

Laudable Moves

We've been reading and hearing about the new visitation procedures and hours at Transylvania Community Hospital during the last couple of weeks, especially as it pertains to ministers.

After listening to both sides in this controversial issue, we just have to admire Hospital Administrator Jimmie Hocker and his staff for the actions they've taken.

The staff and the members of the Hospital Auxiliary who run the information counter and issue visiting passes have compiled a long list of abuses of visiting privileges by a few ministers.

Some preachers have taken advantage of their privileged standing to wander from room to room when patients are attempting to sleep or at times when patients were being bathed, or were too ill to receive company.

Others, with misguided evangelical motives, have wandered in on complete strangers and tried to recruit members for their particular denomination...when those persons weren't up to making any important decisions in the first place.

And on one occasion, an auxiliary member says, one of them, a total stranger to her, walked up to the information desk, grabbed the list of patients from her hand and said: "Lemme see who's in the hospital today."

She said her only recourse would have been to snatch the list back out of his hands, but she didn't because she was more a lady than he was a gentleman.

Admirable Position

A bill which would reduce the terms of members of the Transylvania County Board of Education from six years to four years swept through the House or Representatives on Friday and is now on the Senate side of the General Assembly.

Such hasty action on such an important issue frightens us.

And a public hearing which we understood was going to be called by Rep. Herbert Hyde was not held prior to the passage.

Rep. Claude DeBruhl and Rep. Mary Nesbitt were the signers of this measure.

So far we talked with only a few persons in the county who favor this bill which was introduced at the behest of the Democratic Executive Committee. However, there may be wide sentiment in its favor, and we haven't found it.

At any rate, the bill isn't going to be rushed through the Senate. Senator Cecil Hill says that he's going to hold a hearing to find out if a majority of the people of Transylvania do want it before taking action on it.

The list could go on and on.

It should be made clear that only a few of the ministers have so abused their privileges. The main body of Transylvania's clergy has acted with restraint, visiting only church members or friends, and not wandering from room to room.

A consultation committee has been set up within the Transylvania Ministerial Assn. And ministers of the county may now apply at the administration office for visitation cards which will be given upon proof that the minister is actually serving a congregation within the county. This will allow them to visit their church members at any time.

Going a step further, Mr. Hocker has scheduled a special workshop on April 7, to be conducted by Dr. Wesley Aiken, head of the clinical-pastoral education program of Duke University Hospital to provide training for local ministers in the area of healing ministry.

There is another laudable move on Mr. Hocker's part.

We hope that the hospital's new policies will be viewed favorably by the county's ministers, and that they'll realize that these new rules are for the benefit of the patients. That's the reason for the hospital's being the first place.

Since all but a few ministers have been acting in good faith anyway, we hope Mr. Hocker enforces his regulations with zeal. We don't think the few ministers who have been making it hard for the entire group merit any consideration in the matter.

We think the senator is to be commended for this action.

Personally, we think it is not a good bill, designed for the sole purpose of throwing the school board into the midst of politics since three persons could be elected to the five-member board in some years.

Currently there are four Democrats and one Republican on the board.

But we'd like to point out to the Democrats that in a year of a Republic sweep such as might occur occasionally, the GOP could wrest control of the board from them under this proposed new law.

Be that as it may, if the people of Transylvania want four-year terms for school board members, then in a democratic society they should get their wishes.

This is the way Senator Hill sees it as he says, "My job is to represent all of the people of the county. And that's what I'm going to do to be best of my ability. I want to hear the will of the people."

This is the reason he's calling a hearing — to get the consensus.

He's taking an admirable position.

Old Transylvania Times
by Earle Kersh

Thanks to Mrs Robert N. (Dot Everett) Hill and Andy Thomas

Transylvania boasts its own derelict ante-bellum mansion, just like the Deep South. It is the manor house of the Thomas Farm on Thomas or Everett Farm Road. The Lowdnes family had it built by slave labor as an escape from the Low Country summers. The Everett Family bought it as an escape from the Cleveland Summers. A later owner in the '30s chopped up the grand rooms into quarters for Haitian migrant workers. The Thomas family once ran a gladiola farm on the land. Now, with its handsome barn and outbuildings, it makes a lovely ruin.

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.)

225 Maple Street
Brevard, N. C.
March 18, 1975

Mr. C. K. Osborne, Editor
Transylvania Times
Brevard, N. C. 28712

Dear Mr. Osborne:
Editor, Transylvania Times
Brevard, North Carolina

Dear Mr. Osborne:

Since spring is just about here, I thought I'd like to throw a few bouquets:

Since I was quick to criticize, let me be as eager to praise.

Cheers to Earle Kersh for his clever writing and delightful sketching in bringing local history to life for old-timers and newcomers alike. I've cut them all out; what I'll do with them, I don't know, but I just couldn't cast them in the trash or burn them in the fire.

First, my immediate reaction, when I read my original letter concerning traffic violations vs. crime in last week's paper, was that you were to be commended. You printed the letter in its entirety despite the fact that a portion — even if done in good faith — was critical of your paper.

Praise to Mr. McCall and Mr. Orr for the loving care they give to homeless animals. A kitten came to stay; we couldn't find its home and couldn't keep her - we're renting, you know - so off to the animal shelter we went. What a delightful surprise to find the county facility spotless, sparkling, and odor free. Now we can't think of a better place to go to treat oneself to a pet.

Secondly, you are certainly to be commended on the articles in Monday's paper. I think the explanation of the activities of the Sheriff's Dept. was interesting, informative, and should be reassuring to all of us. Insofar as your reporting of recent crimes, whether we liked to hear it or not, I am glad it is being brought out in the open.

Joy in having found Brevard where neighbors, newfound friends, and tradespeople are so friendly, warm, and inviting, making us feel this has been home for a long, long time.

You see one motivating factor in my original letter was that if people know these things are going on, perhaps they will take more safety precautions and be more inclined to report suspicious matters to the proper authorities.

I could go on and fill this page with all the delights of living in this lovely community, but I will heed the directions given above to keep one's message short.

I think the main factor, however, was hopefully if present or potential criminals know that people are alerted and aware of these crimes perhaps, in some cases at least, it will act as a deterring factor.

Just had to let you all know!

I know there are many and varied reasons why some of us decide to make the Brevard area our home. In some cases I feel its reputation as to the absence of crime played an important part. I for one want very much for that reputation to be continued.

Sincerely,

Bessie Moore
(George's wife)

Sincerely,
Virginia Boschert
(Mrs. G. P. Boschert)

March 18, 1975

Mr. C.K. Osborne, Editor
Transylvania Times

Dear Mr. Osborne,

I believe it is time for me to publicly acknowledge and thank the men and women of this county who give so much of their time serving at the information desk at the Transylvania Community Hospital.

Each month over 100 people sit at this desk, voluntarily, for 4 hours at a time, 12 hours a day. Many serve more than 2 or 3 times a month. Their service is solely in the interests of the hospital, it's policy, and the patients. They serve courteously, and have every right to expect the same courtesy in return.

The transition period at the hospital right now is difficult for all. It will not be resolved by verbal abuse, but with patience and respect on everyone's part.

Thank you.

Sincerely,
Jean B. LeClaire
Chairman
Information Desk
Transylvania Community Hospital Auxiliary

My Neighbors



"I remember when you used to look at me that way."

Report To Hill Country

BY CECIL HILL
State Senator

This week the Governor accused the legislature of being a "do nothing" body. The following day the Lieutenant Governor rebutted the statement and outlined substantially what the Senate and the legislature as a whole had been doing.

Frankly, I have never worked as hard in my life, and I don't think the Governor really understands what is happening in the legislature. There is only one Republican member in the Senate and there are nine in the House. This small number simply cannot keep him advised of all the work that is going on.

To date, there have been about 400 bills introduced in the Senate and nearly 500 in the House. Many committees have doubled the time spent in committee hearings. All of us come to work not later than 8:30 in the morning, and most of us never leave the office until 6:00. The evenings are spent studying bills, talking with constituents and with interested persons concerning our work in the General Assembly. It now appears that the earliest we will finish our job will be about the 15th of June.

Many of the bills in the Senate this week deal with increasing the period of punishment for criminals.

I think the public is upset about the small sentences given many criminals for serious crimes.

We have increased the time to be spent in prison, but we

have tempered the law with "quick dip" which will put more people in prison for shorter periods of time and on probation for longer periods of time.

The House received a bill that would increase the cost of hunting licenses, and I have heard from several people across the district opposing the bill. The bill would increase the cost of a license for a guide to \$25, a resident hunting license to \$7.50 for small game, and non-resident hunting license to \$10.

Frankly, I don't see how such small increases will make much difference, and I tend to agree with those who have written to me at this time opposing the cost increase.

A great deal of interest is now being expressed in recycling of solid waste materials. The Senate received a bill creating an Advisory Council on Solid Waste Recycling, Recovery and Litter Control. The Department of Human Resources will provide necessary support service. The basis of this is a public relations type of organization and has very little enforcement provision. I think we must have something with teeth in it to have a successful program.

Another bill provides tax breaks for industries which will recycle waste material. This should offer an inducement to heavy industry to recycle more waste products. At least, we have started with legislation in this field, and I believe we will get some laws on the books before the session is over.

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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