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24 PAGES TODAY ★



An Extra Sharp Lookout For Predator Hawks And Owls
... White Squirrel's Unnatural Hue Contrasts With Surroundings

Brevard's Puzzlement

White Squirrel Colony Has This Town Wondering

(Editor's note: The following story is reprinted from the Charlotte Observer, and it has appeared in many other leading daily newspapers across the country. It was written by Clyde K. Osborne, the rural life editor of the Observer, who is a native of Transylvania county. He used telescopic lens to get the outstanding photo above.)

BREVARD — The man eases his auto out of this town's business district, and speeds up to 35 miles an hour heading through a residential area.

Suddenly he slams on his brakes, staring in disbelief, and watches a white squirrel leap over a sidewalk and bound up the side of a tree.

As he stares, another snow white squirrel comes into view, then another.

This scene is repeated several times every day as strangers drive through this town in the rugged mountains bordering the Pisgah National Forest. But visitors aren't the only ones who wonder where the white squirrels come from.

Retired Chief Ranger Ted Seely of the Pisgah National Forest says that he's seen the white squirrels around for at least eight years now.

These are not albinos. They do not have the pink eyes of albinos. They are pure white squirrels.

And the number seems to be constantly growing. Estimates of the number vary from 50 to 200, all concentrated in the southwestern section of the town.

No one knows for certain when or how

they first appeared in the area.

There is no species of white squirrels known in the world.

Dr. Herbert Heckenbleikner of the biology department of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte explains the phenomenon this way:

Squirrels are normally brown or grey or some color in between. However, once in a while one is born which is lighter or darker than others.

Under normal circumstances these off-color animals would be easy prey for hawks, owls, hunters, and other predators because they do not have the proper camouflage hues.

But in a town like Brevard, says Dr. Heckenbleikner, a white squirrel might thrive in the absence of predators.

Seely had a pair of squirrels — a white one and a grey one — nesting in a box in a tree in his back yard. One of their litters contained two white and two grey offspring.

"This indicates that if the white isn't dominant in mating, it's at least 50-50," he said.

The white squirrels chase each other and grey squirrels, play in the grass, hunt nuts, and act exactly like any other squirrels. They seem to notice no difference in their color.

But every person who sees them does.

If a white squirrel can survive in this town, then it's feasible that he can reproduce in other municipalities of the nation. But no other colony of white squirrels is known in North Carolina, nor has any other been reported in the southeastern United States.

In Transylvania

2573 Students Ride School Buses Daily

Data recently released by the Transportation Division of the Department of Public Instruction reveals that during the 1969-70 school year some 629,953 North Carolina school children were transported daily to school on buses. This figure means, according to A. C. Davis, Controller for the State Board of Education, that the State provides transportation for 57.4 per cent of the average daily attendance in North Carolina public schools. The transportation data, added Davis, is compiled on a yearly basis.

Of the students transported daily, 71.9 per cent were enrolled in elementary school and 28.1 per cent were in high school. The average school bus in the State transported 67 students and made 1.59 trips per day each 11.9 miles in length

one way. The total cost of North Carolina's school transportation for 1969-70 was \$19,141,379.21, including replacement buses.

In Transylvania county the number of regular school buses operated during the 1969-70 school year was 35. An average of 2573 students were transported daily, with an average of 73.5 students per bus each day. Each bus traveled an average of 37.7 miles a day at an operating cost of approximately \$.0459 per mile. Guilford county ranked highest in number of buses operating daily and average number of pupils transported daily.

The average cost Statewide for the 1969-70 school year was \$1,541.05 per bus; \$23.40 per pupil; and \$.2243 per bus mile of operation.

Advice Is Given

Sale Of New License plates Said "Going Good" In Brevard

The sale of 1971 auto and truck tags in Brevard is reported to be "going good" by Mrs. Jeanne Hunter, the office manager.

The new tags, which are green on white and are reflectorized, went on sale Monday morning in Brevard and across the State of North Carolina.

The 1969 plates expired December 31st and their use beyond that date is permissible only if they are duly registered by the Department to the vehicle on which display is made. Owners who have their vehicles properly registered by the Department have until February 16th to obtain new plates.

Surrounding area residents may obtain plates at 26 West Jordan Street, Brevard.

Office hours are from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Mrs. Hunter points out that "to renew a plate you must have a renewal card" and cautions against the misplacing of it when it is received. She also asks you to open the envelope, read the instructions and complete the application according to instructions before presenting it for a new plate. This will expedite issuance and keep lines from forming.

Weather

By FRED REITER

Temperature averages in Brevard for the last week were 47 and 26 degrees, with a high of 54 and low of 13 during the week. Last Thursday's .58-inch precipitation was in the form of three inches of snow.

Extended outlook for Brevard and vicinity through Saturday: Cloudy and cold with periods of rain or snow through Friday night, becoming partly cloudy on Saturday. High temperatures mostly in the 30s, with low readings in the 20s.

Total rainfall for the year 1970 was 57.66 inches measured at Brevard. This is approximately seven inches short of a normal amount of rainfall for the area.

Weekly weather data was as follows:

	High	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	41	24	0.00
Thursday	36	26	0.58
Friday	48	24	0.00
Saturday	54	13	0.00
Sunday	51	20	0.00
Monday	51	37	0.87
Tuesday	50	35	1.02

In National Elections

Rules Given For Registering 18, 19, 20-Year Olds To Vote

By Staff Writer

Alex K. Brock, executive secretary of the North Carolina State Board of Elections has issued to the Local Board of Elections instructions on the registration of 18, 19, and 20-year olds. The rules are to take place immediately.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled that all states must allow persons 18-20 years of age, who are otherwise qualified, to register and vote in National elections only. This means that North Carolina will commence registration of those persons 18-20 years of age who

are otherwise qualified under our state requirements to register. All other prerequisites must still be met—the only change is the minimum age. And it is important to understand that these newly enfranchised voters will not be qualified to vote in State or local elections, but will be able to vote in National elections. In other words, the first election in which the 18-20 year olds will be eligible to vote will be the 1972 election for President-Vice President, U.S. Senate and Congress only.

Since this ruling must go into

Change Is Noted

Commissioners To Meet Each First Monday Morning At 9:00

In the future, the Transylvania County Board of Commissioners will have morning meetings on the first Monday in each month instead of evening ones.

Beginning February 1st, the Commissioners will meet here in the Court House in the Commissioners' room at

9:00 a.m.

Previously, they had been meeting at 7:30 p.m. on each first Monday night.

Donald Lee Moore, chairman, urges all citizens to make a note of this change in meeting time of the Commissioners.



TRANSYLVANIA'S FIRST BABY of 1971 arrived at Transylvania Community Hospital at 11:46 a.m. on New Year's Day, and the little one and her proud parents will be the recipients of many nice gifts presented by the merchants of Brevard. Donna Renae Morgan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Larry Morgan of Rosman, weighing 6 pounds, 12

ounces, arrived right on schedule New Year's Day, with Dr. J. D. Scroggin in attendance. Donna Renae, pictured above with her mother, was the third consecutive first baby of the year in Transylvania to be delivered by Dr. Scroggin, who was almost as proud of her timely arrival as the parents were. (Times Staff Photo)

Many Courses Offered

Brevard College Begins Spring Semester Tuesday

Some Flooding Tuesday

More Snow Is The Prediction For Town And County Thursday

Mr. Weatherman says that more snow is on the way.

And last Tuesday's first snowstorm of the season is still lingering, especially at the higher elevations.

Heavy rains over the weekend and on Monday caused the French Broad river to overflow in the lowlands of Transylvania Tuesday, but the river receded Wednesday with clearing skies.

The forecast for Brevard and vicinity is for mostly sunny and continued cold weather Wednesday with increasing cloudiness and continued cold Wednesday night and a chance of rain or snow by Thursday.

The high expected Wednesday is in the upper 30s with a near zero chance of precipitation, according to the National Weather Service office at Asheville Airport.

The low Wednesday night should be in the upper-teens with a 20 per cent chance of precipitation; and, Thursday's high is expected to be in the 30s.

Town Tags Are Now On Sale

All residents of the Town of Brevard are urged to buy their City license plates at an early date.

They are now on sale at the City Hall for \$1.00 each.

The code of the Town of Brevard requires that all resident automobiles display a Town license tag on and after February 16th.

The tags are green on white to match the 1971 state licenses.

Asks For Guidance

Dr. Killian Prepares For Session In State Senate

Dr. Carl D. Killian, preparing to leave for Raleigh and his first session as a State Senator, this week issued a statement asking citizens of the 17 county 33rd Senatorial District their views on issues.

"Your suggestion as to needed legislation will be studied carefully, researched if needed and acted on appropriately," Dr. Killian said. "I will look to institutions and agencies to give me guidance as to goals, directions, priorities. I thoroughly appreciate sessions that are intended to inform."

The Democratic State Senator repeated his promises to the citizens: "To represent you to the very best of my ability; —Turn To Page Four



Best Drive Ever

United Fund "Victory Dinner" To Be Held Next Monday Night

Workers who participated in the 1971 United Fund drive in Transylvania will have a "Victory" dinner next Monday night, January 11th, at 8:30 in the Brevard College cafeteria.

According to Dr. Robert A. Davis, the president, it will be a Dutch treat affair, and a large

crowd is expected.

The dinner will honor the workers who made the current campaign the best year ever for the Transylvania United Fund.

The goal of \$50,778 has been exceeded, and Dr. Davis says that officials of the United

Fund are delighted to have a surplus so that any emergency that may arise can be met.

Next Monday night will also be for the annual meeting of the United Fund which will follow the dinner. During the meeting, the officers for the Executive Board will be elected, as well as 13 members for the Class of 1972 and two members to fill out the unexpired terms in the Class of 1971.

Several awards will be presented at the dinner meeting to special persons who worked faithfully to enable the Fund to raise more money than in any campaign to date.

Program Highlights

Dr. Tom Haggai Begins Another Year On WPNF, Log Reviewed

"Values For Living", featuring Dr. Tom Haggai, begins another year on WPNF. The program is heard Monday through Saturday at 5:30 p. m.

Dr. Haggai presents daily an inspirational five-minute program, and it remains one of the most popular features heard each day on the local station.

The program is presented through sponsorship of Olin Corporation of Pisgah Forest.

Other Programs

Participants on the WPNF Farm and Home Hour will be

as follows: Thursday, Soil Conservation Service; Friday station program; Monday, Jerry Purser, County Extension chairman; Tuesday, station program; Wednesday, Jean Childers, Home Extension Agent.

Speaking this week on Morning Devotions is Rev. Donald Hicks, pastor of Faith Assembly of God. Next week's scheduled speaker is Rev. Albert Bishop.

Sunday morning worship services are being broadcast during the month of January from the Morningside Baptist Church, with Rev. Ronald Lashley, pastor.

Look Inside...

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