

THE "TIMES" PRIZE-WINNING COLUMN  
**From**  
**ALMAR FARM**  
**In Transylvania**  
 BY CAL CARPENTER

The ALMAR Farm folks went over to Asheville the other morning. We had business uptown, and afterwards we did some shopping along Haywood Road. This is a section of Asheville that used to be the busiest part of town, but we found it practically deserted.

It was a weekday morning, admitted; but it was not early — about 10 o'clock. Twenty years ago the streets would have been crowded with bustling shoppers, but this time you could count the people on your fingers. It caused me to begin thinking again about something that has been in my mind off and on for the last several years — the decline of cities in this country.

If anything could verify reports that this is taking place all over the country, this is it: For it is clearly evident even in Asheville, a small city in the hills of Western North Carolina where more populous area trends are slow in showing. Empty stores on a once-busy street, little automobile traffic and few shoppers cannot be ignored as proof.

Cities are declining. Stores are moving to shopping centers and shoppers are going where the stores are. Central cities are becoming limited to administrative offices and banks, and even the banks have found it necessary to have branch offices in the shopping centers.

This is not publicized, for it is hard to admit by central-city businesses and property owners. But decentralization is a social fact of life in this latter third of the 20th century.

Commercial interests are, and probably will continue pressuring politicians to appropriate huge sums of public money for urban

renewal, urban transit and "civic centers," but I'm afraid it is a lost cause. For cities, if we think about them logically, are anachronisms. They are needs of the past that a modern, highly mobile society has outgrown. They are now largely slum-makers and crime-breeder and will continue to be so no matter how much money is poured down the rat hole.

There was once a good reason and a need for cities. When they began, thousands of years ago, they were the cultural centers that brought men closer where human beings could learn and practice the arts of living together; where humanity could progress from the narrow family circle that began in the caves.

During this period, and the later middle ages, cities became centers of defense where men could band together; first against dangerous animals of the wild and later, in walled towns, against each other.

With the growth of nationalism and stronger governments, the walls became unnecessary and the cities spread. Then the cities became necessary for the jobs and livelihoods they offered, for the factories and market places were there.

But before the middle of this century, the factories began moving out. Space became too dear and the vertical development of cities became more practical for offices and management centers than heavy machinery. The tall, red brick sweatshops of the early 20th century gave way to the one-story, air conditioned exurban plants we see today.

The cause of the decline in cities is, of course, the great mobility of the present time for which the automobile is largely responsible. With easy transportation, people at first moved out of the crowded cities and drove back to their jobs. Later, after the jobs moved out, they only visited the cities for shopping and, perhaps, entertainment.

Now, with shopping centers and "industrial park" developments — centers where homes, jobs, shopping facilities and entertainment places are all grouped together out in the open — there is little reason to come to the city at all except as an infrequent visitor.

With science and technology in their present states of advancement, it is not difficult to imagine a time when cheap, foolproof personal air transportation will result in better mobility and even less reason for cities than there is now.

Cities have been a part of

**Friends Of Handicapped Will Meet**

The Friends of the Handicapped will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday, Nov. 26, at 7:30 p.m. at Silvermont.

At the last meeting the following were elected officers for the year 1975:

Chairman, Mildred Tawney; vice chairman, Ruby Chapman; secretary treasurer, Ms. John Huggins; program, Carolyn O'Shield; membership, Dora Lanning; finance, Erika Shriner.

This meeting will be important according to Tom Vincent, group spokesman, and all officers are urged to attend. Anyone interested in working with the handicapped is welcome, Mr. Vincent said.

human life so long, it is not pleasant to contemplate their total abandonment; to picture great, decaying concrete jungles where New York, Chicago, Los Angeles once stood; to envision haunted ruins, home only to vagrants, criminals, and the leavings of society. But this would seem to be their destiny. They must serve a progressive need if they are to survive and they are steadily failing in that function.

Informed taxpayers will not long impoverish themselves to support cities that are becoming burdens on society, that serve few if any other purposes than that of providing fashionable, expensive addresses for a "jet set" or whatever its equivalent may be called in the future. When anything people need and want is available in the less-crowded, more convenient, and easily-reached open country, the cities are doomed.

Perhaps I shall not live to see it, but it looks as if that time is nearer than we think.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA  
 COUNTY OF TRANSYLVANIA  
 EXECUTRIX

Having qualified as the Executrix of the estate of George Dewey Gravely, deceased, late of the county of Transylvania, North Carolina, this is to give notice that all persons having claims against the estate of the deceased to present them to the undersigned Executrix at 104 Franklin Ave., Brevard, N. C. 28712 on or before the 18th day of May, 1975 or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to the said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This the 18th day of November, 1974.

Nancy M. Gravely Executrix

Estate of George Dewey Gravely deceased.

ITEMS OFFERED FOR SALE NOT AVAILABLE TO OTHER RETAIL DEALERS OR WHOLESALERS

A&P BUTTER BASTED  
**TURKEYS**  
 OUR FINEST 16 lb. to 22 lb. Average **59¢**

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 WHERE ECONOMY ORIGINATES

All A&P WEO Stores Closed Thanksgiving Day

PRICES IN THIS AD EFFECTIVE THROUGH NOV. 30, AT A&P WEO in Brevard

"SUPER-RIGHT" SMOKED  
**HAM** SHANK PORTION **79¢**  
 Lb.

FANCY BONELESS COOKED  
**HAM HALF** **\$1.89**  
 Lb.

TOP QUALITY U.S.D.A. GRADE A FROZEN  
**BAKING HENS** **49¢**  
 Lb.

VIRGINIA FARM COUNTRY DRY CURED  
**HAM** WHOLE OR HALF **\$1.39**  
 Lb.

"SUPER-RIGHT" SMALL FRESH  
**PICNICS** **69¢**  
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"SUPER-RIGHT" COUNTRY TREAT  
**SAUSAGE** **99¢**  
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**FLOUR** **85¢**  
 5 Lb. Bag

**CRISCO OIL** **\$1.19**  
 24-Oz. Bot.

ANN PAGE  
**MAYONNAISE** **99¢**  
 QUART JAR

**TURKEYS**  
 USDA INSPECTED GRADE A **49¢** SWIFT'S BUTTERBALL **59¢**  
 16 to 22-Lb. Average 16 to 22 Lb. Average

**RUSSET POTATOES** **88¢**  
 10-Lb. Bag

CALIFORNIA CRISP CELERY **29¢** FOR THE HOLIDAY CRANBERRIES **39¢**  
 5 Stalks 1-Lb. Bag

FLORIDA WHITE GRAPEFRUIT **69¢** FRESH MUSHROOMS **59¢**  
 5 Lb. Bag 8-Oz. Pkg.

REGULAR • DRIP • ELECTRA PERK  
**MAXWELL HOUSE COFFEE** **\$1.03**  
 1-Lb. Bag

A&P FROZEN  
**POTATO MORSELS** **35¢** 2-Lb. **59¢**  
 1-Lb. Pkg. 2-Lb. Pkg.

A SUPERB BLEND RICH IN BRAZILIAN COFFEES—8-O'CLOCK  
**COFFEE** **99¢** 3-Lb. **\$2.91**  
 1-Lb. Bag 3-Lb. Bag

CONTAINS RICH BRAZILIAN COFFEES—8-O'CLOCK  
**INSTANT COFFEE** **\$1.79**  
 10-Oz. Jar

**OUR OWN TEA BAGS** **89¢**  
 100-Ct. Pkg.

A&P WHOLE OR JELLIED  
**CRANBERRY SAUCE** **37¢**  
 16-Oz. Can

A&P CANNED  
**SWEET POTATOES** **53¢**  
 18-Oz. Can

JANE PARKER  
**PUMPKIN PIE** **79¢**  
 24-Oz. Pkg.

JANE PARKER  
**ROLLS** FLAKY OF TWIN RYE **79¢**  
 12-Oz. Pkg.

MARVEL SANDWICH SLICED  
**BREAD** **\$1.00**  
 1 1/2-Lb. Loaves

JANE PARKER  
**STUFFING MIX** **41¢**  
 8-Oz. Pkg.

JANE PARKER  
**STUFFING BREAD** **53¢**  
 1 1/2-Lb. Loaf

A&P PEANUTS SALTED SPANISH **79¢**  
 12-Oz. Can

A&P PEANUTS SALTED VIRGINIA **69¢**  
 12-Oz. Cello Bag

A&P 10-X SUGAR **89¢**  
 1-Lb. Pkg.

A&P LIGHT OR DARK BROWN SUGAR **89¢**  
 1-Lb. Pkg.

A&P IN JUICE PINEAPPLE **55¢**  
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SAVE ON A&P BISCUITS **79¢**  
 REGULAR OR BUTTERFLIKE 6 10-Ct. Pkg.

FOR THANKSGIVING  
**A&P EGG NOG** **89¢**  
 32-Oz. Can

A&P EVAPORATED MILK **27¢** SAVE ON DUKE'S MAYONNAISE **99¢** HIPOLITE MARSHMALLOW CREME **49¢**  
 12-1/2 Oz. Can 12-Oz. Jar 9-Oz. Ctn.

AT YOUR A&P WEO BUFFERIN TABLETS **89¢** SAVE ON KRAFT MAYONNAISE **99¢** Maxim Instant Coffee 4-oz. jar **\$1.69**  
 36-Ct. Pkg. 10-Oz. Jar

WEO COUPON  
 SAVE 10¢  
**PILLSBURY FLOUR** **99¢**  
 5-Lb. Bag (Limit One per Household)  
 LIMIT ONE EXPIRES DEC. 7, 1974

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**CONCENTRATED ALL DETERGENT** **\$3.29**  
 9-Lb. 13-Oz. Box

13¢ OFF LABEL  
**LUX LIQUID DISHWASHING DETERGENT** **62¢**  
 22-Oz. Bot.

SUNSHINE VANILLA WAFERS **57¢**  
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OCEAN SPRAY WHOLE OR JELLIED CRANBERRY SAUCE **41¢**  
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11:30 A.M. — 2:00 P.M.  
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