

A Good Job

We think that every citizen of Brevard and even Transylvania County would have felt pride Wednesday night as Mayor Charles Campbell retired as chairman of Region B, the Land-of-Sky Regional Council.

This is an organization of mayors, county commissioners, and elected officials of every government in the four-county region of Transylvania, Buncombe, Madison, and Hen-



derson, and a tool for developing solutions to problems counties and communities face.

Mr. Campbell worked diligently and in a statesmanlike and intelligent manner to weld this council together, at times overcoming tremendous odds.

As he turned the chairmanship over to R. Curtis Ratcliff, chairman of the Buncombe County Commissioners, he was surprised with the gift of a large plaque which states:

"In recognition of this leadership in planning the program of Region B as chairman of the Land-of-Sky Regional Council for 1973 and 1974. His leadership brought new recognition from state and federal levels and gained the respect of the council members."

Mayor Campbell will remain as At-Large Member of the Executive Board of the organization.

Congratulations, and thanks, Your Honor.

Two New Wildernesses

North Carolina is now the site for portions of two more National Wilderness areas; the Ellicott Rock near Cashiers where N.C., S.C., and Georgia all come together, and the Joyce Kilmer-Slickrock Creek region on the border of N.C and Tennessee.

There'll be no logging, no construction, no roads or other encroachment by man in these areas which will be preserved in their natural state for posterity, giving present and future generations at least a glance of what America was like when the white man first came here centuries ago.

This is good.

We're not acquainted with Ellicott Rock Wilderness, but we soon will be.

We know Kilmer-Slickrock in Graham County pretty well. The Kilmer portion is all virgin timber, a primeval forest of giant tulip trees, conifers, beeches, oaks, and other dominant trees. Thousands of acres of Slickrock also is still virgin forest. The other portions of this wilderness have not been logged in the 20th Century. It has returned to nature, a vast region of forest giants teeming with wildlife.

And biologists from Appalachian State say Slickrock Creek is the purest stream left in either N.C. or Tennessee. One can drink from it safely at any point from its mile-high origin on the steep slopes of Shannon Bald to its terminus in the Little Tennessee River.

It is filled with brown and rainbow trout, and dashing and splashing against and over huge rocks which give it its name, the creek, when the sun is right, appears to be filled with hundreds of rainbows.

When Congress declared this paradise a wilderness, it ended a long fight which began a decade ago, at the time a road was planned from Tellico Plains, Tenn. to Robbinsville, which would have split Joyce Kilmer Forest, and subjected it and Slickrock Creek to pollution and siltation.

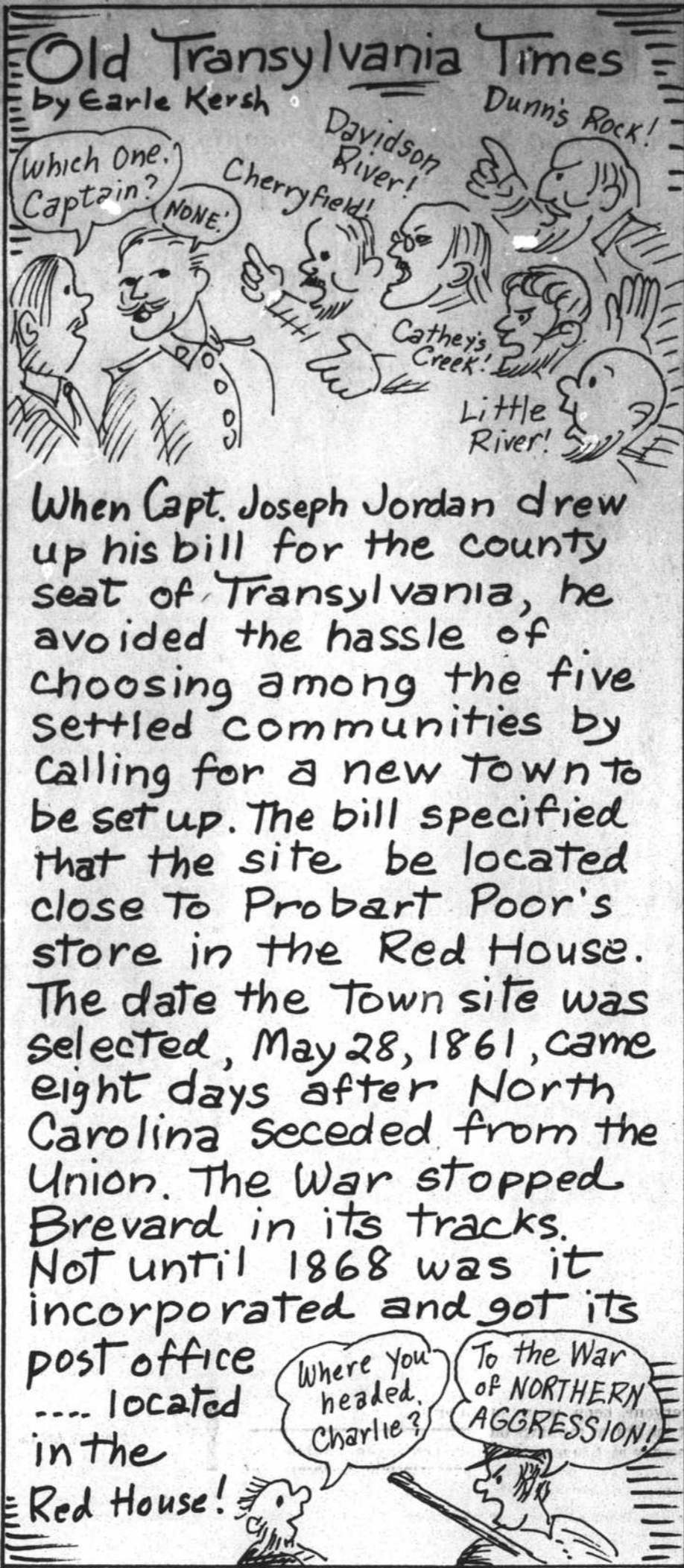
Court battles and injunctions stopped this road on the edges of Kilmer, one prong from Tennessee, the other from Robbinsville, now two paved roads with nowhere to go.

It will be remembered that Shining Rock and Linville Gorge were made wilderness with hardly a murmur of disagreement. Shining Rock was the victim of a fire around the turn of the century which literally burned the ground, and the organic matter within it.

Linville Gorge's sides are so steep that lumbering would be virtually impossible there. No argument.

But the lumber industry tried every weapon available to prevent Slickrock from becoming a wilderness: lobbying, letter-writing campaigns, speeches, and heated arguments.

The people who want to save a little of what we have now for future generations to enjoy were the winners at last.



32 Eminent Scientists View Energy Problems

EDITOR'S NOTE - The following statement on energy problems was issued January 16 in Washington by a group of 32 of the country's most eminent scientists, 11 of them Nobel Prize winners. We consider it essential for the public to recognize and understand some of the points being made here.

"We, as scientists and citizens of the United States, believe that the Republic is in the most serious situation since World War II. Today's energy crisis is not a matter of just a few years but of decades. It is the new and predominant fact of life in industrialized societies.

"The high price of oil which we must now import in order to keep Americans at their jobs threatens our economic structure - indeed, that of the Western World. Energy is the lifeblood of all modern societies and they are currently held hostage by a price structure that they are powerless to influence.

"In the next three to five years conservation is essentially the only energy option. We can and we must use energy and existing energy sources more intelligently. But there must also be long range realistic plans and we deplore the fact that they are developing so slowly. We also deplore the fact that the public is given unrealistic assurances that there are easy solutions.

"There are many interesting proposals for alternative energy sources which deserve vigorous research effort, but none of them is likely to contribute significantly to our energy supply in this century.

"Conservation, while urgently necessary and highly

desirable, also has its price. One man's conservation may be another man's loss of job. Conservation, the first time around, can trim off fat, but the second time will cut deeply.

"When we search for domestic energy sources to substitute for imported oil, we must look at the whole picture. If we look at each possible energy source separately, we can easily find fault with each of them, and rule out each one. Clearly, this would mean the end of our civilization as we know it.

"Our domestic oil reserves are running down and the deficit can only partially be replaced by the new sources in Alaska; we must, in addition, permit off-shore exploration. Natural gas is in a similar critical condition; in the last seven years new discoveries have run far below our level of gas consumption. Only with strong measures could we hope to reverse this trend.

"We shall have to make much greater use of solid fuels. Here coal and uranium are the most important options. This represents a profound change in the character of the American fuel economy. The nation has truly great reserves of these solid fuels in the earth.

"Our economically recoverable coal reserves are estimated to be 250 billion tons and exceed the energy of the world's total oil reserves. Our known uranium ores potentially equal the energy of 6,000 billion tons of coal; lower grade ores promises even more abundance.

"The U. S. choice is not coal or uranium; we need both. Coal is irreplaceable as the basis of new synthetic fuels to

replace oil and natural gas.

"However, we see the primary use of solid fuels, especially of uranium, as a source of electricity. Uranium power, the culmination of basic discoveries in physics, is an engineered reality generating electricity today. Nuclear power has its critics, but we believe they lack perspective as to the feasibility of non-nuclear power sources and the gravity of the fuel crisis.

"All energy release involves risks and nuclear power is certainly no exception. The safety of civilian nuclear power has been under public surveillance without parallel in the history of technology. As in any new technology there is a learning period.

"Contrary to the scare publicity given to some mistakes that have occurred, no appreciable amount of radioactive material has escaped from any commercial U. S. power reactor. We have confidence that technical ingenuity and care in operation can continue to improve the safety in all phases of the nuclear power program, including the difficult areas of transportation and nuclear waste disposal.

"The separation of the Atomic Energy Commission into the Energy Research and Development Administration and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission provides added reassurance for realistic management of potential risks and benefits. On any scale the benefits of a clean, inexpensive, and inexhaustible domestic fuel far outweigh the possible risks.

"We can see no reasonable alternative to an increased use of nuclear power to satisfy our energy needs.

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.)

January 15, 1975

Mr. C. K. Osborne, Editor
Transylvania Times
Brevard, North Carolina
28712

Re: Letter to the Editor

Dear C. K.:

I have recently been informed of one of the more shocking news items I have heard in quite some time, and it has encouraged me to send the first "Letter to the Editor" I have ever written. This shocking news of course is the dismissal of Brevard's Chief of Police, Jimmy Rowe, by the Town Board of Aldermen. I have been informed that this dismissal was made without even extending to him the courtesy of an appearance before them by Jimmy Rowe to at least discuss the particular allegations.

I know this really is not my problem directly; however, I feel very closely associated with many fine people in Brevard and the needs which so many of them have, as well as to the needs of my family. Jimmy Rowe over the years has been a man who has been responsible for making Brevard's Police Department one of the best Police Departments in the southeast, especially for a town Brevard's size. He has also been one of the individuals responsible for making the rescue squad one of the best rescue squads in the State of North Carolina. There is really no need for me to cite the fact that he has always conducted himself with thorough loyalty and devotion to his duty and to tasks of safeguarding the safety and welfare of Brevard's citizens. For a small group of individuals to be responsible for dismissing this man from his duty as Brevard's Chief of Police without so much as a fair and impartial hearing, is to me atrocious and possibly a denial of due process. He may be a most demanding man, he may be a most impartial man and he may step on some toes, but the job has been done and Brevard has greatly benefitted from his performance.

I don't believe any amount of public support, no matter how great, would encourage Jimmy Rowe to return to the job he has performed so well, even if he is requested to do so by the Board of Aldermen; however, I know it is a great compliment to him and to Katie to know that so many people are greatly distressed by the actions of few.

As many people of Brevard know, my father and Jimmy Rowe were close friends, socially as well as professionally. Over the years, I have heard my father comment about Jimmy Rowe. He felt that there was no better man suited for his job than Jimmy Rowe was for his. I greatly loved, admired, and respected my father, and I feel that a letter similar to this in support of Jimmy Rowe would have been at the least, what he would have done.

C. K., as a final comment, I know Jimmy and Katie will greatly miss Brevard and its people if he does indeed decide to take a position elsewhere. But worst of all, the people of Brevard will greatly miss Jimmy Rowe.

Sincerely,
Jon E. Anderson

Dear Sir,

In regard to the recent changes within the Dept. of Parks and Recreation, we would like to express our concern over the arbitrary powers of the Chairman of the County Commissioners. Since Mr. Ives apparently deems it necessary to assume the role of virtual dictator of this

county, we feel the time has come for the county to adopt a policy for the protection of its employees. One particular area in need of evaluation is that of a county firing policy.

At present there are no criteria for the dismissal of county employees. Reasons for dismissal seem to be restricted to the whims of those in power. Neither is any warning of dismissal given, except at the discretion of the county chairman. Employees are also denied the right to hear accusations against themselves and are further denied the right to defend themselves against their accusers. Lastly, employees are denied the right of any type of recourse when terminated.

Transylvania County is in need of a firing policy which should include:

- 1. Standards set for reason for dismissal.
- 2. Proper warning period.
- 3. The right to hear and defend accusations.
- 4. The right to recourse.

What caliber of employee does this county expect to retain without job security?

Sincerely
Jimmy & Judy Dexter

P. O. Box 786
Brevard, North Carolina
28712
January 2, 1975

TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT CLUB SPONSORS

On behalf of the Community Development Clubs of Transylvania County, we would like to thank you for supporting their program in 1974. Although it has been sometime since making your 1974 contribution to the program, we waited until the Area Awards Program was held in order to give you the results of area competition.

As in years past, 1974 was a good year for Transylvania County communities in the Area Program. See-Off was declared the first place winner in Division A (Communities with less than 75 families). Little River (over 150 families) and Dunn's Rock (75-150 families) both received honorable mention in their respective divisions.

Dunn's Rock, a reorganized community competing for the first time in several years, won a special merit youth award for their community sponsored recreation program.

Mrs. Melvin Dann from Sapphire-Whitewater, and Mr. Otis Merrill from Little River were recognized for their leadership and received certificates of appreciation.

Your sponsorship of the local program provides an incentive for Transylvania County communities. Physical improvements are made in the communities, but the opportunity for people to work together for a common goal is of greater importance.

We appreciate your continued interest and support.

Very truly yours,

Jerry Pursar
County Extension Chairman
Jean Childers
Home Economics Extension Agent

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.

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