

Clara Schuster,

COME ON DOWN!

'The Price Is Right' For Sunset Beach Resident

BY DOUG RUTTER

After five enjoyable yet disappointing visits to a Los Angeles television studio, Clara Schuster finally heard the famous phrase game show enthusiasts nationwide yearn to hear:

"Come on down! You're the next contestant on The Price Is Right." Clara made the most of her once-in-a-lifetime trip to contestant row—winning a lounge chair, treadmill and pool table with a total value of \$4,608.

The Sunset Beach area resident will appear on the popular CBS game show next Thursday, April 8. The hour-long program starts at 11 a.m. and can be seen on WJKA-TV out of Wilmington.

"I was really surprised when they called my name," explained Clara, who was at a taping of the show several weeks ago with her daughter, Kathleen Zinn, and godson, Kenneth Simmons.

After taking her place on contestant row, Clara and the others were asked to guess the price of a lounge chair. "I guessed 900 dollars and everybody else underbid me and the price was 1200."

After winning the chair, Clara went up on stage with veteran game show host Bob Barker and for more price-guessing.

On stage were the pool table and treadmill with price tags beside each one. The treadmill was listed at \$1,995 and the pool table's price tag read \$1,365.

It was up to Clara to decide if the prices matched the merchandise or if the prices needed to be switched. Clara asked for the prices to be switched, and won both prizes as a result of her correct decision.

"I didn't have the faintest idea what the prices were," she confessed during an interview last week. "I just took a guess at it. I figured the pool table would be more."

Clara returned to stage later to spin the "Big Wheel" for a chance to play for the valuable showcase at the end of the show. She spun first and landed on 65 cents.

On the audience's advice, Clara didn't risk a second spin and stuck with 65 cents. It didn't hold up, but Clara wasn't disappointed. "It's probably a good thing because I don't think I could have gone for the big prize. I was so nervous already."

Clara's only regret about her appearance on the show is that she didn't hug and kiss Bob Barker, who is "much more handsome" in person than he is on television.

"I was so sorry I didn't get to hug him. I was so excited when I got up there I forgot," she explained. "He's probably tired of getting hugged and kissed by everybody—old ladies especially."

Clara, a 71-year-old widow, thinks her involve-

ment with the Supply Homemakers Club helped earned her that spot on contestant row. She's treasurer of the club and a past president.

All members of the audience are interviewed before the show, and during her interview Clara mentioned that she was club treasurer. "I told them I take all the money, and I think that's why they picked me."

Clara, who has five grandchildren, says it wasn't easy getting into the show, let alone becoming a contestant. Clara and her crew showed up at the studio at 6:30 a.m. for the early taping, but there were already about 350 people standing in line.

They waited for the afternoon taping and were among the first people in line for that show. "We had choice seats right up front," she said. Clara was the fifth contestant called during the show.

The prizes haven't been delivered to her Bonaparte's Retreat home yet. When they are, she'll have to pay California and North Carolina taxes on the prizes as well as the delivery cost.

To pay the tax and delivery bills, Clara plans to sell the pool table. She'll keep the other two. "The treadmill I need. The doctor is very happy that I won that."

Despite the costs, Clara also is elated she won. "It was worth it. Bob Barker is such a wonderful person. He comes out and talks to you when they're not taping and answers any questions you have."

Clara definitely plans to record the upcoming show on her VCR. She's anxious to see how she acted on stage. "I don't know if I was running and jumping around like an idiot or not."

The game show experience was the highlight of a recent two-week, mother-daughter vacation. Other stops included Las Vegas, Universal Studios and the La Brea Tar Pits.

Now that she's won, Clara says her daughter has the "bug" and has applied to be a contestant on Wheel Of Fortune.

Although she's been to the show six times, Clara admits she doesn't watch The Price Is Right frequently. She stays busy with her extension homemakers club and work as an elder at Shallotte Presbyterian Church.

If she ever decides to return to California to see Bob Barker do his thing, Clara won't be allowed to be a contestant again or win any more prizes.

"Now that this has happened, I don't have to go back any more," she said. "Everybody should win one time. Everybody should go out there one time and try to win."

And if at first you don't succeed, do like Clara and try, try again.

"Everybody should win one time. Everybody should go out there one time and try to win."

—Clara Schuster



CLARA SCHUSTER of Sunset Beach, shown here with some her handiwork for the Supply Homemakers Club, will be on "The Price Is Right" on April 8.

'Squadron Of Year' Honors Go To Shallotte River Group

While some new organizations have a difficult time staying afloat, the Shallotte River Power Squadron cranked up in 1990 and has been going full steam ahead since that time.

The squadron's most recent achievement is receiving the District 27 Commander's Trophy for being the "Squadron of the Year." District 27 encompasses 15 squadrons; 14 in North Carolina and one in South Carolina.

The Shallotte River Squadron won the award for such things as membership growth and retention, education, service to district and participation. Its percentage participation in squadron activities was 56%; number one in the nation for the second year in a row.

Another big factor in the selection was the job the squadron did in hosting the District Rendezvous in Calabash last August. The event, despite adverse weather conditions, earned money for the district while the previous two years events lost money in other locations.

The history of the Shallotte Power Squadron dates back to the summer of 1987 when several residents of the area who were members of power squadrons elsewhere recognized

the need to provide boating education and social activities for boaters in the area.

Following a meeting of this group, arrangements were made to operate as a division of the Cape Fear Power

Squadron out of Wilmington. The division grew from only a few members in 1988 to 30 by December of 1989.

In January, 1990, a formal application for a squadron charter was submitted. In March the requirements to be-

come a squadron were completed at a formal organizational meeting. A national charter was granted to the Shallotte River Power Squadron May 19, 1990.

From the 31 members listed on the original charter, membership has grown steadily so that the "baby" squadron now numbers 90 members.

Since receiving its charter, the squadron has continued to hold public boating courses twice each year, including two separate classes in the spring, one in the Shallotte area and one in Elizabethtown. Many members have improved their boating skills by taking additional courses in seamanship, piloting, marine electronics, weather and engine maintenance. These and other courses are available to members of the squadron.

In addition to its educational program, the squadron maintains an active social program and participates in the Cooperative Charting program of the United States Power Squadron. The social program has grown to include a number of annual events, including yard sales, overnight cruise, charter anniversary dinner and a covered dish dinner meeting.

USPS works with the U.S. Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, Red Cross, yacht and boat clubs and other concerned organizations to maintain safety awareness during Safe Boating Week and throughout the year.

Elected officers of the local squadron are Franklin Forrest of Holden Beach, commander; Dewey Adams of Ocean Isle, executive officer; Richard Danz of Calabash, education officer; Luther Gravatt of Ocean Isle, administrative officer; Marilyn R. Grose of Supply, secretary; and Lucy Keefer of Calabash, treasurer.



SQUADRON COMMANDERS past and present admire the trophy. They are, from left, Joe Huber, Shallotte River Power Squadron's first commander; Charles Lambert, immediate past commander; Clete Waldmiller, second commander; and Franklin Forrest, present commander.



THE BURGEE of the Shallotte River Power Squadron was drawn by a commercial artist from a design submitted by one of the members.

STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT