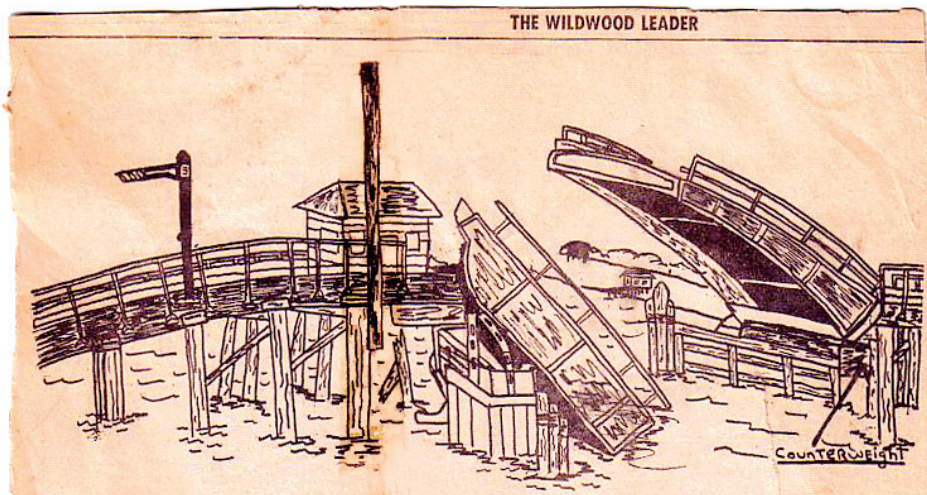




"We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future." ~Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The Grassy Sound Draw Bridge by Helen Guthrie Wilson



From Wildwood Leader-1971: STATE TO AID IN BRIDGE REPAIRS ~ The NJ State Dept. of Transportation on Friday reported it will provide state aid in technical assistance, men and equipment and materials to help Cape May County begin repair operations on the 50 year old Grassy Sounds span that collapsed on October 20, 1971. The Counterweight of one-half of the drawbridge broke off and the span dropped into the water. The bridge on North Wildwood Blvd. will be closed to vehicular traffic for an indefinite period. Small boats are able to use the channel under the span. ~Drawing by Len Guthrie

Helen Guthrie Wilson writes: "When the Grassy Sound Bridge collapsed in 1971, Thomas Kinneman (photographer for the Wildwood Leader), attempted to take pictures, but it was a nasty day and he was unable to get a good shot from the North Wildwood side. My father, H. Leonard Guthrie who worked for the Wildwood Leader, called my brother to ask if he could go take a picture so it could make the weekly paper. My brother at the time lived on the other side of the bridge and

had a better view of the damage. He did better than that, he sat and drew a picture of the collapsed bridge. He then had to drive the long way around over the Rio Grande bridge to get this picture to the Wildwood Leader to be published in time!

My family moved to North Wildwood in 1942. We traveled so many trips over that bridge and even then it seemed very old. I often wondered how much life had traveled over it back and forth off the island."



This old bridge was taken down in 1992 and replaced with a new and much higher one



Road and bridge construction on North Wildwood Blvd. began in the late 1980s

Dear Sun

One of my very close friends back home in Wildwood always sends me a copy of THE SUN and with great joy, I read it and it always brings back floods of memories for me. . . seeing so many people that I knew growing up in the Wildwoods.

Thank you for bringing back all the wonderful memories of our early days in the Wildwoods!

It's also fun to see some of my publicity pictures you have used once in awhile too!

~HELEN GUTHRIE WILSON



Helen recalls how much fun it was doing publicity shots for the Wildwoods after she won the Miss Wildwood Beach Patrol Contest in 1956. Her photos were used on brochures, salt water taffy boxes, billboards and are still used today in The SUN! Thank you Helen!



H. Leonard Guthrie setting type at The Leader where he was employed for 40 years

H. Leonard Guthrie was born in Williamsport, Pa. and went to Scotland Military School in PA. where he learned the printing trade.

He moved to North Wildwood in 1942 and lived over the Wildwood Leader at 13th and Atlantic Ave. He worked there for 40 years as a print setter and linotype operator. After he left The Leader he and his wife put together the tide tables the long and hard way for the Jersey shore. They enjoyed doing this for many, many years.

Len was also known throughout the Wildwoods as one of the best fisherman around. He was often written up in Lou Rodia's fishing news for his special catches of fish. Fishermen would try and follow him out in his little row boat to his special spots! His wife was pretty good too and won some ribbons for the biggest fish caught by a women. One time while out fishing he caught his wife while casting! That was a quick trip to the emergency room to have the hook removed.

Thank YOU Helen for taking the time to send this wonderful piece of local history.