

SHORE LINE GOES TO PRESS DAY

North Carolina Aquarium Press Day was another big hit. Lucky reporters were introduced to a sea turtle, treated to a press conference, featuring not only Ned Smith, the Director of the N. C. Aquarium at Pine Knoll Shores, but also Dr. Michael Orbach, Chairman of the N. C. Marine Science Council. [He spoke to us about the feasibility study being conducted on phosphate mining off our coast, and about legislation pending in the General Assembly regarding aquaculture.] Then we sat down to a fine seafood lunch before going out on a collecting cruise, during which two turtles were released to go back to their families and friends in the deep. Regular cruises of this sort are open to all, by the way. One must register ahead and there is a fee. [Call 247-4003]

Ned Smith made a special point of thanking the many volunteers who do so much, and he'd welcome more. The PKS Garden Club recently got national attention for its attractive plant program at the Aquarium.

What kept really buzzing round in my head [if one can excuse, for a moment, the editorial "me"] was how magnificent it is to have this aquarium so near. I have this uneasy feeling that there are too many PKS'ers who haven't taken advantage of all the aquarium has to offer. Granted, some of us drive our guests over for a quick look-around, [382,000] people saw it in 1986! but my goodness, there is a whole wonderful calendar of stuff to do there all year long. And it's so easy to get to. No bridge. No major traffic problems. We've got to go more often. Choose from this list: live animal programs, lectures, films, field trips, boat trips, behind the scene tours, slide talks, children's programs, seafood programs, touch tank talks, teacher workshops, outreach programs and more. For exact dates, pick up the calendar at the Aquarium; while you're there, buy a few neat shark T-shirts for faraway friends, or a book or a poster or two.

On Press Day the emphasis was on turtles. We learned that there are six species of those guys found in the western Atlantic Ocean. On the boat trip one larger turtle who'd been found ailing and was now in tip-top shape, was carried on board on a little stretcher, all covered with a wet terry cloth towel to keep him damp until his turn came to slip into the water. As he was quite heavy, cameras had to be ready when the stretcher was tipped over and he slid off. The other was a smaller fellow, and he was held up by staff members for photos before he went down to the sea. There's a sea turtle exhibit coming to the Aquarium this fall.

The results of the 1987 Bogue Banks Photography Competition were announced on Press Day, too, and that exhibit alone is worth a trip to the aquarium. Then, before we know it, Hurricane Awareness Week is upon us [August 17-22]. And, don't forget the branch of the Carteret County Public Library that's in the Aquarium, too.

It sure is fun to be the Press when a day like Aquarium Press Day comes along. Wish the Shore Line printed photos; I have some goodies!

MARY DOLL

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TEN YEARS AGO IN THE SHORE LINE

New neighbors welcomed were Virginia and Frank Phillips, Evelyn and Ted McCord, Marty and Ray Hare and Shelli and Stanley Livingston.

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