

(See story, Page 5-A, editorial Page 4-A)

*It's Festival By The Sea Time At Holden Beach*  
 A special supplement inside this issue has all the details

A Halloween carnival starts the festival fun Friday, just one of the "safe" alternatives listed on Page 16-B. Adding to the suspense, a collection of ghostly local tales, Page 8-B.

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1989 SHUCKING CHAMPION Karen McNeil (right) accepts a plaque and a \$100 check from Susanne Sartelle, executive vice president of the South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce. Additional coverage of the N.C. Oyster Festival can be found throughout this issue.

## Former Runner-Up McNeil Wins Oyster Shucking Championship

**BY RAHN ADAMS**  
 In last year's N.C. Oyster Shucking Championship, Karen McNeil was the "bridesmaid." This year, she was the blushing "bride."  
 Before a crowd of several hundred spectators late Saturday afternoon at Sea Trail, the 26-year-old Supply area resident shucked her way to her first state title by opening and arranging 24 raw Chesapeake Bay oysters in 2:43.24. She defeated five competitors.  
 "I'm so happy," Ms. McNeil told the crowd after her victory was announced. "I've been trying so long. This makes my third time, and I finally won."  
 Her performance followed last year's showing as first runner-up to three-time state champion and current record-holder Cathy Carlisle. The record time is 2:21.40.  
 Ms. Carlisle was unable to de-

fend her state crown Saturday, because she was in Leonardtown, Md., competing in the U.S. Oyster Shucking Championship (see related story). Ms. McNeil will appear there next October as North Carolina's representative in the national competition.  
 "I was wanting to go," the new champ said shortly after her win. "I can hardly wait until next year." In addition to the expense-paid trip to the nationals, she was awarded a plaque and a \$100 first-prize check.  
 She added that even though she had an easier time opening her oysters than last year, she was "nervous as a dog" during Saturday's contest. Newspaper, radio and television interviews afterwards added to the excitement for the young woman, who has worked as a "picker" at Lloyd's Oyster House at Shallotte Point for the past eight years.

"Bridesmaids" this year were first runner-up Gloria Daniels of Shallotte, with a 2:58.77 time; second runner-up Shirley Simmons of Supply, 2:59.99; and third runner-up Tara Futch of Supply, 3:04.25. They won prizes of \$75, \$50 and \$25, respectively.  
 Rounding out the six-person field were Diane Leonard of Supply, with a 3:19.95 mark; and Ed Brown of Supply—the first male contestant since 1987—with a 3:52.83 time.  
 "We had the largest field we've had in several years, and I was tickled to death," said Contest Chairman Allan Dameron. Increased prize money from the contest's first sponsor—Jones Ford of Shallotte—and Ms. Carlisle's absence drew more competitors this year, Dameron speculated.  
 As far as "raw" oyster shucking (See SHUCKING, Page 2-A)

## Group Forms To Oppose Nov. 7 ABC Referendum

**BY RAHN ADAMS**  
 A citizens group headed by two local Baptist ministers has mobilized to fight passage of Brunswick County's upcoming ABC referendum.  
 With the Nov. 7 vote less than two weeks away, "Citizens Against Alcohol" this week began a series of newspaper advertisements and radio spots opposing the referendum. The group also began distributing anti-alcohol posters and handbills.  
 The organization is co-chaired by the Rev. Bryan Doshier, interim pastor of Sabbath Home Baptist Church, and the Rev. M.C. Herring, pastor of Mt. Zion Baptist Church, according to the Rev. Vic Potter of Town Creek Baptist Church.  
 Potter, who serves as publicity chairman, said Tuesday that Citizens Against Alcohol formed six weeks ago. "We purposely waited until a couple of weeks before (the referendum) to 'blitz' the community," Potter said of the group's advertising campaign.  
 He also noted that the 7,000-member Brunswick Baptist Association went on record against the referendum during the annual meeting in Southport Friday of the association's 42 member churches.

However, Potter maintained that the citizens group isn't just a confederacy of church members. "It involves people both in and outside churches," he said.  
 Potter said the organization opposes countywide alcohol sales because of the "havoc it wreaks on the citizenry."  
 Old Shallotte Baptist Church also published an anti-alcohol advertisement in this issue of the *Beacon*. Deacon Eldridge Ludlum indicated Monday that his church's effort was not part of the Citizens Against Alcohol campaign.  
 "We are just trying to create some positive enthusiasm to defeat the issue," Ludlum said. "It's right here on us, and there hasn't been anything said about it."  
 Ludlum explained his opposition to countywide sales. "I think it puts it on display too much," he said. "I'm a firm believer that the more

places you have it on display, the more you'll sell."  
 As of Tuesday, no "wet" forces had surfaced since Aug. 7, when Brunswick County Commissioners voted unanimously to call for the ABC referendum. Commission Chairman Frankie Rabon, who made the referendum motion, said afterwards that his action was prompted by input from groups in his area (District 4) and the Southport area.  
 In March, local resident Sharon Hardee, saying she represented "small business owners" in the county, had urged commissioners to seek a countywide vote. Also, State Rep. E. David Redwine told the board in January that it should consider requesting a referendum.  
 Shortly before the county's last countywide ABC vote in September 1981, a pro-alcohol group—Brunswick County Citizens for Legal Control and Revenue—formed in response to a campaign by the Christian Action League of Brunswick County.  
 The 1981 referendum involved just beer and wine sales. All four issues on the ballot failed; the narrowest margin was 500 votes. The questions included whether or not to permit on- and off-premises beer sales; on- and off-premises wine sales; and just off-premises sales of each beverage.  
 According to the Brunswick County Board of Elections office, county voters also will be asked four questions in the upcoming Nov. 7 referendum: whether or not to permit on- and off-premises sale of malt beverages; on- and off-premises sale of unfortified wines; the operation of ABC stores; and the sale of mixed beverages in hotels, restaurants, private clubs, community theaters and convention centers in unincorporated areas of the county.  
 Alcohol sales of one sort or another are legal now in a majority of the county's municipalities. Also, "sports clubs" in unincorporated sections of Brunswick County can obtain ABC permits as a result of legislation sponsored two years ago by Redwine.

## Shucks! N.C. Champ Falls In National Championship

**BY RAHN ADAMS**  
 Before Sunday's U.S. Oyster Shucking Championship, three-time state titleholder Cathy Carlisle of Boone's Neck said she wasn't sure she could retain her national women's division crown.  
 And when the oyster shells were down in Leonardtown, Md., her worries proved to be well-founded.  
 Ms. Carlisle finished third in a repeat performance of the 1987 national championship. Her nemesis that year—Deborah Pratt of Urbana, Va.—recaptured the women's title Sunday afternoon.  
 According to St. Mary's County (Md.) Seafood Festival Administrator Tom Burke, Ms. Pratt won the women's division by shucking and arranging 24 oysters in 3:30.59—an adjusted time that was only about 3 1/2 seconds faster than Ms. Carlisle's 3:34.26 mark. Second-place finisher Sarah Hammond of Jamaica, Va., clocked in at 3:33.56.

ing this year was particularly tough and that large penalty totals were common. "Actually, Cathy was the fastest, but penalty points hurt her," said Burke.  
 To her original time, 78 seconds in penalties were added, compared to 51 seconds for Ms. Pratt and 60 seconds for Ms. Hammond. No details were available on the nature of the penalties.  
 Ms. Carlisle could not be reached for comment Monday. She won \$100 for her third-place finish.  
 In Sunday's shucking showdown between the men's and women's winners, 1987 overall national champion Duke Landry of Baton Rouge, La., won the right to represent the United States next September at the World Oyster Opening Championship in Galway, Ireland. With a 2:20 adjusted time, he defeated Ms. Pratt by 35 seconds.  
 To reach the showdown, Landry finessed defending U.S. champion Archie Miller out of the men's title. Miller, who placed second last month in Ireland, shucked his oysters in 1:39, but was assessed 78 seconds in penalties. Landry, with a 2:15 original time, was penalized only 15 seconds.  
 In last year's showdown, Miller's 2:58 adjusted time topped Ms. Carlisle's 3:09 mark. The 1988 nationals were held a month after Ms. Carlisle finished eighth in the world competition in Galway. She defeated Landry in the 1986 national contest showdown.

## Pollution May Kill Community Oyster Roast

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
 Creeping pollution that has slowly decimated oyster beds in Lockwood Folly River over the past decade is now threatening to kill the area's oldest community oyster roast.

Oyster Roast. As always, the shelter behind the church was stuffed most of the day with smiling faces enjoying the annual all-you-can-eat social affair.  
 But underneath those smiles, most knew that they might be attending the final Dixon Chapel Oyster Roast, bringing to an end a tradition of more than 30 years in the quiet community overlooking

the Lockwood Folly River.  
 As patrons entered the eating area behind the church Saturday afternoon, they saw the following words on a hand-made sign tacked to the pavilion: "We love you. You have been faithful over 30 years. Our rivers are tired and in need of a good cleaning. We hate to say it's over, but we must. Love, Dixon Chapel."

The sign was referring to pollution problems in Lockwood Folly River that have become increasingly worse over the past 16 months. Bacterial pollution, blamed partially on septic tanks and stormwater runoff, has forced the state to frequently close sections of the river to shellfish harvesting.  
 Because of the pollution, talk of (See POLLUTION, Page 2-A)

## Shallotte To Pay Back State Street Funds

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
 The Town of Shallotte will pay back more than \$20,000 in state Powell Bill funds it has received wrongly over the past five years.  
 From 1984 to 1988, Shallotte received Powell Bill funds totaling \$21,747.36 for several miles of roads in Brierwood Estates that the town didn't start maintaining until last fall.  
 Although those miles of roadway were brought inside the town limits when portions of Brierwood Estates were annexed in 1984 and 1985, the town didn't start taking care of the streets until last November. Towns are not eligible for Powell Bill monies on roads not maintained by the town.  
 Powell Bill funds are allocated each year to municipalities based on a formula that accounts for population and miles of roadway maintained by each town. The funds can only be used for street improvements, storm drainage, grading and related purposes.

In a recent review of Shallotte's Powell Bill allocation history, the state Department of Transportation found that the town added 2.71 miles of roadway to its street system in fiscal year 1984 which were not justified.  
 Shallotte collected \$875.17 for those miles which should not have been paid in the first place and will now have to be paid back. The information was included in a Sept. 11 letter from the manager of the DOT's planning and research branch to Shallotte Mayor Jerry Jones.  
 In fiscal year 1985, the letter says the town added another 1.9 miles of road to its system that were not justified—increasing the total unjustified mileage to 4.61 miles. In addition to 1985, the town received state funds for those 4.61 miles in fiscal years 1986, 1987 and 1988. The total pay out for those miles over the four years was \$19,375.65.  
 To recover the money, the state will deduct \$4,349.47 each year for the next five years from the town's

Powell Bill allocation. Annual deductions will begin in fiscal year 1990 and end in fiscal year 1994.  
 Mayor Jones presented the repayment plan to aldermen at last Wednesday's town meeting. There was no public discussion among board members relating to the situation.  
 Following the meeting, Jones said he wasn't pleased with the pay-back schedule but said the town will have to accept it. "There's not much more we can do besides pay back the money."  
 Shallotte officials expected to receive about \$33,000 in Powell Bill monies this fiscal year. Based on that figure, the town will face about a 13 percent reduction in state street funds for the next five fiscal years unless more roads are added to the town system. The percent reduction in Powell Bill funds will also depend on the state's allocation per mile, which has increased each of the past five years.  
 Beamon Hewett, who was mayor

when the roads were added to Shallotte's Powell Bill maps in 1984 and 1985, said in July that the streets were added to the maps because the town board had every intention of accepting the streets shortly after the subdivision was annexed and the roads were improved.  
 "The developer wasn't supposed to keep them up forever. And the city never intended for him to keep them up forever," Hewett said at the time.  
 As it turned out, however, it took several years for town officials and the developers of Brierwood to come to terms on the condition of the streets. As a result, they weren't formally dedicated to the town until March.  
 Mayor Jones, who took office in December 1985, said earlier that the roads were left on the Powell Bill maps each year because he assumed when the maps were completed each July that the streets would be taken over by the town during that fiscal year.

## River Closed To Harvesting

Fishermen were chased out of Lockwood Folly River Monday when the state closed the river to shellfishing after permitting harvests there for only five days.  
 After opening to harvesting last Wednesday, the lower section of the river was closed to shellfishing Monday morning due to unsafe bacteria counts, said Bob Benton, chief of the state's Shellfish Sanitation program.  
 A quick rise in bacteria counts is often caused by rainfall and runoff which carries pollutants into the river. But since the area hasn't experienced heavy rainfall since last week, Benton said he wasn't sure what caused the sudden increase in pollution.  
 "I have no idea what's happened or why the counts went back up like that," he said Tuesday. "We don't think rainfall had anything to do with it." The closure was based on tests made Saturday.  
 Annie Smigiel of Varnamtown, president of the local conservation group Save Our Shellfish, said shellfishermen were confused and disappointed by the closure, particularly due to the lack of rainfall.  
 "To me, it sounds like politics are involved," she said Monday. "It is very strange since we haven't had any rain. It seems to me that if that river was polluted today it would have been polluted last week."  
 When the river was open to harvesting, she said there were very few oysters to be found. Mrs. Smigiel said she was only able to gather a half bushel when the river opened to harvesting last Wednesday.  
 All other shellfish areas in Brunswick County remained open to harvesting as of Tuesday. Benton said the state planned to sample waters in Lockwood Folly River on Wednesday. The earliest it can reopen, he said, is Friday morning.