

# Shallotte, Long Beach Girls Claim Fourth Of July Crowns

BY SUSAN USHER

Against a patriotic backdrop of Old Glory and the Statue of Liberty, two queens began their joint reign of the 1985 N.C. Fourth of July Festival Saturday night at Caswell Beach.

Candace (Candi) Somers, daughter of James and Ruth Somers of Long Beach, will reign as the 1985 N.C. Fourth of July Queen. She is the 19th young woman to hold the title.

Sharing the spotlight with her will be Kelly Nicole White, daughter of Dale and Susie White of Shallotte, the 1985 Little Miss N.C. Fourth of July.

Miss Somers, a 1985 graduate of South Brunswick High School, was valedictorian of her class and student council president. She will be a Trustee Scholar at Peace College in Raleigh next year, with plans to eventually major in engineering at N.C. State University. The Fourth of July, she said, gives Americans an opportunity to give thanks to the country's forefathers "for allowing our freedom."

She will spend the coming 12 months promoting the N.C. Fourth of July Festival and "North Carolina's Best-Kept Secret"—the Southport-Oak Island area—at festivals, parades and trade shows across the southeast.

First runner-up in the queen's pageant was Sonya Renee Williams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Williams of Shallotte. Veronica Lynn Phelps, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald T. Sellers of Leland, was second runner-up, and Sherry Lynn Dawson, daughter of Glenn and Sarah Dawson of Long Beach, was

voted Miss Congeniality. Jennifer Carol Kye, daughter of Glenn E. Kye of Winnabow and Rachel H. Kye of Supply, won the autograph page prize, a gift certificate.

In the Little Miss contest, Andrea LaFave Nance was first runner-up and Renee Rountree, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. David Rountree of Holden Beach, was second runner-up.

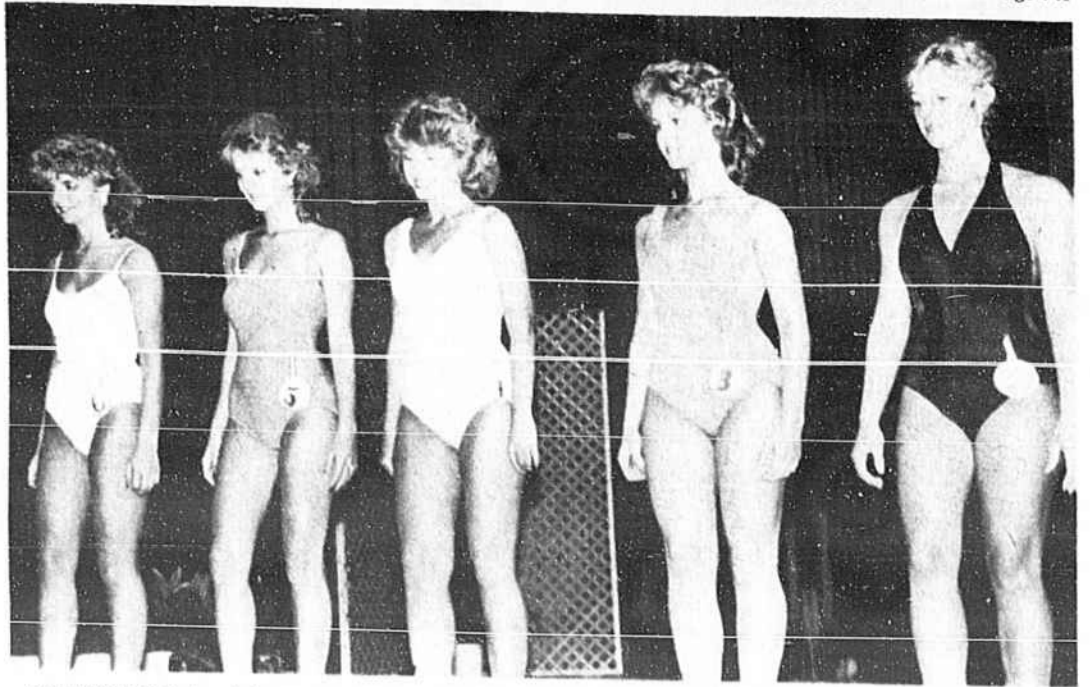
Held at Hatch Auditorium on the grounds of the N.C. Baptist Assembly, the second N.C. Fourth of July Festival event of the year (the first was the Patriots' Ball) the event was large on pageantry and the

drama of human emotion.

Following a theme saluting the Statue of Liberty and its centennial renovation fund, the spectacle opened with slide views of the statue, while a house band featuring members of the Sea Notes community chorus sang, "Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor."

The audience got involved early on, as a gigantic U.S. flag unfurled over the screen and they joined in the national anthem.

Minutes later they joined Mistress of Ceremonies Susan Griffin Fisher, Miss North Carolina 1974, and the



CONTESTANTS give judges a second look during the swimsuit competition at Saturday night's Miss N.C. Fourth of July Queen's Pageant. From the left are Jen-

nifer Kye, Christy Higgins, Wendy Kay Barlow, Veronica Lynn Phelps and Sherry Lyn Dawson.



CANDACE SOMERS of Long Beach will reign as the 19th Miss N.C. Fourth of July, traveling across the state and elsewhere to promote the Southport-Oak Island area.

queen's pageant contestants in the final chorus of "We Are The World."

In addition to crowning her successor, the outgoing Little Miss Fourth of July, Blair Milligan, also performed a tap routine following the Little Miss party dress competition. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Craven D. Milligan Jr. of Ash.

When she stepped to the microphone to make her farewell, Blair's words gushed out amid a flood of heart-breaking tears. She recovered in plenty of time to crown her successor, but left both audience members and the mistress of ceremonies wiping tears of their own.

Little Miss contestants modeled playwear in addition to "party dresses" that turned out to be floor-length gowns. With eyes turned downward, they searched the floor for the marks that cued their pivots for the judges. Some twirled several times, others executed only a half-turn or two, but all had smiles for the judges.

Queen's contestants competed earlier in the day in private interview with the judges, then donned swimwear and evening gowns for pageant judging. Two of the 13 contestants forgot lines during their introductions, but mustered up the courage to continue.

For her farewell message, outgoing queen Candy Ann Cain reviewed her busy year representing the area through slides rather than a speech.



BLAIR MILLIGAN, daughter of Cray and Wendy Milligan of Ash, tapped her way to the end of a one-year reign as Little Miss N.C. Fourth of July 1984.

She is the 19-year-old daughter of Bill and Joann Cain of Caswell Beach and a sophomore at UNC-Wilmington.

Southport Mayor Norman Holden issued a folksy invitation to the 1985 N.C. Fourth of July Festival next month, which will feature 11 bands, fireworks, a parade and other festivities.

"This is the beginning of the Fourth of July at Southport," he said. "How about coming on over to Southport and bringing your friends and your neighbors."

Other queen's contestants were Wendy Kay Barlow, daughter of Walter and Carol Barlow of Long Beach; Tonia Christine (Christy) Higgins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A.W. Higgins III of Southport; Kelly Anne Kincaide, daughter of L.B. and Joyce Bennett of Long Beach; Kimberly Dawn Cooper, daughter of Kenneth and Mary Jane Cooper of Southport; Charlene Beth Motley, daughter of July D. Motley of Long Beach; Sylvia Yvette Matthews, daughter of Russell and Linda Matthews of Bolivia; Tonya Lynette McKoy, daughter of Sampson and Jacqueline McKoy of Leland; and Lorri Lynette Bowling, daughter of Bige and Vera Bowling of Bolivia.

Other Little Miss contestants were Kimberly Kay Quattlebaum, daughter of Nina Quattlebaum of Bolivia; Amanda Causey, daughter of Bobby and Jane Causey of Supply; Anna Myers Candy; Stacey Leigh Hewett and Tracy Carol Chandler.

## ABWA Plans Local Chapter

Final plans for chartering a local chapter of the American Business Women's Association will be made Sunday at the last in a series of ABWA "get-acquainted" meetings.

The meeting will be held at 4:30 p.m. Sunday, June 23, in the Brunswick Electric Membership Corp. meeting room in Shallotte.

All new members and prospective members are asked to attend, said Julie Barefoot, one of the organizers.

For more information, interested women may contact Pamela Bennett at 842-2110 after 5 p.m., or Mary Owens, 842-3613, after 6 p.m.

## Seniors Met For Supper

Twenty nine members of the Holden Beach Senior Citizens group met for a covered dish supper at the Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department Monday, June 10.

Guest speaker was Jim Buffaloe, coordinator for the hurricane and tornado preparedness and evacuation program for Holden Beach.

Senior citizens will hold a yard and bake sale at the fire department Saturday, July 27. The sale will include crafts and handmade ornaments made by the senior citizens. The group's next meeting is July 8.

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CALL 579-3400 AFTER 4 PM OR WEEKENDS FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND TUITION INFORMATION.

CLIP AND MAIL THIS ENROLLMENT TO: Diane F. Young, 126 East Second St., Ocean Isle Beach, NC 28459.

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