



DORIS CREECH displays the pretzel house that won her high honors at the N.C. School Food Service Association Culinary Arts Show held June 12 in Raleigh. STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

## Cafeteria Manager's Creation Wins Culinary Art Show Honors

BY SUSAN USHER

A Brunswick County school food service employee recently won two top awards in statewide competition.

Doris Creech won first place for seasonal decorations-winter arrangements and best in show for seasonal decorations in the annual Culinary Arts Show held by the N.C. School Food Service Association, of which she is a member. Her entry was a snow scene featuring a one room, log cabin school house made of pretzels.

Mrs. Creech manages the South Brunswick Middle School cafeteria and previously worked at the Bolivia Elementary School cafeteria.

Hers was one of six show entries from Brunswick County and the only one to win recognition. Other competition areas include categories such as salads, cakes, breads and sandwiches.

She worked on the entry for approximately two weeks, between other duties. "Everything is edible except the flag and bell," she said.

The cabin is made of large pretzel logs, caulked with colored royal icing, roofed with cheese bits and lightly dusted with royal icing "snow". Doors and windows are of graham crackers; the chimney of malted milk balls.

Fancy pretzels create a fence around a school yard that features a

teeter-totter and other toys made also of pretzels. The Christmas tree is a an ice cream cone topped with spearmint-flavored gum candy greenery.

A path of sunflower seeds lead past the bell and flag to an outhouse fashioned of smaller pretzels.

"I started out with the idea of making a model of South Brunswick Middle School, then this idea just popped up," she said.

Working with pretzels was "a whole lot easier," said Mrs. Creech, than working with gingerbread. A gingerbread house won her first place in winter seasonal decorations in a previous year's competition.

This year's display, mounted on a 17-inch by 30-inch platform, was competing with "a lot of gorgeous stuff," she said, including a Christmas tree, Santa's sleigh and other items among the winter entries, as well as a row of squash ducks, bread baskets and other items represent-

ing the other three seasons.

Judges generally like entries that are creative and feature edibles, preferably items that are available during the featured season, and handwork, not storebought items, agreed Mrs. Creech and Mary Lou White, child nutrition department supervisor. The work must be that of the entrant.

Mrs. White said she understands the judges do their homework before the show begins, learning what U.S.D.A. commodities were available and other information on resources available to the school food service units.

Mrs. Creech doesn't know what she'll enter in next year's show, but is confident she will enter.

"It's something I just like to do. I've been entering for 10 years," said the 15-year school food service veteran. "I've won something—a plaque or a trophy—almost every year."

## Southport Celebrates July 4th With A Bang

Southport will celebrate the July 4th holiday with a week of festivities aimed at all members of the family and concluding with its traditional fireworks display.

A full schedule of events begins at 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 2 with an opening ceremony honoring military troops, said Richard Faulk, festival president.

On July 3, "Beach Day" will be held at the Long Beach Cabana area, featuring competitive activities and music by the band *North Tower*.

An arts and crafts show will be held at Franklin Square Park in Southport July 3 and 4, while the nearby Franklin Square Gallery offers "Arts for Dessert," a juried show sponsored by the Associated Artists of Southport.

On the waterfront, a series of field events for children is planned July 3, followed that evening by a street dance featuring music by *The Georgia Prophets*.

Activities on July 4 begin with the Freedom Run at Southport, followed by a flag-raising ceremony

near Fort Johnston at 10:30 a.m. and the annual Fourth of July Parade at 11 a.m. The parade will be broadcast on Channel 3, WWAY-TV in Wilmington.

At the foot of Howe Street a U.C. Coast Guard cutter will be docked and open for public tours.

Entertainment continues throughout the afternoon on stages at the waterfront and in Franklin Square Park, concluding with a free fireworks display at around 9 p.m.

The first event associated with the festival will be the annual Brunswick County Fireman's Competition, which begins at 2 p.m. Sunday, June 30, at Nash Street.

Hosted by the Southport Fire Department, the event pits departments from across the county in friendly contests in which teamwork, speed and dexterity pay off.

Reigning over festivities will be Miss N.C. Fourth of July Kristie Atkinson of Southport. The festival is traditionally the first official engagement for the new Miss North Carolina, who will be named Saturday in Raleigh.

## Communities To Salute Troops

Several Brunswick County communities, including two local beach towns, plan to honor American troops who served in Operation Desert Storm as the Fourth of July holiday approaches.

Local activities and ceremonies are being held as part of Gov. Jim Martin's statewide "Salute to the Troops" campaign June 29 through July 4.

Holden Beach is asking veterans of the Persian Gulf War and the Vietnam conflict to sign a wooden scroll located next to the flag pole at the foot of the bridge.

Gay Atkins, one of the coordinators, said luminarias—paper bags with lighted candles inside—will be put around the flagpole on the night of July 4. Campground By The Sea

starts its annual fireworks display around 9 p.m.

At Sunset Beach, residents and business owners are being encouraged to decorate with a patriotic theme, with prizes going to the winners in several categories.

Coordinators also plan to display United States and North Carolina flags and a new "unofficial" town flag on the median strip of the approach to the Sunset Beach Bridge.

Ginny Barber is organizing the troop salute at Sunset Beach. For more information, she can be reached at 579-4164.

In Southport, the N.C. Fourth of July Festival will salute the troops at its opening ceremony 2 p.m. Tuesday, July 2, with a military speaker, bands and a covered dish

dinner for local military personnel.

Northern Brunswick County communities plan to hold a ceremony Tuesday, July 2, from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at Leland Middle School.

For more information on the ceremony, contact Vickie Gooch at 371-2456.

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