

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, September 12, 1985

## It's Clean-Up Time Along The Highways

State Department of Transportation crews and prison inmates will be out in force this week during their annual fall clean-up campaign, picking up trash along state-maintained roads in Brunswick County.

But the campaign isn't for state employees and prison inmates only. DOT encourages community groups to join the effort and provides free trash pickup bags for those who do. The local DOT maintenance office is located on Mulberry Street in Shallotte.

With all this support, why not round up a few friends and neighbors and give a quick facelift to a stretch of roadway in your neighborhood sometime during the week or coming weekend.

It will be worth the effort.

### GUEST EDITORIAL

## Isn't Someone's Life Worth The Expense Of Lifeguard?

BY ALLAN HILL

The beaches of the South Brunswick Islands appear to be relatively safe for swimming. It does seem this way since drownings are rare. Only when we have a tragedy such as the one this past summer at Ocean Isle do we think about hiring lifeguards.

I tend to strongly disagree with the theory that the presence of parents is sufficient to guarantee the safety of youngsters playing and swimming in the ocean.

From my experience as a lifeguard at Carolina Beach for two years, I get a little nervous about what I see at beaches sometimes, particularly at unprotected ones. Although the great majority of parents keep a very tight rein on children in the water, there are a few quite innocent errors that can turn a holiday into a tragedy. Many of them simply do not know of the dangers that a lifeguard is trained to see.

This past summer, in only a half dozen visits to the beach, I pulled eight people from the surf who were in life-threatening situations. My wife rescued two. I spent a couple of hours one day walking a short stretch of beach warning parents that the particular spot they were taking their children into was a dangerous offset. Not only have I seen parents let their children go straight into dangerous situation, but I have seen parents go right in with them. Among these are:

**Offsets;** the surf crosses a sandbar and converges at a shallow channel to rush back to sea. The current is impossible to swim against. Most people do not see these currents (they are visible), and do not know to swim parallel to the beach to escape, if they can swim. Most of the time a non-swimmer will simply find that he/she is suddenly in deep water and going further out rapidly.

**Rafts/floats;** I call them baby-drowners. Non-swimmers especially should never be allowed to use a raft or float at the beach. As a good swimmer, I will never use one, even at a pool! They provide anything but safety. They do provide a way for children to get in over their heads. Just how safe is a raft if the child falls off and the wind or current takes the raft away? These things also find the nearest offset and drift into them quite effectively. And there's always the wind blowing them out to sea with their cargo.

**Carrying the child;** look at it this way, are you really being a responsible parent if you pick up a child and walk into the ocean until it's over the child's head? You could end up responsible and sorry!

Is even the trivial expense of hiring just one lifeguard at an area beach for the summer season, or all of them, worth someone's life? Even if all he/she did was warn people of the dangers that do exist. Wouldn't it be nice if that's all the lifeguard ever got to do?

## A Peak At TIP Might Yield Surprises

Wouldn't you love a sneak peek at the proposed Transportation Improvement Plan that will be presented to members of the State Transportation Board next month? I would... because I think we'll see some significant changes in priority for Brunswick County projects. Over the long-term those changes might not mean a whole lot—it's true Transportation Secretary Jim Harrington says T.I.P. priorities are good only as long as they remain on the list and the list is subject to change annually, if not more frequently.

The four-laning of U.S. 17 through Brunswick County has been the butt of many a DOT joke when it comes to the Transportation Improvement Plan, with sections moving up and



Susan Usher

down, yo-yo fashion, in priority from year to year. It all seems to depend on whose politics are in favor in Raleigh at that particular time.

A crystal ball—or a direct line to Raleigh—would be nice. But lacking either one, my suppositions are just that—guesses.

Well, my guess is that Brunswick County developers will have the big-

gest voice this year. Why? Because they represent growth and growth represents new money, new voters. Brunswick County is one of, if not the most, rapid-growing areas of the state. Much of that growth is permanent, but we're also beginning to make a big impact on the state's tourism industry—some of it on our own and some due to what's called "Grand Strand overflow."

In any case, Brunswick County is beginning to warrant all the attention we've begged for for years—but some folks may not like the outcome—say the communities between Supply and Winnabow who've been waiting to see a four-lane highway.

Face it, most of the activity in Brunswick County these days is taking place in a small area south of

Shallotte and adjoining the South Carolina line.

This, I suspect, will be reflected in priorities set in the upcoming Transportation Improvement Plan.

What does that mean? Higher ratings for the Shallotte bypass, on which right-of-way acquisition will resume in the spring; for the four-laning of U.S. 17 from Shallotte to the South Carolina line, and for a new high-rise bridge to Sunset Bridge. Maybe the state will even consider paving Georgetown Road, though its population is presently sparse.

In any case, stay tuned. As activity at the high-rise bridges to Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach winds down, things should be picking up to the south and west.

C'est la vie.



### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Is The Pot Calling The Kettle Black?

To the editor:

My husband and I are two of the thousands of people who bought land near Holden Beach for our retirement. Now that the west end is closed, most of us are riding up and down the east end looking for a parking place. There are none on the west end.

It is my opinion that most of the recent ones that have been made on the

east end are to accommodate the condominiums that the real estate people want to build there. They have made no provision for the public.

Anyone who is looking for lots to buy now certainly would not want to buy any place that they cannot park and go to the water. Surf City has a nice parking lot at one end of their beach and that's what we need on the

west end of Holden Beach.

I read in the Beacon about people tearing down sand dunes. None of us want to tear down or litter anyone's property. We are just as proud of Holden Beach as the homeowners living there.

But all of us have seen houses being built on the beach and the sand dunes being pushed away and dug into by

certain real estate developers. Now that's the pot calling the kettle black!

All I am asking for is not to bother anyone, just a decent place to park and enjoy what God has given.

My hat is off to the elder Mr. Holden and for what he has given to Holden Beach.

Blanche C. Koonts  
Lexington

## Take A Good Look At Yourself

To the editor:

Here it is time to renew my subscription and I would like to say I enjoy reading your paper. I would like to throw in a few comments if you don't mind.

We have vacationed at Holden Beach for eight years now and have recommended it to many of our friends which gave it business over the years.

By reading your paper for the past year it has shown us what Holden Beach really is. It is not the best kept secret on the East Coast as it might think.

It is becoming over-crowded, rude, and money-hungry. Take a good look at yourself Holden Beach.

All I read in the paper is about your bickering about one thing or the other—constantly! There isn't all the

fighting at the other beaches around you.

Whereas you used to be a place to get away from it all you are now a place to just run into more fighting and feuding.

You are no longer the peaceful relaxing vacation spot we once enjoyed. You are overdeveloping and expanding so that you are no longer a nice quiet place.

If all I am allowed is a house with a certain beach area with no accesses and not allowed to go about the island and enjoy it fully, then I will stay at home or find somewhere else to vacation.

Wake up and take a real good look at yourself before it is too late.

Mrs. Eric Flinn  
Sandyville, West Virginia

## Acclimatization—Becoming Part Of A Habitat

One of the popular books in environmental education several years ago was on a method the author called acclimatization. This approach encouraged students to become aware of their natural surroundings by becoming a part of a habitat.

This would involve putting oneself into the role of the plant or animal being studied and trying to experience what it might feel like to be that plant or animal.

An example of this is to lie down in tall grass and try to crawl through as a rabbit or other small animal would. No doubt there will be tunnels and passageways between the clumps of grass. The sky will look different from down there and the views of the landscape will take on a new dimension. The grass will provide protection from the hawks and owls overhead and will appear as a sharp contrast to a road or plowed field. You get a different feeling for broomsedge, briarpatches, and open trails!

Another example is in a pond or a stream where you can become a turtle and dive to the bottom, surface, and the climb up on a log (or a dock)



Bill Faver

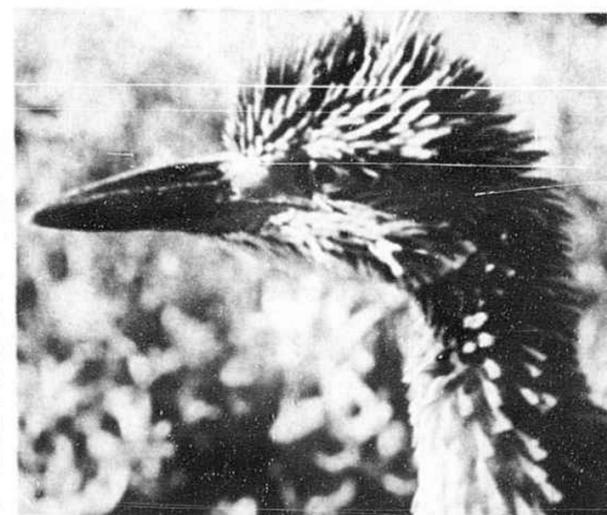
to feel the sun. Or you can become a muskrat, or a fish, or an otter, or a water snake. Or a raccoon in a marsh, looking for clams and oysters.

On the beach we might become ghost crabs, using circles drawn in the sand for holes. We could venture out in search of food and activity, have trusses with other crabs, steal someone else's circle, or scurry back to our own! It may be impractical to imitate a mole crab or a coquina at the water's edge, but we could try to be like a sanderling fast-stepping just in front of the oncoming wave.

Acclimatization is one more attempt at helping people become more aware of their surroundings and the need to preserve suitable

habitat areas for the wild things around them. Perhaps we won't need to crawl through the grass or slither

in the marsh; but we do need to think awareness as we enjoy the pleasures of life where land meets sky and sea!



SOMETIMES IT HELPS TO put ourselves in the animal's role to gain a new awareness of the world around us.

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