

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, January 24, 1985

County's Already Won The Gold Rush Of '85

The gold rush of '85 will soon be history. Six firms have been prospecting in Brunswick County, eagerly seeking permission to build 100-bed nursing homes here. One will soon strike gold.

Still in the running are Beverly Enterprises, with regional headquarters in Maryland, and Autumn Corp. of Rocky Mount.

One the national giant of the industry, the other a North Carolina-based firm; one wanting to locate in Supply, the other in Shallotte. One with corporate ties to the firm that leases the Brunswick Hospital, the other without. Both with excellent reputations in their field.

The N.C. Division of Facility Services will decide who gets 'mining rights,' based in part on a recommendation from the regional health planning board.

Several months of work developing community support paid off for Beverly last week with a stack of endorsements, while Autumn has just intensified its efforts.

Last Wednesday, because there was evidence of "widespread community support from all over the county," a majority of Cardinal's project evaluation committee supported Beverly over Autumn, the firm recommended by the health professionals on the Cardinal staff.

The questions boiled down to one: Shallotte or Supply? With a split vote on record and a minority report due Wednesday, Beverly's position at the top of the heap was precarious going into the meeting, just as Autumn's had been a week earlier.

Cardinal was faced with making a tough choice; a close vote was predicted.

Regardless of which company Cardinal recommends, Brunswick County already has won. It is one of only three counties allocated longterm care beds in the state medical plan after a moratorium on nursing homes development was lifted July 1, 1984. It was allocated the most beds, 100, clear recognition of the increasing proportion of senior citizens who live here and of the number of nursing home patients forced to seek care outside the county.

We're going to get the beds and they're going to be near most of the people—give or take six miles in one direction or the other—not up on Juniper Creek or over near Dark Branch or in Wilmington or Whiteville. And several ways have also been identified for Southport to gain some of the skilled care beds very much needed in that community.

It's an all-win situation for Brunswick County—as long as the competing factions keep it fair and friendly.

Building Limitations Offer Temporary Help

Zoning changes that would place tougher restrictions on home building on Holden Beach are needed to cut down on ground pollution and density, but only if the town does not plan to eventually install its own sewer system.

Increasing minimum setbacks between homes from five to seven feet may help prevent fires, but setting bedroom limits and lot coverage now may be too little, too late. Even with such limitations, the growth rate may eventually force the town to either build a sewer system, like at Ocean Isle, or to halt all home construction.

Planning board member Jim Fournier has a fear of one day being told by the Brunswick County Health Department, which keeps a regular check on the pollution seeping into the beach's canals, that no more homes can be built on the island because of septic tank pollution.

Fournier's fears should concern all residents, homeowners, developers and fishermen on Holden Beach. If the homes already on the island were occupied year-round, the beach would probably already have a severe pollution problem.

The planning board hopes to limit bedroom space by adopting a creative formula that divides the lot size by 1,500 to come up with the number of allowed bedrooms, which would be limited to 40 percent of the heated space of a home. Although such a plan will not eliminate the fear of pollution entirely, it will help ease the threat.

A three-bedroom home may be the vacation spot for more than one family who share rent and expenses for their place in the sun, thus ruining the planning board's formula for estimating how much sewage is being placed in the ground.

Living rooms and dens on house plans have a way of becoming bedrooms once construction is finished. Cutting the number and size of bedrooms may get residents to at least seriously consider the pollution problem.

Bedroom limitations and lot coverage will not hurt the beach, if anything it will temporarily help. However, town officials should not give up on discussing the longterm solutions.

The time may come sooner than expected when Fournier's fears become a reality, and the town receives a disturbing message from the health department concerning new home construction.

I'll Never Understand The Hunter's Mind

Although I grew up surrounded by soybeans, corn fields and wooded areas in a county (Brunswick) loaded with hunters, I've never had the desire to join those who find pleasure in shooting deer or other animals. For me, there has been no middle ground in trying to understand the "game" or "sport" of hunting, although I tried hard to find it as a youngster.



Terry Pope

I've found that either you hunt and enjoy it, or else you dislike hunting and grow to dislike it more everyday. I even went as far as to get a .410-gauge shotgun for Christmas one year, which I have rarely used since then except for target shooting in the backyard.

There were opportunities to use the gun, but I could never gain whatever it takes for the hunter to pull the trigger and declare the kill a "sport." Neither could I find an authority to tell me that hunting was wrong, or else the right thing to do if you were an able-bodied male living in the country. The desire to hunt seemed to derive from one's genes, and I didn't seem to possess a particular trait for hunting.

Instead, for one full summer, I spent my afternoons walking to a soybean field behind my parents' house in Maco. It wasn't hunting season then and every afternoon, in one corner of the field, several deer would come to eat. There were a buck with a huge rack of antlers, a doe, and several fawns.

It was like watching a family. I'd walk around the edge of the field and the deer would often stop to stare at me. Although I was within shooting range, they didn't seem to bother, and would only run if I tried to get too close.

Eventually, we began to wonder why the dog would bark at night and we found deer tracks behind the house within 100 feet of the dog pen. The deer had started to wander into my father's garden to feast on field

peas, within a stone's throw from the house.

I was careful not to tell anyone, for I knew the deer would be killed as soon as hunting season started. However, others discovered the deer were there and trespassed across my parent's property to shoot the buck. The hunters also had the gall to drive their trucks down a private drive and across the field to load the deer, without ever asking for permission.

I got kidded at school by some friends who learned the hunters had killed my "pet deer." They couldn't understand why I hadn't beaten the hunters to the kill. On the other hand, I wondered what would make a person so eager to kill a deer that he would ignore laws and sneak onto someone's private property.

I began to dislike hunters, but not to the extent of those who have organized anti-hunter groups across the country. A recent article in "Omni" magazine pointed out the tactics used by such groups as Friends of Animals Inc., or the Coalition Against Sport Hunting (CASH).

Concerning CASH, "Omni" reporter Douglas Starr recently wrote, "From a small band of

diehards, the movement has expanded to include thousands of people who harass hunters and scare away potential game. Some blare tapes in the woods. Others spring animal traps or spray scent to confuse dogs."

Last fall, when authorities announced plans to implement a lottery to award 600 permits for deer hunting on a Florida wildlife refuge, such anti-hunting groups mailed in hundreds of permit applications. When the hunt had ended, only two deer had been killed.

In response to such tactics, one reader replied in the February 1985 issue of "Omni," "Hunting is a means of caring for animals as well as putting food on the table. Surely there are people who give hunting a bad name, but this is true of any activity."

"My advice to these do-gooder anti-hunters is to stay out of my neck of the woods where I am hunting legally. I might mistake one of them for a ten-point buck."

How nice and how horrible of an attitude to take. There may be no middle ground, and I may never understand the mind of the hunter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Marooned, Yes; Abandoned, No

To the editor:
 As a permanent resident of Sunset Beach, I simply must thank the many persons who saw to the prompt repair of our bridge.

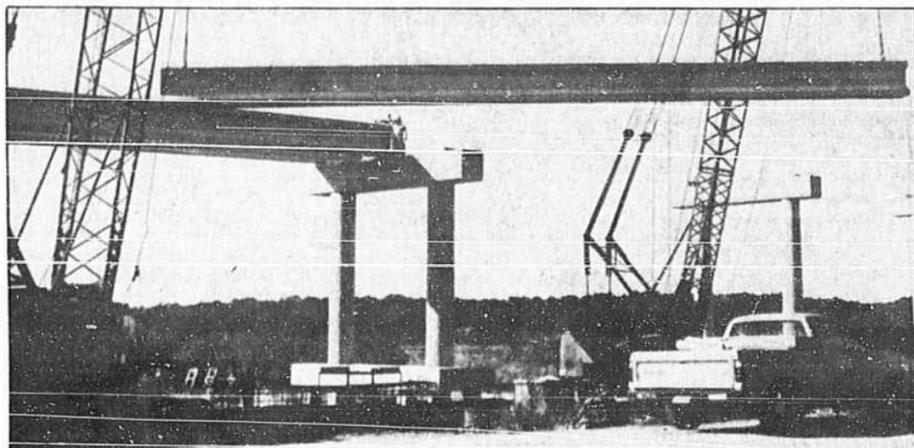
From the Department of Transportation workers who helped me haul groceries and my two-year-old from the mainland to the island, to Town Manager Wallace Martin who phoned to advise us about school transportation for my son, everyone was courteous and so helpful that, although we were marooned here at the beach, we certainly didn't feel abandoned.

Brunswick County Emergency Coordinator Cecil Logan and the Department of Transportation officials handled the entire situation in a way that assured us and our neighbors that we were protected and that complete and speedy attention would be given should any medical or emergency need arise.

Of course, thanks are in order to the many who volunteered their time, their boats and assistance to the people living here. The Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, Waccamaw Rescue Squad and many individuals who worked throughout the chilly weather to give us rides across the waterway and keep us informed, certainly illustrated what "goodwill towards their fellowman" really meant.

Since moving here last April from Detroit, my family and I have enjoyed the friendliness and hospitality of Brunswick County. During Hurricane Diana and this bridge incident, we have found the spirit of compassion and service here unequalled in these times of need. We're certainly glad to have made our home here among you.

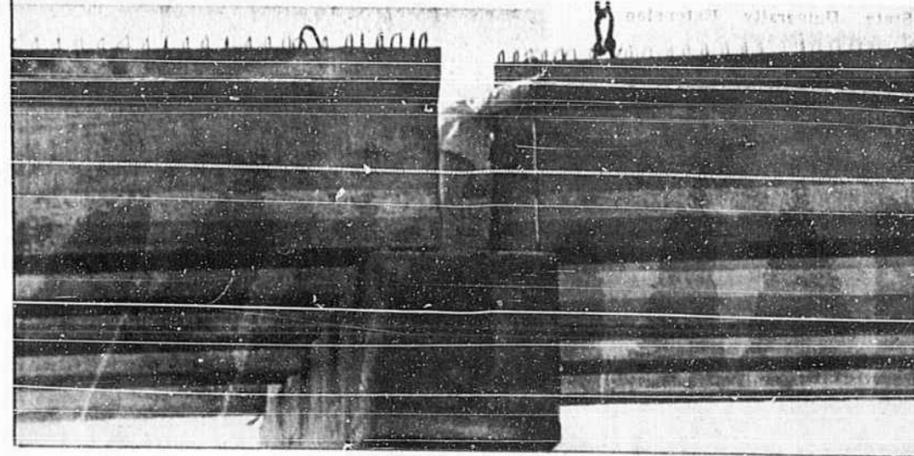
Anne Marie Schettini
 Sunset Beach



Bridge Spans Arrive

Workers were busy last week setting the concrete spans in place for Ocean Isle Beach's new 65-ft. high rise replacement bridge. The spans, arriving by barge on the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway late last week, were hoisted onto tractor trailer trucks for a quick trip up the causeway. Once adjacent to the giant concrete pillars, the spans were then lifted from

the trucks by cranes (above) and guided in place by workers atop the concrete pillars (below). The action captured the attention of passers-by who stopped along the causeway Saturday to view the moment. Both the Ocean Isle bridge and a similar one at Holden Beach is scheduled for completion in early 1986.



Calendar Of Events

Thursday, Jan. 24

PEACH TREES ordered in May 1984 through the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Service can be picked up in conjunction with a one-hour public meeting on peach tree care and maintenance, 10 a.m., Brunswick County Extension Office, Bolivia. All trees will be distributed; unclaimed ones will not be stored.

AUCTION AND COVERED-DISH DINNER meeting of the Sea Trail Community Watch Association, at the Sunset Beach Volunteer Fire Department, 6:30 p.m.

TIMBER OWNERS MEETING sponsored by the Brunswick County Small Woodlot Committee to discuss selling timber and forestry products, at the Agriculture Building, Brunswick County Government Center, 7 p.m.

Friday, Jan. 25

BRUNSWICK COUNTY EXTENSION HOMEMAKERS annual achievement night program, public assembly building, Brunswick County Government Center, 6:45 p.m. Reservations needed.

GAME NIGHT at the American Legion Building one mile south of Shallotte on U.S. 17, 8 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 26

BARBECUE PLATES will be sold by the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., \$3.50 per plate with carryouts available. All proceeds go to the department.

OPEN AUDITIONS continue today for the North Brunswick High Variety Show, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the school, single acts and groups; small audition fee is charged.

GAME NIGHT resumes at the Calabash Volunteer Fire Department Saturday, Feb. 2, at 8 p.m. and continues each Saturday thereafter until further notice.

Monday, Jan. 28

CALABASH TOWN COUNCIL meets at the town hall in regular session, 4:30 p.m.

BRUNSWICK COUNTY BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES meets in regular session at the social services department, Brunswick County Government Center, 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Jan. 30

BRUNSWICK TOASTMASTERS, CLUB 5095 meets at the Ship's Chandler Restaurant, Southport, 7 a.m.-8 a.m. Guests welcome. Call Donald Andrews, 278-5078 or 545-2283.

Commissioners To Meet With Department Heads

Brunswick County Commissioners were to begin meeting individually with county department heads Wednesday at 1 p.m., beginning with County Manager Billy Carter.

Commissioners had asked that the appointments be scheduled back to back through the remainder of the day, "as long as it takes." The purpose of the sessions is to establish lines of authority and communication, to discuss mutual expectations and to acquaint commissioners with the responsibilities of each department.

At one-hour intervals, the last of the 18 sessions would have begun at 6 a.m. Thursday.

However, Chairman Chris Chappell said the board would meet with as many department heads as time allowed Wednesday. If all were not seen, interviews would be rescheduled.

Department heads were to be "on standby" to meet with the commissioners.

In addition to Carter, those due to meet with commissioners were David Clegg, county attorney; Regina White, clerk to the board; Robert Smith, cafeteria manager; Nancy Moore, tax collector; Perita Price, public housing; Regina

McKeithan, data processing; Dan Shields, engineer; Kenneth Hewett, water plant supervisor; John Harvey, planning director; Ellouise Russ, housekeeping supervisor; Major White, landfill director; Darryl Somersett, mosquito control director; Bobby Jones, parks and recreation director; Jess Parker, veterans service officer; Cecil Logan, emergency management coordinator; and R.C. Dixon, building and grounds superintendent.

Leland VFD Sets Barbecue

Leland Volunteer Fire Department will hold a barbecue dinner Saturday, Jan. 26, from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the department, located on old U.S. 74-76.

Spokesman Jack Spencer said each \$3 plate will include chopped pork barbecue, coleslaw, potato salad and hushpuppies and a choice of tea or coffee.

Takeouts are available. Orders of five or more plates will be delivered anywhere in the county, said Spencer, by calling 371-2727. Proceeds go to the fire department.