

We'll Soon Welcome Folks In Style!

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

It's just a matter of months until visitors will cross Brunswick County's state line and find an immediate, tangible welcome.

A stylish building with friendly help and hospitality for the traveler is now rising on the Shallotte bypass with a target completion date of January, 1992. BMCO Construction Co. broke ground in December, 1990, at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Hwy. 130 on the bypass.

Susanne Sartelle, executive vice president of the South Brunswick Island Chamber of Commerce, said the welcome center will occupy about 1,400 square feet and will cost approximately \$80,000 just for construction.

Sartelle is one of eight county people who serve as the board of directors for the project, with Dean Walters as president. Talk of the facility has been in progress for several years. "The DOT (Department of Transportation) made the decision years ago as to the location of this center," she said. "Before making it, they held meetings for public input."

Funding for the project comes from the South Brunswick Islands, Southport-Oak Island, and Greater Wilmington chambers of commerce, as well as the Cape Fear



THE VISITORS CENTER got off the ground literally, last Nov. 1, when Department of Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson, center right, and Dean Walters, member of the Visitors Center board, wielded a shovel together. Other board members look on.

Coastline Visitors Bureau. Brunswick County Board of Commissioners also contributed to the two county chambers for this purpose.

"That's just construction money," Sartelle pointed out. "We depend on individual and business donations for the furnishings."

The center will include a large lobby with a desk and counter, an office, storage room, loft and outside restrooms.

According to Sartelle, the board will soon hire a director for the center who will, in turn, hire a support staff of four, both full and part-time.

Excessive Easter Traffic; Then Memorable Memorial Day

BY MARJORIE MEGIVERN

If you veterans of the Shallotte "creepway" can endure one more indignity over the Easter holiday, a rare treat is in store for you by Memorial Day.

Hardy survivors of bumper-to-bumper holiday processions through Shallotte, impossible left-turns and claustrophobia that accompanies that crawl along U.S. 17, can take heart. Relief is at last in sight!

D.W. Boylston, resident engineer for the state Department of Transportation, while warning of a new and frustrating snarl over Easter weekend, has assured us that by Memorial Day traffic will sail along the completed by-pass.

"For about 90 days, beginning in March, we'll have to turn U.S. 17 traffic at the north end of the bypass onto Red Bug Rd. (State Road 1136)," he explained. "The detour will take traffic to the light at Hwy. 130, then on 130 back to intersect with 17 on the south side."

Boylston pointed out that patience would be required, because the detour road is not as wide as 17 and its shoulders are narrow, too. "It amounts to about 1½ mile longer than going straight down 17," he said.

The good news is that by late May the bypass work necessitating the detour will be complete and so will the 4.8-mile bypass. Well, al-

most. "We'll still have a few things to do, but we can put traffic on the bypass and no one will know we're working on the road," Boylston said.

A sizeable difference in grade at the northern entrance to the bypass required the re-routing of traffic so that two tall banks could be tied together. When completed, motorists coming from Bolivia can turn right onto a level access road.

Boylston said the project, costing \$3.86 million and begun in 1987, is about on schedule. By July of this year all the "odds and ends" will be completed.

Another part of the package is the four-laning of U.S. 17 from north of Bolivia to the South Carolina line. This is still in progress, with only

two sections due for completion this year. Boylston's office said the section from Bolivia to Supply will be finished in September and the segment from Bolivia north to the Hwy. 87 intersection has a December completion date.

Right-of-way engineer, Gordon Bordeaux, acknowledged that a number of buildings, both business and residential, are being relocated in the process. For the two sections remaining in the plan, the one from

Hwy. 211 to Shallotte requires that ten residences and nine businesses be moved; the final, longer segment, from Shallotte to the South Carolina line, will result in the relocation of 43 residences and 29 businesses.

"You must keep in mind," he said, "that some of those businesses are housed in the same building. The total number of businesses does not reflect the correct number of buildings moved."

Island Living

IS PUBLISHED AS A SUPPLEMENT TO
THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
SHALLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA
STAFF

Edward M. & Carolyn H. SweattPublishers
Edward M. SweattEditor
Marjorie MegivernAssociate Editor
Will CockrellGolf Editor
Carolyn H. SweattAdvertising Director
Peggy EarwoodOffice Manager
Timberley Adams & Cecelia Gore ...Advertising Representatives
Tammie Galloway & Dorothy BrennanTypesetters
William ManningPressman
Lonnie SprinkleAssistant Pressman
Brenda ClemmonsPhoto Technician
Cover Photograph by Steve Smith, Photographic Concepts, L.T.D.

Blinds 'n Things

Park Plaza
1451-C Highway 17 South
North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582
Tel. (803) 272-1719

- Mini Blinds • Micro Blinds
- Vertical Blinds • Shutters
- Pleated Shades • Wood Blinds
- Custom Roller Shades
- Silk Arrangements • Bedspreads
- Draperies • Wallpaper

RESIDENTIAL
COMMERCIAL
CONTRACT

See us for special savings
•Free Measuring
•Stock Verticals
\$69⁰⁰
HAZEL & BILL LASSITER
OWNERS

Kimberly Jo's Boutique

Ladies' Clothing • Wolff Tanning

FASHIONS by...
Ambitions • Outback Red
Forenza • Koret and more!
SWIMWEAR by...
Jantzen • Catalina • Robbie Len
Rose Marie

Wolff Tanning
10 Sessions—\$25

HOURS: M-F 8 AM Until, Sat. 10 AM Until
"Name Brand Ladies' Fashions At Affordable Prices"
Hwy. 179 in the Coastal Mechanical Bldg.
Ocean Isle • 579-7670 or 579-6290