

# THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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Page 4-A Thursday, July 10, 1986

## Life Without Cards: What A Joke



Susan Usher

A young cousin of mine was upset the other day. He'd opened a checking account at a local bank. The teller gave him some counter checks and promised he'd have no trouble using them until the imprinted checks with his name and address arrived. Right off, of course, he went to a local store to try out this new means of barter. He was all grown up and proud as punch. It didn't work.

The kid was embarrassed almost to death in the checkout line when the clerk wouldn't accept the counter check with presentation of only his driver's license. "You must have proper identification," she told him, ticking off a few that no self-respecting teenager would own. It was as though he didn't exist—something his mother, at least, would find hard to believe since she

getting the cards replaced, I was a missing person. I couldn't get money out of my bank account. I couldn't register for classes. Nothing. But the landlady, power company and service station still wanted to be paid. No one else believed I was Susan Thames Usher anymore and I was even beginning to question it myself. These days, you have to have all the right cards to make it. Without two or three different ones on your person at all times, you are in danger of technical invisibility. Remember when you went to get a driver's license? They wouldn't accept one kind of identification, such as a birth certificate. You had to have more. Many a mom has gone home to fetch more papers, more cards. Stop right now. Sort through the items in your wallet or purse. In a pinch, how many of them would be

accepted by the government as identification of who you are? If you were taken hostage somewhere, would anybody ever figure out who was missing?

Some places even require three kinds of identification. I've known people to bring in mail from their creditors just to prove their address is their address.

In Brunswick County, we get to sign our library cards, which comes in real handy at those places that require three forms of identification with your signature on it. Some government agencies just won't accept fishing club membership cards. I know; I tried.

Whatever happens, don't dare lose your driver's license, Social Security card and library card the same week.

You may never be heard from again.

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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Posted Hours Observed At Calabash Post Office

To the editor:

As an employee of the Periwinkle Shop, which is also the Calabash contract Post Office, I would like to respond to a misleading statement made by Calabash commissioner Pat Lewellyn on page one of your newspaper on July 3, regarding the closing of the Calabash Post Office in

the middle of the day.

As of August 1, 1985, when the new contract became effective, the Post Office hours have been from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on weekdays and from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

The Post Office hours are posted at the front door and above the Post Of-

ice boxes for all to see, and there has been continuous service during these hours for the past 11 months.

Prior to that date, the contract hours were from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays and we did abide by the contract.

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## Disregard Shown Once Parking Money Collected

To the editor:

I am a resident of this area and I am angry at the treatment and the ethics used by the man who is in charge of the concession and main parking lot at Sunset Beach, Walter

Smith.

In April of this year, my wife and I decided to buy a parking ticket for the season which would enable us to park and have access to both sides of Sunset Beach from the main pier. At

the time of the purchase, my name was recorded on a list and I was issued a parking card for \$30.

Three weeks ago, through my own carelessness, I lost the parking card. I searched fruitlessly for an entire

week but was unable to find it. So I rode over to the pavilion to discuss the situation with Mr. Smith. I explained to him what had happened and advised him that he could verify my payment of \$30 by consulting his list where the names had been recorded. I supplied him with the number of the missing card.

Mr. Smith bluntly refused to consult his list and told me that he could not and would not issue me a duplicate card, nor would he write a note or anything to help me. He refused to discuss it with me.

I accept full responsibility for losing the parking ticket, but I am certain that the situation could have been corrected and handled with courtesy and at no great effort or cost. If I were requesting something to which I was not entitled, or something that could not be confirmed with a minimum of effort, I could better understand his manner, but there was no excuse for his attitude during our conversation.

By his actions, the image of the business community of Sunset Beach has been darkened. In so doing he exhibited a complete disregard for patrons, once he has collected the money.

It is my hope that other people will not be placed in the same unfortunate position as I was and that Mr. Smith's actions throughout this incident are not reflective of the attitudes of other property owners at Sunset Beach. He has done a disservice not only to me, but to the entire Sunset Beach community.

Raymond G. MacQueen  
 Shallotte

## Pick A Dandelion?

While mowing our growing collection of grasses and weeds we sometimes refer to as a "lawn", I cut for the fourth time a dandelion plant which now has raised its golden-blossomed head for the fifth time. This reminded me of an article I read some years ago on picking a dandelion.

The gist of the story was that you cannot pick a dandelion. People who think about dandelions usually think about one particular part of the plant with which they have had some association.

If you make dandelion wine and have gathered a gallon of flower heads, you don't think about the "puff ball" seed head.

If you have made a wish and blown away the seed from the "puff ball", you aren't that aware of what the flower may look like.

If you are a wild foods freak and have made salad of the young leaves or boiled the leaves for a vegetable, you naturally think about the young green leaves.

The "essence" of the dandelion is none of these; it is the combination of all of them and more.

If you pick the young green leaves,



Bill Faver

you haven't really picked a dandelion because a dandelion has a yellow flower and a seed ball. If you pick the "puff ball" and make a wish, you haven't picked a dandelion because a dandelion is more than the "puff ball".

"Can you really pick a dandelion? Or any other flower? Maybe the meaning of all this that everything in the universe is so interconnected and interdependent that we cannot grasp the vastness of it. For if we could "pick a dandelion" whether it is young green leaves or golden flower head or round, fuzzy "puff ball", we still have not captured the nourishing soil in which the plant grows, or the refreshing rains that have watered it or the energy giving sunshine that has pulled it from the ground.

No, we cannot pick a dandelion; maybe we shouldn't just mow over it,



CAN WE PICK a dandelion?

but appreciate the miracle of life we find there!

## How I Survived A Tropical Storm



Marjorie Megivern

Remember when tropical storm Andrew flirted with us a few weeks ago, skipping up the coast, then out to sea? Well, he spent last weekend in the Cape Fear area, in my house, and left me somewhat stunned, but intact.

This particular Andrew is my three-year-old grandson who demonstrated even more clearly than my mirror just how old I am. When he breezed out with his parents in tow early this morning, after a four-day visit, all I could do was fall back on the bed and stare at the ceiling.

Actually, the exhaustion was due in part to my preparations for this little "disturbance." I had cooked and cleaned, shopped for books and toys,