

**- NOW -
OPEN**

BIG COUNTRY TAVERN

Formerly Robert's Rib



**SMOKED BBQ • SMOKED CHICKEN • STEAKS
DELICIOUS SIDES • HOMEMADE DESSERTS**

Wednesday - Saturday 5-10pm

4513 Highway 145 North, Chesterfield
Between Morven & Chesterfield

All major cards accepted 843-623-9222



For several years in the late 1990's and early 2000's Bill Billingsley wrote a column for The Express. It began with the title 'Billingsley's This and That' with the title later evolving to become Billingsley's "T N T".

Bill managed WADE Radio station in Wadesboro for many years. He was extremely well known in the community, with many friends. Bill was also known nationwide for his pitch-perfect and authoritative 'radio voice.'

Due to a computer mishap, it appeared that Bill's "TnT" columns were lost. But, after working on the project for several years, we have managed to recover at least some of his work. Because of that good fortune, we are proud to present a column below that Bill wrote for the November 10, 1999 edition of The Express.

Billingsley's This and That

Nunna daul Tsony



Nunna daul Tsony is the direct translation from the Cherokee of "The Trail Where They Cried," which has become known as and generally called "The Trail of Tears."

Before getting into the "whys and wherefores" of the Trail of Tears, let me say that I have waited about a year to begin the ugliest chapter in United States history -- ranking with Slavery, The War Between the States, the sinking of the "Maine" (the latter happened to the US), and some other unsavory incidents you might easily recall. I find this especially difficult to put in the proper order with correct phrasing and syntax and accurate wording, since my great-grandmother was full Cherokee.

"Removal" is the term used by funeral directors when they go to a hospital or home to get the body of a deceased person. It is also the term used by the United States government for seizing land that had been "legally" transferred to the Cherokee; then declaring that treaty null and void by action of the Senate with pressure from the, then, United States President, Andrew Jackson.

Jackson applied the pressure, and then ultimately despicably, shamefully, in-gloriously and ignominiously ordered troops of the US Army to round up all the Cherokee and "Remove" them to Oklahoma. The troops on horseback, most Cherokee on foot, in much used wagons, or when sick on makeshift sleds.

The Creeks, Chickasaws and Choctaws had already been banished from Mississippi and Alabama. So, when the land in Georgia was found to be extremely fertile, plus the finding of gold there, the "die was cast" - get the Indians out of there. That, after treaty upon treaty had been made declaring the Cherokee sole owner of their own land. This done on orders from a President who is said to be born in North Carolina.

One of my references says that he was born in the Waxhaw Settlement of South Carolina. Another referred to his being born in the Carolinas. So, with conduct like that even with its flag dispute, let South Carolina have claim to his birthplace.

The horrific "Trail" didn't simply start out with the 7,000 soldiers rounding up the 18,000 Cherokee and heading north through Tennessee and Kentucky - first there was the preliminary rounding up and holding in unsanitary conditions in various forts. Overcrowding, no facilities, little to eat, really horrible conditions.

In 1838 came the trek itself as previously pointed out, with most of the Cherokee on foot and the troops on well taken care of steeds.

You remember what you thought and felt about the "Bataan Death March" which the Japanese subjected captured Allied troops to. This was the equivalent of that march, except longer with about 4,000 of the Indians dying of plain heartbreak, hardship, starvation, exposure and disease.

In addition to the hard trip through wilderness, they had to cross the Ohio, Missouri and Mississippi Rivers to get to the land assigned to them. That land became known as the State of Oklahoma.

Having had the opportunity to be among the Cherokee in Tishomings, OK, I found that the direct descendants of those who withstood the forced trip do not wish to talk at length about the "Trail of Tears." Since some Cherokee speak Iroquois and I can only understand a word here and there, most conversations were held in English. Very few speak the native tongue anyway. There is a move afoot to restore several of the original languages so they will not be lost forever.

As a side note Davey Crockett's political career was ruined because he (as a Senator) voted in favor of the Indians. So did Henry Clay and Daniel Webster.

The Eastern Band of the Cherokee, the Oconaluftee Indians, had made arrangements to be excluded from the removal. That's why we have them now in Western North Carolina.

The Seminoles held on and now live in the everglades of Florida with a few in Oklahoma. They speak Muskogean. You can see their hogans all along the lower Tamiami Trail.

Near Mt. Gilead is one of the original homes of a tribe of the Creek Indians with its council house intact. Quite an experience to see where the primitive people lived. The Forestry Service has well equipped exhibits, plus the village, itself.

Thus Endeth This Reading.

We have run quite long, so we will have to make the list of old songs short:

- Big Noise from Waneteka*
- We Are the World*
- My Blue Heaven*
- Railway to Heaven*
- Bye and Bye*
- Stand By Me*

A few old sayings:

- Off his rocker -- not too bright*
- Out in left field -- same*
- Fodder -- leaves of the corn plant saved to feed animals in winter*
- Jist -- underlying meaning*

Quotation:

Learn from yesterday, live for today, hope for tomorrow.

B.B.

Computer Skills Classes for All Ages

The Burnsville Recreation & Learning Center offers computer skills classes for all ages. Classes are tailored for beginners or intermediate students.

If you are interested please contact BRLC to register. They are located at 13349 Highway 742 North in Burnsville, across from the Fire Department. The telephone number is 704-826-8737.

Low or No Income? Uninsured?

That is no excuse for avoiding preventive health care.

Schedule a Physical and/or Birth Control Consult at the ANSON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

110 Ashe Street
Wadesboro
704-694-5188

Funded by Title X Reproductive Health Services

SP SOUTH PIEDMONT COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Spring 2018 Classes Begin January 8, 2018

REGISTER TODAY!

Call Today! 704.272.5391

L.L. Polk Campus
680 U.S. Highway 74 Polkton

Old Charlotte Highway Campus
4209 Old Charlotte Hwy. Monroe

www.spcc.edu

ANSONVILLE FIRE & RESCUE

BBQ

Pork - Beef - Chicken

SATURDAY NOV 4

Saturday Only

*Dessert donations are greatly appreciated

Parade at 3pm

No registration needed.
Line up is at 2:00pm on Fries Blvd.
Tractor trailers on Plank Rd.
No Motorcycles.

TERRY HELMS

Candidate for Wadesboro Town Council would like to earn your vote on November 7

- The debate for November 2 has been cancelled because the incumbents chose not to participate.
- If elected, I look to change city water and the Police Department.

Water - Make improvements so our water is clean and drinkable for the town.

Police Department - More officers, better policing, improve the atmosphere.

Paid For By Terry Lane Helms Committee For more information call 704-202-1800