

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Bridge For Sunset Is Good Investment

The Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association is on weak ground in opposing a new high-rise fixed-span bridge to the island on grounds that it would be a waste of taxpayers' money.

Replacing the rickety one-way pontoon bridge with one which allows both vehicle and boat traffic to flow freely will, in a few years, save money. Maintaining the old bridge and manning it 24 hours a day, seven days a week, is costly. Tax money can be poured in this funnel forever without filling the transportation needs on land or in the Intracoastal Waterway.

Building a permanent concrete structure such as the one at Ocean Isle Beach and the one under construction at Holden Beach, is a sound investment of taxpayers' money. Replacing the present bridge at Sunset with another one which has to be opened and closed would be the biggest waste of money one can imagine.

The root cause of the SBTA's opposition to a modern bridge is, no doubt, that traffic to the island and its development will accelerate. And while one cannot deny that a new bridge might affect the situation to some degree, development and traffic will increase even if the old pontoon bridge remains the only way to reach the island.

Granted, there are not enough year 'round residents at Sunset Beach to justify a replacement bridge. The same is true of Ocean Isle and Holden beaches. The new bridges are not being built simply for the convenience of a few permanent residents of the islands.

The steady stream of traffic across the barrier island bridges during the tourist season more than justifies construction of modern bridges which do not have to be opened and closed to let boat traffic pass. For safety's sake, access to and from the islands by emergency vehicles is vital. Lives may be lost if rescue vehicles are delayed. A house fire can wipe out a whole section of cottages while a fire truck waits on the other side of the bridge.

Steadily increasing numbers of commercial and pleasure boats on the Intracoastal Waterway justify construction of bridges which do not have to be opened for boats to pass.

Opposing unbridled development of the county's beaches is understandable. Many groups and individuals share this stand with the SBTA. But there are other ways to control growth without trying to block development of adequate transportation facilities such as a badly-needed bridge for Sunset.

Here's To Blackeyed Peas and Greens

Well, I'm following the advice of Home Economics Extension Agent Mary Russ and stocking up dried blackeyed peas for New Year's Day.

It's not that she or I necessarily believe that blackeyed peas bring good luck for the coming year—though personally I wouldn't want to gamble by not eating peas on New Year's Day.

One year, when Mom had to work late at the drug store in Shallotte, she left my sisters and me in charge of the peas. We burned them. Talk about bad luck that year; you wouldn't believe it if I told you.

So faithfully, on the night of December 31st, I put on my pot of peas to soak, shortening the cooking time in doing so. Next morning, I stirner them with a little salt pork or ham for flavor.

If nothing else, I know that when combined with the grains in cornbread they make a high-protein, low-cost meal, a good way to save on the meat bill. (Vegetarians, leave out the pork.)

I have more uptown friends that make fancy blackeyed pea salads or purees that they serve in equally fan-



Susan Usher

cy party dishes. But I'll stick to plain old peas and cornbread.

Our family always adds greens for even more good luck; one look at what smelled and tasted like algae used to make me gag, so I'd skip that part. Maybe that's why I have no money. (Some excuse, huh?)

One story goes that the more greens you eat on New Year's Day, the more greenbacks will come your way during the year, promising wealth and prosperity.

It took a long time, but I've finally learned to eat collards. Maybe this is the year I'll become prosperous, or if nothing else, learn how to manage my money better.

Care to join me? At least we'll start the year off eating healthy.



Joy To The Earth!



Bill Faver

This Christmas we enjoyed again the familiar strains of "Joy to the World." This beautiful carol reminds us of the meaning of the season as Christians celebrate the coming of Christ into the world to restore man's relationship with God. Most of our churches emphasize this belief all year long, but Christmas is the special season for celebrating. What many of us overlook is how the coming of Christ also restored man's relationship with the Earth.

It is true that many of the references to nature in the Bible are there because of the rural, agrarian setting of the times. But there is also a continuing theme which surfaces to show that man must "get right" with the Earth. The Genesis account shows man as created in God's image and put in dominion all over the other creatures as steward or caretaker. The story of the fall from the Garden

of Eden is supposed to have cursed man with having to till the soil and fight against nature to survive. Some of the prophets like Isaiah and the Psalmist wrote of the joy of nature at the coming of the expected Messiah. Though these references may be metaphors, they can illustrate the importance these people placed on a right relationship with nature.

Some theologians blame the environmental problems we have on the beliefs of Judaism and Christianity that place man in a position of dominance over the rest of creation.

They see man as exploiter, rather than as steward. Rather than caring for the Earth, man only used it for his needs without much concern for the future. Land was plentiful and "used-up land" could be discarded as the user moved on.

The coming of the Saviour should have made a difference. Probably some of the reluctance to relate the Christian message to nature was due to the "nature worship" of some of the countries surrounding the early Christians. The difference I see is that we don't attempt to "find God" in nature; but those who know God through Christ can see nature in a new light.

So, let's also sing "Joy to the Earth" this Christmas season! In doing so, we acknowledge our role as stewards of the Earth, as caretakers who are responsible to the Creator for our special position.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Subscribers Write Notes With Checks

To the editor:
 Enclosed is a check for a one year subscription for my brother as part of his Christmas gift.
 He and his wife spent some time at Ocean Isle Beach this summer and fell in love with it. They are now in the process of finding them a vacation place there.

I enjoy receiving the Beacon each week and keeping up with the news there, as it is "second home" to me and my family.

To all at the Beacon, have a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

Carlene F. Hedrick
 Kernersville

Please renew my subscription for another year. The entire family looks forward to the Beacon coming to us on Thursday. Don't want to miss a single copy!

The Rushing family
 West End

Enclosed you will find a check for renewal of my subscription to The Brunswick Beacon. I've enjoyed the contents of the past year and look forward to the same (or even better) coverage of the upcoming year. Keep up the good work!!!

David B. Johnson
 Calabash

Enclosed is my check for a two-year subscription to your great newspaper to be mailed to Wade Shelton in Liberty. We couldn't think of a better birthday present for anyone who loves the barrier islands as we do.

Carol F. Pike
 Liberty



In The Quiet Of Winter

A pond in winter repose offers a chilly beauty of its own—in the surrounding stillness, a glazing of thin ice and in the tall cypress that rise from waters dark and deep.

STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Happy New Year!

from the staff of

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

1962

1986

In our 24th year of service to Brunswick County!

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