



### Local Models Among Winners

Deanna Atkinson, owner of Dance Showcase in Shallotte, won first place awards in talent and photography in the South Modeling Convention at Hilton Head Island, S.C., recently. She was first runner-up in individual runway and second runner-up in television commercials. Ten Showcase Models from North Myrtle Beach, S.C., attended the convention with director Marsha McCollum. Pictured are, from left, Shannon Elliott of Shallotte, Carin Bookhout, Stephanie Elliott of Shallotte, Alysha Campbell, Deanna Atkinson of Shallotte, Lindsey Dishman of Shallotte, Leah Mills and Bianca Dishman of Shallotte. They won the overall group runway award.

## SOS Leader Says Group Dissolving

BY DOUG RUTTER

The leader of a local group of fishermen who banded together two years ago to fight pollution in shellfishing waters says the organization has nearly dissolved.

"It's just about gone," said Annie Smigiel of Varnamtown, president of Save Our Shellfish (SOS). "The people have lost interest."

The group formed in September 1988, primarily to fight pollution in the Lockwood Folly River, which historically has been a gold mine for local oyster and clam harvesters. Lockwood Folly was closed to shellfish harvesting over a two-week period in August 1988. Since then, sections of the river have been opened to oyster and clam harvesters off and on.

SOS used to meet every month and held several special meetings with state environmental officials to discuss problems caused by pollution in the river and how to stop the pollution.

Mrs. Smigiel said the group has stopped meeting on a regular basis. She said fishermen who were members of the group became discouraged when they didn't see results from the meetings.

"People just lose interest when they see you're not getting any place or they think you're not getting any place," she said. "They figured they should get everything done in just a couple of months, and that's not the way it works."

Mrs. Smigiel said it's going to hurt in the long run if people don't get interested in the river now.

"It takes time and patience," she said. "If they give up on it, they're lost from the beginning. It's something you have to keep after."

The SOS president said she's not sure if the group will ever be active again. She said the organization

could accomplish something if everyone who shellfishes in Lockwood Folly when it's open to harvesting were to get involved.

Mrs. Smigiel said the Lockwood Folly River group could possibly join forces with the group of public officials in Calabash who are working to clean up pollution in the Calabash River.

"That's what it's going to take is everybody working together," Mrs. Smigiel said. "We can't do anything by ourselves."

## Gun Linked To Memphis Crime

BY TERRY POPE

A gun found near the Ocean Isle Beach Airport Saturday has been traced to a 1973 break-in in Tennessee.

A local resident discovered the .38-caliber revolver wrapped in a plastic bag and lying in the ditch on Four-Mile Road (Ocean Isle Beach Road) near the entrance to the airport. She immediately called the Brunswick County Sheriff's Department.

Deputy R.J. Hoagland reported that the gun is a Colt, blue steel revolver with a six-inch barrel. A trace of the serial number showed it was reported stolen from a U.S. Postal Inspector's office in Memphis, Tenn., on March 6, 1973.

Detectives are investigating. The gun is valued at \$300.

In other reports on file at the sheriff's department:

Thieves took more than \$10,000 in tools from a Leland area business over the weekend. Leonard Basden of Leonard's Truck Repair on U.S. 74-76 west of Leland reported someone used a vehicle to push open an outside gate and then broke through the front door between 10 p.m. Saturday and 3:55 a.m. Monday. Tools, drills and hydraulic jacks valued at \$10,100 were reported stolen. Deputy Ken Messer reported.

### CRIME REPORT

Another break-in was reported at Chemical Cartage on Navassa Road over the weekend resulting in \$850 in damage. Although no items were taken from the business, a car owned by Joy Kinser was stolen from the parking lot. The thieves gained entry to the building by ramming the front gate with a vehicle and breaking through a front door, Deputy Messer reported. Ms. Kinser's car is a 1978 Pontiac. The sheriff's department received the call around 10:20 p.m. Sunday.

A Winnabow area man reported someone broke into his home between Dec. 10-15 and took six guns valued at \$930. Scipio W. Whisnant of Route 2, Leland, who owns Whisnant Trucking on Town Creek Road, reported the larceny Saturday. The suspect entered through a front window of his residence while he was out of town, reported Deputy Joseph Scoggins.

Ruby Phelps of Route 6, Shallotte, reported Saturday that someone drove through a fence in her yard causing about \$300 in damage. Deputy Shelton Caison reported there were tire marks leading to the fence from Bay Road. The owner did not know when the damage occurred.

A Leland man reported someone fired shots into his home and two vehicles parked in his yard Saturday morning. Joseph Abraham Young of Route 5, reported a suspect was seen walking from a wooded area near the victim's residence around 8:30 a.m., Deputy Scoggins reported. A 1987 Nissan truck and a 1990 Pontiac Sunbird received \$550 in damage while shots were also fired into the home.

An Exide Electronics employee believes someone stuck a knife in the tire of her vehicle at the plant Friday. Peggy Mapson of Route 4, Leland, reported after driving home from work she noticed the blade to a steak knife sticking from a tire of her 1986 Dodge truck. Deputy Steve Mason reported. Damage was estimated at \$175.

Steven McNeill of Oscar Long Mobile Home Park, Route 1, Leland, reported Friday that someone broke into a storage shed at his home and stole a rifle and batteries valued at \$335 with damages of \$5. Deputy Gene Browning reported. McNeill was killed in a car accident early Saturday morning near his home in Leland.

Jones Ford of Shallotte reported it lost a dealer's license tag somewhere between Bolivia and Shallotte on U.S. 17 Friday between 8:30 a.m. and noon.

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