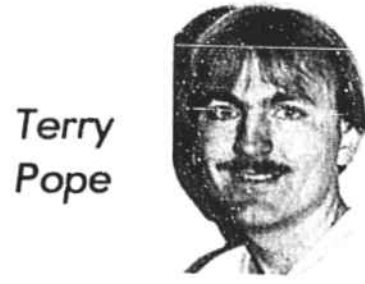


THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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It's 'Back To School' Time, Again



Terry Pope

There are three words that my two nieces hate to hear—back to school. Just point to the words in a newspaper advertisement and they'll scream, "Don't say that!"

Even grown men and disk jockeys resort to whispering when they have to say those three words over the radio. Teenagers don't want to hear such talk when they are still having fun at the beach.

During the morning surfing reports on a local radio station, (which I listen to while driving to work, but I haven't the slightest idea what those surfers are talking about) the Vision Street Wear or skate rags are offered for ten percent off, only because it's "back to school" time.

It's hard to believe that summer is

almost over. Labor Day is just around the corner. My time as an interim staff writer is almost over, too.

In fact, I will be leaving The Brunswick Beacon this week to begin teaching English at South Brunswick High School. Teachers go "back to school" slightly ahead of students, who must report to classes on Aug. 31.

It's a change in careers that I have been considering and working toward for several years, after enrolling in UNC-Wilmington's School of Education. I had previously served as staff writer at The Beacon for two years (1983-85).

I returned to the paper on an interim basis in May, knowing that one day I would be forced to write this column to explain my leave and to say farewell, again. I will miss the news business, The Beacon staff and the South Brunswick Islands. But I won't be leaving the county, for this is my home.

There is a seventh-grader in Ieland who insists on trying to prepare me for teaching. He has informed me that I must get myself a

pair of red, white and black Vision Street Wear tennis shoes. Without those, I will not be ready for school, he claims.

He also believes that I should have my very own surfboard, that every teacher needs to know what kids are talking about when they discuss catching a really radical wave. He has also informed me that surfers and skateboarders are often given a bad name when in fact they possess very high morals.

I'll remember it all. Those are the important things that I must store to memory, along with the educational methods and practices that I picked up while hanging around college for a while.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Hankins Obvious Choice For Superintendent

To the editor:

I'm writing to ask Brunswick County citizens to personally ask the school board to appoint P. R. Hankins the next school superintendent. It seems obvious to me that he would be their choice, but several politicians, black and white, have told me Brunswick County is not ready for a black superintendent. This distresses me.

I taught under P. R. for eight years. I taught under three superintendents in Illinois; one before I got my degree and two in Peoria afterward. I taught under all of the superintendents in Brunswick County from 1972 until 1983. I've also had many social and working associations with PhDs in education and other fields as well. I believe that gives me a background qualified to evaluate him.

P. R. has been an assistant superintendent here for 13 years. He has been over the reading and special education programs, the school media, nutrition, staff development, in-school suspension, county youth council, sexual equality, community schools, equal job opportunity as well as a teacher and principal which have given him a total understanding of all parts of the Brunswick County schools.

P. R. has a rare quality of working relationships with the personnel over whom he has authority. He interacts with gentleness and respect towards all. He encourages personnel to develop their unique potential by bringing in a wide variety of specialists to demonstrate successful materials and techniques from other areas to help expand opportunities for ex-

cellence.

He encourages adoption of only those ideas which an individual responds to with enthusiasm. In other words, he offers the opportunity for growth, but the path is an individual choice. This results in a constant renewal of enthusiasm in guiding children. They, after all, are the important ones.

I have known only one other superintendent, in Peoria, who brought such opportunities for growth and excitement to teachers, helping to fire them up and lead them into becoming better teachers and support personnel. Wouldn't it be wonderful if he (Hankins) were in a position to so inspire all Brunswick County school personnel?

My experience in teaching has convinced me that Brunswick County students are not only highly in-

telligent, but unusually creative when properly stimulated. I'm positive that with P. R. heading the system, Brunswick County schools would become superior to any in the state.

P. R. Hankins offers another advantage. He was born and raised in Brunswick County. He has formed many close associations building mutual respect with influential people by accepting positions on many local boards. His proven intellectual excellence cannot help but enhance a positive attitude and the support of any group of county commissioners towards financial support of the Brunswick County school system.

He knows and understands the people of Brunswick County.

Teddi Neal
Bolivia

Postal Plan Should Work For Shallotte

In the Shallotte area, knowing that someone resides at Route 6, Box 111, doesn't really tell us where that person lives. That's why a proposed U.S. Postal Service road-naming and house-numbering system recently endorsed by Shallotte aldermen is such an appealing project.

Under the plan, every home, apartment, or parcel of land within the town limits will be given a number according to a grid system which uses the present road and street names.

However, the need for such a system extends beyond the Shallotte town limits. County commissioners have been asked for several years to show a little good judgment and endorse the system's countywide application.

Tired of waiting, the Postal Service is moving forward with its countywide proposal—town by town, subdivision by subdivision.

Shallotte joined the list of participants/supporters recently when both the planning board and board of aldermen unanimously endorsed the plan.

There is definitely a need for a simple and workable method for locating rural homes under emergency situations. We live in an area where the bottom line on addresses may include two or three different towns and locations. A simple numbering system for existing homes and lots would allow any person or residence to be reached with speed.

The system should help accommodate the tremendous growth experienced by coastal Brunswick County. We often criticize the postal employees for being slow, but new subdivisions and added rural box numbers are not helping their situation.

The Postal Service has offered a plan to improve delivery service and to possibly help save lives in the process. A grid numbering system would help the address seeker narrow his search down to specific buildings or locations along a street.

Out on Route 6, someone may need help one day. Help can get there faster with a house-numbering system in place.

If North Armed Sandinistas Would Lies Be Less Palatable?

To the editor:

Let me start out by saying that I will admit to being a liberal Yankee, influenced by the eastern radical press, who some day hopes to be able to retire on his land at Holden Beach. With all this in mind, I feel obligated to make some comments concerning Davey L. Stanley's letter in your August 6 edition.

From what I can sense following some weeks of listening to and reading letters from Ollie North's

supporters, it seems that these people feel it is all right for a member of our military service—sworn to uphold the Constitution—to lie to members of Congress, because these supporters believe in his cause.

Suppose Mr. Stanley had learned that Col. North had been instrumental in sending arms to the Sandinistas, rather than to the Contras? Would that then render the lies less palatable? Would Col. North still be

Mr. Stanley's hero? Maybe I'm old fashioned, but I was taught that lying to the Congress, to the American public—or to anyone, for that matter—is wrong.

I would also suggest that Mr. Stanley and his ilk discuss the situation with any European friends they might have and learn what our foreign friends think of the fact that, while President Reagan was preaching to our allies not to trade at

all with Iran, he was aware that we were sending advance tow missiles to the Iran military. No wonder our allies are reluctant to become involved in military ventures with us.

To equate Ollie North's behavior with honorable instances in our past history is an insult to all those who have died for our country in the defense of truth.

Charles A. Frydenborg
Weston, Connecticut



Wishful Thinking?

"Ocean Isle Beach 8 Minutes Ahead"

This is the dazzling promise made by an eye-catching aqua and white billboard on U.S. 17 five miles north of Shallotte.

Gleaming sands and white-capped waves just eight minutes away. What a nice thought for visitors to hold on to on Friday afternoons when traffic's backed up three and four miles north of Shallotte.

But it's only wishful thinking on the part of Ocean Isle Beach promoters.

Under ideal conditions, Shallotte might be eight minutes up the road. But Ocean Isle? Not on your life, not without a jet or, better yet, a miracle.

Not only is it 13 miles from the sign to the resort town no matter the route taken, but also the average speed limit between the two points is about 40 mph to 45 mph.

Driving within the legal speed limits, a driver might make the trip in 20 to 25 minutes if the car passes through Shallotte at 11 p.m., misses all the traffic lights and takes Four Mile Road instead of N.C. 179.

Whoever put up the sign must have been measuring as the crow flies.

Write Us

The Beacon welcomes letters to the editor. All letters must be signed and include the writer's address. Under no circumstances will unsigned letters be printed. Letters should be legible. The Beacon reserves the right to edit libelous comments. Address letters to The Brunswick Beacon, P.O. Box 470, Shallotte, N.C. 28459.

Terry Answers The Beckoning Of The Bells



Susan Usher

It comes every year as September approaches, this urge, this beckoning.

It was in a phone call last week from Mary Lou Furr, a Glen Alpine Junior High School language arts teacher who'd brought her school newspaper staff to Ocean Isle Beach for the week and invited me over to talk shop and old times.

It could almost be seen on the cool northeast breeze that whipped across the porch Wednesday morning.

It's the scent of chalk, floor cleaner and old lockers. It's the call of the classroom.

A fresh start, the exhilaration of learning and doing, sharing ideas. That's the best of school.

Most of the bad—students and teachers who didn't care, rules that didn't make sense, teachers who thought frustration was the key to learning—have faded from memory.

What remains are images of teachers I admired, the role models: teachers who were learners themselves, who liked to discuss books and magazines they'd just read, whose excitement and interest

were contagious, who expected the best from all their students, not just a select few.

In a place way down deep inside, I've always wanted to be one of that select group, a good, really good, language arts-social studies teacher or in the alternative, school librarian. My mother had the same urge, but had to be satisfied with a few good years as a teacher's aide.

Fellow Beacon staffer Terry Pope also has felt the urge. The difference: Last year, he did something about it. He went back to school to earn a teaching certificate.

Last Thursday Terry announced in his quiet way that he'd been hired to teach senior English at South Brunswick High School.

Half of me wanted to jump in his shoes, the other half wanted to run fast in the opposite direction.

Curbing the school-bell tendency hasn't been too hard until now, simply giving back the teachers' scholarship awarded as a senior in high school, slapping myself hard when I almost signed up for a fourth education course in college.

Why? I could say it was the pay, the non-teaching duties, the unresponsive parents and the bureaucracy one has to learn to work within to succeed. And certainly those are factors.

But there's more: What if I walked into a classroom and couldn't strike a chord within those students, perhaps even stifled their creativity instead. Students might claim later they learned in spite of "that old biddy," not because of her.

Terry, fresh from an exciting student teaching experience, doesn't have those doubts and fears. He has felt the calling and has proven to himself he has what it takes.

As he makes the transition from newsroom to classroom, I'll continue to satisfy the classroom urge through

my work with the Brunswick County Literacy Council.

Terry will be missed in the Beacon newsroom and by our readers; we hope he'll continue writing for us as time allows. As for his students, they're getting a good one, I only hope they don't abuse him.

A teaching career is what Terry wants, so we wish him success and the best of all possible futures:

May he find ways to make the system work as it should for him and his students.

May he relate well to his students, and be a good role model.

May he inspire and inflame his students, creating in them a desire to learn independently, simply for the pleasure of learning.

May he have high expectations for each and every student.

May he have involved parents who care about their children's education.

May he have students who are questioning, eager, willing to take direction, to communicate.

And may he have the patience, fortitude and determination of not one, but three mothers.

Chamber Has Come A Long, Long Way

Members of the South Brunswick Chamber of Commerce are receiving letters asking for donations to pay off the debt resulting from renovation and expansion of the chamber's office building.

A lot of members, no doubt, will immediately write a check and return it to the chamber, acknowledging their pride in the new facility and their responsibility to help share in the costs.

After all, many individuals and businesses have already spent a great deal of their time and resources on the project. Were it not for their efforts, the outstanding debt on the project would be a great deal more.

Some members will balk at paying their share. They will likely criticize the chamber for not having raised the money to pay the costs before undertaking the project.

But just as the modernized office building is a reflection of

a growing, maturing, more self-confident business community, the chamber's bold step to improve its quarters is an indication that the organization is keeping pace with the area it serves.

The new office, in the words of Chamber President Alan Holden, "is professional in appearance, functional in design, and impressive to the many visitors we serve each year." It is even more impressive to those who have been members over the ten-year history of the chamber, when it often was a struggle just to survive.

To have reached a point in its development when the chamber can take a bold step and be assured the membership will follow, is a far cry from the old days when it had to beg and couldn't be sure its pleas for help would bring any response.