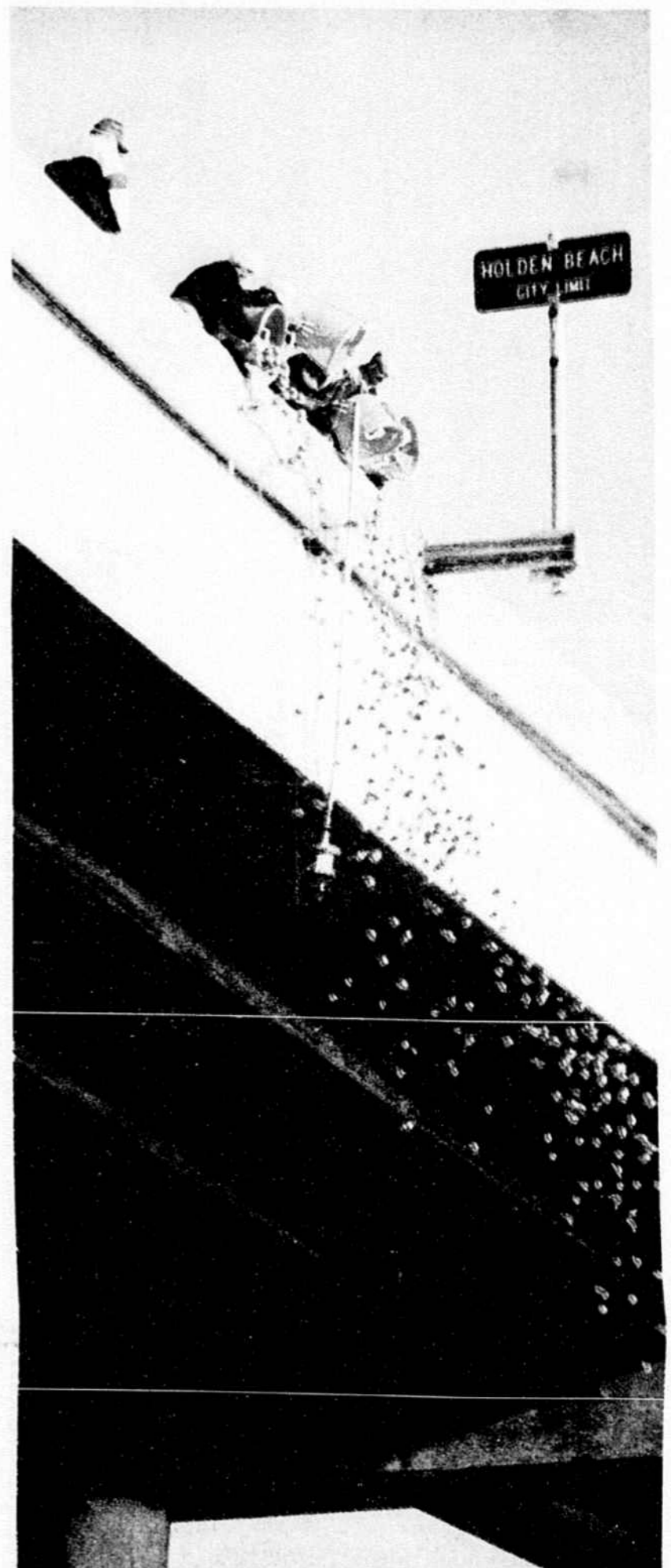




BLUE WATER AND SUNNY SKIES brings residents and visitors to the Holden Beach waterfront for boat rides, dancing, eating and enjoying each others' company. STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON



HOLDEN BEACH MAYOR WALLY AUSLEY called on several town commissioners Saturday to help start the "World's Only Bopple Race." STAFF PHOTO BY ERIC CARLSON

Day At The Docks

BY LYNN CARLSON

It was the year of the Hurricane Camille, Chappaquiddick and one small step for the man on the moon. At Holden Beach, the burning issue was horses on the strand, their thundering hooves scaring off the fish and their riders leaving a mess of beer cans behind.

Something had to be done.

It was 6 p.m. March 25, 1969, when the first official Holden Beach Board of Commissioners' meeting convened, adopting as one of its first actions a ban on beachfront horseback riding which is still in effect.

The reenactment of that fortuitous event—25 years later to the minute—kicked off this year's Day at the Docks celebration, a project of the Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association to remind visitors and residents of the importance of the Intracoastal Waterway to the local way of life.

Hundreds availed themselves of free boat rides on the waterway Saturday from both the island and mainland sides and enjoyed fresh seafood prepared by local clubs and restaurants.

Seven couples entered Beach 106.3 FM's first Day at the Docks shag-dancing contest, with Buddy Allen and Pat Fitzgerald taking home the gold for the proficiency at the official State Dance of North Carolina.

In the "World's Only Bopple Race," where 408 apples dove from the crest of the Holden Beach bridge and swam into a net at the first green marker west, Ed Hart, Mary Lou Tonking and Mike O'Neal each went home \$100 richer.

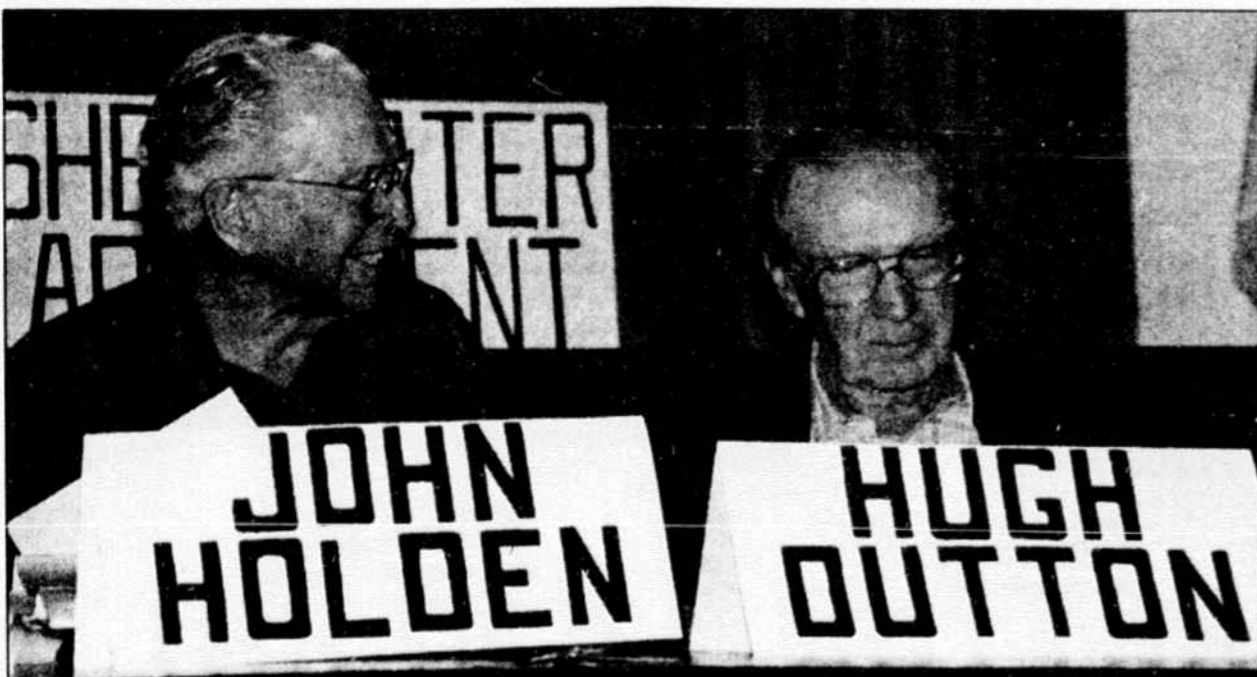
The weather wasn't picture-perfect—a strong east wind kept things on the cool side—but the sun was shining brightly. All in all, it was a fine opportunity to celebrate the silver anniversary of Holden Beach, bask in a little maritime heritage and visit with friends and neighbors on the last weekend before the "off-season" ends.



SHAGGING THE DAY AWAY are Bob Pfeiffer of Ocean Isle Beach and Karen King of Shallotte, competing in a dance contests in front of Holden Beach Marina. STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON



WE HAVE A WINNER! Ken Roberts of Shallotte Flotilla 10-08 of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary fishes the winning bopple from the waterway. STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER



JOHN HOLDEN and Hugh Dutton help reenact the first Holden Beach Board of Commissioners meeting 25 years ago. STAFF PHOTO BY LYNN CARLSON



SUE HOUSTON (left) leads the Shallotte Ladies Barbershop Chorus, which was a big hit Saturday with the crowd at Holden Beach Marina. STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER