

CANEY CREEK
COMMUNITY CENTER

COPY

Pippapass, N.C.
April 21, 1941

Mr. Henry White,
50 Gardner Road,
Brookline, Mass.

My dear Mr. White:-

I am under the impression that I have met you, either at the Boston City Club or the Authors' Club, but I shall take the liberty of re-introducing myself as a resident of Boston, a former legal associate of the Hon. J. Weston Allen, Attorney-General for the Commonwealth, and now better known as a writer of books.

Somewhat over a month ago I started for the Cumberland mountains in order to be "on the spot" while writing a sequel to one of my novels. Chance-- a most fortuitous one--landed me here. I came knowing nothing whatsoever about the place and the work; I shall leave for home in a fortnight knowing both, intimately, I believe, and one of its most enthusiastic supporters.

An inquisitive mind caused me to inquire at length into the history, purpose and tribulations of the C.C.C.C. and it came to my attention that its road has not been and is not now any path of roses-- in which respect it is suffering the fate of every other known "new departure". Visitors frequently come here, representing stereotyped and often fossilized philanthropic institutions, stay a few hours and depart whence they came with the reports that it is a chimerical scheme having nothing to show for the money donated in response to "the flood of propaganda" which Mrs. Lloyd sends forth. They have been much more impressed by certain settlement schools where there is a comfortable teacher for every three mountain children.

They fail to grasp the idea. The C. C. C. isn't primarily teaching ABCs and 2x2's to a multitude. It is citizenship and leadership to the chosen-- carefully chosen-- few. That its accomplishments along that line have already been recognized by men worth while is evidenced by the fact that its Resident Secretary-- Mrs. Alice S. G. Lloyd-- was last week appointed Director of Community Organization for the Southern Highland region, (covering in territory the five mountain states which contain approximately five million mountaineers) by the National Community Board, of which Dr. Henry Jackson is President.

Now I learn that a certain woman who, in answer to inquiries, has been "knocking" this work gives you as her authority for so doing. I am told that you visited Caney Creek some four years ago and found one small building and half of another here and that a statement of that fact, as existant, is still being accredited to you. I hope that it is not so, for it is quite inaccurate. There are a dozen or more buildings of all sizes here and all functioning fully for the purposes mentioned above.

The mailed propaganda which seems to offend some so much is not merely the only way by which the unendowed work can be carried on-- Mrs. Lloyd started it with nothing but a great vision and an abounding faith--but it is done as part of the vocational training of the pupils while most of the postage is a gift from Mrs. Lloyd's mother, who turns in her whole salary as local postmistress for that purpose.

I have written this rather lengthy letter of my own volition-- at my own request, indeed-- simply because I feel so deeply interested in this labor of love, the attempt to Americanize these Americans and turn out from the C.C.C.C. trained leaders who will be filled with the spirit to go and do likewise, elsewhere in the mountains.

We-- I say it advisedly, now-- want friends. Especially we want those who have been unbelieving to be friends. Some will not listen to reason and other means will have to be found to check them, but I know that you are broad minded and merely need the truth set before you.

If you are interested to learn more about this work I shall be only too glad to welcome you at my studio-office at 28 School Street, at any time after my return.

Sincerely yours,

(Signed) Eliot H. Robinson.

Hope, Stittage
Ivis, Knott county
Kentucky

April 24, 1916

Mr. Henry White

My dear friend,-

I have been thinking of you so much lately and wondering how you were. I wish you would have someone let me know, if you are not able to write yourself.

I am sending you a statement of what we are doing, as well I know your interest; since it was through your kindness in writing to Miss Huntington that we came here. I am so over-tired and busy all day that I have not the time nor the strength to write you all. I want you to know about the work. But I have prepared these statements in the hope that through their circulation, the deficit on the Civic Center will be met. This is not to be taken as a personal appeal as you have helped me in the past more than your share that I might do what good I could in the world. But I knew you would enjoy reading it or hearing it read; and then I thought perhaps ^{you} ~~that~~ might know of someone to whom you could send it, who might be moved to help.

I suppose it is a result of the war calls that we are so worried about the subscriptions to help erect the building. Everybody is called upon so continually. But we are living very close to the wind, denying ourselves everything; and not a cent of the money that is sent goes for salaries as is usually the case in all social work. Mother even has put in her pension money the last two quarters, even though she actually needed it for herself. I have tried to do some writing that I might raise some money in that way; but the de-

mands of thw work are so continual that I found that to be impossible. I am hoping against hope that we shall be able to open the building July 4, but there must be more sums sent in if we are to do that. We need the building in the summer as the roads are then dried and more people could come and then too we have arranged with the State agents to use the building for exhibitions and demonstrations in agriculture, stock raising, canning and such things.

Will you please have someone write and tell me how you are and what you think of our aims and the way that up to now, we have been able to carry them out? We are the most joyous over the cooperation we have been able to secure among the mountaineers themselves who have rallied to the Civic Center in a wonderful way. If they only had money as well; but they have none. At least, very small sums// nothing that they could give for the buying of the necessary things to put in the building. But they have given the land, and the trees and the labor.

With a great deal of love and hope that you are better than when you wrote me last

Your loving friend

Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd

November 1, 1917

Dear Mr. White,

Beside what is a civic agency? Any agency that works for the citizens as distinguished from the military. Tweedle-dee tweedle-dum

Our irritation is not alone that the Windman Settlement was ignored but the Presbyterian work of twenty years standing, the Congregational of seven, the Federal Government Trachoma Hospital of about five years the County Farm Demonstrator and various other agencies. Tum-tetum.

We have been celebrating Haollowe'en jocosly and hope you are well

Sincerely yours

Mrs Ballard called her attention to three months
ago she told Mr De Long & ^{at times} friends but he would
not explain till now

CANEY CREEK COMMUNITY CENTER and HOMESTEADS

P.O. Address: Pippapass, Knott County, Kentucky

Freight Address: Wayland, Floyd County, Kentucky

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Founder and Resident Executive Serving without Salary

Mrs. Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd

* * * * *

Secretary-Manager
J. Hamilton Jones

Treasurer
E.M Geddes

Field Worker
John Caudill

District Nurse
Mrs. Polly Stickney-Jones

November 22, 1918

Dear Mr White,

We are all very sorry indeed that you are laid by temporarily.

Under the circumstances, I appreciate that you wrote me even a little bit of a letter.

Yes - we have acquired considerable assets and are establishing our settlement into the economic life of the County. We have started a County newspaper in order that the people may be the more easily reached by our message of regeneration for the family as a whole.

John Edwards Calfee, the well known Southern educator is reported recently to have made this remark:

"If there were placed, six to each County, Civic Centers like the Caney Creek Community Center, ~~the~~ in the seven southern mountain States, the mountain problem would be solved in a generation."

We said this all the time - and we are now proving it.

I am sending you a reprint from the newspaper and will send you a copy when it is completed.

I sincerely hope that you will soon recover. I hope you will not forget your postscript

"More anon"

Alice Spencer Geddes Lloyd

Resident Executive

Inventory of the Property of the
Caney Creek Community Center and Homesteads
Made by the Trustees, May - 1918.

A: LAND

John Huft farm - adjoining - 50 acres

Caney Creek Community Center Farm, about 72 acres.

Vander Vere Rohrman Homestead Tract, about 60 acres.

B: BUILDINGS

Radcliffe Cottage

Dispensary

Kitchen and Dining Room

Laundry and Cannery

Dormitory

Smithampton Industries Building

Stables and Poultry Houses

"The Mount Holyoke" Free School
Wellesley Recreation Hall

Private Office of Mrs. Lloyd
"Exchange"

Hospital and Rest-Home
Six Model Homes

The Smithampton Industries Building, "The Mount Holyoke" Free School,
and two model homes are in process of completion.

C: EQUIPMENT

491 virgin oak trees. Sawmill and planer.

Wagon and harnesses. Farming implements and tools.

Library of 6000 volumes.

3 looms.

Dispensary supplies and hospital beds and linen.

Office supplies and furniture.

Printing press and multigraph.

Canners and cans. Smoker and dryer.

D: LIVESTOCK

Two work horses.

Two saddle horses: one for the nurse; one for the field worker.

Cow, sheep, hogs, bees and hens.

Total equity held by the trustees, represented by
the above inventory-----\$23,687.

The Ivis Community Center and Free Library, the first settlement
established by Mrs. Lloyd, is being conducted in cooperation with
the Caney Creek Foundation, by the native mountaineers of Ivis; the
property being safeguarded by articles of agreement and trusteeship.

The trustees of the Caney Creek Foundation and Homesteads are;
Frederick E. Bruce of Cleveland; Wayne Paulin of Pittsburg, Penn;
Leila Budd of Duluth, Minn; Mrs. Mary Upson Rose of Unionville, Conn;
and Honorable Hillard Smith of Hindman, Knott County, Kentucky.

The Caney Creek Foundation is helping the County of Knott to build
a free-school. The County has given the Foundation \$1500 for this
purpose; and former students at Mount Holyoke are being asked, in
small sums each, for an equal amount - the school to be called
"The Mount Holyoke."

Watsonville
December 10th, 1923.

Mrs. Ethel W. Howland,
Middletown, Connecticut.

My dear Mrs. Howland:-

Yours of November 21st is before me here on my way to Honolulu. I was much interested in your enclosure of Mrs. Lloyd's letter of November 17th and surprised to note her claim that she has a prospect of an endowment. This probably will, if successful, give the work more permanency and stability.

I have watched the many enterprises which she has entered into only to see them dropped, one after another, for some new idea regarding what she could accomplish in the mountains. As I see it today, the one thing that she has succeeded in doing is to build a decent school house at Caney. For this she set out to raise funds; failing to get enough for her purpose she went to the county authorities to induce them to pay one half the cost of the school, her collections furnishing the other half. The school thus became the property of the county, although she has claimed the credit and direction of it. I have seen letters from some of the Kentucky school authorities expressing utter distrust and disgust with regard to Mrs. Lloyd's doings. I shall not be surprised if a year from now she is arranging a new plan for occupying herself at Caney.

My feeling has always been that being a down and outer she and her husband took up the work in New Hampshire primarily, if not solely, as a means of support and I am not ready up to the present time to give her credit for any more creditable motive as the work progresses, unless it may be her desire for publicity, not to say, notoriety, and still she is buying popularity among the natives to a certain extent. Take, for instance, the offer which she paraded last year that she was creating teachers by summer courses of a few weeks and thus sending home to their different localities ready made and completed teachers who had been with her free of expense and board for a very limited period. I cannot learn, thus far, that any one else has the direction of her expenses or management of her resources but herself.

I am not responding to your letter as fully or as wisely as I could wish, but again thanking you for your information, I am

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Henry White