

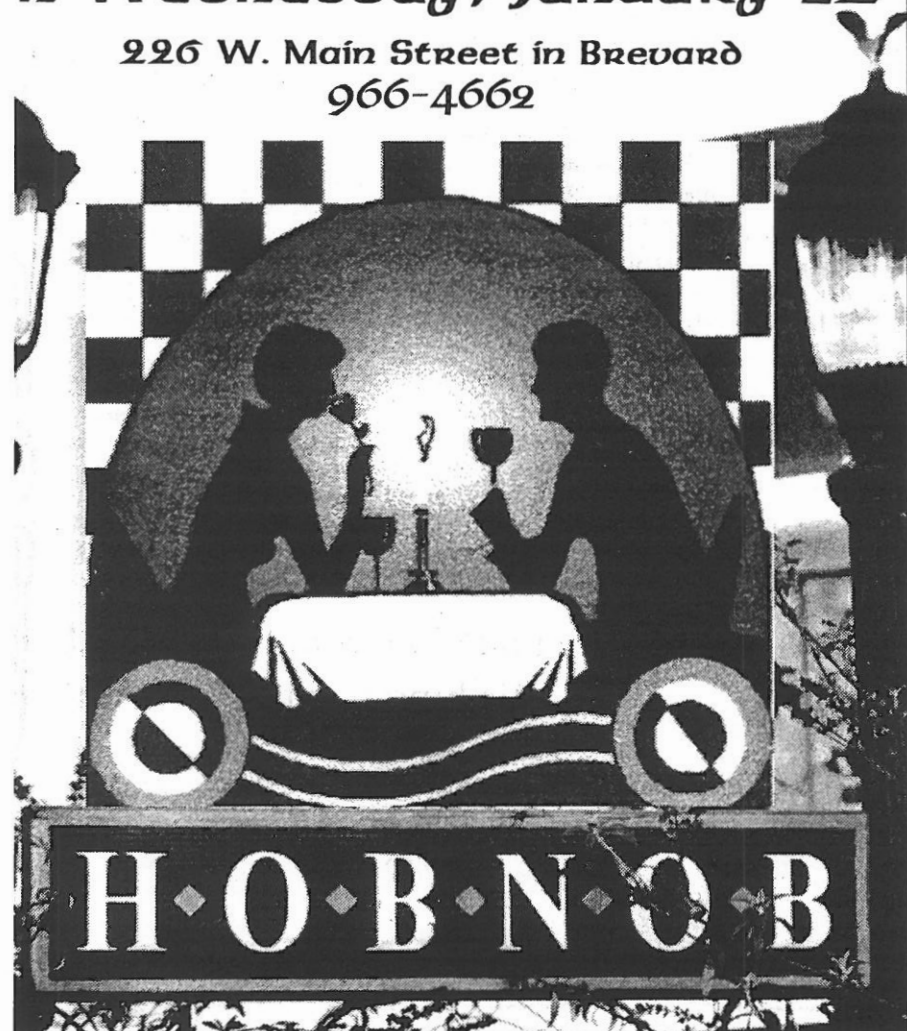
# Happy New Year

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## HOBNOB

### Reopening for the Winter on Wednesday, January 12

226 W. Main Street in Brevard  
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## Gorges State Park Cultural Resources Survey Delayed

1-10-00

By Linda Hoxit Raxter

Prior to any construction within the new Gorges State Park, The State Parks will hire an archaeological consultant to conduct an archaeological survey to insure that cultural sites will not be disturbed. The survey will locate prehistoric sites used by Native Americans hunting in the region as well as historic sites used by European settlers such as homesteads and cemeteries.

Previous archaeological surveys of the area are limited. There are surveys conducted by Duke Power for their facilities, as well as nearby Forest Service surveys and two surveys of Transylvania County which touched on the State Park area.

Pat Holden Lance conducted the first of these surveys as her Masters Thesis. Archaeologist Ruth Wetmore conducted a more in-depth survey in 1995 for the Transylvania County Joint Historic Preservation Commission. Based on these previous surveys, David G. Moore, Staff Archaeologist for the Western Office of the North Carolina Division of Archives and History, anticipates that a large number of additional archaeological sites will be identified in the upcoming survey.

Archaeological sites contain rare and valuable information and are also susceptible to damage. This inventory of park cultural resources will be conducted as a part of the park's master plan.

The survey will take place in

three stages. The first will cover the 400 acres around the Grassy Ridge area where the campground, ranger station, and primary roads will be located. The second phase will survey the existing roads within the park. Finally, in the third phase, a sample survey will cover those portions of the park as a whole most likely to have archaeological sites.

Moore did clarify that the survey will not cover the entire park due to funding limitations. The emphasis of the survey will be to insure that any significant archaeological sites are not disturbed by park development.

Moore explained that the role of the archaeological survey will be to identify sites, determine their significance, and make recommendations as to how best to preserve the sites. However, the ultimate decision as to how the sites will be treated will be made by the State Parks. Moore did say that in the past, the State Parks has usually followed the recommendations made by the archaeologists.

The survey was originally planned to begin last fall. However, there have been administrative delays at the state level caused by Hurricane Floyd. As a result, the state has not yet hired the consultant who will be leading the study. Moore emphasized that no construction will take place within the State Park until the archaeological survey is complete.