

From  
**ALMAR FARM**  
In Transylvania  
BY CAL CARPENTER



I've long since decided that animals are smarter than most people give them credit for. You just have to be around them and watch to see the most unusual examples. I see things like this most every day around the farm and I've written about them many times.

You also hear a lot of good animal stories about such things once it becomes known that you're an animal lover, which is surely the case with me. Take, for example, the story I heard over at Canton the other Sunday when we went to visit Mother.

We were having dinner at my sister, Kate Howell's house. My brother-in-law, Claude Harkins, asked me: "Have you ever heard of a pony walking a footlog?" I said no, I hadn't. And he proceeded to tell me about one that did.

Claude has a pasture that joins the property of Sunny Point Baptist Church and he's been letting the pastor's young son keep his pet black Shetland pony in it.

The pasture is separated from Claude's yard by a goodsized brook running between deep banks with a strong fence on the yard side — everywhere, that is, except at the end of a footlog across the branch. The footlog is some 20 feet long and about 15 inches wide. It takes a pretty sure-footed person to walk across it safely — it's pretty high over the center of the branch.

One day, the pony was found over in Claude's yard. Claude put it back in the pasture through a regular gate, but he couldn't imagine how it got in his yard until the Reverend Heffner, the pastor, mentioned that he'd seen "Blackie," who weighs a good 400 pounds, walking across the rickety footlog.

Says Claude, "Even from the preacher, I found that hard to believe, and I guess my expression showed it."

"If you don't believe it," said the preacher, noting Claude's skeptical look, "just watch and you'll see."

So Claude watched, and sure enough, one evening just before dark he saw Blackie cross the narrow footlog.

"There was Blackie," he says, "carefully placing his dainty little hooves one in front of the other and slowly easing across. It was a sight to see, believe me."

"Now I believe it," he says.

I do too, for I know Claude wouldn't fake a story like that. But it surprises me too, for I've always heard that horses — and ponies too, I suppose —

weren't sure-footed animals. You hear a lot about the sure-footedness of mountain goats, burros and even mules; but not horses or ponies.

Regarding the story above, Claude mentioned that Robert Ripley would probably like to know about this for his "Believe It Or Not" cartoons.

"It seems to me," I said, "that Mr. Ripley died several years ago. I don't believe I've seen his cartoon in a long time."

"I don't know about that," said Claude, "but I've seen his cartoon in the GRIT not so long ago."

"Probably a rerun," I said. "The GRIT has lots of old things. I see it every now and then up at the barber shop in Rosman. That paper's been going on for a long time."

"It sure has," said Mother. "Why, I remember reading it when I was a young girl." (Mother's now nearly 87.)

"We really thought we had something when we got a copy of the GRIT in those days," said Mother, and went on to tell us about it.

"We didn't have much time for reading then. Everybody had to work to make a living. But we'd have a little time at night and it was then we'd read the GRIT."

"Even that took work," said Mother, "for kerosene oil cost money and we couldn't afford to burn the lamps for light to read by. So we children — my brothers and sisters and I — would go up on the mountain and get our own reading light."

"We'd find a big, old pine tree, cut it down and split out the pine knots. We'd cut these into pieces and use them for torches. They were rich in rosin and burned with a strong, yellow light."

"You could light two of these, put one on each side of the hearth, and lay down between them. It wasn't bright, but there was enough light to read by. And that's how we did most of our reading — the GRIT and the few books and magazines we saw."

"My uncle subscribed to a few magazines and these were passed on to us. When we'd read them, we passed them on to someone else. Anything to read was too precious to throw away; those few magazines and books and the GRIT were read by everyone in the country."

While she was talking, Mother's eyes were dim, looking far into the distant past. She was seeing again, I suppose, a teen-aged girl lying in front of a fireplace those 75 years ago, reading by torchlight.

# THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

A State And National Prize-Winning Home Town Newspaper

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★ Vol. 85—No. 6 BREVARD, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1972 ★ SECTION TWO ★

## Bus Fund Reaches \$3500.00

The Brevard College Bus Fund, started by two BC students, Cathy Schilling and Fred Dean, recently overshot the \$3500.00 mark. This is a far cry from the \$15,000 needed for purchasing a new 30 passenger bus.

The money was donated by interested and concerned parents, dormitories, and a large donation of \$2,000.00 was received from the Student Union Legislature.

To help in raising more funds, the Brevard College Recycling Program will hopefully get into full swing on Feb. 28, but will depend entirely on student help. The current plan calls for a house to house drive in the town of Brevard. To accomplish this, students are needed. Also, it is planned that students will be needed to overlook a drop off point probably in a shopping center in the community for those people that would rather drop off their glass and paper than wait for a student to come by their home.

If only a few students volunteer, the whole program will have to be dropped. This is an important project not only for

## Elks To Award Scholarships To Colleges And Universities

Robert Lentz, Exalted Ruler of Brevard Elks Lodge, Number 1768, announces today the Trustees of the Order's National Foundation have again offered well over half a million dollars in college scholarships for the academic year 1972-73.

The deadline date for filing applications is February 15th, 1972. Mr. Lentz urged students in the Transylvania County area who need financial help in order to go to college to see the advisors or the principal of their high school for more information and application forms. The forms may also be secured from the Brevard Elks Lodge or by telephoning 883-3265.

The Elks National Foundation offers 730 scholarships ranging from \$600 to \$2,500, with the total coming to over \$520,000. 365 awards will go to boys and the same number to girls.

High school and prep school seniors and college students be-

low the senior class are eligible if they are United States citizens and reside in the jurisdiction of the Order. The awards are given with no restrictions as to race creed or country of origin.

In addition to scholastic attainment, applicants are judged on citizenship, personality, leadership, perseverance, resourcefulness, patriotism and financial need.

The local lodge here in Brevard will award Saving Bonds to the winner from Rosman and Brevard.

The Elks National Foundation scholarships and "Most Valuable Student" awards program is now in its 38th year and has been approved by the National Association of Secondary School Principals.

Well over \$5-1/2 million in scholarships have been distributed by the National Foundation since its inception.

Two slices of fresh apple put together with a layer of cream cheese or slices of Cheddar cheese makes a hearty and substantial snack for after school appetites.

## Lt. Beard Completes Course

Army Second Lieutenant John T. Beard, 22, son of Colonel (Ret.) and Mrs. W. N. Beard, 1050 Neely Road, Brevard, recently completed a nine-week Ranger course at the U. S. Army Infantry School, Ft. Benning, Ga.

The course is designed to develop exceptional endurance in the Infantry Soldier as well as teach him the skills of field craft, survival, mountain, jungle, airdropping and special amphibious operations.

Training in small boat operations, water crossing, jungle patrolling and survival was taught in Florida Ranger Camp, Eglin Air Force Base, while mountaineering and longrange patrolling instruction was given at Mountain Ranger Camp, Dahlonega, Ga.

Lt. Beard entered the Army in July, 1967.

He is a 1967 graduate of Cushing Academy, Ashburnham, Mass., and received his B. S. degree in 1971 from the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.

His wife, Cindy, lived in Columbus, Ga., during his training.

**JAYCEE YOUNG MAN OF THE YEAR**—Shown with his wife Marge, is Stan Scruggs who was recently selected as "Young Man of the Year" by the Jaycees in Monroe. Mr. Scruggs, owner and operator of the Harris-Scruggs Funeral Home in Monroe, was cited for his work with the combined charities of Boy Scouts, the Episcopal Church and the Jaycees. He also received a special presidential award for his work with the Goodfellows Club. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Hampton Scruggs, 85 Rosman Highway, Mr. Scruggs attended Brevard schools, Brevard College and Cincinnati College. The couple, who have two children, make their home in Monroe where he went into business after Army service.

## Thomas Case Will Pay His Official Visit To Lodge Here

Thomas G. Case, Hendersonville, District Deputy Grand Master of the 60th Masonic District, has notified the officers and members of Dunn's Rock Masonic lodge that he will pay his official visit at a stated communication of the Temple on East Main street, Thursday, February 10th.

Mr. Case asks all officers and members of the local Masonic lodge who have in their possession any of the OSW books to

When you think of prescriptions, think of VARNER'S, adv

please bring them to the meeting for inspection.

Jack M. Frady, Worshipful Master, states that since this is the second official visit of the new District Deputy Grand Master, he urges the officers and members to make every effort to attend this important communication.

Several Masons from both Henderson and Polk counties are expected to accompany the District Deputy Grand Master to Brevard. The Master also extends a cordial invitation to all visiting Masons.

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- 1969 DODGE Dart Swinger, 2-door hardtop. 6-cylinder engine with standard transmission. 1595.00
- 1969 AUSTIN HEALEY Convertible with radio and heater. Green with black top. 1195.00
- 1968 OPEL KADETT, standard transmission, with radio and heater. One owner. 795.00
- 1969 MERCURY CJ, has 4-in-the-floor with all the trimmings. 1895.00
- 1968 BUICK Le Sabre 4-door hardtop. Power steering, power brakes, factory air. One owner car. 2195.00
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