

# Merry Christmas

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## THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

A State And National Prize-Winning Home Town Newspaper

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Vol. 87 — No. 57      SECOND CLASS POSTAGE      BREVARD, N. C., MONDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1974      15c COPY      PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY      26 PAGES TODAY



ANTICIPATING the arrival of Brian for Christmas left, Joan, Dodie, Mary, Jayme; Mrs. Sterk and Mr. Sterk. are his four sisters and parents, show above. They are, from (Times Staff Photo)

### Yule's Approach Quiet In County

#### Last-Minute Shoppers In Stores

Christmas was approaching quietly on Monday, but with stores loaded with last minutes shoppers who were having no problems finding their needs from good stocks of merchandise.

Tuesday is expected to be the biggest day of 1974 for Transylvania merchants.

The weekend was quiet for the Brevard Police Dept. and the sheriff's men.

#### The Tree

German legend has it that from time to time, simple, good folk have seen, on Christmas Eve, a single tree deep in the dark, wintry forest, in full bloom and aglow with a beautiful child sitting in its branches. Asked to comment on this, a churchman once said, "the blossoming tree is humanity; the shining lights are good men; and the child is the Savior."

Throughout the ages, the tree has been a haven for mankind: it has sheltered him from the sweltering sun or from chilling winds; given food and medicine; provided means of transportation; yielded weapons with which he could hunt or defend himself; been the roof over his head and provided the final resting place for his body.

The Christmas tree represents all this and far more. Its lights represent not only good men, but a lasting Good — that of the birth of a Savior, which is the light of the world for all people in all seasons throughout all ages.

Its lights sometimes look like stars and remind us of the Star of Bethlehem, that bright light shining today in the hearts of mankind to bring the hope of peace and the joy of living.

How often we have looked at the lights reflected in our children's eyes and seen the vision of what life could really be, and recalled, like a mirror to the soul, the dreams we had and that are never truly lost.

The Christmas tree reminds us yet of what was and is and shall be.

Reprinted from "Spotlight."



THE JOY OF THE SEASON reflected on her face, Dodie adjusts candy cane on Christmas tree. (Times Staff Photo)

### Surprise Welcome Awaits Brevard GI

BY DOROTHY OSBORNE  
Times Staff Writer

A huge sign, with three-foot high brightly-colored lettering on white paper, reads "Welcome Home."

That's the only tangible evidence that something unusual is going on at the R. P. Sterk residence on Delphia Drive.

The usual Christmas decorations are there: a wreath on the front door, a huge tree beautifully decorated and stacks of gaily-wrapped packages underneath, a sprig of mistletoe hanging from the arch between the living room and dining room.

The sign officially welcomes home Brian Sterk of the U. S. Army, who has been in Korea since November 1973.

The Sterks had not expected him for Christmas. He had written that he could not leave Korea until just after Christmas.

But he wrote Robert Morgan, newly-elected U. S. Senator, who contacted Sen. Sam Ervin, whose efforts cut through military red tape to get the young man home for Christmas.

The Sterks had not heard from Brian that he will be here. Their only news came from The Times, who received a news release from Robert Morgan's office.

All of the Sterks, except for the oldest son, Randy, who lives in Kansas City, will celebrate Christmas together.

There's John, age 21, who lives in Brevard. And at home are the four girls: Mary, 18, and a freshman at Brevard College; Jayme, age 15, a sophomore at Brevard High School; Doris, called Dodie, age 13 and an eighth grader; and 10-year-old Joan, a fifth grader.

who isn't here," said Mrs. Sterk. "They took it when he wasn't coming home. But, by golly, when they learned he was! Such a display of all that happiness."

The sign was the idea and the work of Dodie and Joan.

Special plans now include having a few of their neighbors in Morgan Heights in. "And we'll have an open house for Brian's friends," Mrs. Sterk said.

Their celebration of Christmas follows a ritual of long standing, she explained. "We do the midnight mass together." Four of the children sing in the choir. "That makes me very proud. Then we come home and by then, everyone is ready to go to bed."

The ritual continues Christmas morning. "Here's the torture chamber I set up. We have the pancakes, orange juice, warm syrup, then clean up the kitchen and

make the beds. Then we have the gifts. Then I can be a part of it."

They open their gifts, first — See Surprise, Page 2



"Some pupils may be assigned to a different bus for the return trip home on this date. Occupancy of the new Brevard Middle School and the Brevard Elementary School will result in a number of bus route changes.

"Pupils will be properly notified of these changes and any necessary adjustments will be made to insure that the bus transportation system continues to operate in an efficient manner."

School officials are hoping to complete the moving of school equipment from the old schools to the new ones on January 2 and 3.

City Hall offices will be closed Tuesday and Wednesday, but will open as usual Thursday and Friday. Court House offices will close for three days: Tuesday, Christmas, and Thursday.

The driving license — See Last, Page 2

### 13 Holiday Traffic Deaths Are Forecast

CHARLOTTE — The N. C. State Motor Club is predicting the safest Christmas and New Years holidays since 1968 but time, rather than careful driving, is the major factor.

The motor club is estimating that a total of 13 persons will die in traffic accidents on North Carolina highways during the Christmas and New Year holidays.

Last year 40 persons were killed in the state during a 102-hour period for each holiday, and 49 persons died as a result of accidents in 1972 during 78-hour periods.

The fewest deaths over Christmas and New Years in recent years was in 1968 when 11 persons lost their lives during a similar abbreviated holiday schedule.

North Carolina will count its toll this year from 6 p.m. Dec. 24 until midnight, Dec. 25, and

from 6 p.m. Dec. 31 until midnight, Jan. 1.

"The loss of a single life is a tragedy," Motor Club President Paul B. Marion said, "and we caution motorists to drive with care. We are especially concerned over excessive speed and urge drivers to obey established speed limits."

Marion said he was hopeful that the weather would not hamper traffic conditions during the holiday period. "If the weather is good," he said, "this could be one of our safest holidays in a long time. We certainly hope so."

Marion pointed out that traffic fatalities are down more than 350 from this time last year and commended the driving public and the State Highway Patrol for jobs done well.

"I just hope the trend continues," he concluded.

### Babson Forecast Coming

The Babson Forecast of business trends for 1975 will be run in the December 30 and January 2 issues of The Times next week.

Today's Times is the only one to be published this week in order that the employees might have a few days to enjoy the Christmas season. The Thursday edition has been canceled.

Publication will return to normal schedule next week.



PISGAH FOREST LIONS CLUB members on Saturday made their rounds carrying food boxes to blind and visually handicapped persons. Delivering this truckload were, beginning at left nearest camera and going clockwise, were: Tommy Burgess, club president; J. P. Wortman, Homer Cox, project chairman; and Charles Creasman.