



MEN'S DOUBLES winners in the 1992 contest were Mark Walker (left) and Curtis Foust (center), shown with tournament coordinator Ben Tonking.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES honors went to Terry Bowser (left) and Jean Fletcher (right), shown with Lou Tonking.

In Horseshoes, Field Of Competitors Gets Bigger, Better

A record 106 men and 15 women signed up for last year's Festival By The Sea horseshoe-pitching competition, an event whose popularity increases every year along with the skill of the competitors.

Contest organizer Ben Tonking hopes to add something new this

year—bleachers for the growing crowds who gather to watch the day-long men's and women's singles and doubles events.

Taking home an unprecedented fifth women's singles championship last year was Sue West of Sanford. Defending men's singles champion is Oscar Overcash of

Concord, who played his last 12 points last year against veteran pitcher Curtis Foust with the horseshoe pit illuminated by car lights after night fell on the match.

Foust was half the winning men's doubles team, along with past singles winner Mark Walker. They defeated Tom Driver and David Milliken.

Taking honors in the women's doubles match were Terry Bowser and Jean Fletcher, beating Elneda Holden and Shirley Driver, 1990 and '91 women's doubles champs.

One of two past champions who were benched for medical reasons last year is expected to be back in the men's singles and doubles this year.

At tournament time last year, it was shoulder surgery which sidelined tournament founder Eddie Sweatt. A broken sternum suffered in a car wreck kept past winner Leon Burton at home in Kernersville. Sweatt is expected to compete this year, but Burton says he still is unable to compete.

The action begins at 1 p.m. on

Saturday after the festival parade concludes and motorists are able to get across to the island to sign up. Cost of entering singles or doubles is \$1 per person.

Winners are awarded certificates, ribbons and bragging rights for finishing first or second place.

The horseshoe pits are along Bruns. Ave. west of the town water tower, across from the Holden Beach Chapel on Rothschild Street.

The horseshoe tournament is sponsored by Sun and Surf Containers and *The Brunswick Beacon*.

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How Fast Is Your Bopple? Day At Docks Will Tell You

While you're enjoying this year's Festival by the Sea, festival organizers are looking ahead to their next big project.

The Holden Beach Merchants Association is already well into planning its 1994 Day at the Docks Celebration, set for March 26.

New at Day at the Docks '94 will be the Great "Bopple" Race, whose

three winners will share the \$300 grand prize.

Oh, you're not athletic? Not to worry. Here's how the world's fastest Bopple is determined:

Anyone may buy a crew member spot on a Bopple for one dollar.

What's a Bopple, you ask? It's an apple with a spar installed with three crew members' numbers written on the spar (known to landlub-

bers as a piece of wood). When you pay your buck, you receive a number to be entered on a spar and inserted into an apple.

At exactly 5 p.m. March 26, the Bopples will be dumped from the top of the Holden Beach bridge and into the Intracoastal Waterway. The first Bopple to cross the finish line will be netted, and the three crewmembers will be co-winners. Each will receive \$100 plus prizes from the Holden Beach Merchants Association members.

As part of its promotion of the Great Bopple Race, the merchants association will begin selling crew-member spots during the Festival by the Sea, when Mayor Wally Ausley will drop a Bopple from the bridge.

Advertising for all Day at the Docks events will begin at the Festival by the Sea.

For the time being, mark your calendar for March 26 as Holden Beach celebrates its waterway heritage with:

- Food by local professional vendors, 11 a.m.-5 p.m.;
- Free boat rides, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.
- Boat race, 4 p.m.
- Bopple Race, 5 p.m.

This year's Day at the Docks Committee includes Gary Carr, Gay Atkins, Richard Jones and Jim Driggers.

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