

under the sun

Brunswick Tech Teacher's Enthusiasm Is Catching

BY SUSAN USHER

Asked about a favorite topic—and there are many, all pursued with equal zest—Bernard Hanke explodes with enthusiasm and energy.

In the classroom this enthusiasm becomes contagious; one-on-one, it pleasantly sweeps the listener along.

As he talks in an adopted Yankee clip, his hands move quickly within the space called his study, gathering materials almost magically. The minuscule room reflects three of Hanke's loves: teaching, the sciences and the outdoors. A wooden desk of the sort once common in college faculty offices nearly fills the study. Homemade lab shelves and file cabinets of organized materials line the walls. On one wall hangs a sketch of his lobster boat, "Capritaur," drawn by his wife, Myrtle.

He's chatting enthusiastically about a course he begins teaching for Brunswick Technical College this week for the second time. It's on marine life and the topic seems to scare people away as being too technical, too scientific.

But its purpose is to acquaint people who don't know much about science with the Brunswick County coast, the plants and animals that make their home there, and how they each relate to the other and to man. He's developed his own teaching materials, his own audiovisuals. Some of the more technical material on the subject has been rewritten in simpler versions for the general student. A resident of the county for two years himself, the students in his first class also were transplants from the North. A mix of natives and newcomers sharing ideas would make a better class, he suggested.

"It's a survey course. Anyone can do it. It's not technical," he explained. "We're just going to enjoy ourselves."

As an example he pulls out lab exercise sheets that will be used during April labs conducted along the beach and along a body of fresh water. Each sheet gives detailed directions on how to perform a particular procedure, such as testing for the amount of dissolved oxygen or salt in the water.

But students don't have to actually do the test unless they want to. They do have to watch Hanke do it, and will probably be surprised at the results. They're likely to

remember at least a little of what they've seen or heard.

"It's a memory jogger for someone who turns on the TV and there's Jacques Cousteau," Hanke said. Yet the material's available for the serious student who wants to go farther on his or her own.

In addition to a simple text, Gunnar Thorson's "Life in the Sea," students receive stacks of what Hanke calls "enhancements," handouts of current information on a wide range of topics. Most are geared to the North Carolina coast, part of his effort to adapt for local use the

course he initially developed while teaching at North Framingham High, Framingham, Mass.

His work with the course there won him numerous awards from the student council for excellence in teaching from 1977 to 1982.

And his discipline was always excellent, quipped the self-proclaimed ham, pointing to a military-type haircut.

At 57, he's technically retired and has numerous hobbies to fill his time, including fishing, boating, the Masonic lodge and now golf.

But Hanke says he is seriously considering a return to full-time teaching because he enjoys it so much.

Yet he wasn't always a teacher; it was a third career. Growing up in Evanston, Ill., on Lake Michigan, he followed family tradition and entered the U.S. Navy. Over a period of eight years, four months and a few days (in two hitches), he fished his way around the world, he says, on a troop transport that took him from Gibraltar to Brazil, from the Caribbean to the North Atlantic. He's fished most of the places he talks about in class, from the Sea of Sargasso to the Bermuda Triangle.

After graduating from Columbia College in Chicago, where he met Myrtle, also a U.S. Navy veteran, he pulled a second hitch in the navy, then worked for 10 years as a chemist with General Foods. He was on the team that helped develop Tang, the orange-flavor breakfast drink.

One day he told himself, he recalls, "I think I'm going to teach." He went back to school to get certified, and then won Suffolk College's Trustee Award for graduate study in oceanography. He had found a career as rewarding for him as it was for his students.

Hanke's interests also include insects, especially spiders, which he describes as "fascinating." He's also a self-described "nut" about English history and the American Civil War and he's working on his fourth model train layout.

In fact the Civil War was an indirect factor in he and Myrtle relocating to Brunswick County from Framingham.

While visiting a friend in Maryland one February, they toured the cemetery at Fredericksburg, Massachusetts was ice-locked; he was in shirt-sleeves sniffing jonquils in Virginia.

From that point on the Hanks spent their holidays methodically searching the coast from Virginia to Georgia. They became property owners seven years ago, first buying a lot in Carolina Shores where their old friend in Maryland had bought a home, then finding their present home in Sea-Aire Estates, a site that provides easy access to the water. That's a necessity for two sailors who once had to travel 47 miles to get to the water at Cape Cod because public access there is so limited.

"I was always looking for Utopia," Hanke enthused. "I've found it. I have it here."



STUDENTS USUALLY FIND instructor Bernard Hanke's enthusiasm contagious in the classroom. Here, he pulls together some materials used in a continuing education course in marine life he's teaching for

Brunswick Technical College. The second class meeting is 6:30 p.m. today (Thursday) at West Brunswick High School.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Workshop Will Focus On Landscape Problems

An areawide landscape maintenance workshop at Bolivia on Feb. 5 will provide homeowners and ornamental gardening enthusiasts an opportunity to brush up on their skills, said Billy Barrow, assistant county agricultural extension agent.

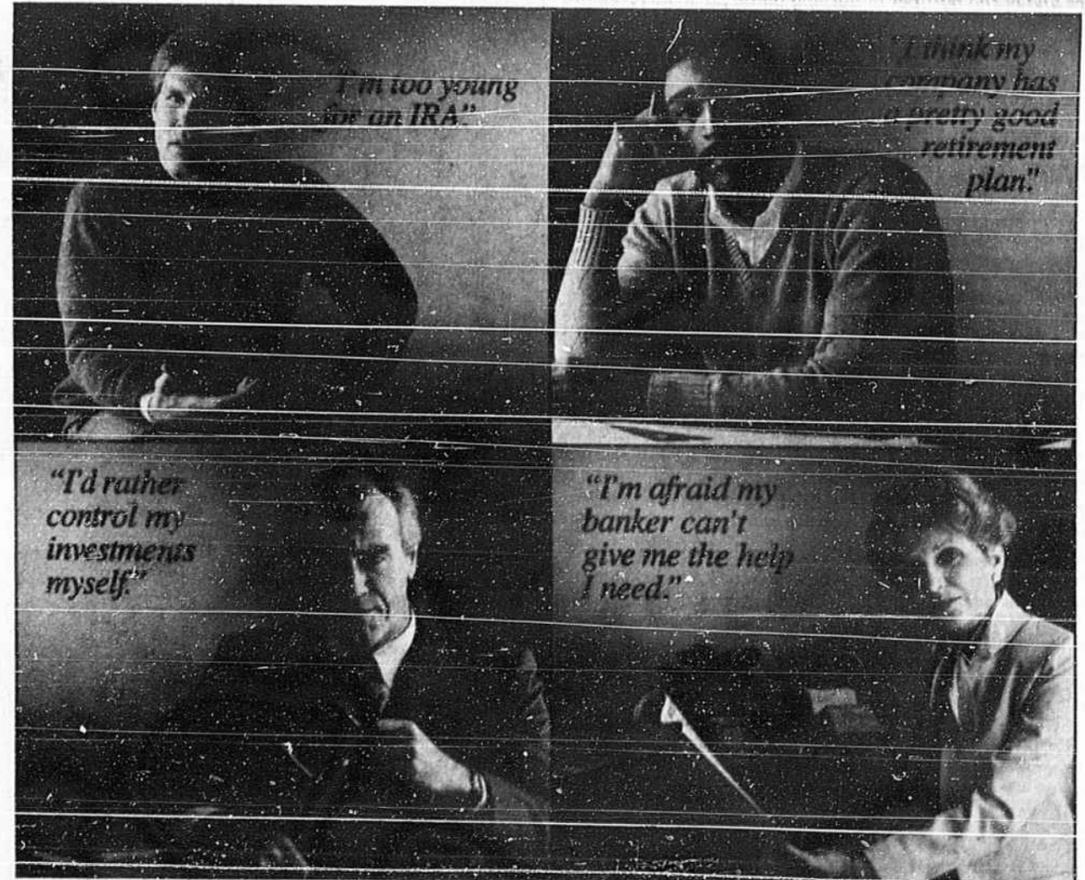
The workshop begins at 1 p.m. in the public assembly building at the Brunswick County Government Center. It will focus on problems in the landscape and how to avoid them. Speakers will include Kim Powell, Ron Jones and Art Bruneau, N.C.

State University Extension Specialists in the areas of landscape, plant pathology and turf, respectively.

Barrow also urged garden supply dealers and commercial applicators who need recertification credits for their pesticide license to attend the meeting. The session is open to all interested persons from Brunswick and adjoining counties.

For more information, contact the Brunswick County Agricultural Extension Office.

DON'T PUT OFF AN IRA FOR ALL THE WRONG REASONS...



...WHEN UCB HAS AN IRA THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU.

An Individual Retirement Account at United Carolina Bank can be one of the best investments anybody can make. That's because a UCB IRA does more than ensure your future financial security. It can also save you hundreds on taxes every year. So you'll profit from a UCB IRA long before you retire. We give you several IRA options to choose from. All offering steady growth potential. The UCB Fixed Rate IRA guarantees your interest earnings remain at a constant level. The UCB Floating Rate IRA earns current money market rates.

And the UCB Self-Directed IRA is perfect for the individual who wants complete control over his investments. It's the one plan that gives you the flexibility to buy common stocks, corporate bonds and government bonds. Plus earn money market rates. We'll be glad to help you select the IRA that best meets your needs. Just contact your United Carolina Banker. We'll show you all the right reasons to open an IRA at UCB.



COMPLETE INTERIOR DECORATING SERVICE
 —Leveler blinds —Carpet
 —Vertical blinds —Wallpaper
 —Draperies

Original paintings by Bryan Varnam

Ocean Isle Interiors
 3 Ocean Isle Square
 Ocean Isle Beach Causeway
 579-6091

Long Beach Interiors
 6402 C.E. Oak Island Dr.
 Long Beach, 278-3959

© 1984 THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

LEE LANGSTON, M.D.
 proudly announces the
 association of
JON L. LANGSTON, P.A.C.
 (formerly of Waccamaw Medical Center)
 (Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina)
 in
 the general practice of medicine
 at
 Main Street
 Shallotte, North Carolina
 (next to Thomas Drugs)

OFFICE HOURS:
 Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
 9 p.m.-1 p.m., 2:30 p.m.-6 p.m.
 Sat. 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

CALL FOR APPOINTMENTS
 TELEPHONE
 754-8731