

Local Gospel Groups Ready For 'Singing By The Sea'

Several groups will share the stage this year at the gospel "Singing By The Sea," part of the N.C. Festival By The Sea at Holden Beach Sunday.

The hours have also been expanded this year, said event coordinator Dot Worth. Singers will take the stage from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Two groups, Kingsway and the Coastal Voices, are from Shallotte. They will join The Missionaires, a Holden Beach-based singing group,

and Rapture, a Winnabow-based group, at the outdoor concert from the entertainment stage set up beneath the Holden Beach Bridge.

Others scheduled to appear are The Longwood Baptist Church Choir, the Willing Workers of Longs, S.C., and a choir from Cedar Grove Missionary Baptist Church.

This is the fourth-straight year Kingsway will perform at the festival. The group has been singing Southern gospel music for 17 years

and has cut four albums, their latest titled Brand New, recorded by Granite City Records of Mt. Airy. The group has traveled from West Virginia to Georgia to spread the gospel through song under the slogan, "Anywhere, anytime for Jesus."

Dot and Randy Worth of Shallotte and Eric Robbins of Wilmington make up the Kingsway trio that promises to be, "heavy on the heart, easy on the ears."

Ms. Worth is a real estate agent and former chairperson of the Brunswick County Board of Education. Her husband, Randy, is retired from the Brunswick County school system, and Robbins is an industrial engineer in Wilmington.

The title song from Brand New was written by a former piano player for the group. Another favorite of the group is the title song from another album they recorded, King's Invitation. Other songs they will

sing Sunday include "Open Those Pearly Gates," "When the Sun Starts to Rise" and "Leave a Blessing."

The Missionaires of Holden Beach have been singing together for three years, said member Gil Bass.

Its members are Wade Hensley, employed by the Brunswick County Schools; Bass, manager of the

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PHOTO BY WILSON BASS

THE MISSION-AIRES, a quartet from Holden Beach, will perform at Sunday's gospel sing. Members are (from left) Kerry Craig, Carolyn Davis, Gil Bass, Wade Hensley and Lalon Willoughby, manager.

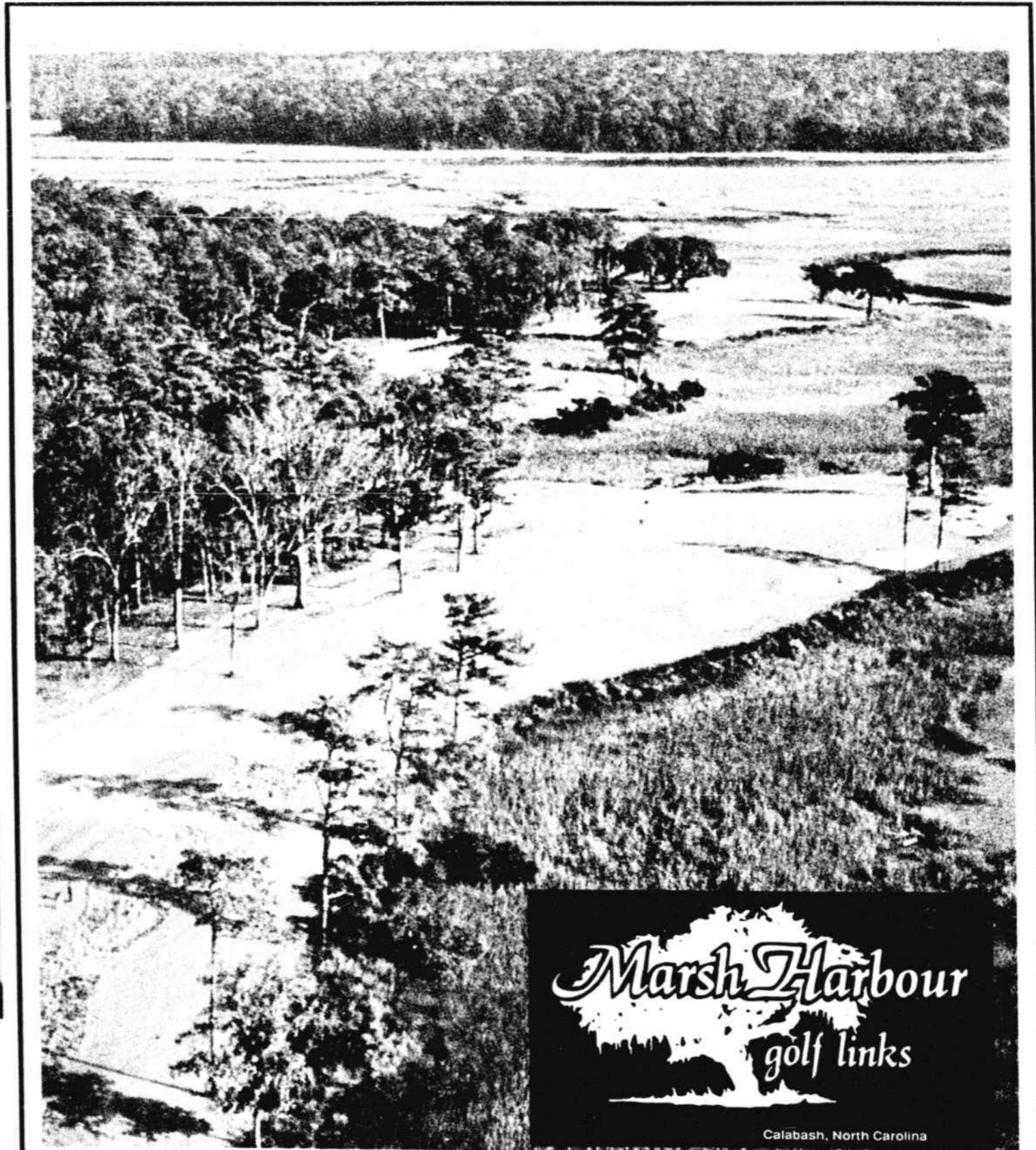


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THE KINGSWAY, a Southern gospel trio, will perform Sunday at the N.C. Festival By The Sea. Members are (from left) Eric Robbins, Randy Worth and Dot Worth.



COASTAL VOICES, a gospel quartet from Shallotte, features (from left) Penny Gray, Von Ferguson, Marie Gray and Landon Gray.



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