

## THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, February 28, 1985

## View Atop New Bridges Will Be Spectacular

Watching the new high-rise, fixed-span bridges take shape over the Intracoastal Waterway to Ocean Isle and Holden Beach is exciting in a number of ways.

The magnitude of the two projects makes them interesting to watch as concrete footings and column supports are poured, mounds of earth moved for approaches and, finally, the sections are connected and the bridges begin to take shape.

It's great, too, to watch as over \$10 million of federal and state tax money is spent on the two bridges in Brunswick County. It is time some taxes were returned for major projects in this part of the state.

Progress on the two bridges has been faster than was expected and it appears now that traffic may be zipping across the new spans perhaps sooner than the summer of '86, as was projected.

The most exciting aspects of the new bridges are yet to come, however. Being able to cross over the waterway without waiting for boat traffic, automobiles traveling in the other direction, or for repair of the decrepit swing bridges, will be a long-awaited convenience.

The new bridges will also make the islands safer for residents and vacationers in case it becomes necessary to evacuate one person or everyone in a big hurry.

Another exciting aspect is imagining what the view will be like atop these bridges—especially the one at Holden Beach. Both bridges are being built very close to the ocean. At the top of the 65-foot arch over the waterway, the view of the islands will no doubt be spectacular.

The Holden bridge is bound to have the best view since it is so close to the ocean that it will empty out on Ocean Boulevard, affording a panoramic view of the island as one comes down the sharply curving structure. The view from the two new bridges ought to more than make up for any nostalgia associated with the old-timey swing bridges.

Some folks think the new bridges will quicken the pace of development on the islands. One real estate sign advises buying property now at "pre-bridge prices." It is doubtful that the bridges will make that big a difference in development since the present swing bridges never discouraged development or kept visitors away.

## Parents, Please Report To The Office

Teachers at Irving Elementary School in Garnett, Kan., have come up with one way to get parents out to visit their children's school. A "parent fair" was held recently where there was plenty of activities for children, but the kids could not participate unless their parents also came along.

That bit of information was passed along recently in the February edition of the National School Public Relations Association's newsletter, "It Starts in the Classroom." Along with the creative "parent fair" was a baby-sitting session for the parents who could participate in two of the five workshops offered while students enjoyed the activities.

The newsletter also stated that parents of high school students were even being lured to school with the help of another creative program at Capital City High School in Topeka, Kan. Parents there had to attend their youngsters' classes to retrieve scavenger hunt items that enabled their children to earn points.

When parents or the students' guests found all the items and the points were awarded by the teachers, the parents also won refreshments served by the home economics class.

A recent discussion with West Brunswick High School Assistant Principal Maliston Stanley pointed out the declining role of parents in today's educational system. Administrators at West Brunswick are terribly discouraged over the lack of parent interest in the school and their students. It only takes a drug incident like the one involving ten students who were either expelled or suspended from school last week to add fuel to the fire.

There is an average of 950 to 980 students enrolled at West Brunswick each school year. However, parents do not visit the school, even when lured with the chance to receive their child's report cards a day ahead of time at open house, or when requested to report to the office to deal



Terry Pope

with a student's discipline problem.

"I doubt seriously that at any given time have we had more than 150 parents here during an open house," Stanley said. "Most of the parents who do show up are the ones whose kids are already on the right track."

It is Stanley's responsibility to deal with discipline problems at the school, and often he is kept busy dealing with both delinquent students and parents. Teachers there are also trying to open up the school to parents during school hours by arranging conferences between 2:40 and 3:30 p.m. However, teachers who are willing to stay after school or give up a free period to meet with parents are finding little to do during those hourly sessions because parents are not showing up.

As a student, my schools never had treasure hunts or "parent fairs," and open houses were like ghost city. Those parents who were dragged out at night to the schools stayed long enough to pick up the students' report cards from the homeroom teachers and usually left.

A creative idea, like a "parent fair" may help, but I have no idea what the answer is. Apparently, neither do many professional educators, or else we'd see a change in the trend.

Stanley feels there is a direct correlation between the parents who are interested in their child's education and the performance of the students in the classroom. It is a national breakdown in communications that West Brunswick officials are convinced they must fight. Good luck.

## It's A Shame To Litter Countryside With Trash

To the editor:

My husband and I purchased four lots in Brunswick County approximately five years ago. We built a small cottage and cut down trees and shrubs and cleared off the lots. We try to keep our yard neat and clean and pick up any debris we find in and around our yard. We have even planted flowers and plants, trying to make our little cottage presentable and looking neat and clean.

However, I have noticed over these years (and it seems to be getting much worse) how people throw their trash and garbage into empty lots

and along side the roads. Brunswick County and Shallotte and Holden Beach are beautiful and have many natural resources; it is a shame that the countryside is being littered with trash and garbage.

At first I thought the fault lay with the summer tourists, but this is not the case, as my husband and I visit Holden Beach and our cottage all year round, and we have noticed that it is the homeowners who live there year 'round who seem to have junk, trash and papers scattered around their porches and yards.

I love Brunswick County, Shallotte and Holden Beach. I love to come

down on the weekends and in the summer. I love to bring my small grandchildren as they also love it. I leave the beach areas, my cottage and my yard neat, clean and with the grass cut, and I urge you to please get across to the people in your area that they need to spruce up and clean up.

This does not apply to all the residents of Brunswick County, Shallotte or Holden Beach, as there are many beautiful homes and yards there, but I have watched as more and more people seem to be hoarding their trash, old junk automobiles and papers in their yard and around their

homes.

Perhaps with the coming of spring, people will take pride in their homes and yards and roadways and clean up the debris. I hope so, because if they don't, I am afraid Brunswick County will have a lot of people moving elsewhere and a lot of potential homeowners looking elsewhere.

Thank you for letting me blow off steam. I do this, not in malice, but because I do love Brunswick County and its people. It could be a beautiful, historic piece if only a little bit of pride were used.

Mrs. Peggy G. Holder  
North Carolina

## Compare Equal Items, Not Advertised Specials

To the editor:

I read with interest your article (Market Basket Survey, Feb. 21 issue). Although I know that you are trying to inform your readers, I feel that you should take a look at this survey.

Although your prices put Wilson's at the lowest, I feel that 20 items out of the sum of 10,000 carried by these grocery stores is not a final result within itself.

However, of the 20 items that you priced in the four grocery stores, I was pleased that Hill's had the lowest prices on the four items that are in the top 50 Sami items in North

Carolina, being Minute Maid Orange Juice, Cottonelle 4-roll pack, Nabisco Chips Ahoy, and Kellogg's Fruit Loops, as well as being competitive on Dixie Crystals Sugar.

I feel that no specials should have been included in this survey. For example, Hill's had Pepsi 2 liter for 79 cents while Wilson's had Coke for 99 cents but your survey quoted it at 89 cents. Hill's also had 2 liter Cokes for \$1.39 while Wilson's had 2 liter Pepsi at \$1.39. When you compare prices, you should compare equal items and not advertised specials.

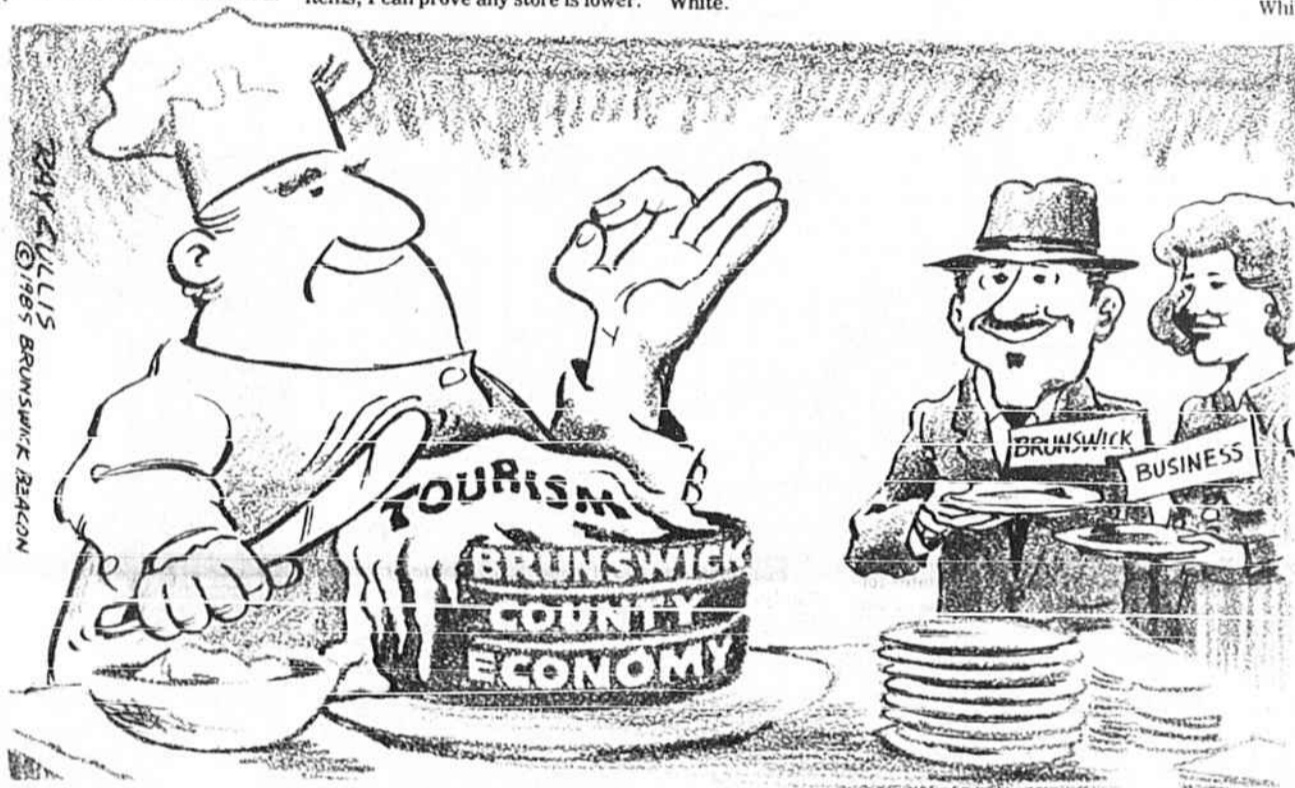
I can go into any grocery store in the United States and if I can pick the items, I can prove any store is lower.

In fact, I can go in any store and find more than 20 price errors since we depend on people to make price changes.

I am sure that you people work hard to have a good newspaper, and I admire you for this; but let me also state that the three stores represented in Shallotte (Wilson's, Red & White, and Hill's) are also dedicated grocery people working hard to bring people into the Shallotte area with food at the lowest possible prices. The Wilson family are all good friends of mine who work hard to run good food stores and so are Gerald and Wayne Long of the Red & White.

Again, thank you for your interest in grocery stores, and I can assure you that Hill's intends to work hard to have prices as low as possible. Our profit is certainly no secret. Hill's, as well as other grocers, operates on a very small amount of profit. In fact, our profit after basic expenses such as power, water, labor, etc. runs one percent, which means that out of every \$100 spent in our stores, we make \$1.00 before taxes. So there is no tremendous amount of profit involved.

Dewey Hill  
Chairman of the Board  
Hill Food Stores, Inc.  
Whiteville



## Lucky Devils: They're Doing Great

Sometimes when I see friends doing what they want to do in the place they want to be, I get all mooshy and warm inside. Weird, huh?

It's happiness for them, I guess, mixed with a little pride and a dash of envy or self-doubt: Lucky devils.

On our recent Beacon outing to Chapel Hill, I visited Dave and Anna Donnally and that's how watching them made me feel.

We had great fun eating Chinese, playing Trivial Pursuit and scrounging around in the cold at the State Fairgrounds flea market. I do owe Anna and Dave apologies since my thank you note's still in the desk.

Anna was branch supervisor at the library here until last August. She was so interested in everyone and eager to help that we couldn't help but love her immediately. Dave was parks and recreation director for the City of Southport. Through Anna, I feel as if I've known him for a while. They're people who make you feel instantly at home.

After several years in the "real" world, both are back in school pursuing master's degrees: Anna at the UNC-CH School of Library Science, Dave at N.C. State University, where outdoor recreation is part of the School of Forestry.

They live between Raleigh and Chapel Hill in Durham County with a cat that likes to dig in the jade plant pot. I wouldn't mind having their patio home in Parkwood Estates. It's just right for one or two people.

Dave showed me a split Carolina/State bumper sticker he and Anna have already outgrown, as of January their loyalties are more divided than ever.

After a semester in the North Carolina Collection at UNC's Wilson Library, Anna now interns at the reference desk of Perkins Library on the Duke University campus. It's exciting—Perkins is considered a "plum" among the job pickings available to library students.

Anna's making good grades, enjoying school and wearing a T-shirt that celebrates getting through her first

Susan Usher



semester "core" curriculum alive.

Dave's not doing badly himself—there's another woman in his life. He spends all his out-of-class hours with Lisa. Dave likes to talk about her even when Anna's around. Lisa's an artist, editor, statistician and much, much more. (If you haven't guessed, Lisa's a computer with fantastic software.)

In addition to his work for various professors, Dave's using Lisa to set up records for the state Senior Olympics games, a project he's really excited about. His enthusiasm was contagious, so I hope if you're 55ish or

up, you'll sign on. Dave and his cohorts are trying to make it worth your while not only to enter locally, but to win.

At the state level, organizers are lining up excellent sponsors and a posh welcome for the seniors who advance to state competition—including welcome kits, lodging, "uniforms" and an opening day parade of athletes. Sounds glamorous.

He'd like to see some Brunswick County faces there—maybe even his dad's if Mr. Donnally does well in the local golf competition.

If you're interested, Dorene Vereen at the Brunswick County Parks and Recreation Department is coordinating local participation. I understand. Dave would sure like to see your name pop up on his computer.

Anyway, in case you've been wondering, both Dave and Anna are doing great and staying super busy

between classes, research and work. It's probably the most exciting time of their lives. Why not drop them a line or give them a call next time you're in the Triangle area.

On The House

More on the house that was recently moved from downtown Shallotte to be restored. In a feature story last week we referred to it as the Bascom Stanley home—the name most longtime Shallotte residents know it by.

Deedy Robinson, who provided a lot of the family history associated with the house, called to say it should more appropriately be referred to as the John H. White house, after its original owner. Good point, Deedy, and in any future story about its restoration, we'll try to keep that in mind.

If you happen to have a story or picture you'd like to share concerning our area's past, give us a call at The Beacon, 754-6890.

## Our Quest For Relationship

In a new book entitled *Biophilia*, Edward O. Wilson explores the need we all have for relationship with other living things. He writes, "We are in the fullest sense a biological species and will find little ultimate meaning apart from the remainder of life." He takes the exploration beyond the realm of curiosity to look at the innate need we have which causes this quest for relationship.

This search seems especially keen in children. We can see it every summer on our beaches as children are fascinated with almost any form of living things. Unfortunately, many of us lose this awareness as we get older and take on more responsibility and have less time to be in and relate to our natural environment.

Edward Wilson shrugs off the idea of establishing space colonies for humans. He is a scientist with interests in extraterrestrial exploration



Bill Faver

and has the expertise to know what he is saying. Although certain we can maintain such colonies in a physical sense, he doubts the colonists could maintain their sanity and their humanity apart from the natural environment.

Forests and swamps are fascination places for Wilson. He feels knowing their inhabitants and our ties to them elevates the concept and meaning of life. Our quest for relationship with other living things is biological and was bred into us as a means of survival over millions of years as our

ancestors were in constant contact with all parts of their environment.

Frank Graham, Jr., in reviewing Wilson's book in *Audubon* magazine writes, "He mourns the irreplaceable living treasures swallowed every day as the tropical forests disappear, and he urges us to try harder to hand to future generations a full complement of Earth's plants and animal diversity." Wilson feels this would be "an expression of the highest morality of which human beings are capable."

*Biophilia* offers some interesting material for thoughts about our quest for relationship. Perhaps those of us who live along the shores and the woodlands of Brunswick County have a greater opportunity than many other people to understand Edward Wilson's ideas and to find deeper meanings in life as we experience our "quest for relationship."