

Near Rosman

Know Your Transylvania Merchants Series

# Red Lion Inn Is Supper Club For Discriminating Diners

## Operated By Mr. And Mrs. Henry R. Crais

By - Cal Carpenter

The Red Lion Inn, three miles south of Rosman on U. S. Highway 178, can best be described as a "supper club for discriminating diners."

"The quality of our food, its service and the dining atmosphere are our first considerations," says Henry R. Crais, retired business executive and accountant; who, with his wife, Helen W. Crais, has been the owner and operator since January 15, 1973.

"We consider the restaurant and the four-unit motel an extension of our home downstairs," say Mr. and Mrs. Crais. "To us, each evening we are open is a party at which we make new friends and meet new people.

"We do not consider the Red Lion just another restaurant. We make it a part of our home wherein we serve nothing but the best to friends who put gourmet-quality food and the proper dining atmosphere at the head of their list of requirements in dining out."

### FROM LAND AND SEA

The Red Lion offers a hearty menu of charcoal-grilled steaks (with Rib Eyes a specialty), local mountain trout, lobster tails and the recent favorite, French Onion soup made with cheese and wine.

There's a "Surf and Turf" dinner of both lobster tails and steak for those who want the best of both land and sea, and a "Soup, salad, and dessert," for light eaters.

In the wintertime, meals are served in the rustic main dining room, before a log fire in a big fieldstone fireplace. In the summer, they may be had on the screened, upper porch, overlooking a cool, feeder stream of the French Broad River.

Listed in "Musical America" as one of the finest places to eat near the Brevard Music Center, the Red Lion has become one of the country's most prestigious dining places. Prior reservations are recommended, especially through the summer.

### HOURS OF OPERATION

Hours of food service at the Red Lion change throughout the year. Through January, February, and March, it is open for dinner on Friday and Saturday only, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., although small parties at other times may be arranged.

During April, May and June, it serves four nights a week, Wednesday through Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. During July and August, it serves every night except Tuesday, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m., in order to accommodate Music Center patrons.

September through December, it serves Wednesday through Saturday, 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The four motel units are available all week, all year except during the months of January and February when they are closed.

"The 10:00 p.m. closing of the kitchen is only the food service," says Mr. Crais. "Guests may remain longer, of course, and many do. We'll also prepare a dinner somewhat later if guests arrive at or shortly after 10 o'clock."

### HISTORY

The Red Lion Inn building once operated as the Line Runner Inn, and might be remembered by that name by older residents of Rosman and Brevard. For a time after that, it was the AMVETS Club.

It became the Red Lion Inn in 1969, when Joe and Joyce Collins opened it under that name and established the fine-food tradition and atmosphere it enjoys today.

Joe Collins was a physicist-engineer at the Rosman Tracking Station. He and his wife, Joyce, the daughter of a British innkeeper, bought the property and, with unlimited energy and optimism, soon had it renovated and ope-



**HENRY AND HELEN CRAIS** — Photo was made in front of the big, fieldstone fireplace in the main dining room at the Red Lion Inn, three miles south of Rosman on U. S. Highway 178. The Crais, who bought the property from Joe and Joyce Collins, have been operating the Inn since January, 1973. (Times Staff Photo)

rating in the tradition of an old, north-country British inn.

Joyce and Joe operated with a steadily increasing number of devoted diners until Joe accepted a new engineering position and left for New Jersey in 1972.

### "SOMETHING TOGETHER"

The Crais saw the property advertised for sale in an Atlanta, Georgia, newspaper, by a former neighbor of theirs, Chuck Bradley, who had come to Brevard and was working with the Jimmie Gaither Realty Company. They visited the property, were impressed with the potential, and decided to put forward their later retirement plans of "doing something together."

Neither Mr. nor Mrs. Crais knew anything about the restaurant business, but they were capably taught by Joyce Collins, who had "been raised in an inn," and who remained here for a few months to help out the new owners after they'd bought the property.

They were also capably assisted by Mrs. Naomi Burns, Joe Collins' mother, who has stayed on as waitress and advisory cook to Mr. Crais, who'd "never cooked a steak in his life."

The Crais continued renovations of the building, the restaurant, and the nine motel rooms, five of which they retained for their home.

"We're very pleased with the way we've been accepted by people from Brevard, Rosman, Lake Toxaway, Pickens, S. C.; Greenville, S. C.; Asheville, Hendersonville, Cashiers, and from all over Western North Carolina," says Mrs. Crais. "Everyone has been hospitable and helpful. We think this is beautiful country and we hope to add to the beauty and warmth of our little spot. We intend to continue making the Red Lion our home and a place where people will come and want to come back."

### THE CRAIS

Henry R. Crais was born and reared in New Orleans, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Tulane University and worked for several years for the Kross stores in Louisiana and Colorado. He returned to New Orleans in the box business as an accountant, then went to Atlanta, Georgia, as a box plant manager for the Continental Can Company. He took an early retirement from that company in 1968; then went back into accounting for a lawn furniture manufacturer and a salad manufacturer.

Mrs. Helen W. Crais was born in Topeka, Kansas, moved to Kansas City, then to New Orleans where she was married in 1931. She was a busy housewife until she joined her husband in operating the Red Lion in 1973.

The couple have six children, ages 20 to 41. They are Tom, of Old Alexandria, Virginia; Dick, of Murfreesboro, Tennessee; Mrs. Dorothy Joann of New Orleans, Louisiana; David, a Marine Corps captain on Okinawa; Tim, of Memphis, Tennessee; and Mary Jane, who is completing work at the University of Georgia, and who will be married to Danny Bennett of Brevard in September.

The Crais have seven grandchildren of their own, and have served as foster parents to eight infants through the Children's Family Service.

## Summer Schedule Announced At Local Catholic Church

There will be a revised schedule of divine services at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, according to the Rev. J. Paul Byron, Pastor.

Masses for Sunday will be the following: The Sunday Vigil Mass, 6:00 p.m. Saturday; Sunday morning services, 7:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

The Mission Church of St. Jude in Sapphire Valley will have Mass at 9:00 a.m. Sunday morning.

This schedule is for the summer months of June, July and August to accommodate travelers, and the numerous Catholic young people in the summer camps of the area.

Any officials who need transportation help to enable Catholic children to get to their church on Sunday, please call the Church office.

The lignin that binds together cellulose fibers in wood is not only strong, it's elastic, providing wood with a resiliency that makes wood floors less tiring to walk on than concrete, and enables homes made from wood to bend without breaking in windstorms and earthquakes.

### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

In the General Court of Justice Superior Court Division

State of North Carolina Transylvania County

Having qualified as Executor of the Estate of BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MERRILL of Transylvania County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said BENJAMIN FRANKLIN MERRILL to present them to the undersigned within six months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate, please make immediate payment.

This the 27th day of June, 1974.

WILLIAM ERNEST MERRILL  
Executor

Rt. 2, Box 246,  
Pisgah Forest, N. C. 28768  
RAMSEY, HILL, SMART &  
RAMSEY

Attorney Gayle E. Ramsey  
6-27-74

When in need of job printing call The Transylvania Times.

Everyone Will Enjoy The

# SIDEWALK BOOK SALE

FRIDAY, JULY 12th

AT THE

Corner Of Main And Broad Streets

IN DOWNTOWN BREVARD

9 A. M. to 8 P. M.



Proceeds From This Book Sale  
Will Be Used To Benefit  
The Fellowships Fund Of The  
BREVARD BRANCH,  
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF  
UNIVERSITY WOMEN



THIS PUBLIC SERVICE MESSAGE IS CONTRIBUTED BY

**Olin**  
CORPORATION  
PISGAH FOREST, N. C.

after you see  
your doctor,  
bring your  
prescription to

**Morris  
Pharmacy**