

The Yancey Record

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letter from Mrs. Brooks continued from last week.

First, we went to Harris College Class Day, honoring the 26 lovely East Asian girls who were to graduate as Methodist Deaconesses in a couple of days. They were all dressed in the traditional Philippino dress — ankle length, with butterfly sleeves and a heavenly blue color.

We left Manila with Marian, (who is almost retirement age) and her very handsome driver from the barrio (or town) where she works. After the hot, noisy night in Manila I was looking forward to a little higher altitude and some quiet. We arrived at the mission compound after dark. I thought there were a lot of people waiting around to greet Miss Walker — only to find out they were part of her "family" — most of them children and young people from many different tribes, staying there to go to school. I believe there were 13 at the breakfast table the next morning, including the District Superintendent on an early morning round, a young doctor, and two local preachers. As for my night of quiet rest — what a joke! Never in my life have I heard so much noise in what should have been a quiet, isolated town. I believe someone said there were about 5,000 people in that Barrio, and I am sure there must be at least one dog for every hundred people. They barked all night long, antiphonally and in unison, and the one under my window was a German Police. It seemed to me that people never stopped talking. They may have been reasonably quiet from twelve until three, but then the little boys began making their rounds calling (of all things) "Do-o-o Nuts", and life began to buzz again in our household and all around. Besides this, we were not cool either. We slept in a room upstairs; most of it was open to the outdoor world. The walls were of woven split bamboo. Our furniture was an army cot, a small stand with a lantern on it, and a chair. We were so hot and sticky, and we knew bathing would be next to impossible because of lack of water and facilities. I suggested we take a talcum powder bath. Betty was a little afraid of how pasty it might become, but followed my example.

After breakfast we went with the young doctor way back in the hills to a very small barrio where the poverty was most evident. The doctor examined those who

wanted help. One young mother proudly showed us how her skin had cleared up in two weeks, with pills from our army doctors, and took us to two of her neighbors who had this awful ring-worm type of skin, asking that they be helped as she had been. Men in G-strings were working on a primitive plow. Coming back we stopped at two small churches where Betty and I spoke through an interpreter, telling them of our loving concern, and that we brought greetings from Christians on the other side of the world.

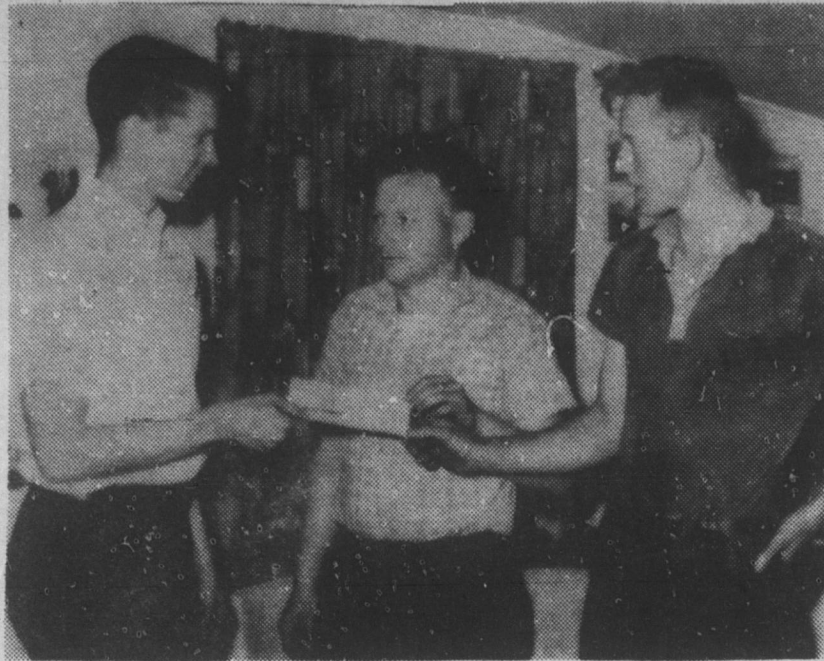
After dinner and a hot siesta, we were seeking guidance as to our next move, and had decided we'd just try to follow any sign that seemed to point in a good direction. Again Marian came with a pointer. She got up from her nap on the bench behind the table, and said, "You know, I've just been thinking! I believe, if you want to go to Bagulo, I'll just go with you." Bagulo is the resort city high in the mountains, where it is really cool. The Captain had pointed it out to us as we flew by it, and I had wished we might go, but had really given up hopes of going. Now we decided we'd go. The Woman's Division has a cottage up there and Marian had a key. We took most of our food and did our cooking. We stayed two nights, and it was cool and quiet, and though water was scarce, we could bathe. It was a real haven of rest. One of the outstanding things about this city is its vegetable market. Many things grow in the high altitude which we do not grow elsewhere in the Philippines. Never have I seen such a variety, and at least a dozen things I had no idea what they were.

We left the Philippines by waiting to see if we could get on the plane. We did. We have had rather ordinary visits in Bangkok, Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong, and now back in Tokyo. Our supper last night with Michiko's parents was memorable. In the morning we go early by train on our way to Hokkaido; next week to Alaska; and home the 16th.

Love to all,
Tillie (Mrs. A. H. Brooks)

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PEOPLE OF BURNSVILLE:
From: John Osteen, minister First Church of God Newport News, Va.
Phil Edwards, minister First Church of God, Canton,

Colbert's Creek Community Presented Grant



Pictured is Mr. John Freas presenting check to Mr. Edward Rae and Mr. Grady Harney

By: Ed Anderson

Colbert's Creek Community in Yancey County has been awarded a grant of \$870 by W.A.M.Y. Community Action, Inc. for a self-help project to improve roads in the community. The Grant is the first to be awarded under a special Incentive Grants Program designed to assist local communities in which neighbors are working together on community development projects.

Mr. John Freas made the presentation of the check to Edward Rae and Grady Harney of Colbert's Creek in an informal ceremony held Friday evening, May 6, in the community. Mr. Freas is Director of the Incentive Grants Program for W. A. M. Y. A group of local citizens who form a Screening Committee had decided that Colbert's Creek exhibited enough of the qualities of cooperation and community spirit to receive the Grant. Mr. E. L. Dillingham is Chairman of the Screening Committee.

The members of the Colbert's Creek Community

N. C.
Dear Friends:

If a couple of unknown preachers, representing an unknown movement, came into our town to hold special services in a public meeting place, we'd be mighty curious, and maybe a little suspicious. Since this is happening this week in Burnsville, and since we are the "unknown preachers", we think you have a right to know who we are, what is happening, and why. We thought this "open letter" might be the best way of filling you in.

The special services we speak of are those being held in Room No 3 at Yancey County Courthouse under the sponsorship of North Carolina State Bd. of Evangelism of the Church of God. The services are being held chiefly through the instrumentality of Miss Maggie Homecutt, a long-time resident of Burnsville, who is known to many of you as a fine Christian lady who is deeply interested in the spiritual life of the Burnsville community. We who are serving as evangelists are here for the sole purpose of being a source of blessing and inspiration to the com-

community. We are neither ignorant nor disrespectful of the fine congregations which serve this community. Both of us are active in the ministerial associations in our own cities. Our ministry here this week is supported entirely by our State Bd. of Evangelism, so we are not here to take anything from the community in terms of financial consideration. In fact, there will be no offerings received in the services at all. We emphasize this, because we are well aware that some communities have been fleeced by so-called revivallists who turned out to be nothing more than religious racketeers. We repeat, we want to be a channel of God's blessing to this community.

Now, what in the world is this "Church of God", you may be asking. We are a group of Christians who are dedicated to the task of restoring the spiritual vitality and Unity of the New Testament Church. We believe that the Bible teaches that every Christian is a member of God's Church; so we "reach our hands in fellowship to every blood-washed one". We believe that the

have been meeting regularly since July, 1965 in the homes of Merrit Strickland and Fay Hudgens. Discussion have centered around the question, "What can we do together to improve our community?"

As a result of these meetings, Colbert's Creek has become active in several self-help projects. They have established a small community library; joined with other local communities in organizing a basic adult education class; secured the services of the Neighborhood Youth Corps to assist in providing running water and privies for almost all the homes in the community; established a garbage disposal service; and taken steps toward establishing a small industry near the community.

These efforts exemplify the accomplishments which communities can make when they work together. This community of Colbert's Creek is to be congratulated for the efficient manner in which they have functioned through the democratic process.

Political

Unrest

The State Democratic Convention in Raleigh began today. Yancey County will have no valid representation to the convention this year. Insofar as is known this will be the first State Convention that duly elected or appointed delegates have not represented Yancey County.

One of the functions of the County Democratic Convention is to name delegates to attend the State Convention. Such a move was not made this year.

Also the "bulldozing" tactics used by high party officials in the county has left Burnsville without a precinct organization. At the precinct meeting in Burnsville on April 2 a new chairman was named without a dissenting vote. However, at the convention the county chairman ruled that the newly elected officers could not participate in the role to which they were elected. That leaves Burnsville Township without a valid Democratic organization.

A number of members of the County Executive Committee partitioned the chairman to hold a meeting before the State Convention so that the matter could be settled. Such a meeting was not held.

Some Democrats have expressed opinions that the party is in the most shaky condition, with the general election in view, that it has been in for several years due to "one man rule" tactics.

However, if the resolution to change Yancey County back to a primary system of nominating persons to run in the general election, some of our woes will be over.

only workable basis for unity is that of personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ, and that in order to achieve this unity we must work and pray to remove the artificial and institutional barriers that divide Christians. We regard the Bible as the only and entirely sufficient standard of truth and practice, and that to the extent that we as Christians allow the Holy Spirit to interpret the Word of God to us, we can and do arrive at agreement on essential matters of doctrine and practice. In short, we believe that the spiritual unity of Christians is not only a nice theory, but is a real part of God's plan for His church, and therefore is something for which we must work and pray.

We sincerely hope that this letter has answered some of your questions, and that we may have the pleasure of seeing you in some of the services that remain. May God bless you and your fine community.

John Osteen
Phil Edwards

OPERATION
GOLDEN EAGLE
NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT
FOR MORE RECREATION
LANDS & WATERS