

## Activity #2 Finding Inspiration

# Wild Young Mountaineers Swarm to Hoover School

*Wood* *25 Feb 1930*  
**Dark Hollow Scents Book Learning and Sends Twenty  
Children Up Blue Ridge on First Day**

DARK HOLLOW, Va., Feb. 24 (A. P.) —Book learning came to Dark Hollow to-day to join mountain lore. The opening of the community school, sponsored by President Hoover brought twenty eager children and many parents trudging up the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia. The youngsters were to begin the magic trail of the printed word, and they came early, with wonder-filled eyes.

The modern little school is perched high on Stony Hill, hard by the summer camp of President Hoover. First to arrive was twelve-year-old Ray Burraker who last summer drew the attention of the Chief Executive to the need for a school in the section.

Then Ray brushed through the tangled growth about the camp to bring a 'possum to the President. This time Ray came to hoist Old Glory high on the school flagpole before the sun soared over Double Top Mountain.

He was so excited that he was not able to sleep last night, and breakfastless he led the procession, all of whom came early. The honor of lowering

the flag this afternoon fell to Ray's nine-year-old brother, George Harold.

Ray was the best groomed of the nine boys and eleven girls, whose ages ranged between five and fifteen. George Harold was high in his praise of the radio Mr. Hoover has installed in the school house.

There were twelve Burrakers at the opening, eight of whom were pupils. Grandfather Burraker, eighty-nine, a gray-bearded patriarch, and Grandma Burraker, seventy-two, wearing a blue bonnet and a black suit, walked two miles to arrive bright and early. Possibility of saying a few words with President Hoover brought out grandpa, and grandma said she came because she had eight grandchildren there. Neither had been in a school house before.

Lloyd Woodward and Mrs. Woodward came with seven young Woodwards, two of whom were twins. The mother also carried a baby in her arms.

All the boys, with the exception of Ray Burraker, wore overalls and heavy shoes. Enthusiasm for school rivaled their enthusiasm over their teacher, Miss Christine Vest of Yosemite, Kentucky, a graduate of Berea College.

Newspaper articles can be a source of inspiration for drawing cartoons, like this article published in the *New York World* on February 25, 1930. The article is about the opening of the school sponsored by President and Mrs. Hoover for children in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Virginia, who had never had the opportunity to attend school.

Ray Burraker, a student attending the new school, gave President and Mrs. Hoover a gift of an opossum.

Can you finish this cartoon by drawing the Hoovers accepting Ray's gift?

