

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

THE TRANSYLVANIA TIMES

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SECTION
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DEC. READING 84882

JAN. READING 86914

KWH USED 2032

DUKE POWER COMPANY

FROM	TO	ACCOUNT NUMBER	DATE OF BILL
DEC 10 1974	JAN 7 1975	0113411480	JAN 20 75

CODE	PREVIOUS	PRESENT	PLUR	KWH USED	AMOUNT
	84882	86914	1	2032	

INCLUDES COAL COST ADJUSTMENT C./KWH

PAST DUE AFTER FEB 04 75

TOTAL

Your Government At Work

Tax Collector Meets More Folks Than Other Officials

Red Fullbright Has Job To Do

BY
DOROTHY OSBORNE
Times Staff Writer

Almost everybody in the county knows Vernon Perry Fullbright. But they probably know him as "Red."

These days, his hair has faded a little, both in color and amount. But his friendly personality has not changed.

Since 1968, he has been collecting city and county taxes from everybody in the county. Since more than half the residents pay at the office instead of by mail, he has contact with thousands of Transylvanians.

And for about 30 years before that, he sold stamps, wrote money orders, weighed packages and handed mail to thousands of residents who frequented the Brevard Post Office.

These days, Red Fullbright holds forth in the county courthouse in the first office on the left, inside the front door.

ATTIRE

Dozens of people stop by his office, asking for information or directions to another office. Dozens more stop in just to pass the time of day — or to admire his always colorful outfits.

One day recently, Mr. Fullbright, dressed in a wine colored shirt, matching checked trousers, and boots, talked about his position as tax collector and the work of his office.

"We are the collecting agency for the taxes in the

county," he said. His staff includes, in addition to himself, Mrs. Betty Mull, deputy collector.

"We mailed out statements Sept. 1 for 1974. The tax supervisor makes up the statements. We do the collection."

During the period from September through December, taxes are paid at face value. In January, two per cent interest is added to the taxes, and for each month thereafter that the taxes are delinquent, an additional three-fourths of one per cent is added to the bill.

Final notices are mailed the first of April. Then in May, a list of property owners who have not paid their taxes is made and advertised in the local paper, stating that the property will be sold the first Monday in June, and the county takes a lien on the property.

A lot of research is necessary on the tax liens, he said. "You got to make sure it's correct."

Mr. Fullbright is happy with his lot in life, and his feeling of contentment shows in his expression.



Red Fullbright Removes Check From Envelope

GREGARIOUS

"I think meeting these people is the most fun," he said. "We do not have many problems. I go on the assumption that the tax payers are paying me for this job. And you deserve to be treated like somebody, right?"

Some customers fail to bring their tax statements as requested.

"Some come in griping and growling," Mrs. Mull said. "Before they leave they're smiling and telling us to have a good day."

Some of the old timers complain a little bit, Mr. Fullbright said. "They'll say, 'I used to pay \$30. Now I have to pay \$130.' But they pay."

He told about one couple who came in to pay their taxes — a couple who were newcomers to the county.

The man, Mr. Fullbright said, balked at paying the tax on his dog. Then he complained bitterly that "That's the way everybody has treated me."

"I told him that I did not have anything to do with his coming here," Mr. Fullbright said, chuckling.

Mr. Fullbright, a native of Rosman, has lived in Transylvania County all his life, except for three years in the Navy during World War II.

He graduated from Brevard High School on a Friday night, and started working for the Transylvania Tanning Company on Saturday. He stayed with the company through July, playing second base on their baseball team.

On Aug. 1, 1928, he began working with the Post Office, remaining, except for his Navy years, until 1965.

For many of those years, he was assistant postmaster, and during the Eisenhower presidential term, he was named acting postmaster. He held that position six years and three months, without ever becoming postmaster. "That was my Watergate," he said, explaining that the Democratic Congress would not confirm a Republican as postmaster.

Following his retirement, he worked for three years at Goodwill Motors, then for a brief time at Glen Cannon Country Club.

"I was reluctant about running for anything. I wasn't doing anything. I had left the country club. So I decided to run."

He defeated the Democratic incumbent Lawrence Hipp in 1968, and was unopposed in 1972. In January, 1973, he and his wife, Edna, and some other Republicans went to Raleigh to the inauguration ball for Governor James E. Holshouser. As Mr. Fullbright put it, the Republicans had something to celebrate.

The Fullbrights have no children. They are members of First Baptist Church. Mrs. Fullbright is as well known as her husband. Hundreds of Transylvania women are customers of the Beauty Nook, which she owns with Ruth Sams.

Mr. Fullbright is a mason, a

The luncheon was to familiarize and update these local educators on the type and quality of education which Brevard College has to offer to the students of Western North Carolina.

It was stressed with these educators by Dr. Robert A. Davis, president of Brevard College, that Brevard is dedicated to a way of life that instills within the student a greater desire to become a more responsible and creative member of society.



FROM BUNCOMBE — Attending a luncheon of education leaders from three counties Thursday at Brevard College were these alumni: from left, Fred Martin, superintendent of Buncombe County Schools; Mrs. Mary

member of Scottish Rite and York Rite Bodies, the Elks Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and American Legion. He has just completed a year as treasurer and member of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce.

The office of the tax collector has a low budget, Mr. Fullbright said. During the past year, the office expense, not counting salaries, was \$2,217.56. Their most expensive item by far is postage, he said, with nearly two thousand going for that.

The total amount of 1973 taxes collected — 1974 taxes are now being paid — was \$1,471,847.71. That amounted to 98.09 per cent of the levy, "which is probably one of the best in the state, due to our fine economy." That left a balance of \$28,734.89 still due from 1973.

During that year, the office also collected \$22,190.14 in delinquent taxes.

The office is open Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mr. Fullbright and Mrs. Mull are there to help anyone who drops by.

"Anybody paying delinquent taxes, I'll come here at night and meet them," Mr. Fullbright promised.

Learn To Read Electric Meter

If you don't already know how, Duke Power Company says it would like for you to learn how to read your electric meter.

George Turner, manager of Duke's Brevard operations, said that all of the company's 1,107,000 customers are being encouraged to check their electricity consumption by reading their own meter.

plained Mr. Turner," is the amount of electricity it takes to burn a 100-watt bulb for 10 hours, or your electric frypan for one hour.

Mr. Turner added that Duke Power has a booklet explaining in simplified detail how to read your meter. They are available at any Duke retail office.

"We have found that a customer gets a better understanding of just how much electricity it takes to operate his home," said Mr. Turner, "if he takes a daily reading for a few days, once a week, or on the monthly reading date listed on his bill."

Mr. Turner added that while the monthly meter-reading date may vary a day or so from month to month, due to weather or other unavoidable circumstances, the customer can still come quite close to recording his monthly consumption by adopting a 30-day meter-reading schedule.

The Duke official said that the electric meter is a simple but extremely accurate, precisely constructed instrument, and makes electricity one of the most carefully measured commodities you buy.

Some meters have four dials, some five, but each is read in similar fashion. The dials are read from right to left and recorded the same way, Mr. Turner added. If the pointer is between two numbers, write down the smaller number as the first number you are reading (see illustration). Proceed to read across the dial, right to left, recording the smaller number the pointer has past.

That will give you the number of kilowatt-hours that have passed through your meter. The next time you read your meter you will take that reading and subtract your first reading from it. That result is the number of kilowatt-hours you have used between readings.

Jelly (Sales) Soothing To Jaycee Burn Center

CHAPEL HILL — The Burn Center to be built at The North Carolina Memorial Hospital in Chapel Hill (NCMH) has been named The North Carolina Jaycee Burn Center by the hospital's Board of Directors in honor of the fund-raising efforts of the State's Jaycees.

The announcement, made by NCMH general director Dennis R. Barry, comes during Jaycee Jelly Week. January is National Jaycee Month and has been proclaimed N. C. Jaycee Month by Gov. James Holshouser.

The decision received support from President William Friday, UNC-CH Chancellor Ferebee Taylor and Dr. Christopher Fordham, dean of the UNC School of Medicine. It also was approved by the executive committee of the NCMH medical staff.

The burn center will occupy the fifth floor of the General Support Wing of NCMH. Construction of the wing is scheduled to begin in the latter part of this year and will be completed in about three years.

The center will contain 20 to 24 beds, including 18 single rooms. It will have complete support services, including treatment rooms, occupational and physical therapy areas, recovery room, adult lounge and pediatric play and classroom.

will connect the burn center with the second-floor operating suite which will have special operating room for burn patients. This design has the advantage of using expanded operating room facilities while still isolating burn patients from other areas in the hospital.

Dr. A. Griswold Bevin, associate professor in the UNC Department of Surgery and chief of the Division of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and Surgery of the Hand at NCMH, has been instrumental in the development of the burn center. He says of the decision to build the facility:

"The issue was not whether a burn center should be built. The issue was whether we were going to take care of burn patients. If we are going to provide such care, we should have the finest facilities and the best staff possible."

NCMH currently contains a burn unit. A burn center differs from a burn unit not only in size but in its special emphasis on research and teaching as well as patient care. By a national definition, the facility must have at least six beds and at least 50 patients annually.

The N. C. Jaycee Burn Center to be built in Chapel Hill will be the fourth in the Southeast. Others are located at Atlanta, Richmond, and Charleston.

Gus Tulloss, president of the N. C. Jaycees, says of the announcement: "On behalf of the N. C. Jaycees, I would like to express appreciation to The North Carolina Memorial Hospital's Board of Directors for naming the burn center The N. C. Jaycee Burn Center. I feel it is a fitting tribute to the efforts of our many members throughout the State."

Tulloss noted that this project, headed up by the Goldsboro Jaycees under the direction of Jaycee Jelly Week Chairman John Strickland, has had the broadest participation from the State's 280 Jaycee chapters of any project to date. "We are especially grateful for the tremendous support we have gotten from both the public and the media," he added.

Last year, the N. C. Jaycees set a goal of raising \$200,000 for the burn center over a four-year period. Last year's jelly sales netted \$125,000. This year, Jaycees ordered 200,000 jars to be sold at \$1.00 a jar.

According to Chairman Strickland, it appears that all this jelly will be sold. In any case, Tulloss anticipates that the four-year goal will be met during this second year of the drive.

Tulloss is secretary of the Tulloss Tractor Co., Inc. in Rocky Mount.

"A kilowatt-hour," ex- A limited-access elevator