

Brevard Army Wife Wants To Organize "Waiting Wives Club" In Transylvania

Misery Loves Company Says Colonel's Wife

By - Cal Carpenter

Ask any Service family man: the most undesirable thing in a military career is the "unaccompanied" tour of duty — that is, the overseas assignment, usually for one year at a time, to an isolated or undesirable location where there are no facilities for wives and families.

Yet there has to be this kind of duty, for the U. S. Armed Forces have installations in many such places as a necessary part of the country's defense.

Duty in these places is no picnic for the Serviceman, as this writer knows from personal experience. But what about the wives and families the Servicemen leave behind? What is it like for the wives who have to become solely responsible for the family in the husband's absence?

The other side of this coin was brought home to me when Mrs. William T. Tinsley, wife of Army Lt. Colonel William "Bill" Tinsley of Brevard who is now serving in Korea, dropped in to the TIMES office for a chat.

"It's a hard, lonely time for us," she says, "trying to be both mother and father to growing children; being responsible for all family decisions — and just waiting."

WAITING WIVES CLUB

So Mrs. Tinsley wants to start a "Waiting Wives" club.

"Christmas is coming," she says, "and this is the time of the year when families should be together. For those Service wives whose husbands are away serving unaccompanied tours, this is the time when association with other wives in the same boat would help the most. It helps anytime, but it helps the most at Christmas."

Mrs. Tinsley should know, for this is her husband's third unaccompanied tour.

"I should like to begin a "waiting wives" get-together — call it what you like — in my home or any other waiting wife's home — for any and all waiting wives in the Brevard area," says Mrs. Tinsley. "We can just sit down and talk together. We can compare notes and share our loneliness."

"We speak the same language; we know what it's like to be left head of the family, responsible for all family decisions and emergencies; we know what it's like to be both mother and father to growing children."

Mrs. Tinsley's husband left for Korea last June and will be returning in July, 1971. This is his third unaccompanied tour in their 16 years of marriage. Colonel Tinsley served an earlier tour in Korea and one in Vietnam before this one. He's in the Army Corps



MRS. WILLIAM T. TINSLEY —Wife of Lt. Col. William "Bill" Tinsley of Brevard who is now serving in Korea. Mrs. Tinsley is inviting other Service wives whose husbands are on "unaccompanied" tours

of duty to join her in a "Waiting Wives" club. All Service wives of the Brevard area whose husbands are away are invited to contact Mrs. Tinsley. (Times Staff Photo)

of Military Police. The Tinsleys have one son, Gregory, 10 years old.

Says Mrs. Tinsley: "Trying to be both mother and father, I've just found out I'm the world's worst quarterback."

Undoubtedly other waiting wives have similar revelations they'd enjoy sharing.

HOW LONG IS A YEAR?

"My husband has been in the Army for 16 years and we are now well into our third "unaccompanied" tour of duty. No wife ever likes being left behind, but experiencing it for the third time, I feel that I have adapted more readily than one going through those first rough months of her first separation. "Misery loves company" — especially company who speaks the same "military" language. It occurred to me that I might not be the only wife who came home to Brevard to "wait" — that if there were others here we had at least one thing in common: we are all "waiting".

"In being associated with Waiting Wives Clubs at Ft. Bragg, our last duty assignment, I found that we really helped each other's time pass more quickly by getting together and sharing our experiences with someone who truly understands all the lonely feelings we have — the everyday frustrations of having to stand on your own two feet — of having to be mother and father — of trying to explain to a child, "how much is a year?"

"I thought that since being left behind wasn't brand new to me, I might be able to make the days of wives who are being left for the first or even second time a little easier, and that together we might all make our year go by a little faster," writes Mrs. Tinsley.

A PHILOSOPHY

She continues: "I have a philosophy I try to live by: If I can find one blessing to count each day then I'm ahead of lots of wives — wives whose husbands are POW's or wives whose husbands aren't coming home. Sometimes you can find hundreds of blessings to count in a day; then there are those days when you feel you really have to search to find one blessing. But even on what I consider by bleak-est days, I've always managed to find that one."

"I have a poem by an unknown author, that is on my bulletin board in my kitchen — the room where most women spend the greater part of a day — and this is my one desire each day:

"My life shall touch a dozen lives before this day is done,
Leave countless marks for good or ill,
ere sets the evening sun;
This is the wish I always wish,
the prayer I always pray:
Lord may my life help other lives
it touches by the way."

ALL INVITED

So all waiting wives are invited — regardless of the husband's rank or rating — to share their waiting with others who understand their problems. Anyone interested is asked to contact Mrs. William T. Tinsley at telephone No. 883-8667.

TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

State And National Prize-Winning Newspaper

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 1970

★ SECTION FOUR ★

Sponsored By Jaycees

Plans Being Made Here For Another Christmas House

Christmas House . . . Many dim spirits will be brightened this year through the third annual Transylvania Christmas House.

Already many church, civic and social organizations of Transylvania have expressed an interest in helping needy families have a merrier Christmas this year. Plans are made to increase the scope of the Christmas House to include over 150 families with 500 to 600 children.

Items needed to make this year's Christmas House successful are money, children's clothing, toys, household items, and non-perishable foods.

This year's Christmas House will be located in the building which housed the Republican Headquarters this year which has been made available through the generosity of Walter Welt.

Until the Christmas House is opened, donations can be left at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, or call 883-3703 or 883-2183 and pick-up will be arranged.

Anyone wishing to contribute their time for this worthwhile cause is invited to contact Rev. Edward Sheridan at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church, or any member of the Brevard Jaycees, who are sponsoring this project.



AIRMAN SAMUEL R. PARKER, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D. Parker, route 1, Pisgah Forest has completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Tex. He has been assigned to Keesler AFB, Miss., for training in the communications field. Airman Parker, a 1966 graduate of Brevard Senior High School, received his B. S. degree in education in 1970 from Western Carolina University.

Recruiter For Marines Here On Two Days

The United States Marine Corps Recruiting Office in Asheville, announces today that there will be a change in the hours that a Marine Recruiter visits the Brevard area.

The change in hours is due to a reorganization of the area that the recruiting office in Asheville is responsible for.

Starting recently a Marine Recruiter will be at the Post Office in Brevard from 3:00 p. m. until 5:00 p. m. on Tuesday and Thursday.

Persons who wish to talk with a Marine Recruiter about the Marine Corps and its programs but cannot see him at the time and day stated above are requested to telephone collect, Asheville 253-2855.

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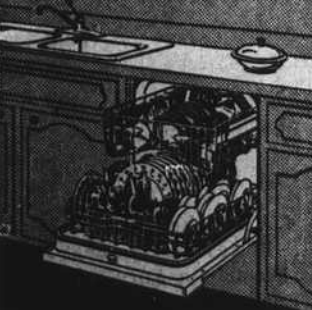
A stated communication of Dunn's Rock lodge will be held in the Masonic Temple on Thursday, December 10th, beginning at 8:00 o'clock.

This announcement comes from Earl G. Norton, the Worshipful Master.

Following the regular routine of business, the annual election of officers for 1971 will be held.

When in need of job printing, call The Transylvania Times.

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