

ROAST IS NOVEMBER 6

Varnamtown + Oysters = Dixon Chapel

BY SUSAN USHER

Varnamtown. In local circles the word's synonymous with seafood, especially the fall oyster roast for which Dixon Chapel United Methodist Church is famous.

This small, tidy church in what is probably one of the state's smaller incorporated communities calls on friends and family to put on one of the largest feeds around each fall.

While there's occasional talk of ending the work-intensive Dixon Chapel Oyster Roast, it's still going strong after more than a quarter of a century. That's in spite of variables year to year in the oyster harvest and season, the weather and the number of volunteers available to pitch in and help.

While overall responsibility for the event falls on a few people each year, when the day comes, says Carson Varnam, a oyster dealer who is also a chief supporter of the event, everything seems to fall into place.

"We have a lot of help from the young children and from people in the community if they're not shrimping," he says. As for having enough oysters to feed a crowd of uncertain size, well, "the Lord has always provided over the years."

This year's roast, on Saturday, Nov. 6, will shift to an earlier start than in the past, serving from 12 noon to 6 p.m. More tables and more cooking facilities are being

added as well.

"We're hoping nobody will have to wait in line this year," said Varnam.

Otherwise little will change from past years. Diners can still watch as their meals are prepared, then eat in democratic fellowship, elbow to elbow, at long tables set end to end under the shed behind the church, or to its side.

Like others who either volunteer to work or come just to eat, Varnam says the fellowship is one aspect of the roast that he really enjoys. Regulars are a mix typical of the coast, including both locals and visitors who plan trips to the beach around the event.

The oysters are roasted (to order, if you like) over a hot fire, and spread on tables under a shed. Younger volunteers stay on the run bringing paper towels and refills on homemade pickles, fried bread and condiments.

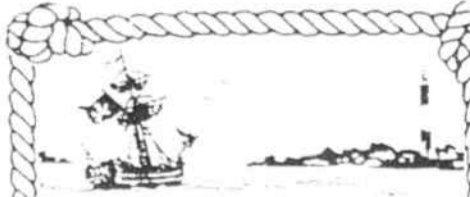
Last year 600 guests brought their own oyster knives and took advantage of the all-you-can eat roast, while another 100 or so chose fried fish.

"We're not set up for much bigger than that," he said. "We're pretty pushed putting that many through."

While Varnam didn't know in mid-August what will be on the menu this year other than oysters, he said, "I feel like we'll be having something else so people who don't

eat oysters can come eat and enjoy the fellowship too."

In the Supply-Holden Beach area, almost every road leads to Varnamtown and Dixon Chapel UMC, which is on the Varnamtown Road (S.R. 1112).



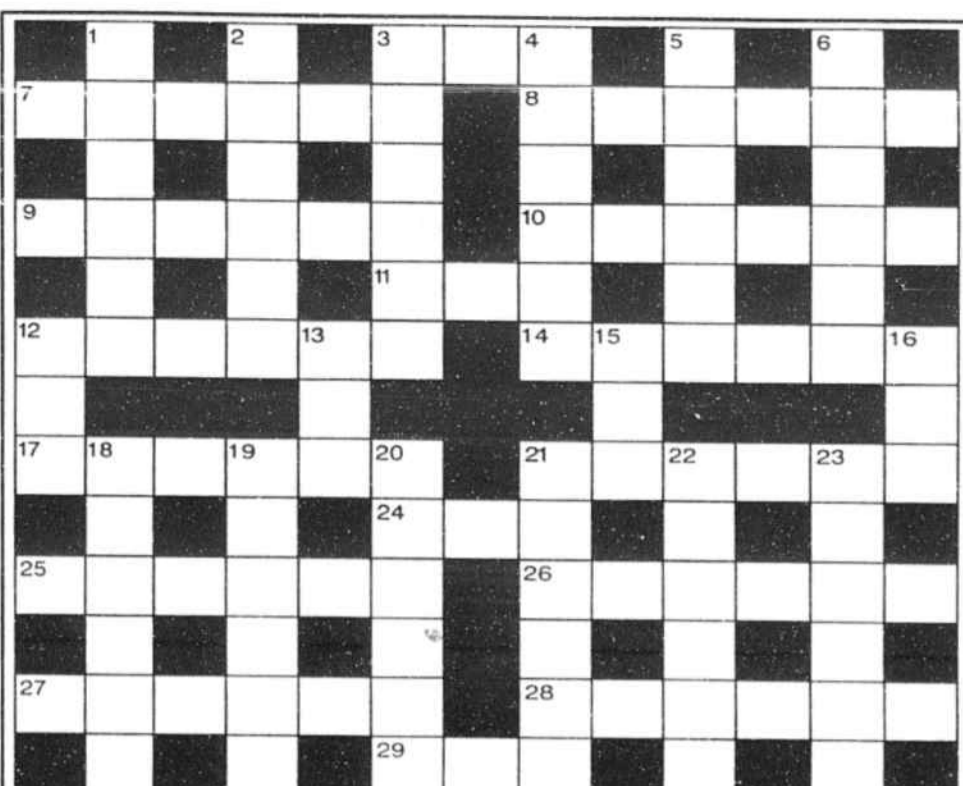
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CLUES ACROSS

- 3. Craze
- 7. Roundabout way
- 8. Sufficient
- 9. Defame
- 10. Maintenance
- 11. Drowse
- 12. Protect
- 14. Exit
- 17. Dainty
- 21. Attach
- 24. Impair
- 25. Poise
- 26. Efface
- 27. Incentive
- 28. Slender
- 29. Encountered

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Calm
- 2. Courteous
- 3. Chum
- 4. Mislead
- 5. Employee
- 6. Concurs
- 12. Douse
- 13. Snare
- 15. Fissure
- 16. Sorrowful
- 18. Use
- 19. Satirical
- 20. Symbol
- 21. Passionate
- 22. Petty
- 23. Idea

CROSSWORD

(For Answers, See Page 48)

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- BROWN'S LANDING**—Elegant brick executive home, Lockwood Folly River, 5 BR, 3 1/2 baths. Extras! CALL!
- POINT WINDWARD (1726)**—1 1/2 lots. Custom built. Cathedral ceiling, fireplace, 2 BR/loft. VIEW. \$129,000.
- OCEAN PINES**—River Oaks MH, oak cabinets, 8 ft. ceilings, exceptional. On 3 lots, Sauce Pan. \$87,500.
- WATER WONDERLAND**—Lots 58, 60 and 16. County water, restricted. \$12,500 to \$13,500.

- WATERWAY ESTATES**—Lot 2. Nice community, public water, view of ICW. MOTIVATED SELLER. \$35,000.
- GAUSE LANDING**—Lots 6 and 15, front and back. Majestic oaks, nice view of ICW. Both \$39,000.
- INLET PARK (Shalotte Point)**—Two adjoining lots, paved st., county water, trees. Owner financing. CALL.
- SHADY REST**—Several lots available, some with septic and electricity in place. Possible owner financing.
- SHALLOTTE POINT**—(on river)—Great views of ICW and inlet. Rare find, deep water, 2 lots. \$150,000.
- RIVER HEIGHTS**—3.5 acres in town limits, water/sewer. Could possible by subdivided. \$105,000.
- BRICKLANDING (MARINER'S WACCHE, UNIT B 3307)**—3 BR, 2 baths. Views of ICW and golf course. \$160,000.
- SHALLOTTE POINT (Carter Rd.)**—2 BR, 1 bath with 4 lots, storage building. \$85,000.
- SHALLOTTE RIVER (Mintz St. Extension)**—3 or 4 BR, deep water, 3000 ft. EXTRAS! \$185,000.
- BREAKFAST CREEK**—Fantastic view of creek, inlet, ICW and ocean. 3 BR, 3 baths, SEE IT! \$259,000.

GOLF COURSE

- BRIERWOOD ESTATES (8 Hogan Ct.)**—3 BR, 2 full and 2 half baths, stucco, hardwood floors, pool. \$185,000.
- BRIERWOOD ESTATES (10 Nicklaus Ct.)**—Executive, 4-BR, 2 1/2-bath traditional. brick home. \$169,000.
- BRIERWOOD LOTS**—Lot 2, Sec. 1 \$28,900. Lot 10, \$28,900. Lot 26, Sec. G \$22,900. MORE!
- BRICKLANDING LOTS**—11 Col. Sq., \$45,000. 5 Lake Forest, \$48,900. 71 and 72 OB Ct., \$50,000 ea. 2 Col. Sq. \$47,500.
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- QUAIL RUN (Ocean Isle Beach)**—1200 ft., 2 full living areas, siding, HP, furnished, near golf course. \$54,000.
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