored.

Numerous houses built, repaired, painted, appliances and other necessary equipment purchased.

Explorer Scout troop organized.

Community 4-H Club organized.

Little Switzerland community headed by Lewis Young as president took second place honors.

Boy scout troop participated in the jeep parade across Cane Creek Mountain last summer. They had a wonderful time and felt privileged to be a part of it.



Hawk Troop Boy Scouts salute flag and give pledge of allegiance near old Houston house, owned by Mrs. Arizona Hughes, just over line in Mitchell County.

Money borrowed to work on the building. He paid it back before it was due. These names on back were members who signed.

