

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Thursday, October 10, 1985

Some News Just Has To Be Shared



Susan Usher

Once in a while news comes along that is so good it overshadows anything else that might be going wrong that particular week.

So it was last week, when the Brunswick County Literacy Council got the best package of the year. The thickly-stuffed manila envelope from NCLA, c/o the Scotland County Literacy Council smelled, looked, even felt like hope.

The memo at the top of the sheaf of papers was addressed to all NCLA VISTA literacy councils.

"We are approved for 12 VISTAS and mileage for each. So you may make a commitment for your VISTA NOW!" read the news from Anne G. Tindall, president of the N.C. Literacy Association and the mainstay of the Scotland County Literacy Council.

They say good things come to those who work, pray and wait. Well, members of the Brunswick County Literacy Council have been doing that since the council was formed in 1981. It was begun by people who wanted to teach other adults how to read one-on-one, not by people who knew anything about—or had time—to worry about raising money for teaching materials, recruiting students, training tutors and hassling

with all the administrative details keeping up with the above entails. So we've straggled along, our tutors working on their own in the field with little support, some tutors without students in one end of the county and students without tutors at the other. We couldn't seem to get everything to mesh.

This manila envelope spells hope—because with a locally-recruited Volunteer In Service To America (VISTA), we hope to tidy up all those loose ends and get the council on firmer footing and a more visible footing.

VISTA volunteers live and work among the poor, making a serious commitment to devote one year to helping others. The main requirements for the job are patience, flexibility and a willingness to work hard while mobilizing new resources to solve problems related to poverty.

I'm excited about our VISTA volunteer, one of 12 assigned to various literacy projects across the state to help tackle the state's illiteracy problem. We believe the ability to read and write well leads to success in many other areas of life—enabling people to fill out job applications, read the Bible, labels on food cans and medicine bottles or letters from sons and daughters in service, and follow the directions in a cookbook or crochet pattern. Between 3,000 and 5,000 people in Brunswick County can't do all these things, or can do them not without struggling.

I only wish our mild-mannered lovable chairman, "Clem" Clementson had been here to get the packet in his mail. Instead it was relayed on to council member Daphne Fournier by our comrades, Hugh and Mable Dutton of Holden Beach, who've been keeping up with Clem's mail. In my own mailbox, I received a duplicate package from Anne the following day.

The Clementsons are in New England and won't be back until later in the month. Unfortunately, because of their absence and other delays, the council won't be holding its annual yard sale at the N.C. Festival By The

Sea at Holden Beach. We hope to make up for it with some events in the spring.

Meanwhile council heads (and other parts of the anatomy) went into high gear last week. Doubling themselves, we hadn't done as told and recruited ahead for our VISTA volunteer. We want a local person who knows the county and its people and is committed to the cause of literacy—of helping open closed doors through the magic of reading.

By the time you read this column, we hope to have found the ideal person for the post, someone willing to dedicate a year to a most worthwhile cause for minimal financial reward, but enormous rewards of the heart.

Their goal: to help the council do as the San Fernando Literacy Council wrote: "The greatest good we can do for others is not just to share our riches with them but to reveal their riches to themselves."

It's an exciting challenge, this literacy movement and the opportunity now before it.

Anne Tindall's memo reflects the feelings of literacy workers statewide: "This is both exciting and terrifying. I really feel, even while I am just a bit terrified, that this could be a turning point for literacy in North Carolina."

Oyster Festival Has Good Fringe Benefits

It's time again for the annual N.C. Oyster Festival in the South Brunswick Islands. It's a time when this end of the county puts out the welcome mat for folks far and wide to come enjoy roasted oysters and all the other festivities associated with the big event.

Purpose of the festival originally was to attract more visitors to extend the fall tourist season. It has certainly accomplished this objective. But the festival has some mighty good fringe benefits for residents of the area.

Putting on the festival requires countless hours of volunteer work on the part of members of the South Brunswick Chamber of Commerce, its sponsor, and other civic-minded volunteers. It brings a lot of people together to work on a common project.

The festival instills a lot of pride in residents of the community as they entertain others who have come from all over the country to enjoy for a brief time what Brunswick County residents all too often take for granted.

A cordial welcome is extended to all the visitors here for this festival weekend. And the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce is congratulated for its efforts in continuing to improve the festival each year.

A Time To Return

BY BILL FAVER

The fall season shows signs of slowing down, of maturing, of returning. Grasses turn brown, drop their seed, and die. Trees lose green color as the cool nights slow the food-making process and the reds and yellows blaze forth before the leaves fall to enrich the soil. The youthful excitement of spring and the vigorous routines of summer give way to the calming fullness of autumn.

There is little coincidence that fall is the time of harvest, of homecoming, of ingathering, of returning. A time of substance and wholeness is found in the fall. Maybe it is the squirrel-like intuitions of preparing for the winter, or maybe it is the realization of a full life and the importance of family and friends close by. Fall is thanksgiving time and the time for deep thoughts.

Fall is the time to walk through the woods and fields and along the marshes to find the many evidences of the changing seasons. Watch for seed pods and dried flower heads. Examine the ways seed move about by wind or "hitchhiking" or water. Observe what is happening when leaves fall and form protection for the soil, providing a warm, safe place for seed to be nourished, awaiting springtime germination. Watch the birds and animals as they prepare for winter by gathering food or winging away southward.

Fall is a time of recycling when basic elements contained in plants, insects and animals are released and return to the soil to be used again. Fall is a time of dying for plants and insects and some animals who have lived out their lives. Not the kid of sad death of a flower trampled underfoot in spring or summer, but a fulfilling kind of dying of a plant whose life has been lived out to the fullest in useful purpose.

Fall is a time to return. To return in order that life can go on, either with the renewed vigor from the winter rest or with the use of life-giving nourishment from the recycled elements. There should be no sadness in the fall, for it is a special time as John Donne writes,

No spring, nor summer beauty hath such grace
 As I have seen in one autumnal face.

White's Web Of Fantasy Appeals To Young & Old

Much media attention has been focused on the death of actor Rock Hudson during the past week; less has been said about another well-known person who also died, writer E. B. White.

If White's name doesn't ring a bell for you, perhaps the name of his most famous book might. He was the author of the children's classic "Charlotte's Web."

Children aren't the only ones who enjoy White's books, however. "Stuart Little" is still one of my mother's favorite books. In a university class on the animal fable we studied "Charlotte's Web." E. B. White has a prominent place on the bookshelves of many adults who have no children.

What makes children and adults read his books again and again is the wonderful sense he had for using the exact right word in the right place and the imagination he used in creating his characters and giving



Dawn Ellen Boyd

them life. In a single sentence he could impart more about a character and setting than most writers could in an entire page. He didn't just write words on a page, he used them to paint a scene in the reader's imagination.

One good example comes from "Charlotte's Web" and involves a very famous pig. "It was the best place to be, thought Wilbur, this warm delicious cellar, with the garulous geese, the changing seasons, the heat of the sun, the passage of swallows, the nearness of rats, the

sameness of sheep, the love of spiders, the smell of manure and the glory of everything."

White shared his knowledge as a wordsmith with others when he revised Strunk's "The Elements of Style." Writers still struggle with his short, yet difficult, rule, "Omit needless words."

White's greatest achievement is in how he touches the minds and hearts of his readers and makes them see the world in a new way.

Even children who usually dislike reading seem to be enchanted by White's writing.

When I was young, my mother took my brother Sandy and I to the library each week. Sandy would rather have been outside playing than inside reading, but mother made him check out a book anyway. On one trip he checked out White's "The Trumpet of the Swan." He read it, then checked it out again each week to reread it.

When mother asked him why didn't he try something new he just shook his head and patiently told her, "Mama, this one is the BEST."

One of my friends in high school pretended to hate books, but he admitted once (during a weak moment) he did have a favorite he liked to read from time to time—"Stuart Little."

When a writer can make people who usually dislike books want to read, you know he is something special.

And everything White did, from his "New Yorker" column, to his work with illustrator James Thurber to his children's stories, has a philosophy and humor that is life-affirming and gives insight into human nature.

At least such a great writer has a monument to his life and work. Would you like to see it? Just go to the public library and ask for "Charlotte's Web," "Trumpet of The Swan," or "Stuart Little."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support Group Working To Reopen Beach

To the editor:

I like to think that my children and grandchildren will be allowed to visit the west end of Holden Beach, but Jim Griffin and Holden Beach Enterprises are trying to deprive them of this right by barricading the west end and calling it private property, making it virtually off limits to all but the most able-bodied who are able to hike the 4.7 miles from the nearest parking to the end of the beach.

As a member of the concerned citizens of Brunswick County, I intend to do all that I can to protect this right; and anyone who would like to have access with parking on the west end of the beach should support this group with their presence at the next meeting, Oct. 12 at 10 a.m. at Claude Hoffman's residence on Seashore Road, Holiday Ranches.

Help support us in our effort to get this end of the beach reopened so that we can all enjoy it.

Maxine Honeycutt
 Supply

Opposed To Closing

To the editor:

This is to express my appreciation for your coverage of the Holden Beach west end controversy, especially the Oct. 3 issue. As usual your editorial policy is fair and accurate.

A Brunswick County concerned citizen taxpayer opposed to closing the west end—

Frances J. Morton
 Rt. 3, Supply

Saving Animals Goal, Dream Of League

To the editor:

Most of us when we carry animals to the animal shelter (dog pound) have hopes that someone will adopt and love them, but it doesn't always work out that way. Many are being killed every month.

It is possible to keep them only for a short period of time for lack of space. Let us urge everyone to have their pets spayed or neutered to help

cut down populations, thus helping to avoid this terrible situation.

If you do not have a pet, help us by adopting one from the animal shelter. The goal and dream of the

Animal Welfare League is that one day not one animal will have to die.

We appreciate those of you who have given to the league and we welcome those who have purchased

membership cards. Save a pet, animals give much love. A member of the Brunswick County Animal Welfare League—

Alma Tolson
 Rt. 6, Shallotte

Merchants Should Return The Business

To the editor:

I am pleased and proud to live in the fastest growing county in North Carolina. I am also pleased to be a part of that growth by having a business here.

It distresses me very much to see the number of business people in Brunswick County who go outside our county to do a majority of their

Concern Is Appreciated

To the editor:

A thank you to the concerned parents of Brunswick County who brought their children to the fingerprinting of children sponsored by the Pilot Club of the South Brunswick Islands.

A special thank you to Don Gates, crime prevention officer, Ocean Isle Beach Police Chief Jerry Gurganus and Shallotte Police Chief Don Stovall, who gave their time in fingerprinting the children.

We truly appreciate everyone's concern for the safety of our children.

Sherry Roseman, President
 Pilot Club of the
 South Brunswick Islands

Proud Of Home

To the editor:

I am a resident of Brunswick Village Rest Home at Shallotte. I would like for the people of Brunswick County to know that they can be proud to have a facility of that type in their county.

The staff workers have total compassion for the residents there and see that they have excellent care.

Brady Leroy Long
 Shallotte

business. While it is true that there are some items difficult to find here, I would bet that over 90 percent of the items purchased in Wilmington, Whiteville, Myrtle Beach and other outlying areas can be found right here in our own back yard.

How can a merchant expect to keep a neighbor as a friend when he drives 50 miles one way to buy something he can buy right next door? How can a banker or a person who sells insurance, hardware, food, real estate, furniture, or provides professional services to his neighbors, not return the business?

Check closely, the prices are not always lower away from here,

especially when you consider the extra time, gasoline and vehicle wear. You should also remember that when something goes wrong, you have that same trip to make, this time unplanned, to get the problem corrected.

I ask my neighbors, friends, investors and anyone else who has an interest in the future of Brunswick County to trade with me, and you can bet I won't be driving any 30, 40 or 50 miles to buy what my friends are selling nearby. I want my neighbor to appreciate my business as I appreciate his.

Jack S. Scarborough
 Holden Beach

Get Rid Of Unsightly Blemish

To the editor:

During the summer of 1985 we rented, as has been our custom for many years, the Ranger cottage on Hillside Drive at Holden Beach. This will serve to inform you that this is not a complaint based on a one-time visit. Rather it is written in the hope of a significant action.

When we arrived in 1985 we were astonished to learn that the obscene remains of a water slide, the remnants left by Hurricane Diana, still remained standing across the street, still surrounded by a fence and filled with scummy vegetation.

Of course, inside the fence the passing public had begun to deposit trash—cups, paper, bottles and other unsightly items. Further, the cement pool where the persons who at one time used the slide ended their trip remained standing intact and filled with water. This is an ideal place for mosquitoes to breed. There stood the ruin, an unsightly blemish on landscape once a part of a beautiful beach.

Many of us were amazed to learn that the town of Holden Beach had

done nothing whatever to get the unsightly mess removed. Certainly health and decency require action. Just how long the city fathers expect the general public to tolerate such an obvious, unsightly nuisance is something we cannot answer. But they don't have to come.

Certainly there is within city charters in the State of North Carolina a sufficient grant of power to have that property cleaned up and if the owner refuses to have it done, the city should have it done and require the owner to pay for such action. Or sell it at public auction for the charges.

Such mosquito breeding grounds and junky places serve to destroy the one-time reputation of Holden Beach as a place to come. While we were there the slide area became a happy meeting ground for assorted drunks, too.

Any help you can give towards getting this problem solved will be appreciated.

Bennett H. Wall
 Athens, Ga.

Employment Policy Is Disturbing

To the editor:

With a bowed head, humble heart, watered eyes and drooping spirit, I express my deepest concern over what seems to be racial discrimination that appears to overshadow the hiring of personnel at the U.S. Battleship North Carolina.

When the cry was made to let's bring the battleship home to North Carolina, school children both black and white came together collectively begging dimes, nickles and pennies to bring home and secure a permanent resting place for the U.S. Battleship North Carolina.

Now it appears that in 1985 the assistance of black folks is no longer needed as far as being recognized in the employment of personnel at the resting place of the battleship.

It also appears that no effort is being exerted to hire any person in con-

nection with battleship employment except whites. I was somewhat disturbed and surprised at this gross racial discrimination until I remembered that this was the home of "The Wilmington Ten."

Jesse A. Bryant, President
 Cedar Grove Branch NAACP
 Supply

Can't Do Without It

To the editor:

Enclosed you will find my subscription renewal to the Beacon for another year. Just can't do without it.

Horace W. Hall
 Randleman