

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON

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PAGE 4-A, THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 1992

Some Neighborhoods Have Gone To The Dogs

A Shallotte Point resident called last week with a problem. He has radishes, beets, carrots, collards, mustard greens, corn, turnips and onions planted in a small garden next to his home. With an early spring arriving this March, hopes were high for a good crop.

The corn was standing about three inches high when trouble hit last Thursday night. The turnip seeds, at \$6 an ounce, had popped up out of the ground and were up about the size of a match head.

Temperatures dipped to around freezing, but last week's cold spell spared the garden.

It was a pack of dogs that did the real damage.

Sometime in the middle of the night, dogs roaming the neighborhood found the fertile spot and threw a wild party.

They tore up the rows and stomped down the tender sprouts that the resident had worked so hard to plant. The cost of fertilizer and seeds alone makes it especially difficult for persons on fixed incomes who want to plant a garden for fresh vegetables to endure such a trick.

It looked as though the dogs had just rutted around for half the night, destroying what represented hours and hours of hard work, the disappointed homeowner said.

There is a period in the early spring when loose dogs roaming the neighborhood can do irreparable damage to property. When plants get high enough, dogs will still roam the gardens, but will walk among the rows.

But there shouldn't be any dogs roaming on another person's property to begin with.

Brunswick County doesn't have a leash law, but most towns do. Shallotte Point isn't a town. The resident with the ruined garden explained that he's not advocating a county leash law. He simply wants the persons who own dogs to keep them away from his property at night.

That's not too much to ask.

Some people own dogs so the animals will bark and keep an eye on their property, to scare would-be burglars away. But if those dogs are out destroying a neighbor's garden at night, how could they be watching over a house?

This particular property owner had called Brunswick County Animal Control to find out what could be done to stop the nuisance. The shelter can set up traps to catch the dogs and take them to the shelter in Supply.

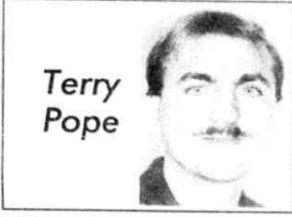
But that would only create a dispute between neighbors and cause more ill feelings. Some dog owners allow their creatures to roam the world and to destroy property but protect them like children when accused of foul deeds. They have no idea what the animal is doing to the neighborhood at night, but by day they are adored and harmless members of the family.

Another letter I received from a Shallotte Point resident last week told of how dogs that were allowed to run loose came onto their property recently. The dogs broke through a screened porch and killed two vulnerable and trapped cats.

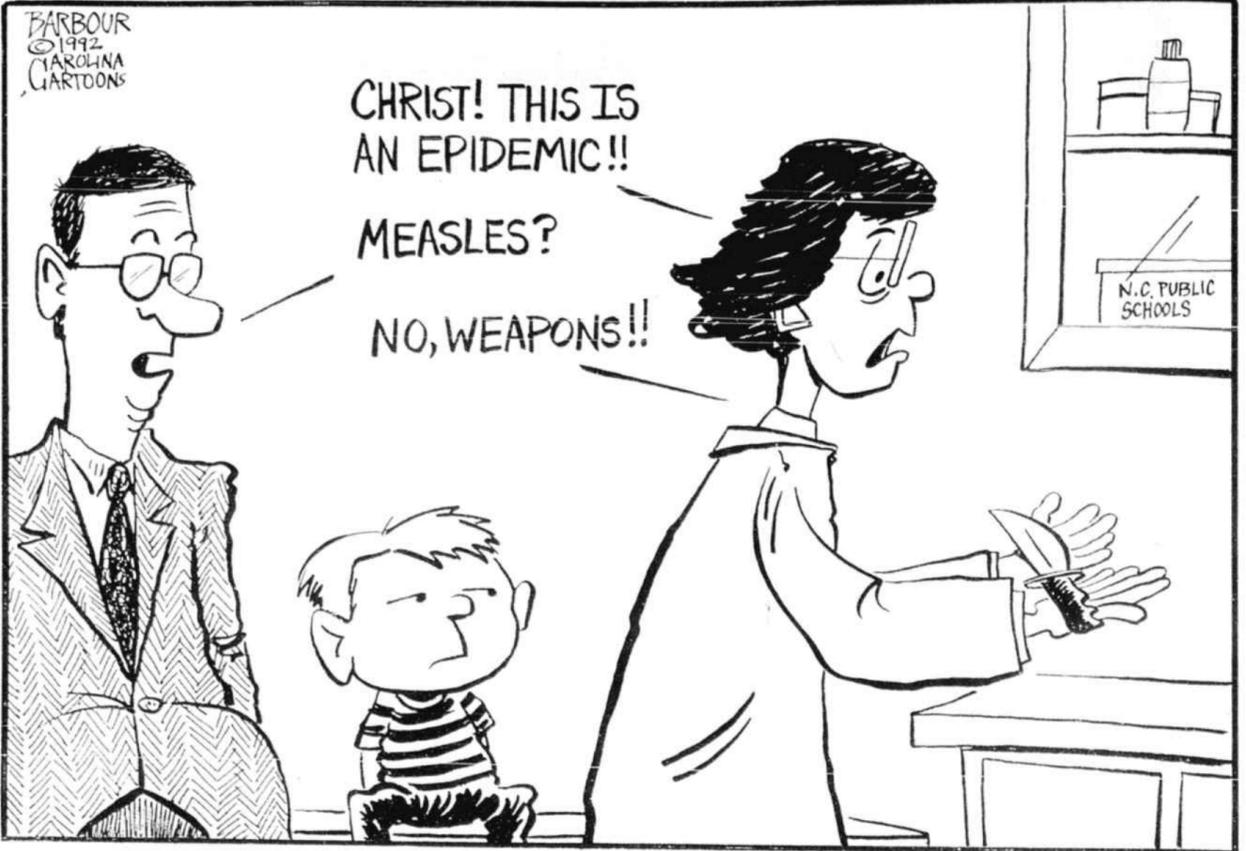
For some, Brunswick County's proposed noise ordinance (which is still pending action) offers hope of regulating dogs and the noise they cause in neighborhoods where homes are close together. Yes, barking dogs are listed in the ordinance as a potential noise problem.

I will not name the persons who expressed their concerns above because that's not important. Shallotte Point has the appearance of a "quiet" fishing village just south of Shallotte where neighbors are friendly folks.

But some folks are mad and have a reason to be. What has happened to gardens and beloved pets there isn't just a problem in Shallotte Point. It happens all across the county when people let dogs take over the neighborhood.



Terry Pope



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Lack Of Zoning Is Negative, Detrimental

To the editor:

As a former officer with 38 years of education and experience in real estate banking finance, I could not help but respond to Mr. Pope's column in the Feb. 27 issue entitled "County May Have To Sell Zoning Ordinance."

I would like to ask why? The benefits of a zoning ordinance are so positive and many, while the lack of zoning in a growing community is so negative and detrimental.

Having visited the Calabash area and liking it very much, my wife and I have become an avid reader of the *Beacon* for over a year, to get better acquainted with the South Brunswick County area.

We believe that the residential living opportunities would be ideal to appeal to our leisurely lifestyle. But not without the protection of property values and other important benefits which result from well planned, orderly zoning.

Who can doubt that zoning, properly within the areas of residential, commercial, and industrial, fosters the appreciation of all property values to its highest and best use. That it encourages home ownership and improvement helping the marketability and resale for the benefit of individuals and developers alike. And, indirectly it promotes the economic growth and development of an entire community by helping it to provide the best possible services available for its citizens who can expect and deserve a better way of life.

Armand H. Lapierre
Gardner, Massachusetts

news media as receiving an overall grade "F" or failure.

This must be of particular concern to taxpayers when only a few weeks ago the Brunswick County school superintendent was asking for additional millions of dollars to further support a school system that is now classified in the "F" category.

It seems logical, therefore, to now take positive action to find out how we in Brunswick County are currently spending \$36,000,000 of our monies on education and what action we must take to improve our current system before we approve millions more for an "F" system.

I am, therefore, recommending that the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners chairman, Kelly Holden, acquire the services of an independent audit firm to review the 1992 Brunswick County school budget, so we are in a position to answer such questions as to how we are spending our monies on such items as percentage of school costs:

1. Administration versus teaching;
2. Basic teaching—reading, writing and arithmetic;
3. Other than basics.

If we, the parents who have children in the school system and taxpayers of Brunswick County, are to have faith in our school system, we must know the truth about our school system.

I urge readers of this letter to call the Brunswick County Commissioners' office (913-253-4331) and let your feelings be known about the need for an independent school audit.

Warren (Bud) Knapp
Calabash

Solution Seen For Sunset's Bridge Problem

To the editor:

Finally a solution to the "save our bridge" problem is available. Since a need for a bridge to Bird Island exists, the state should go ahead and build that much-needed high-rise bridge to Sunset Beach. Then they could carefully dismantle the cable-operated swing bridge and reassemble it on the road to Bird Island.

Then everyone could enjoy this historic bridge while it still fulfilled a usable function. In fact, since the water it will cross is not navigable, no bridge tenders are needed to open it on the hour. Maintenance is reduced.

This move would bring joy to all the boaters who have had to struggle with dangerous cross winds trying to keep from grounding while waiting for the opening on the hour. Also no more breakdowns would occur endangering the lives of Sunset Beach residents in an emergency.

H. D. Adams
Rt. 6, Shallotte

Independent Audit Urged For Schools

To the editor:

This is the time of year when North Carolina school budgets are presented to the county commissioners for review and approval.

This year is a most critical one for all Brunswick County taxpayers as our current school system has been defined by education experts and the

Stop Passage Of These Laws

To the editor:

The FDA, a puppet of the Bush Administration, is at it again. They want to pass laws that would require you to go to a doctor and pay his office fee to get a prescription in order to purchase vitamins, amino acids, herbs and mineral supplements.

The American Medical Association has been pressuring the FDA to ban vitamins that you can now buy by choice.

One doctor told me that in medical school the average doctor-to-be has approximately two weeks training, out of four years, in nutrition. He doesn't know that much about nutrition so why the push for these laws? It appears to be money; if you have to pay for an office visit every time you want to purchase vitamins.

The Bush administration is supposed to be for freedom of choice.

People must write to their senators and congressmen to stop the passage of these laws.

Charles Rajsky
Calabash

North Carolina Should Buy Bird Island

To the editor:

Our family has been coming to Sunset Beach for over 20 years and now have a shared-ownership house on the east end of this beautiful island. For years all of us have gone over to Bird Island at low tide to

pick up shells and just wander over this unspoiled small bit of paradise.

We were indeed shocked to learn that someone is planning to connect Bird Island to Sunset by a bridge and build houses on it. We just hope and pray that the state of North Carolina will save this precious property now inhabited by the loggerhead turtle and other marine species.

Our daughter has taken part in an Earth Watch expedition research study in the Virgin Islands designed to save the leatherback turtles down there. Earth Watch also offers expeditions to researchers to study other turtle species in various parts of the

world. We are certain that they would hate to hear about the plight of the loggerhead on Bird Island were this fate to happen to one of nature's very special endangered species.

Please, all Sunset property owners, care enough to contact your Division of Coastal Management and State Rep. David Redwine, urging them to have the state buy this treasured and beautiful property right next to us here.

Elizabeth H. White
William B. White
Katherine R. White
Williamsburg, Virginia

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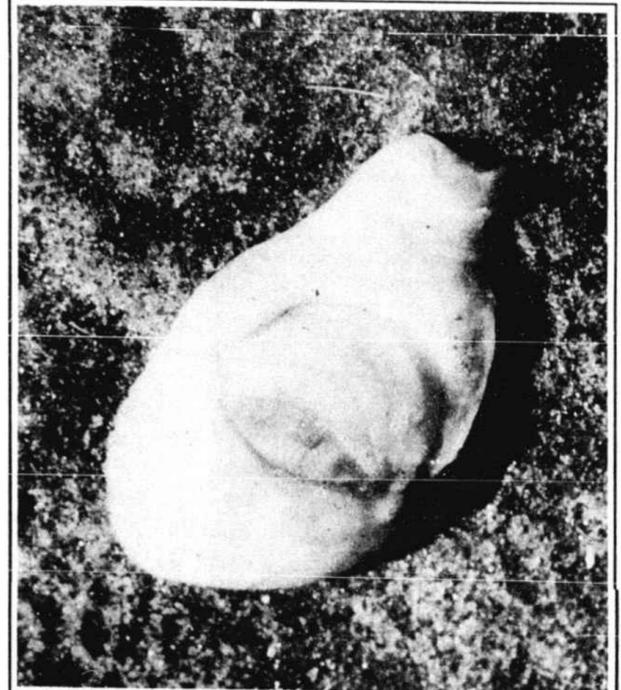


PHOTO BY BILL FAVER
THE BABY'S EAR is quite different when the animal is present.

Wondering About Shells

BY BILL FAVER

Sometimes after finding a particular shell on the beach, I try to speculate about the animal who once called it home. There is a lot we can tell about the shell, such as the species of the animal, how old it may have been when it died, and sometimes what caused its demise. The shell is like a skeleton and we often forget about the creature who lived in it and had to find food and evade predators to survive.

One of our common shells, the Baby's Ear, can serve as an example of how different the shell is when the animal is present. When the empty shell is found it is usually an off-white, flattened snail shell shaped somewhat like a baby's ear. When the animal is present, the mantle, or foot, of the snail completely covers the shell and the shell often appears as a cap worn on the back of the animal.

Ear snails live in shallow water on sandy flats where they burrow through the sand just under the surface and feed on small clams and other bivalves. The large foot helps the animal capture its prey and help it swim when it becomes dislodged from the sand.

Rachel Carson, in *The Edge of the Sea*, reminds us: "To understand the life of the shore it is not enough to pick up an empty shell and say, 'This is a murex,' or 'That is an angel wing.' True understanding demands intuitive comprehension of the whole life of the creature that once inhabited this empty shell: how it survived amid surf and storms, what were its enemies, how it found and reproduced its kind, what were its relations to the particular sea world in which it lives."

So, we may be missing a lot when we grab a shell and talk about how pretty it is. We may miss an opportunity at understanding when we pass up the less-than-perfect specimen which might give us clues as to its life in the sea. Think about this when you pick up your next find on the beach. You may want to grab the guidebooks and the encyclopedia and begin learning all you can!



FAVER

Build Overpass To Prevent Accidents

(Students in 9th grade English classes at West Brunswick High were assigned to write a letter to the editor on the need for an overpass on the bypass.)

Following are two of the letters which won recognition and cash prizes. Two more will appear next week. Editor's note.)

To the editor:

The Highway 17 bypass and 130 intersection is one of the most dangerous places in Brunswick County. There are constantly traffic jams and accidents at that intersection. I feel the state should build an overpass at the intersection in order to prevent future accidents.

One problem at the intersection is the constant traffic jams. When high school gets out, the traffic is sometimes backed up all the way to the school. It takes me about ten minutes just to get past the intersection. If the overpass was built, the traffic would go a lot faster.

The people of Shallotte, as well as the students and staff at West Brunswick High School have been in an uproar since the tragic accident on Nov. 1 of last year. Since then, there have been three other accidents. I cross that intersection about four times a day. Some people I know probably cross that intersection even more.

When summer comes and the tourists come down unaware of the

danger at this intersection, there are going to be even more traffic and accidents. If an overpass is built, future accidents can be avoided.

All I can say is that something has to be done. Having a traffic light and making the bypass a speed trap is not doing any good. Innocent people do not have to die.

John Scorzello

To the editor:

I believe that Shallotte should definitely have an overpass at the Highway 17 and Highway 130 intersection for safety precautions.

The poorly finished bypass in Shallotte has resulted in numerous accidents and two deaths. I agree that a Welcome Center was needed, but now that we have one, we need to look on to our future.

An overpass would save time, cut down on traffic and be much safer than the intersection we have now. Also we have some very careless drivers in the Shallotte area that don't pay attention to lights, signs or other cars. Summer is quickly approaching. There will be three times as much traffic traveling on the bypass. Before it is too late, I urge you to think about this situation and realize how an overpass would make Shallotte a better place to travel.

Suzanne Moore
Shallotte