



THERE'S FUN FOR all ages at the annual Holden Beach Festival By the Sea. This gaggle of kids had their share of it during last year's festival.

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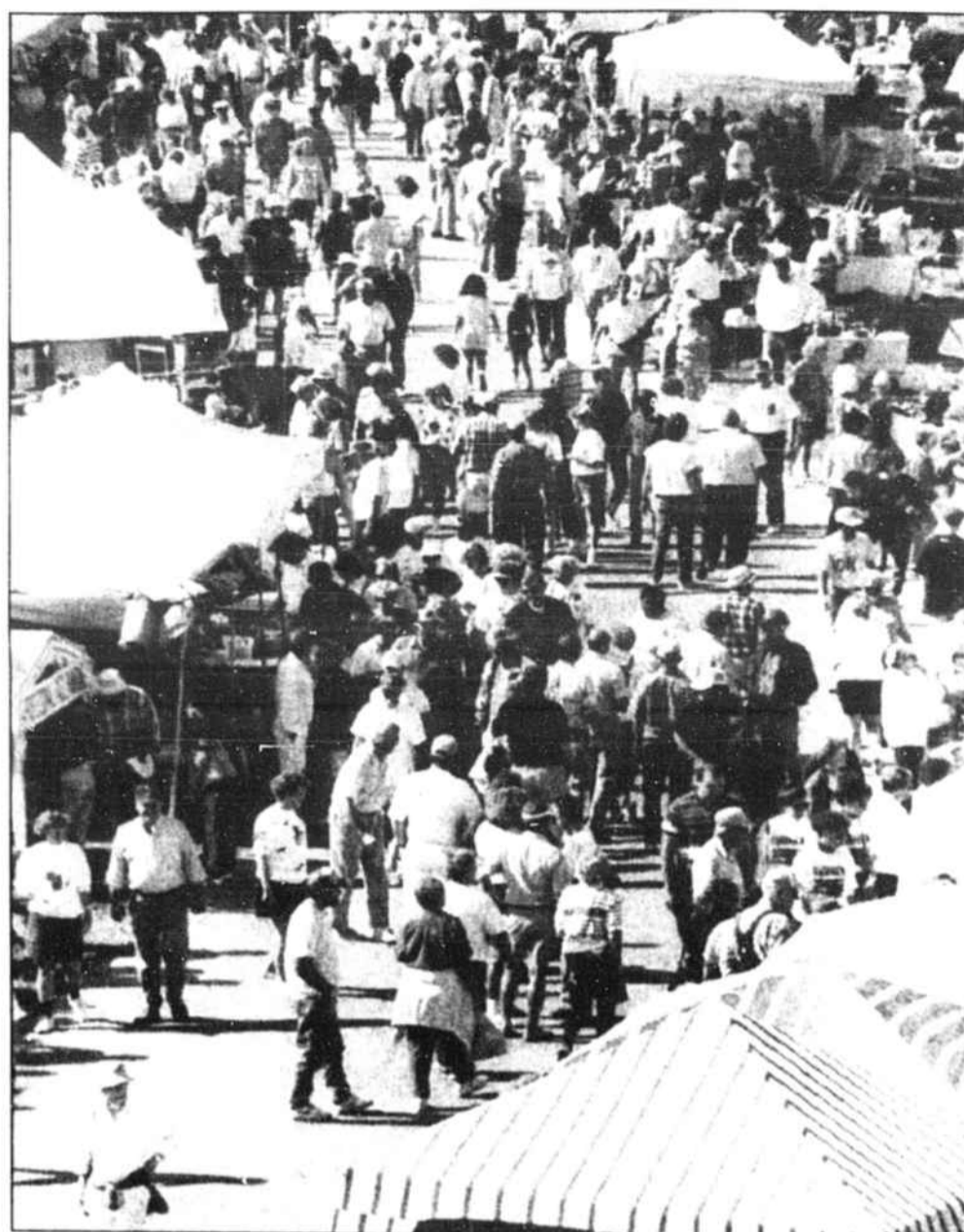
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BEACON FILE PHOTO

A GLIMPSE of the crowds at the 1992 Festival by the Sea indicate the popularity of this annual event.

Holden Beach Combines 25th Anniversary With Seaside Festival

There's extra reason to celebrate down "by the sea" in Holden Beach this year.

Aside from the usual frenzy of delight over all the beach has to offer, there is the additional commemoration of the town's 25th birthday.

Festival By the Sea, scheduled for October 28-30, takes note of this event on its annual T-shirts and sweatshirts. A hulking loggerhead turtle, one of Holden Beach's prized and protected creatures, is pictured with a seal proclaiming "25th" alongside it. T-shirts are selling for \$10, sweatshirts for \$18.

Jim Lowell, festival chairperson, said the first concern of planners is, "We're praying it doesn't rain." However, in the approximate 13 years of Festival by the Sea, Lowell said it's rained only once.

The same menu of arts and crafts, international foods, entertainment and parade will be served this year, beginning on Friday night with the kid-pleasing costume contest and carnival. This nod to Halloween is held at the Tri-Beach Fire Department on the mainland, accompanied by the sale of hot dogs, "with everything under the sun," according to Lowell.

"We'll have apple-dunking that

night and even 'person-dunking,'" he said.

Saturday's festivities begin early with 1K, 5K and 10K runs, beginning at the beach fire station. A parade will be held on the causeway at 10 a.m., when all other activities will be underway.

Sand sculptures will be in progress on the strand near the campground, as will kite-flying and a fierce horseshoe tournament, all open to the public.

The arts and crafts assembled under the bridge are perhaps the most popular feature, Lowell said. "Even during that rainy festival, people swarmed over this area and bought a lot," he said. "This is the time so many people come from everywhere to do their Christmas shopping."

He anticipated 150 crafters and 20 food vendors for this year's event, with food representing every part of the world.

Festival by the Sea attracted 18,000 people in 1992 and Lowell said that number may be exceeded this year. Last year saw the event's first wash-out, with torrential rains on Saturday and a cold north wind on Sunday, so faithful festival-goers are really looking forward to '94!