

Pageant Was First For July Fourth Queen

BY SUSAN USHER
Kristie Lachelle Atkinson will reign over N.C. Fourth of July Festival activities next month in Southport and during the year to come. The crown will be her first.

"I'm excited; I'm still on a cloud," she said the Monday after winning the first pageant she's ever entered.

The 21-year-old Southport native was crowned goodwill ambassador for the festival at the 1991 North Carolina Fourth of July Queen's Pageant Saturday night at The Centennial Center in Southport. Six women competed for the title against a patriotic backdrop of stars and stripes.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Atkinson of Southport. A dental assistant at Dr. Larry Hemby's office, she plans to continue her education in the field of dental hygiene.

Miss Atkinson said she had always wanted to enter the festival pageant. "I just had a little extra push and support this year. Everyone said, 'Go on and do it.'"

Her first official appearance will be Saturday, June 15, at the N.C. Little Miss/Tiny Miss Fourth of July Pageant at South Brunswick Middle School at 3 p.m.

This will be first of numerous public appearances on behalf of Southport and its N.C. Fourth of July Festival, the state's official Independence Day celebration.

"I hope I can represent Southport and make them proud," she said.

In competition Miss Atkinson wore a flame red sheath decorated with bugle beads, featuring a diamond neckline and ruffled chiffon sleeves. Her teal green swimsuit was accented with a French twist.

Contestants also were interview-

ed by judges in the afternoon and fielded one question each on stage during the evening gown competition.

The pageant was directed by Peggy Douglas-Ledgett, who will also serve as the queen's escort during the coming year.

Briton Campbell, 20, was first runner-up. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Campbell of Southport.

Second runner-up was Bethany Lynn Workman, 18, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Curtis L. Workman of Boling Spring Lakes.

Other contestants were Leah Gayle O'Daniels, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dallas O'Daniels of Boiling Spring Lakes; Elizabeth Catherine Baxter, 18, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Baxter of Southport; and Stacie Darnell Cheers, 19, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Ray Cheers of Bolivia.

In addition to her trophy, the 1991 queen will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a new public appearance wardrobe and travel allowance.

This year's pageant was held at The Centennial Center, a structure on Brunswick Community College's Southport campus that is being renovated by a non-profit organization as a multipurpose arts complex.

Judges for the event were Eileen Moore, Fayetteville; McNeil Chestnut and Sandra Chestnut of Raleigh, Janet McLaurin of Richlands and Carol Justice of Topsail Island.

Sharing duties as mistresses of ceremonies were Holly Walcott, Susan Holth, Hannah Daniel, Lisa



BRITON CAMPBELL (left), first runner-up, and Bethany Workman, second runner-up, keep their eyes on the queen.

Young and Wendy Williams Jones. Kenneth Campbell, on behalf of The Centennial Center; and Richard T. Faulk, president of the 1991 N.C. Fourth of July Festival.



KRISTIE ATKINSON, the 1991 N.C. 4th of July Queen, accepts her red, white and blue crown from retiring queen Robin Elizabeth Walcott.

STAFF PHOTOS BY SUSAN USHER

Fox, Arnold Vows Exchanged At Camp Methodist

Carla Sue Fox and C. Thomas Arnold were married Saturday, June 1, at 7 p.m. in Camp United Methodist Church, Shallotte.

The Rev. George D. Speake officiated the double ring ceremony. The sanctuary was decorated with candles, candelabras, ferns and peach and ivory bows.

Music was provided by Gelene C. Russ, organist; Gaye Fulford, soloist; and Joyce Carmichael, pianist and soloist.

The bride is the daughter of Carl and Sandra Fox of Shallotte and granddaughter of Blanche Lowe of Reader, W.Va., and Ruth Fox Weimer of Sunset Beach. She is a 1984 graduate of Sistersville High School and a 1988 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. She is employed with the Brunswick County Schools.

The bridegroom is the son of Grady and Joan Gilbert of Angiers and Charles Thomas Arnold of Hawthorne, Fla. He is the grandson of Bernice Arnold of Orange Park, Fla., and Luvenia Turner of Shallotte Point. He attended West Brunswick High School and Brunswick Community College, where he received a certificate in basic law enforcement training.

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride wore an off-the-shoulder ivory satin gown by Bridal Origin-

als. The gown was adorned with sequins and pearls, with a bow on the back leading into a cathedral length train trimmed with cascading ruffles.

Her fingertip veil fell from a simple lace band.

She carried a bouquet of peach, shrimp and ivory roses with a touch of babies' breath.

Flowers for the wedding party were made by her grandmother, Ruth Fox Weimer.

Paula J. Fox, sister of the bride, was maid of honor. She wore a shrimp colored tea-length satin dress with a cummerbund and rear bow.

Bridesmaids Darla J. Fox, sister of the bride, and Debra S. Caison, sister of the groom, wore identically styled dresses in peach satin. Their dresses were made by Betty Shreve, great-aunt of the bride.

The groom chose his brother, Dennis J. Smith, as his best man. Ushers were Robert Craven, cousin of the bride; and Johnny Wilson, a friend of the bride and bridegroom.

The bride's cousin, Tamara Craven, directed the wedding. Another cousin, Harmony Swartzmiller, attended the guest register.

Following the ceremony a reception was held in the church fellowship hall. Attending the bride and groom during the reception were Elizabeth Yow of Sunset Beach, MaryAnne Maze of Jubail, Saudi Arabia, and Janet Hennick of Seaside, all aunts of the bride. Also assisting were Susie Weaver of Shallotte and Tracy Menges of Middlebourne, W.Va., friends of the bride.

Featured was a three-tiered, heart-shaped cake made by the groom's sister, Debbie Caison, and a friend of the bride, Debbie Sherrill.

The couple will reside at Ocean Isle Beach. The two plan a honeymoon trip to Florida in mid-June.



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You're Invited To

WHAT: South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 Organizational Dinner Meeting

WHERE: Sea Trail-Jones-Byrd Clubhouse

WHEN: Thursday, June 20

Existing members, potential members and anyone interested in learning more about the South Brunswick Islands Committee of 100 and its investment and commitment to our community should attend this meeting. Bring your questions and your enthusiasm. We look forward to seeing you. Call Angela (919)754-6644 or Lisa Strickland (919)754-4391 for further details.

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Big Sweep Shirts On Sale

T-shirts promoting The Big Sweep '91, a litter cleanup along the state's rivers, lakes and beaches, are now available through the mail.

The new shirts feature the "Big Sweep Bunch," a group of litter-busters that includes a girl and a boy accompanied by a fish, bird and turtle.

This year's Big Sweep is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 21. More than 10,000 volunteers picked up 165 tons of trash during The Big Sweep '90.

Volunteers picked up 77,080 cigarette butts last year, making them the most prevalent item by far.

Other common finds were metal beverage cans, glass and plastic beverage bottles and paper, plastic and plastic foam pieces.

The new T-shirts are available in small (6-8) and medium (10-12) sizes for children and cost \$7 each. Adults sizes are small (34-36), large (42-44) and extra large (46-48) and cost \$8 each.

To order, write The Big Sweep, Box 8605, N.C. State University, Raleigh, N.C. 27695. Buyers must specify size and quantity and make all checks payable to The Big Sweep. Include \$1 per shirt for postage and handling.

N.C. Miss 4th of July Springfest Beauty Pageant

Saturday, June 29, 2 PM
Shallotte Middle School
Registration 12:30 to 1:30
Open to all ages—up to 21 years (single)
Married—18 and up. Boys 0-10 years.
For details, call Margie Pridgen (803)464-9097 or Betty (919)654-5055.

DEADLINE FOR ENTRANTS—JUNE 24
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