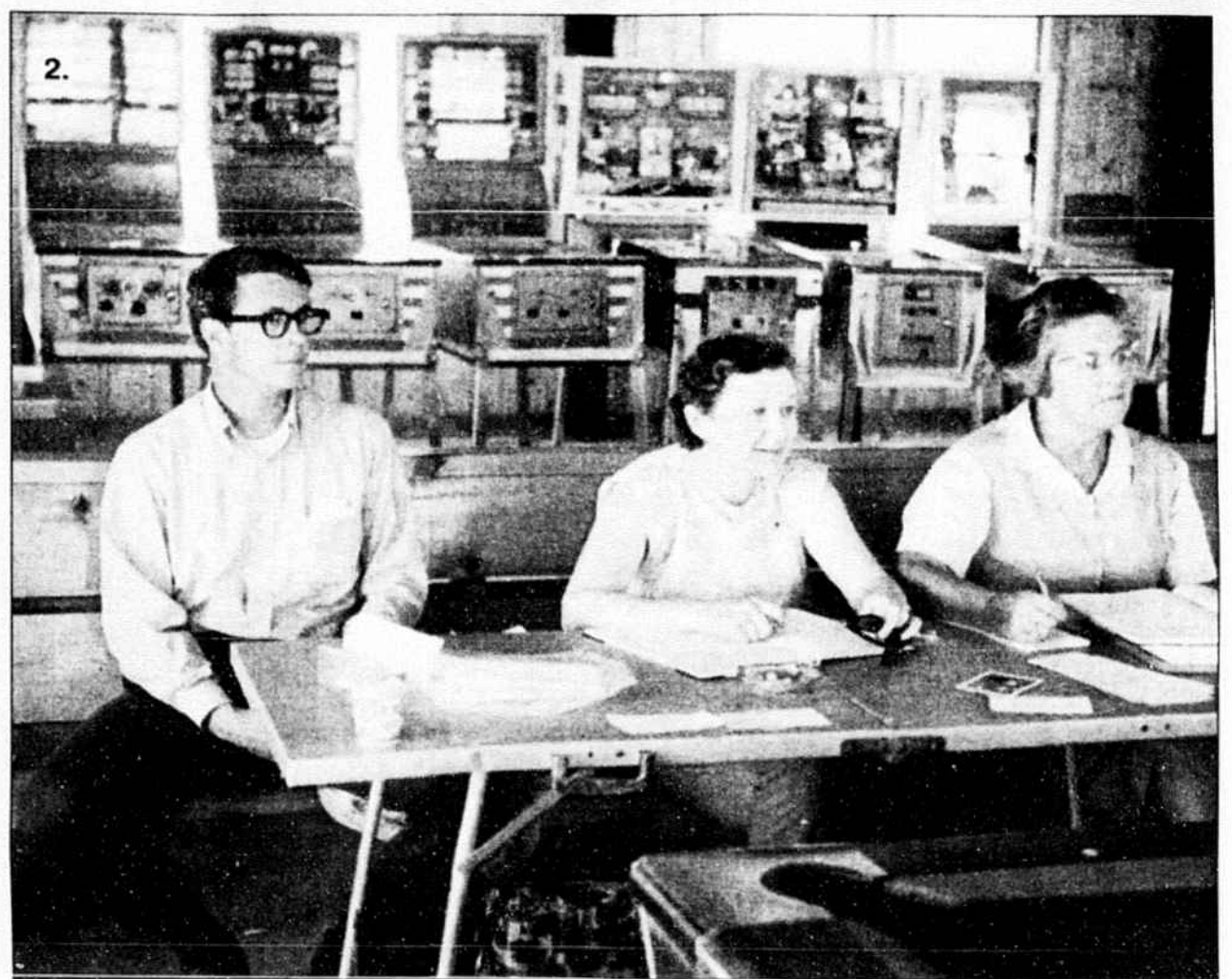




MARVIN GRAY (center) was named Holden Beach's first police chief about one year after the town was incorporated. State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. (left) was on hand to administer the oath of office March 18, 1970, with help from Mayor John F. Holden.



HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

1. CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE ROSE (right) was serving his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives when Holden Beach Town Hall was dedicated April 22, 1973. Rose is pictured with Mayor John F. Holden.

2. MEETING AMIDST PINBALL MACHINES and pool tables, Holden Beach's first elections board was comprised of (from left) Jim Griffin, Helen Van Werry and Mabel Dutton. Dutton continued serving on the board until last year.

3. THE GANG'S ALL HERE. Holden Beach's original mayor and board of commissioners was appointed April 14, 1969. Pictured (from left) are Mayor John F. Holden, Commissioner Drew Griffin, Brunswick County Board of Elections Chairman Foster Mintz, Commissioners Elizabeth Holden, Hugh Dutton, Kermit Coble and Joe Hewett.



Holden Beach To Celebrate 25 Years

BY DOUG RUTTER

Holden Beach, which has sailed its share of calm waters and rough seas over the last 25 years, will celebrate its silver anniversary with a special ceremony next Friday night.

A re-enactment of the first town meeting featuring founding Mayor John F. Holden and two of the original commissioners will be the main focus of an hour-long program March 25 at 6 p.m. in Holden Beach Chapel.

"We hope for it to be entertaining. I hope it will tell the history of the beginnings of Holden Beach," said Mayor Wally Ausley, who will narrate the re-enactment.

"I've always felt to know where you're going it's important to know where you've been. That's why I think it's important for young people to know a little bit about how the town got started," Ausley said.

The re-enactment will be presented in the form of a skit entitled "Holden Beach: The First 25," and it will kick off a weekend of fun activities on and around the island.

The Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association will sponsor the fourth annual Day At The Docks on Saturday, March 26. Activities including boat rides, a shag contest and boat parade are planned from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Ausley said the re-enactment of the town meeting will not be true-to-life, since the first elected board didn't take office until later in 1969 and the skit will include events that happened during several meetings.

However, the idea is to give residents and visitors a feeling for how the town got started. "The whole idea is to describe the history of Holden Beach in an entertaining manner," Ausley said.

The first elected board was comprised of Mayor John F. Holden, Mayor Pro Tem Drew Griffin and Commissioners Kermit Coble, Joe Hewett, Elizabeth Holden and Hugh Dutton.

John Holden, Coble and Dutton will play themselves

HOLDEN BEACH'S FOURTH ANNUAL DAY AT THE DOCKS

Saturday, March 26
Schedule Of Events

- 10 a.m.: Brunswick County arts and crafts tables at Captain Pete's Seafood, Betty's Restaurant and Intracoastal Marina. Tables stay open until 6 p.m.
- 10 a.m.: Free boat rides start at Captain Pete's Seafood, Intracoastal Marina and Holden Beach Marina. Catch a ride on the Mega Flite, Intimidator, Miss Sarah and others until 3 p.m.
- 10 a.m.: Food service starts at Captain Pete's Seafood, Intracoastal Marina, Holden Beach Marina and Betty's Restaurant. Food provided by local restaurants will be served until 6 p.m.
- Noon: Brunswick County Concert Band performs at Holden Beach Marina until 1 p.m.
- 2 p.m.: Shag Contest at Holden Beach Marina sponsored and coordinated by WCCA radio station until 3 p.m.
- 4 p.m.: Blessing of the fleet and boat parade sponsored and coordinated by the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.
- 5 p.m.: Bopple Race from top of Holden Beach Bridge. Apples will be dumped into waterway by Holden Beach mayor and commissioners.

in the skit. The three other original board members are deceased and will be played by Jim Griffin (Drew Griffin), Spiro Poulos (Joe Hewett) and Rose Smith (Elizabeth Holden).

Bolivia Mayor Ina Mae Mintz will play the role of her

late husband, Foster Mintz, who was chairman of the Brunswick County Board of Elections when the town was incorporated.

Holden Beach was chartered Feb. 14, 1969, under unusual circumstances. Area residents were working on

two petitions to incorporate—one included just the island and the other included part of the Holden Beach mainland.

With the state legislature out of session, it was the now-defunct North Carolina Municipal Board of Control that granted the charter and decided to limit the town boundaries to the island.

Grover Gore of Southport, who was the town attorney at the time, will present the town charter during next Friday's ceremony.

The skit also will include adoption of the first two town ordinances. The first one established restrictions for animals on the beach and the second designated a certain area for mobile homes.

The mock board also will discuss finances. Holden Beach officials now work with a \$1.8 million per year. When the town started out, the total budget was \$14,500.

As narrator, Ausley said he hopes to weave together the re-enactment with other interesting facts about the early history of the town.

Politicians expected to take part in the ceremony include Congressman Charlie Rose and State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr.

Rose, who was serving his first term in the U.S. House of Representatives at the time, helped dedicate Holden Beach Town Hall on April 22, 1973. He will give an address on the town's beginnings.

Soles also will speak briefly, relating the story of how he administered the oath of office to Holden Beach's first police chief, Marvin Gray, on March 18, 1970.

The ceremony is open to the public, and no admission will be charged. Ausley advises residents to get there early since Holden Beach Chapel only seats about 300 people.

Following the re-enactment a reception is planned across the street at town hall, where a birthday cake with 25 candles will be waiting.

PLAGUED WITH ACHES AND PAINS?

LABOD CHIROPRACTIC CENTER
HARBOR SQUARE PLAZA
Across from Hardee's
LITTLE RIVER, SC
(803)249-9787

ZENG'S GARDEN
Chinese Restaurant

LUNCH BUFFET Monday-Friday 11-2:30 PM
FAMILY NIGHT BUFFET Monday-Saturday

NEW HOURS:
Monday-Thursday 11 AM-3, 4:30-8:30 PM
Friday 11 AM-3, 4:30-9 PM
Saturday 4:30-9 PM
Sunday 11 AM-3 PM

For take-out call **754-5280**

East Gate Square, Holden Beach Road • Shallotte

Henry D.
THE UNSINKABLE BOAT

call **Ron Taylor** at:
1-800-545-2293