

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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## A Welcome Addition

Like to make some extra money and be of service to your community at the same time? Now there is an easy way to do both.

One of the worst blights on the face of an otherwise beautiful Brunswick County is litter. Discarded aluminum cans, many tossed out of car windows by thoughtless motorists, are a big part of this litter blight.

Now that an aluminum recycling center has opened right here in Shallotte, it should provide an incentive for accumulating and collecting the cans which litter the roadsides.

Now it is convenient as well as profitable to take the cans to the recycling center, which pays cash for the trash.

Of the many new businesses and services which have come to Shallotte in the past couple of years, the recycling center is perhaps the most needed and welcome addition of all.

## Respect For Life!

Some years ago a group of young people and I were seated in a circle at a church camp in South Florida. We were discussing snakes and mosquitos and other natural life we considered to be "useless" or "evil". The inevitable question finally came, "If God is in control and God is good, why do we have evil in the world?" I don't remember much of the discussion nor the answers we posed, for it is a question folks have struggled with through the years. But I do remember one boy's comment: "They were created for a purpose and we may not know what that is, but we ought to respect their life."

I've thought about that statement when someone steps on ants on a sidewalk—just because they are there; or when someone kills a spider because they don't like spiders; or when kids club to death ghost crabs on the beach because they have nothing else to do. Many of us don't have the respect for life we ought to have.

Perhaps part of the reason lies in the violence on television and in movies. If we don't like something we wipe it out. We eliminate anything that might get in our way—impede our happiness!

Perhaps we don't appreciate the importance of the non-human life forms or see what they contribute to our world. We might feel it doesn't matter whether they live or die.

## Goodbye, Chevette; Hello, Tercel

Partings aren't much fun. Last week the time came to say goodbye to the little metallic blue Chevette—well, almost goodbye. It's parked up the street, awaiting a new owner.

We'd been partners since June 1978, when the old blue Pontiac died in the middle of the road somewhere on Highway 18. The Chevette was the cheapest automobile for sale in Morganton, but the only colors on the lot were red with a black interior and silver with a red interior. I didn't want either one. Overnight Scott Cutting got the blue one for me from several counties across the way. It came equipped with carpet and an AM radio.

The car salesman tossed in free lessons in how to drive a straightshift and we drove all over Burke County, acquainting the car with all the spots a news reporter sometimes has to travel—from the Linville Gorge to Lake Rhodhiss.

Since then, the Chevette has logged 147,000-plus miles—most of them on business. The car's still running, but it's no longer as reliable as it should be for a single woman who travels a great deal at night. And repair and maintenance bills had started adding up to almost the equivalent of a monthly car payment—only they didn't come at predictable intervals.

In anticipation of the Chevette's



Bill Faver

adherence to principles.

Respect for life is always tied in with the predator-prey relationship, too. The traditional view of the hunt and hunted is that such a relationship is a part of the natural order—the cycles in the food chain. There is always that tension between respect for life and the need to kill for food. We as humans are supposed to be able to understand and apply reason to the need to take life. Other animals are supposed to hunt out of basic instinct and need for food.

Some people get upset over predators, such as hawks, owls, wolves, etc. when they eat a chicken or a lamb. We label them "bad" and seek to eliminate the "bad" bird or animal. Not many of us think we are "bad" when we sit down to a platter of fried chicken or roast lamb.

We may not know the reason some creature is alive and functioning in our world. We may not feel it is very important because it is smaller than we are. We may even wish it were not here, but we need to have respect for its life. We need to be thankful we share the earth with such a variety of interesting and exciting life forms. And we need to be thankful something bigger than we are hasn't decided we are useless and stepped on us on a sidewalk!

semi-retirement, my brother-in-law started the rounds of car lots about a year ago. But at every bottom line, I'd chicken out, seriously considering getting the Chevette's engine rebuilt instead, though it doesn't need it. It's all the other parts that are gradually wearing out.

So why am I driving a new car? Terry Pope, of course! He bit the bullet and bought a four-door mint green Tercel several weeks ago, sending his little Corolla out to pasture in Leland.

If he could do it, well... As of Thursday, the bank and I are proud owners of a white, two-door Toyota Tercel. By the time you read this column, the Tercel will also feature FM radio and air conditioning—the two luxuries promised my next car.

And the little blue Chevette? Well, it's probably feeling pretty useless and abandoned about now. Give it a beep when you go by, okay?

# Bumpy Bridge Causes Troubled Lives

Each morning I grip the steering wheel and keep my head rigid, my eyes focused straight ahead, while driving down Ocean Boulevard at Holden Beach. For the longest distance, I fear to even glance to the left until it's time to actually turn to cross the drawbridge.

That first glance west is enough to either make or ruin a man's day. If red lights are flashing and a red and white gate is dropped across the street, suddenly the morning



Terry Pope

temperature jumps into the 20s in the air conditioned car.

If you're lucky, you'll see a green

light and floor the accelerator as you make your turn, hoping to trail over at least on the yellow caution light and join the tail end of the other traffic.

Usually there are several large sailboats either anchored or patiently churning the waterway, waiting for the hour when the bridge opens. You pass over and look down below, knowing how the boaters must feel just from the experience of having to wait yourself.

Holden Beach's delapidated

drawbridge is controlling lives and creating ulcers, even in its old days. But it won't be long before she is finally allowed her eternal rest. Until then, the suffering continues.

It's obvious that folks waiting to cross the bridge are more and more each day becoming impatient with every bridge opening or red light. While stopped by a red light on the mainland side last week, a Pinto about three or four cars back, floored it and sped around the rest of us stunned motorists.

The Pinto left behind a large gray cloud from about a quart of oil. Up the hill, around the bend, past the red light and across the bumpy bridge it went.

That's really not how I prefer to cross the bridge. I didn't think it was funny then, and I don't think it is funny now. That guy wasted a perfectly good quart of oil. At least have a little respect for the elderly lady.

I've decided that driving across the Holden Beach bridge is like leading an army tank across a mined field. There are mines, or potholes to avoid. I've found the best route to take while crossing from the mainland side is to hug the left rail, thus avoiding two potholes on the right. One hole looks like a metal land mine anyway, or some type of dangerous material.

My family has told me that crossing the bridge is dangerous, that someone needs to take a sledgehammer to it and drive in those spikes that are sticking up all over the place. Everytime I cross the thing, I worry about my front end, the front end of the car, that is, and how bad it is destroying the alignment.

Over at Ocean Isle, the condition is just as bad. In several places, your radials actually touch bare boards while crossing the bridge because the pavement refuses to stay in place despite numerous patching jobs.

But at Ocean Isle, once you pass the bad part in the middle of the bridge, it pays to floor the accelerator if you happen to be driving a small, compact car with 13-inch tires.

I've discovered that crossing the east end of the Ocean Isle bridge can jar your dentures loose if you take it slow and easy. At a faster speed, the tires can skip right over the small cracks and actually smooth out the ride.

People may think it's a crazy idea until they try it. I hate it when the driver ahead of me hasn't figured it out, and forces me to go through torture.

But it's all temporary anyway. The two new high-rise replacement bridges at Holden and Ocean Isle beaches are looking better every day.

## NEWS ITEM SUMMER SUN CREATES A NEW TYPE OF REDSKIN



## Budget Loss Will Cut DSS Chore Services

BY SUSAN USHER

The number of people receiving chore services through the Brunswick County Department of Social Services will be cut by approximately half in the next fiscal year.

In adopting the proposed 1985-86 county budget Monday night, Brunswick County commissioners voted to eliminate \$55,000 the department had requested to supplement state funds for the chore program.

The state block grant that funds several social services programs was not increased for 1985-86, remaining at \$269,000, and did not allow for salary increases or other rising costs. Of that sum, only \$17,143 was available to provide support services such as cleaning, cooking and shopping for elderly persons who otherwise might have to move into a rest home.

County Manager Billy Carter said that in dropping some 40 or more people from the program there was a risk of increasing rest home payment costs, which are more expensive.

In other budget action, a requested clerical position was eliminated, but three positions were approved for the department—a switchboard operator to handle telephone calls, an intake worker to help the department respond more quickly to client applications for service as required by the state, and a finance officer.

Only several hours earlier, social services board members had approved their proposed 1985-86 budget, which also includes a proposed salary increase for the fraud investigation officer and funds to create more offices in existing space.

While uncertain about specific arrangements, both boards agree that their goal is the same: better financial accountability for the department and a better working relationship with the county finance office.

"We're already benefitting," said Finance Director Wallace Harding. "There is more awareness by the board of the problems that exist and more interest in the programs."

The commissioners had discussed two arrangements for the finance officer in charge of the social services accounts: 1) locating the position in the county finance office budget, with the county finance director as the appointing authority; or 2) locating the person in the social services agency, but having them report to the county finance director. Under this arrangement, the county could seek reimbursement for part of the salary from the state.

In any case, County Manager Billy Carter said monthly financial reports to the social services board should be part of the officer's job.

Monday night Rabon said the social services board had expressed a need to have some sort of departmental control over the position.

The point became part of an overall discussion of the relatively few powers granted by state law to the social services board.

While requests to spend money routinely go before the social services board for approval, the board actually has no power to authorize purchases without county approval, County Attorney David Clegg and County Manager Billy Carter advised Rabon.

Expenditures are determined by the budget—which must be approved by county commissioners—and then by departmental staff who review

and budget transfers in the same manner as those of all other departments, Finance Director Wallace Harding added.

Chairman Chris Chappell said he was willing to see the finance assistant located in the social services department under one condition: "Put someone in there as acting director who can relate to what's happening."

Carter, as he said he had done for the past two years, again suggested that someone from the Institute of Government hold a workshop for social services board members on their responsibilities and relationship to the county.

"There is a misunderstanding of that role," he added.

Referring to a Wake County Superior Court decision that ruled the social services board had no authority to reach a personnel settlement with a former employee, Attorney Clegg said, "There was a court decision a week ago that sets out the duties of the board and if they would just read that, they would understand."

## College Students Register Monday

New and returning Brunswick Technical College students will register for the summer quarter from 9-1 and 5-8, Monday, July 1, at the Supply Baptist Church next to the college administration building.

Classes begin Tuesday, July 2 and continue through Sept. 18.

A large number of students are expected to enroll in a short course entitled Typewriting I, according to Connie Powell, college public information officer. The course will meet from 8 a.m. until 10:30 a.m. Monday through Thursday and conclude August 8, she said. "This is the ideal course for someone who would like to learn the touch typewriting system,

master the keyboard, and type business letters and reports in just over a month," said Powell.

Short courses will also be offered during the summer quarter in English composition and college math for the general student. Both courses are expected to be filled with four-year college-bound students who will transfer credit to a university or four-year college as well as students who will enroll in Brunswick Tech's general education program. English composition and college math for the general student will conclude August 8.

More information about classes and registration is available from the office of student affairs.

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