

If It's Good For
Transylvania County,
The Times Will
Fight For It.

THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

A State And National Prize-Winning Home Town Newspaper

SECTION

B

Vol. 88 — No. 2

BREVARD, N. C., MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 1975

PUBLISHED SEMI-WEEKLY

Your Local Government

Development Centers Boost Tots' Potential

243 Children Cared For Under Program

BY
DOROTHY OSBORNE
Times Staff Writer

They begin arriving soon after 7 a.m., their eyelids still heavy with sleep. They come, these little ones, from all sections of the county, to be cared for while their parents are busy elsewhere.

By 9:30 a.m., the last of them have come, and the early arrivals have eaten breakfast and are ready for the day's activities.

They will remain until late afternoon, the first ones leaving about 3:30 p.m., the last ones picked up by 5:30.

These children, ages 2 to 5, attend one of four child development centers in Transylvania County, operated by the county.

The four centers are Quebec, housed in the community club building; Cherryfield, housed in the Cherryfield Baptist Church; Stepping Stones, housed in the Brevard-Davidson River Presbyterian Church; and First Adventure, housed in the First Methodist Church.

Miss Elizabeth Provence is director of the program, which also includes one day care home, a home-based program where home visitors work with the parents, and supervision of the county head start program. Her staff numbers about 40.

A new center for infants and toddlers will open this month, Miss Provence said, and applications for this service are being taken now.

The day care home, operated by Mrs. Clara Bryson in her home located on highway 64 West, five miles from Brevard, was originally

planned for parents who work the 4 p.m. to midnight shift at American Thread. But the need for that did not develop; therefore, the home offers regular day care.

The difference in a home and a center, Miss Provence said, is that the home only takes five children, ages two months to 14 years.

"It has enabled us to serve some little tines we could not serve in a center," Miss Provence said. It also means that two or three children from the same family can be cared for, some of them after school hours.

Two home visitors — a third one will be added this month — work with children and their parents in the homes, each working with about 25 children.

The home based program is directed toward the parent — "to teach the parent how to be the most effective teacher of her or his child or children. It's an exciting program for identifying limiting factors that need to be corrected in order for a child to be free to develop to his maximum potential — factors such as medical problems, dental problems, speech difficulties, hearing and visual problems,



TODD HARRIS beats the drum at First Adventure Child Development Center.

and emotional problems.

"It's a sort of discouraging reality, but unless you have identified and corrected problems by the time a child is four, from here on out, you are doing remedial work. All the school can do is remedial work. He never can catch up," Miss Provence said.

The staff is composed of skilled, dedicated people, enough of them so that the staff-child ratio is one to seven, so that each child received individual attention.

Miss Provence defines a good child development center

as one which provides freedom without anarchy, order without rigidity. "It takes a lot of work to have a situation that is free and orderly. But it is possible," she said.

"We work with the whole family. You have to help the child in the midst of his family. You can't help him in isolation. And it's expensive.

"When you do comprehensive child care, there is no such thing as its being a profitable business. This is not to say that private operators don't do a good job. They do. But they can't do a job as fully."

The annual budget for the program this year is \$288,545. A big part of it goes for medical and dental care.

"The dental expense is the biggest expense we have," Miss Provence said. "Poverty shows up more vividly in the mouths of people than anything else about them."

The program, with the four centers, home care center, home visitation, and head start program, serves about 243 children.

The program, the former Transylvania County Coordinated Child Care (4C), was a private not-for-profit organization, Miss Provence said.

It is now the Transylvania Child Development Program, with \$25,000 coming from parents' fees. Of the remainder of the budget Transylvania County provides 12½ per cent; N. C. State budget provides 12½ per cent; federal funding provides 75 per cent.

Of the federal funding, one third comes from the Appalachian Regional Commission and the remainder from Title 4-A money.

"We do have United Fund money and parents' fees and miscellaneous private donations," Miss Provence said. But that is a very small per cent.

Fees paid for each child are determined by a sliding scale, mandated by the state, and based on family income and size of family.

The majority of children are from homes of working parents, but about 45 per cent are from single parent families.

The program is open to Transylvania County families with gross incomes up to \$17,000, according to Miss Provence.

Application for all phases of the program may be made at the office, 308 S. Broad Street.



READING STORIES to some of the children are Eddie Daugherty, Kim Simpson and Lavonia Sharpe. Debra Gentry, right. The children, from left,

Her Concern: People

BY DOROTHY OSBORNE
Times Staff Writer

When Elizabeth Provence came to Brevard in August two years ago, she left East St. Louis, a city of 85,000 people, for a town of 5,000.

It was no chance move on her part. Rather, it was well-planned.

"I had been vacationing here over a period of summers for about 10 years. I wanted to retire here. After 12 years in the heart of two big cities, this just looked very promising to me," the director of the Transylvania County Child Development Program said.

"I was impressed with the high calibre of citizen leadership involved. I felt like there was a group of people here who had put something together that was valuable and needed doing, and I welcomed the opportunity to come help do it.

"I tell my friends that Transylvania County has all the problems that anywhere has, but they come in small enough sizes to feel like you can solve a lot of them, and you can help alleviate the situation.

"In the crowded metropolitan areas, they come in such overwhelming density that it just looks impossible."

Miss Provence, a native of Denton, Texas, has done a variety of social work since she graduated from Texas College for Women, now Texas State Women's University, at Denton, with a journalism degree.

On the same day, her brother graduated from Baylor University with a journalism degree, and went to work for the Waco News Tribune. Today, he is executive editor for a chain of newspapers that includes the News Tribune, she said.

But she did not go into the newspaper field. She has used her training, she said, in writing for magazines and in authoring two books, both biographies of missionaries.

One, God's Troubadours, is about the Florida Baptist foreign missionaries. The other, Sawgrass Mission, is the story of Willie King, an Oklahoma Crete Indian who served the Seminole Indians in Florida.

She worked for the Florida Baptist Convention for 16 years, directed a Baptist Goodwill Center in New

Orleans for more than three years. Earlier she worked at a Baptist Goodwill Center in Miami.

Miss Provence believes, she said, in the infinite value of the individual. In some situations she believed she helped the individual, but could not change the system. "Unless you change systems, you don't solve human problems," she said.

Everyone in this area of work runs the risk of becoming institutionalized and hamstrung by all kinds of rules and regulations, she said.

"You find yourself helping people at the convenience of the system that was set up to serve them," with little concern "for the people who fall in the cracks. I have found an encouraging concern in this county for the people in the cracks," she said.

In the church-related social work, she said, "we weren't tied up with political and governmental regulations that kept us from doing what we want to do. Some days that's one of the frustrations of this program, but we have been able to find ways of doing what had to be done."

Miss Provence was reared in a Baptist home, later joined the Methodist church in East St. Louis while she directed an inner-city Methodist settlement house "where we served about 800 to 1000 people a week in a variety of groups and services, of all sorts, one of which was a day care

Miss Masters Taken By Death At Rosman

Miss Glenda Jean Masters, 34, of Rosman died Friday in her home. Miss Masters was a life long resident of Transylvania County.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl C. Masters of Rosman; two sisters, Miss Wanda and Miss Maybelline Masters, both of the home; three brothers, Jerry Masters of Brevard, Dolus Masters of Hendersonville, and Carl Masters of Longwood, Fla. five nieces and a nephew.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Rosman Church of God. Rev. Ralph Pressley officiated. Burial was in the Whitmire Cemetery.

Frank Moody Funeral Home, Inc., was in charge of arrangements.



ELIZABETH PROVENCE gets acquainted with Windy Kelly, one of the children at First Adventure child development center.

center." Jean Stamper, who directs one of the county's day care centers, share a house on Far Hill Terrace.

"We keep bird feeders up and get excited about new birds that come and the birds that are there everyday.

"I read. I love to read. Camping is one of my chief loves. I don't do a lot of it anymore. I love the natural world.

"I guess people are one of my chief enjoyments," she said, adding that their house is frequently filled with friends visiting from other areas.

Mrs. King's Final Rites Conducted

Mrs. Blanche Hicks King, 77, of Weehawken, N.J., died Thursday in Lexington, Ky., following an extended illness. She was the widow of James Alonzo King, Brevard native, who died in 1968, and who was buried in King Cemetery in Brevard.

She was born in Norlina and had lived in New Jersey for a number of years.

Surviving are three sisters, Mrs. E.G. Glenn of Henderson, Mrs. Joseph Heid of

Norlina and Mrs. John O. Wilson of Louisburg; two brothers, Tasker Hicks of Norlina and Everette Hicks of Cary; and several nieces and nephews.

Services will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday in Warrenton. A second service will be held at 2 p.m. Sunday in the chapel of Moore Funeral Home. Dr. Robert G. Tuttle will officiate. Burial will be in King Cemetery in Brevard. Nephews will be pallbearers.



LOADING TRUCKS with blocks and hauling them places provides happy moments for Todd Harris, left, John Gray and Bill Cash (in front).



DRAWING PICTURES holds the attention of Carol Osment, left, and Nancy McCall.