

# Now A Door, Please

One would think that an agency which is involved in promoting safety, and emphasizing foresight on the part of pedestrians and drivers would be able to demonstrate a little foresight on its own.

But apparently the N. C. Department of Transportation is lacking in such foresight.

A record of correspondence between Superintendent of Schools Harry C. Corbin and DOT which we've seen dates back 18 months—to around the middle of 1973, in which Mr. Corbin and the Board of Education asked DOT for traffic lights and left turn lanes at the sight of the new schools.

Each new request brought the answer from DOT that traffic counts showed that the lights and turn lanes were not justified. Certainly they weren't justified with the traffic flow at that time. But the DOT did nothing about envisioning what the traffic would be like after the schools opened.

# Good Job, Jimmy

Brevard was stunned on Friday by the rapidly-scurrying news that Police Chief James C. Rowe had been relieved by the Board of Aldermen on Thursday night.

Mr. Rowe said that he had no warning of any kind that his resignation would be asked when he arrived for work on Friday morning.

It was, he said, a complete and shocking surprise.

Unrest and dissension in the 17-member police department was given as the reason. The patrolmen threatened to resign unless Chief Rowe was fired. In other words, Brevard would have been left with a one-man (Chief Rowe himself) police department, as we understand it.

What the reasons for the unrest, we don't know. We haven't learned the real facts of the case. Perhaps Chief Rowe was an excellent police officer, but rated a lower mark in handling his fine police force. Whatever, it should be made crystal clear that the board's action is no reflection on his honesty or integrity.

What we want to say is Thanks, Jimmy.

While teaching law enforcement classes in other cities, he was a real credit to Brevard. And his broad and genuinely friendly smile and

The new Brevard Elementary School and the Brevard Middle School are now open. And traffic and congestion have school officials and police tearing their hair out, not to mention the hundreds of parents who have been hemmed in for long periods trying to leave or pick up their children.

Now the work by the DOT is justified. But the mud and the slush may slow it down for a long period.

But we'd like to know why DOT waited. Any second-grade student, it seems to us, would have been able to see what the situation would be like when the schools opened.

It reminds us of the ancient architect who designed a magnificent castle. When the work was finally completed and the last tile in place on the roof, the architect came proudly to view his handiwork.

But he couldn't get in. He'd forgotten to put in doors.

quick helpfulness to citizens and visitors on Brevard's streets stamped him as a fine public relations man.

Mayor Charles Campbell says he's the best Brevard ever had.

The short time we have been privileged to know him, Chief Rowe has impressed us tremendously with his abilities and his personality.

We expect him to move up in crime prevention and law enforcement circles. For the sake of the state's citizenry we certainly hope he stays in this field, although he could probably make a lot more money as a salesman. He's certainly equipped with the talents to make any firm a topnotch salesman.

In Brevard he built up what is certainly one of the finest small town police departments in the nation. The officers here are respected and deserving of that respect.

Acting Chief Neugene Stiles has some big shoes to fill, and we wish him every success in carrying on the work of the department. Hopefully, morale within the department will rise now, and members of the police force will concentrate all their energies on law enforcement.

But Chief Rowe will be missed. Brevard owes him a sizeable debt of gratitude.



A little country store, located where Straus School now is, was the meeting place in 1861 for three men who founded Transylvania County and created Brevard as the county seat. The three town fathers were Heander Gash, Alexander England and Braxton Lankford. The state legislature granted their petition to slice off parts of Henderson and Jackson counties for Transylvania. The men donated fifty acres and Main Street was laid out for the town axis. Their first act was to order the building of a jail.



## Human Condition

# Why Do Fetal Monitoring?

BY DR. MARTIN WINGATE  
Professor of Obstetrics,  
Gynecology and Pediatrics  
Thomas Jefferson University

A reader writes, "Why am I hearing so much about fetal monitoring during childbirth? Women used to deliver healthy babies without all these electronic hookups."

Every year more than 60,000 babies are thought to be born with severe and easily recognizable physical handicaps or brain damage. An even greater number of children exhibit mental and physical handicaps during childhood and adolescence.

We know very little about the many causes for these handicaps, which show themselves as learning disabilities, hyper-activity and spasticity. Physicians are investigating and learning more and more about the causes of these handicaps.

Some research, into fields including genetic defects or disorders caused by poor nutrition, are supported by private and government research grants, and new areas of research are being opened up constantly.

Oxygen deprivation during pregnancy and labor is now a well-documented cause for mental and physical defects in experimental animals. It is extremely likely that a reduced oxygen supply to the human fetus or newborn child is also responsible for resultant physical and mental handicaps in a youngster.

We are in the process of extending our observations on the fetus during pregnancy, labor and the neo-natal period by monitoring with electronic equipment a number of vital functions in the mother and

child. Monitoring allows doctors to continuously watch the effects of drugs, anesthetics, labor and changes in the internal environment, as well as many other conditions which may have an effect on the well-being of the fetus and newborn baby.

## Prime Time

# Exploring the Meaning of Dying

By Bernard E. Nash

Except for those dark moments of an occasional sleepless night when a restless mind ponders the limits of our mortality, I frankly doubt that most of us devote much thought to the inevitable prospect of death. Yet, many people are doing just that—and their number appears to be growing.

At one time or another, we have all probably thought about the possibility of our own death, and hopefully taken steps to protect our loved ones in case the unlikely should occur. However, this current trend goes a bit further, and the people involved in it are actually attempting to explore the meaning of death—and perhaps of even greater significance—the process of dying.

While this may strike some as being morbid, it could actually be a very healthy sign. Death and dying is, after all, an inescapable experience with which we will all be confronted someday—and one which might in time be made less terrifying as a result of this current wave of interest.

Between people who are dying and their families, maintains Dr. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, a Swiss psychiatrist practicing in Chicago, there is all-too-often a wall of silence at a time when human contact and comfort are so desperately needed. Both know the end is near, but are unable to mention it to—much

less openly discuss it with—each other.

Often, the patient—and who has a greater right to know?—isn't told he or she is dying. Frequently, the fact is recognized instinctively, but no one says anything. Even on those occasions when the patient reveals his or her awareness, it is usually contradicted.

The end result of this "conspiracy of silence" is that the patient dies without having had an opportunity to say things previously left unsaid and to otherwise put one's personal house in order. And the loved ones are left burdened not only with grief, but with the added frustration of never having been able to say good-bye with all which that implies.

In contrast, Dr. Kubler-Ross—and those therapists following in her footsteps—seek to ease the agony by helping the dying patient (and his family) to, in her words, "come to grips with his illness and his ultimate death" so that "he will be able to die with peace and in a stage of acceptance."

While this medical discipline (which should not be confused with the ongoing euthanasia or "death with dignity" controversy) is still relatively new, considerable research had been done in this area for many years. However, it didn't begin to attract attention until 1969 when Dr. Kubler-Ross—who had begun her work with dying patients in her native Switzerland—wrote a book, "On Death and Dying," about her experiences in caring for the terminally ill and their families at a Chicago Hospital.

needed, so they borrowed the machines used in the primary.

These new ones were brought in not long before the general election.

Only one of the new ones was used in the courthouse for demonstration purposes. All precinct officials and workers were called to the courthouse for the purpose of getting familiar with its use.

I am told the seals on the front had not been broken until the day of the election. I have voted on and have worked with these machines in other places and am acquainted with their use.

The protective and public counters on the outside of the machines should tally—if they're started on 0000. Since these machines had not been in use they should have tallied.

I was told Eastatote, Duns, Rock, and No. 3 in Brevard had several numbers on them at the beginning, causing the counters not to be right. I have done some checking and have come to the conclusion that the voting process, as stated, is not getting more and more honest. I doubt that. Only time will tell.

The Board of Elections stated they would have the Shoup Company (from which the machines were purchased) to come and oversee the election.

I believe the county is able and capable of running its own elections without help from outsiders. I have not been in the county too long, but long enough to be interested in its welfare and honesty.

A Voter

Thomas R. Richards

Dear Mr. Osborne:

Please place the following in your paper:

I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Doctors and nursing staff of the Transylvania Hospital for the kind and expert care given to F. J. Almgren, Sr.

Ruth W. Rich and Family

# EDITORIAL PAGE

## THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's Note: Letters must be brief, signed typed or written legibly on one side of paper. We reserve the right to reject, edit, or condense. Letters should be received by The Times by Monday mornings.)

Dear Editor:

I would like to thank you for the splendid coverage given the County Child Development Program in your Jan. 6 issue. I have been meaning to write to thank you for the items you have been carrying concerning preschoolers and toys, preschoolers and play, and other related items. We deeply appreciate your concern for the very young in Transylvania County.

I overlooked telling Mrs. Osborne about our work with the handicapped children in the county. In October of '73, at the request of the Board of the Jack and Jill Center, we assumed responsibility for serving the handicapped child.

To our knowledge, we are serving every such child who is eight years or under, and not in the public school, with the exception of one being served in a church center, and one whose family does not desire the service. This special feature of service might make a good story at some future date.

Some folk who have read the very excellent feature on child care have misconstrued the statement about "application for services". This was intended to say that we are receiving applications for children to be served. We already have ample staff for any new facility we can open at this point.

Cordially yours,

Elizabeth Provence  
County Child  
Development Coordinator

To The Editor  
Mr. Clyde Osborne

I read with interest the comments made by the Board of Elections on the voting machines and the cause of their malfunctions.

They say the cause was the switchover from the primary election. These machines were not used in the Primary.

They could not supply the county with the 25 machines

# The Transylvania Times

100 Broad Street

Brevard, N. C. 28712

The Transylvania Pioneer, established 1867; The French Broad Voice, established 1888; The Brevard Hustler, established 1891; The Sylvan Valley News (later Brevard News), established 1896; The Times, established 1931; Consolidated 1932.

A STATE AND NATIONAL PRIZE-WINNING NEWSPAPER  
PUBLISHED MONDAY, THURSDAY

ED M. ANDERSON—Publisher—1941-1958  
JOHN I. ANDERSON—Editor-Gen. Mgr.—1941-1974

MRS. ED M. ANDERSON, Publisher

CLYDE K. OSBORNE—Editor  
BILL NORRIS, Assoc. Ed. and Adv. Mgr.  
MRS. MARTHA STAMEY Office Mgr.  
DOROTHY W. OSBORNE, Women's Ed.  
ESTON PHILLIPS, Printing Dept. Head

GORDON BYRD, Prod. Foreman  
D. C. WILSON, Printer  
DAVID METCALF, Composer  
PAM OWEN, Teletype Setter  
CINDY BYRD, Teletype Setter  
JULIE LINDGREN, Clerk-Typist

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR

Inside the County—\$12 year  
\$8 Six Months

Outside the County \$15.00  
\$9.00 Six Months

MEMBER OF  
National Editorial Association  
North Carolina Press Association

New York—Chicago—Detroit—Atlanta  
NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE  
American Newspaper Representatives

