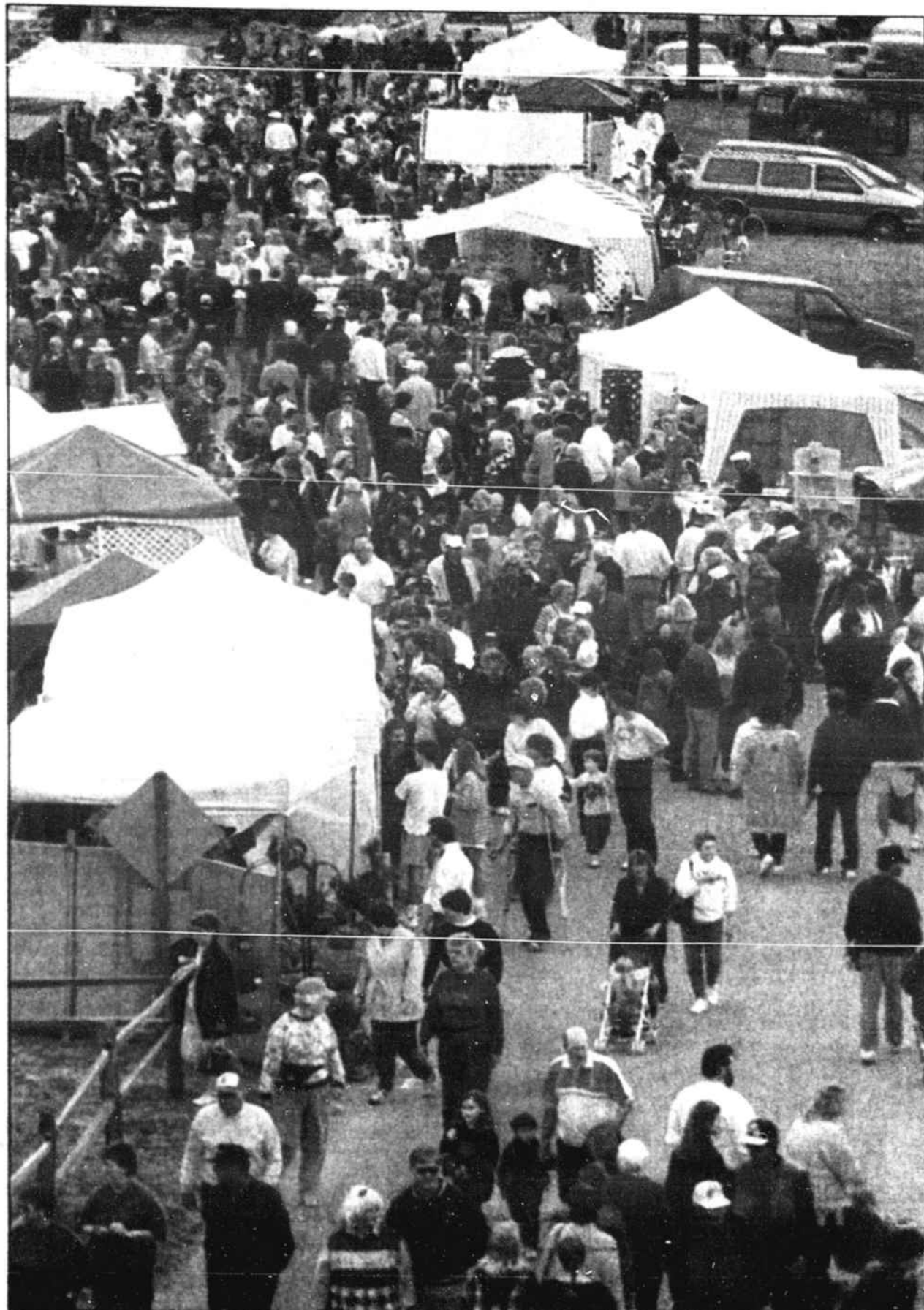


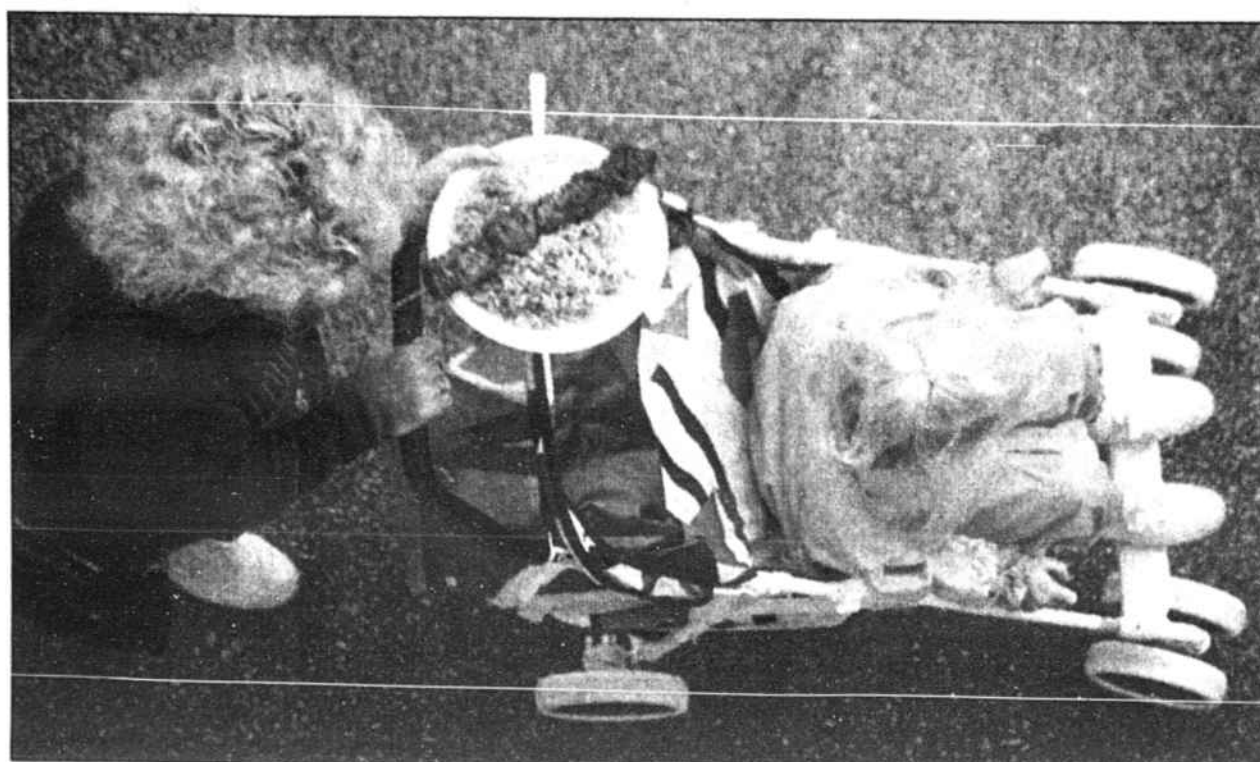
under the sun

THE BRUNSWICK BEACON
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1994

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A RECORD CROWD browses through arts and crafts booths at Saturday's Festival By The Sea on Holden Beach.



JUGGLING a stroller and a shiskabob isn't easy, but it is possible...

By The Sea, By The Sea...

After last year's washout/blowout/freezout, organizers promised the biggest, best Festival By The Sea ever in 1994. And they delivered.

Vendors reported record sales, and regular festival-watchers said they'd never seen such volume of traffic trying to get on and off the island of Holden Beach on Saturday.

Skies were intermittently cloudy, but the rain held off to draw an enthusiastic throng of shoppers, competitors, diners and revelers.

Friday night's carnival and costume contest thrilled hundreds of children who came to Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department for fun and games. Costumes were elaborate, as always, with honors going to everything from a pint-sized Elvis to a grown-up male Dolly Parton troll.

Saturday morning's runners and Saturday afternoon's horseshoe pitchers enjoyed mild temperatures for those traditional festival activities, while kite-fliers took advantage of a sturdy breeze. Both the road race and the horseshoe-pitching competition drew a mix of perennial and first-time participants.

The streets were rocking Saturday night to the Blazers, who came through on a pledge of good music and great times for shaggers of all ages.

Craft sales were brisk both Saturday and Sunday, as residents and visitors got a jump on their holiday shopping with handcrafted items from dozens of talented vendors.

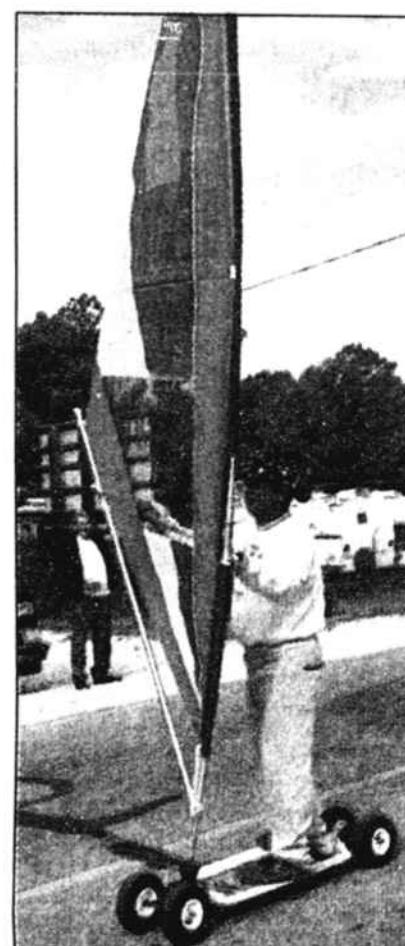
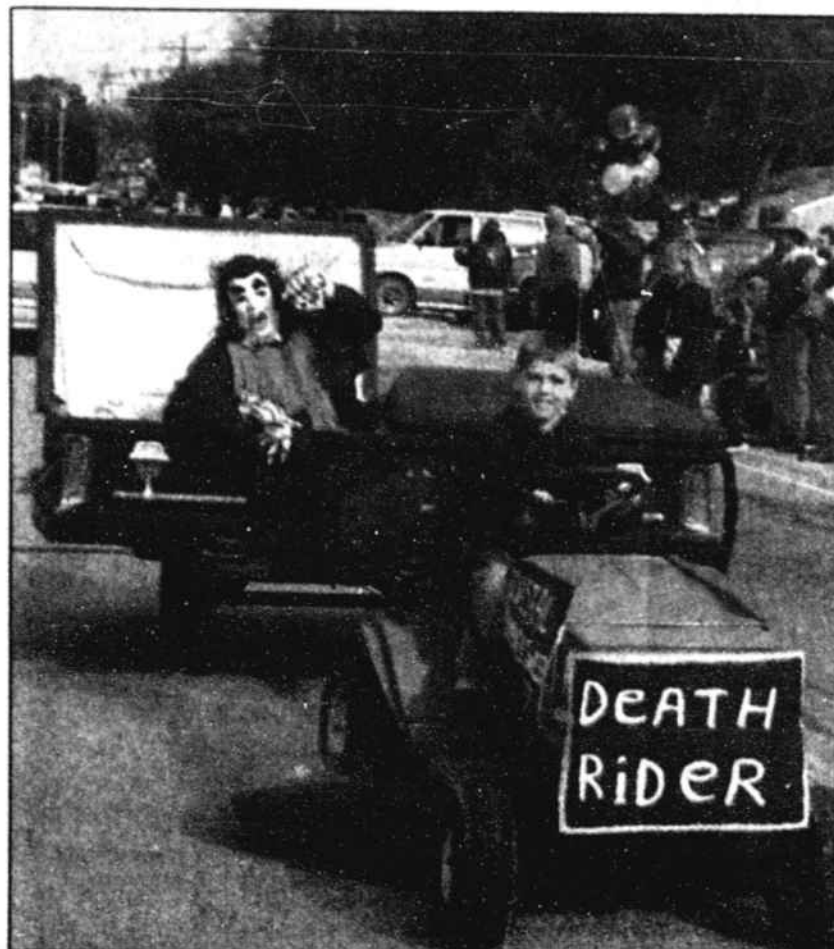
Those with art aptitude and imagination hit the beach Sunday morning for the sand sculpture contest at Campground by the Sea. Winning creations were a Power Ranger figure and a lighthouse.

As shoppers scoured for last-minute bargains Sunday afternoon, they were serenaded by the sacred sounds of some of Brunswick County's most talented gospel music singers and performers.

A good time was had by all, with the possible exception of festival coordinator Jim Lowell of the Greater Holden Beach

Merchants Association. Lowell was home recovering from open heart surgery. His wife Barbara reports he's progressing nicely and looking forward to Day at the Docks in March.

There's more festival coverage throughout this issue...



CLOWN Kristen Shallcross and Robin Hood Erin Kerr (above) compete in the Festival Costume Contest. At left, parade favorite Neal Clarke rises from the "Death Rider" in the parade, pulled by tractor driver Brian Strickland, while, at right, Lyndon Holden combines sailboarding and skateboarding for a colorful if tricky mode of travel.

No Simulated Nature For Us!

BY BILL FAVER

A recent magazine article related how the Japanese people in Tokyo crave natural areas so much that now videos and billboards in public places are carrying simulated nature. The idea is, they will be reminded of the soothing effects of a seashore or the calming effects of a mountain hike and be able to cope with the urban life they must lead.

Videos on trains and buses, in airports and office buildings are there to remind them, and billboards not currently rented to the advertisers feature mountain and seashore scenes as a public service.

FAVER

Not so for us. We are extremely fortunate to live in

an area of the country where we have an abundance of natural areas. We have so many beautiful seashore scenes and woodland vistas we often take them for granted. We forget there are those in cities in our own country who crave the kind of natural areas we experience. Perhaps we need to remind ourselves of how fortunate we are and become more aware of the scenes around us.

Take a stretch of marshland as an example. We often drive by and see a white bird or a hawk and speed onward, not noticing the subtle changes in the colors of the grass or the trees around the margins.

We may notice a patch of oyster shells on a muddy bottom, but we fail to see the snails climbing the grass stems or the rails roaming their alleyways between the grass clumps. We can be thankful it is all there for us to experience.

No simulated nature for us. We have the real thing and it is an exciting and rewarding experience for those who realize it and know the effect it has upon our own well being. Our gratitude leads us to want to do all we can to protect and share our special treasure with all who seek more than simulated nature.



SOME OF OUR MARSHES are among our most beautiful natural treasures.

PHOTO BY BILL FAVER