



Silversteens Retirement and Recreation Center...

## SILVERMONT

Do you remember the days of the Great Depression? What about FDR's administration? No? Well, what about one room schoolhouses in Transylvania County? Still No?

A small group of Brevard College history students have taken it on themselves to talk to some of Transylvania County's senior citizens about those years past, with the hope of preserving them for years to come. Patterned in some respects after the project FOXFIRE, initiated by students at Appalachian State University, these Brevard College students are working under the direction of Mr. Gene Lovely, Mrs. Pat Fuleihan, and Mr. Carl Wilson, conducting interviews with many of Brevard's elderly. These interviews are taped on cassettes for preservation in a county museum.

The project was initiated through the efforts of Mr. Gene Lovely and Mrs. Pat Fuleihan. Mr. Lovely is serving on the Transylvania County Bicentennial Commission, and Mrs. Fuleihan is serving as director of the Transylvania County Day Activities Program For Senior Citizens of the area. This program is sponsored through a grant by the State of North Carolina, and includes a hot meal, five days a week, transportation to and from the program, and days full of crafts and other entertainment.

To fill a need of the Bicentennial Commission for local history and to fill the need of the senior citizens for companionship, the Brevard College program was initiated. It is realized that for memories of days gone by, today's elderly are the only source available, and once they are gone, the history is lost forever. With this in mind, the students set to work at their task.

The site of the interviews is one which has played a major part in local history. Silvermont is now a beautiful house on its way down, but in its heyday it was the home of the pioneer Transylvania County family of Silversteens. Located on Main Street, near the

Episcopal and First Presbyterian Churches of Brevard, Silvermont stands as a reminder of logging days, when Transylvania County was a booming industrial area with a promising future, when the Toxaway Dam broke in the 1930's, this industrial expansion died off, and things settled down to what they have been since.

The question that the college students are asking most of these senior citizens concerns this expansion and the life of the people of early Transylvania County. Three people who have been interviewed this far are Mr. Chappel, Mrs. Hoxit, and Mrs. Baynard, all native or long time residents of the county.

Of the three, Mrs. Baynard is the youngest (70), followed by Mrs. Hoxit (79), and finally the eldest of all those participating in the program, Mr. Chappell (90+). Mr. Chappell, (who will be dealt with more in depth in a later article) and Mrs. Baynard are both natives of this area, and Mrs. Hoxit has lived here for over forty years; before that she lived in Jackson County.

When asked about early Transylvania life, Mrs. Baynard and Mrs. Hoxit were unable to supply much in the form of politics, the Great Depression, and the like, but in the area of home life, large families, and early childhood, both were very informative. Have you ever heard of "through the window", "Tapan", or "Baptizin"? Before the days of T.V., G. I. Joes, and Rock-Em Sock-Em Robots, the children played such games. With families of fifteen or more, these social games brought relief from the hard work ritual of the rest of the day. "Tapan" is similar to our present day game of "Drop The Handkerchief" and "Through The Window" has no modern day counterpart. "Baptizin" is just what is sounds like. After watching the minsiter baptize parisoners in the river, the kids would pile up a stack of leaves and bout about "Baptizin" one another. Sound like fun?

The days of one room school houses, three month school

This article is a combination of information and advice from Dean Thurston, Miss Nicholson, chairperson of the math and science department, and the writer, a sophomore student.

Clarion: "How can the student narrow the field from the multitude of senior colleges available?"

Dean Thurston: "If the student knows his area of interest and what he intends to major in, then he would do well to talk with his advisor here or talk with either the Deans of Student or myself, and we can look at those colleges that may be strongest in the areas in which the student is interested. I think that it would be beneficial for a student to begin listing his or her priorities, what he is looking for in terms of the school, then to discuss the matter with the advisor, a faculty member, or a staff member."

Clarion: "Once the choices are narrowed down, how can a student find out whether or not a specific college is for him?"

Dean Thurston: "If at all possible, the student ought to visit the campus. Prior to that visit to the campus, acquaint yourself with the catalog of the college or university. In terms of specific academic areas, you could get some pretty good ideas

years, and corner punishment were well remembered. Mrs. Baynard recalls having to bring firewood as "homework" for school, and remembers the strictness of the teacher. "Why, we couldn't take our eyes off our books or we would wind up getting punished".

The schoolhouse was always one room which held grades 1 - up. The school years was only about three months long, so that planting and harvesting could be taken care of during the other nine months. Attendance was semi-mandatory, but absences were allowed for work.

Work. That is what all three of the people interviews remembered most. The family lived in one room cabins, in which beds lined the walls. Cooking was done on an open fireplace, and clothes were made from wool sheared, cleaned, spun, and woven by hand. The day often lasted from before daybreak until after dusk. Politics, depression, fun and social life fell to the side while these people went about their lives, trying to survive.

The times were hard, and fun came seldom. These times are a part of our history, and thanks to this cooperative venture by Brevard College and the day activities program, this history will be preserved. In the next issue of the Clarion an in depth look at the life of a moonshiner in Transylvania County will be presented. Don't miss it.

as to whether this is a school that would meet your specific needs by taking that catalog to some of our faculty members here, who teach in that subject area."

Clarion: "What should you look for on a campus visit?"

Dean Thurston: "The size of the classes, the faculty. If you're a science major, are the laboratory facilities adequate for the type of work that you want to do? If you are a physical education major, are the athletic facilities adequate? If you're interested in going to a grad school, does the school seem to have a good record for having its successful student admitted into graduate school? Students should arrange ahead of time to meet with some faculty members in the areas of their interest."

Clarion: "Under what circumstances should a student consider transferring from Brevard at the end of his or her freshman year?"

Thurston: "Generally, they should plan on staying the first two years. One of the department chairmen and I were recently meeting with a representative from one of the major state institutions here in the state. He indicated that the record of our students and the expectations that they had for our students is much better if they completed their two years here. In terms of exceptions to that, if the student arrived at a point that philosophically they do not agree with Brevard's standards then it is better that they go ahead and transfer. A college can't be all things to all people. We have certain rules, regulations, and perspectives on the use of drugs and so on. If a student feels that they cannot be in agreement, it is probably better if they transfer."

Clarion: "How should the catalog recommendations be used?"

Thurston: "Basic

requirements for degrees are spelled out on page 23 of the catalog. Beginning on page 34, we have suggestions so that of a student knows what his eventual major will be at a four year school, then his or her advisor can work with him, and they can follow the suggestions listed here.

In addition, the advisors in these specialized areas keep in close contact with a number of the four year schools so that if there is some unique situation at another school, the advisor can alert the student to it. The beginning of Page 34 are suggestions. Sometimes students are confused and think that they are required to stay within one of them. They are committed to it if they take advantage of an exception provided under a suggested curriculum."

Clarion: "Should a student attempt to graduate from Brevard?"

Thurston: "Ordinarily yes. Our advising is based on that."

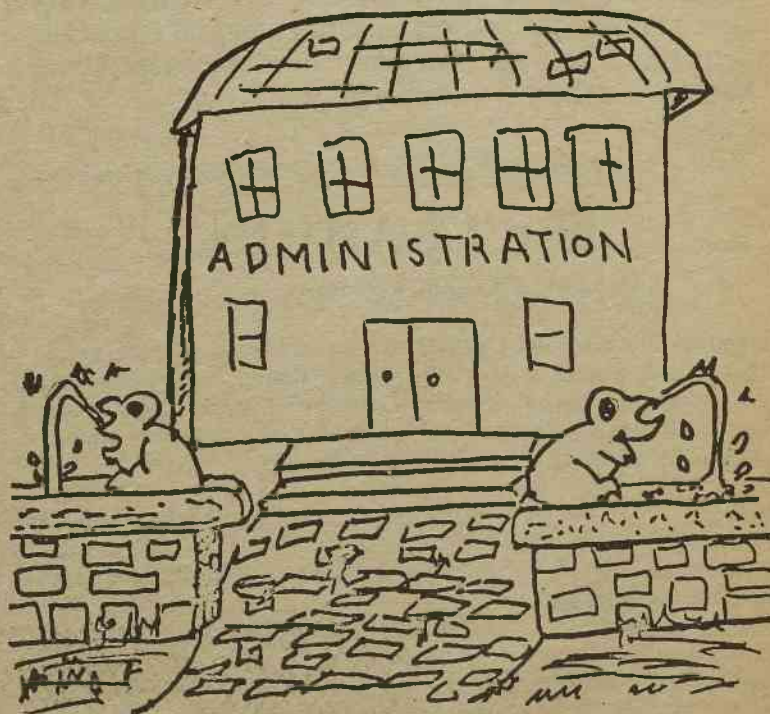
Clarion: "Does graduation, in itself, from Brevard help in being accepted?"

Thurston: "Yes, particularly if it's an Associate in Arts degree. It means that you have fulfilled what is basically going to be the two years of general education requirements on a four year campus. In terms of those schools that we have a direct transfer agreement with, it means that the degree will go in as a whole package. The grades will transfer in, in most cases, as will courses with "D"s."

Clarion: "When should you apply to a senior college?"

Thurston: "If, during the fall of your sophomore year, you know the school or schools to which you want to transfer, fall is a good time to do it. If you have those schools narrowed down during

Continued on Page 4



There's got to be something symbolic about two frogs eternally regurgitating in front of the administration building.