

Burton, West Plan To Defend Championships

Ben Tonking has good news and bad news for horseshoe enthusiasts planning to attend the N.C. Festival By The Sea at Holden Beach Saturday.

Leon Burton, of Kernersville,

three-time men's singles champion, will return to try to make it four in a row, said Tonking, event chairman. Also, Sue West of Sanford, a three-time ladies champion, plans to defend her title as well.

Tonking said that news has received mixed reviews, depending on whether the commentator plans to be an observer or a competitor at the annual horseshoe pitching contest.

The action will start at 1 p.m., after the festival parade concludes and motorists can get across to the island and sign up. It will cost contestants \$1 to enter the singles and \$1 to enter the doubles competition.

Pits for the horseshoe championships are located along Brunswick Avenue west of the town water tower, across from the Holden Beach Chapel on Rothschild Street.

Burton's nontraditional "round-and-a-quarter" pitch has paid off for a third year in a row as he successfully defended his title last fall. He came out on top in a field of 30 competitors in the singles event, but lost the men's doubles title he had won in 1988 and 1989.

The men's doubles was won by the team of Eddie Sweatt of Holden Beach and Sherrill Harris of Winston-Salem. They defeated Burton and his partner, George Bradshaw of Holden Beach, from a field of 23 teams.

In the women's singles, Sue West of Sanford will seek her fourth-straight title. The women's doubles was won by Shirley Driver of Supply and Elneda Holden of Shell Point.

Men will play on three horseshoe courts and women on a fourth court for Saturday's matches, said Tonking.

Last year, about 90 people competed and approximately 150 people watched, he said. Winners receive certificates following the event, which is sponsored jointly by Sun 'n Surf Containers and The Brunswick Beacon.

"The phone calls are coming in," said Tonking. "It looks like it's going to be another hot contest."

Some people practice year-round for a chance to be in the winner's circle, he said. Usually, the contest attracts a mixture of vacationers or property owners and local folks who want to try their hand at horseshoe pitching, said Tonking.

"I'd say it's about 50-50," he said. "A lot of locals that work on the beach enters the contest each year. I guess a lot of people pitch horseshoes in this area for fun."

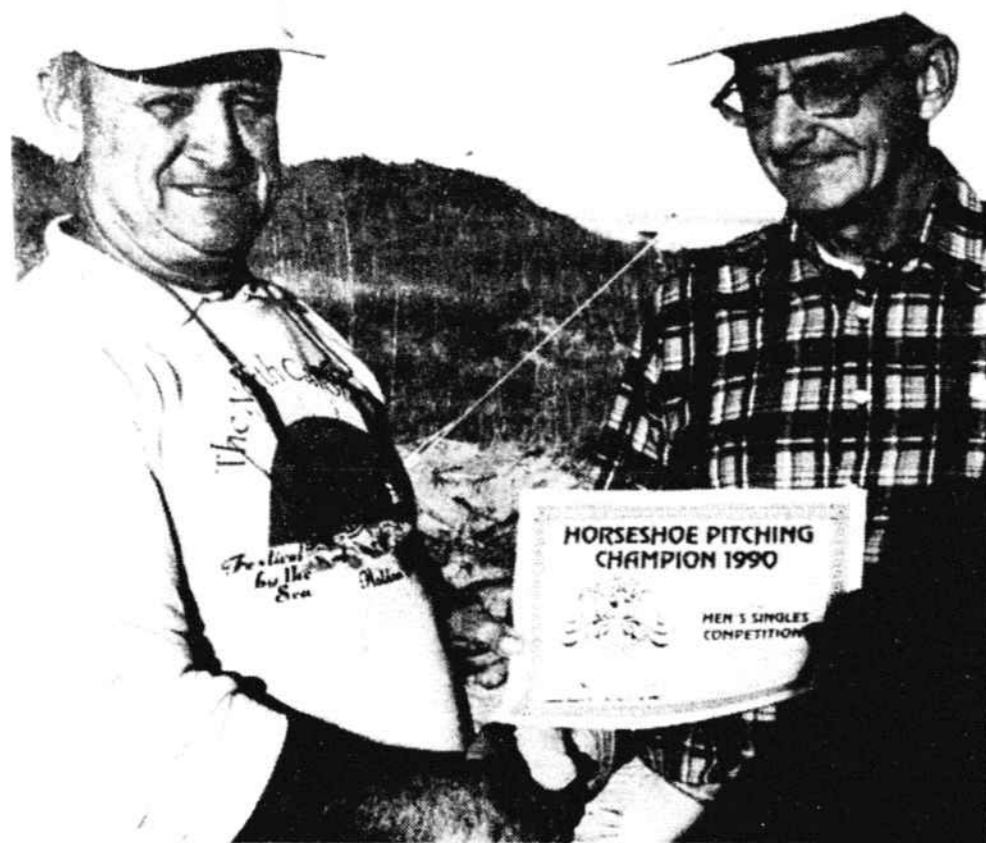
All games, men's and women's, will be played with regulation horseshoes. Tonking heads a judge's panel that rules in tight situations.

The doubles competition will begin at 1 p.m. followed by the singles competition.

The matches have grown by about 20 contestants each year, said Tonking.

"It gets bigger every year," he said.

SHIRLEY DRIVER of Supply lands a ringer in last year's women's doubles at the Festival By The Sea horseshoe competition.



BEACON FILE PHOTO

THREE-TIME HORSESHOE singles champion Leon Burton, of Kernersville (right) accepts congratulations from event chairman Ben Tonking after winning the 1990 men's competition.



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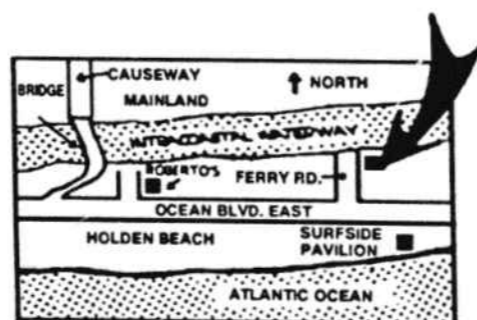


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Turn in front of Surfside Pavilion

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Plenty Of Food Available—Be Sure To Bring Healthy Appetite

The Greater Holden Beach Merchants Association doesn't want anyone who comes to the N.C. Festival by the Sea to go hungry.

Plenty of food, in many tastes and styles, will be available during the festival from 23 vendors for anyone who needs refueling.

For lovers of barbeque, three vendors will be on hand to satisfy the strongest Southern craving. The Bolivia Lions Club and the Rotary Club of the South Brunswick Islands will serve clam chowder. Two booths will offer traditional hamburgers and hotdogs.

Marco Enterprises, Linda McAndrew, and The County Fair will each be grilling Italian

sausages, while Larry Smith will give festival-goers a taste of Polish sausages.

Manit Phouzash will offer Thailand cuisine for those with a taste for the hot and spicy.

Also on the main course menu are steak from the Steak Boys, chicken "bog" from the Boys Scouts, fish and chicken from the Brunswick County Shrine Club, shrimp, and Allen Thompson pork skins.

Drinks and fries will also be available.

Sue's Ice Cream and Alpine Ices will tempt the after-dinner crowds with cool treats.

Food vendor booths will be open from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and also Saturday during the street dance from 7:30 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Festival Booths Shoppers' Mecca

Arts and crafts booths at the N.C. Festival by the Sea offer festival goers a mecca for shopping. Not for groceries or shoes for the kids, but for gifts and decorative items.

Artists and crafters come every year to Holden Beach to hawk their best wares in the bazaar-like setting, offering items of curious and creative delight just in time for Christmas shopping.

Dried flower arrangements, hand-blown glass, woodcrafts, pillows, dolls, hand-knit sweaters, jewelry made of clay or wood or shells, paintings, Christmas decorations and hair accessories will be displayed in the rows of booths in the regional parking area beneath the Holden Beach Bridge.

Hand-decorated sweat shirts, picture frames made of shells, birdfeeders, ceramics, hand-

made toys, baskets, wreaths and other examples of skill and talent will be offered for shoppers to examine.

Offered items may be decorative, useful or both; any could be the one item a shopper can't go home without.

Some types of merchandise will be offered by more than one crafter, allowing visitors to shop around for the best bargain.

Jim Lowell, coordinator of the event, estimates that the final tally "will be around 120-150 booths" registered. Less than two weeks prior, the count was at 112 booths, "and growing all the time; we get several each day," Lowell said.

The arts and crafts area will be open during the festival from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.