

## MORE LETTERS

### Correct Mistake

(The following letter, written to Transportation Secretary Tommy Harrelson, is printed here at the request of the writer. Editor's note.)

I am writing you today with an extremely heavy heart. The citizens of Shallotte are still reeling from the horror and tragedy of the horrendous auto accident last Friday, Nov. 1. This accident was at the intersection of Highway 130 and bypass 17, approximately .5 miles west of Shallotte.

This accident left two people dead. Steve Smith, a young businessman who owned Photographic Concepts of Shallotte was killed instantly. Misty Carmichael, a junior at West Brunswick High School, died Saturday from injuries sustained during this wreck.

My point in writing this letter is the fact that this horrible accident would never have taken place if an overpass had been constructed during the building of the Shallotte bypass. I can recall, all during the construction, local people wondering just how many would die at this intersection before the state would realize what a blunder had been made.

West Brunswick High School is approximately one half mile beyond this intersection. It is a very real estimate that 70 percent of the students pass through this intersection twice daily.

We, the people of Shallotte and Brunswick County, cannot sit quietly while that killer intersection exists. It reminds me of a game of Russian Roulette; we know that it will kill again, we just don't know when.

Tommy, you and I have been friends for many years, and friends depend on each other all their lives. I am depending on you to look into this very serious matter with the same zeal and determination that you and I display at election time. Making mistakes is easy. That intersection is a mistake. The real problem is when we know that a mistake has been made and we choose not to correct it. Let's not fall into that category.

Jamie Miltiken  
Shallotte

### This Highway Is A Dieaway

To the editor:

The Shallotte bypass intersection at Highways 17 and 130 is a Dieaway. It is a sad place for everyone that remembers Friday a.m. Nov. 1.

Are the traffic lights timed properly? Should trucks have better warnings? Do log trucks need to slow down and be more responsible? Was the money the Dept. of Transportation saved by not building an overpass worth the lives lost and the sadness of so many families and friends of Steve Smith and Misty Carmichael? Will the saving be worth the next deaths?

Should we put up a sign marking the bypass as a "Dieaway." How about a memorial overpass? The Smith/Carmichael overpass?

Philip Morgan  
Shallotte  
(Photographer at the scene)

### Fishing Column Is Now Missed

To the editor:

I would like to comment on how much I enjoyed and now miss Capt. Jamie's fishing report that the Beacon ran this past summer.

I work at a Sunset Beach restaurant and I could almost go by Jamie's weekly report to tell my customers what the fresh catch would be each day.

Jamie, good work. You sure had my attention.

Barbara Jones  
Shallotte

### Consumers Have Rights

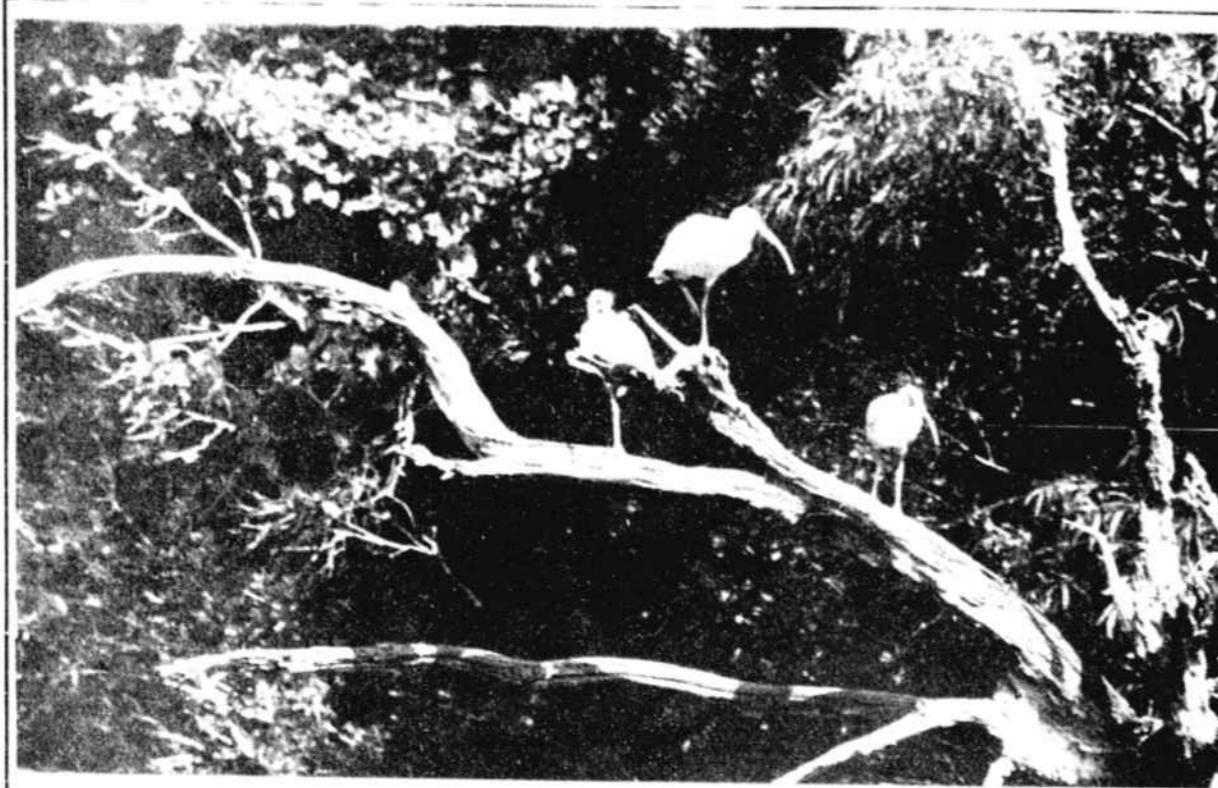
To the editor:

In all the business courses I've taken, I learned that the job of the business owner is to satisfy the consumer. Now with these small business owners, the owner/manager is right and the consumer is wrong. The consumer has no rights unless you are willing to pay out a lot of money to get justice.

The small business owner can destroy, damage, tear or ruin your personal property; but it's not their fault or manufacturer's.

It is now time for these small business owners to accept their responsibility. Admit that they are negligent and stop blaming their negligence on the consumer or the manufacturer.

Hazel Marlow  
Calabash



**HABITAT such as this for the White Ibis and other water birds is being lost and this means we will lose the birds as well.**

## Loss Of Habitat Is A Problem

BY BILL FAVER

There was a time not too many years ago when we could expect to find a good number of "white birds"

almost anywhere we had some open water and some trees for perching and cover. These could be the areas for nesting, or rookeries, or just a place where the birds might come to rest and to feed. Many of those places, even in our own country, are gone now, victims of progress. Loss of habitat may not seem too important to us when it happens little by little, but taken as a whole throughout our country, it has become a serious problem.

But it is only a problem if you care about God's creation and the place all creatures have in it. It's a problem only if you believe having a variety of plant and animal species is important to providing for us humans the beauty and diversity we enjoy and the balance of ecosystem we depend upon for our own well-being. If put another way, it's important if you care about the environment, and not just what we can do to

FAVER

Habitat can be defined as the place where a plant or animal has "a habit of living at." We know that white birds (herons, egrets, and ibis) can be found where they have the proper habitat. That usually will consist of some fresh water that is shallow, usually with some surface vegetation such as water lilies. Low shrubs and trees around the water are desirable for cover and protection. A food source is also a part of the need and some areas meeting the criteria for water and cover no longer provide the small fish and crustacea because of water pollution.

Some changes in habitats are natural, taking place because of storms and other processes that destroy desirable areas. These natural changes are usually slow and infrequent and sometimes repair themselves to provide other types of habitats. The birds and plants and animals often move to find other natural areas to their liking. The problems with the non-natural changes caused by us humans in habitat destruction is that there are fewer and fewer places for the birds and animals to move once they are ousted. When we lose their habitats we lose them as well. And, too often, continued loss of habitat also means loss of the species to extinction. We, who care about life, ought to do better than that!

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1991 - PAGE 5-A

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