



Red Cross - In Disaster And In Normal Times

The March 1970 Fund Campaign of the Swain County Chapter of the American Red Cross is under way.

In time of disaster, the national spotlight turns upon the Red Cross and its programs of emergency and long-term relief for victims. But in normal times, the Red Cross also plays a vital role in America's communities, although one not as widely publicized.

A true measure of the achievements of the Red Cross can never be taken for it is an organization whose value to the community is largely one of preventive action. Through the Red Cross, we Americans supply approximately half of the blood needs of our nation's hospitals. But there is no way of tabulating the number of lives saved each year through these donations of blood. Through the Red Cross, we arm ourselves with skills in first aid, water safety and home nursing education. But again, one would be hard put to arrive at

even a rough estimate of how this knowledge has paid off in the community's life and health. Neither can a value be put upon the boost to morale provided by Red Cross volunteers and workers among our servicemen and veterans and their families.

At a time when President Nixon is seeking to inspire Americans with the spirit of volunteerism to help attack our social problems, the Red Cross and its experience stands as one prime resource for this campaign. It serves all America and all Americans. And it accomplishes its goal with voluntary contributions as its only means of financial support.

The Swain County Chapter of American Red Cross has begun its annual campaign for funds to carry on its program of humanitarian services. All of us should respond generously. A contribution to the Red Cross is an investment that rewards the entire community - now and in the future.

Letter To Editor

Editor
Smoky Mountain Times
Bryson City
North Carolina

Sir:
The Thursday, March 5, 1970, edition of the Smoky Mountain Times carried a lead article with headlines which reads as follows: "Bryson Policeman Temporarily Suspended, Hearing Set March 11th by City Council." In a letter dated February 25, 1970, from the Town of Bryson City through the Clerk of the Town and by instruction of the Board of Aldermen I was told "this hearing would be open to anyone wishing to give any evidence or statements to the Board relative to making your suspension permanent because of the charges made against you by Calloway Ball."

I appeared at the hearing with my attorney and witnesses. I presented 13 affidavits of my good character from prominent citizens of this county, but these were apparently disregarded. Several witnesses appeared before the Board before me, including a Magistrate of this county, who before the Board labeled the whole matter as "purely political."

The Mayor told me that she and the members of the Board had had numerous people tell them that I should be fired from the police force, giving as

their reasons the rumors of misconduct on my part that have been circulated. She told me that they believed me to be innocent of any charges but felt that it would be in the best interest of the Town if I were relieved of duty; that they liked me and felt that I was a good officer.

Only two people appeared against me, the High Sheriff of Swain County and his first deputy. The Sheriff said he knew nothing against me but stated that he could not work with me. The deputy attempted to support the affidavit of Calloway Ball which has been made against me.

Some of the members of the Board favored keeping me on as a policeman, but apparently the majority did not. At any rate, I have been instructed to turn in my uniform.

No charges have ever been brought in any court against me. I am innocent of the accusations made by Calloway Ball and of any other accusations of misconduct on my part of any sort. Obviously, one or more people do not want me in a place of authority and are afraid that I cannot be "controlled" or told whom to arrest and not to arrest. I don't believe that the citizens of Bryson City want this kind of law enforcement officer.

My most precious possession is my good name and I make this statement in defense of it. This whole matter is a reflection on me, my family, and my friends.

yours truly,
Mack Kirkland

Letter To The Editor

Retired Sgt. J. L. Wilson is progressing nicely at his daughter's home in Chapel Hill, N. C.

Mr. Wilson has asked that we thank the people of Bryson City for the many kindnesses extended to him and his wife since his hospitalization in December.

We have received hundreds of letters, cards and offers of help. I do want all of our friends and neighbors to know how much we appreciate this thoughtfulness.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilson will reside in Chapel Hill until Mr. Wilson is able to travel.

Would you please be so kind as to publish this statement in the paper in regard to my fathers wreck.

Thank You,
Dotti Culketh
Chapel Hill, N.C.

The Smoky Mountain Times

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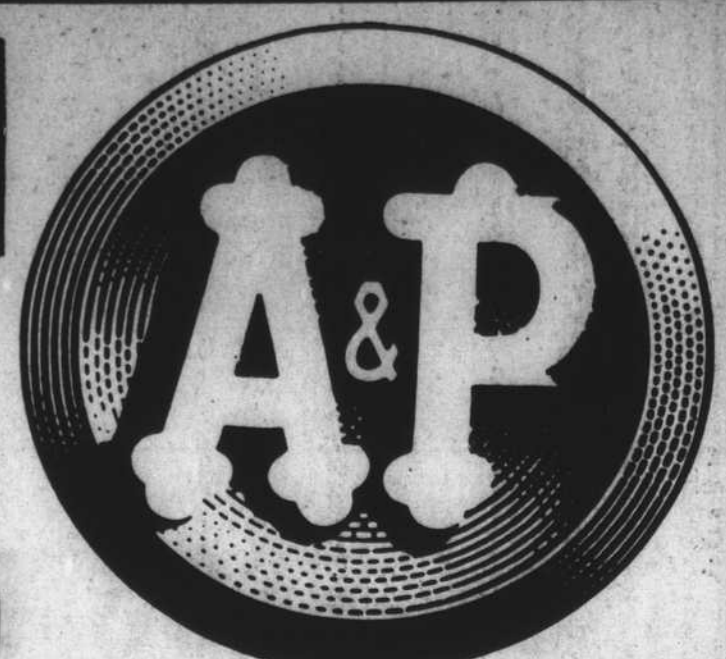
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