

LET ME TELL YOU THE ONE ABOUT...

Gore First County Resident To Win Bullshooter's Trophy

Six storytellers regaled listeners with tales almost, but not quite believable Saturday at "North Carolina's Greatest Bullshooting Contest" at the N.C. Oyster Festival.

Ash resident Ellis Gore became the first Brunswick County resident ever to win the contest in its six years as part of the festival. An obvious crowd favorite, Gore said afterward that he would be back to defend his title next October.

Emceed by Cecelia "CcCe" Gore of Ash, this year's event drew six contestants from across the Carolinas, with dogs and other animals an obviously favored topic.

Winner Ellis Gore is a former "mayor" of Lower Ash, a title won in a fundraiser held annually by the Waccamaw Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association.

At Saturday's contest he recounted his experience in traveling to the moon with astronaut Neil Armstrong.

Thirty thousand miles from Earth, he said, the two encountered two Brunswick County men who were asking the way to the nearest welfare office. They said they need-

ed gas money to get home. "I felt kind of sorry for them," said Gore.

Back on Earth, Gore had a dog story of his own, of a coon hound that was so good he could tell by sniffing tracks if a deer was a doe or a buck and act accordingly.

Defending 1990 Champion June C. Porter of Charlotte and Seaside told of a hunter with a perfect shot. He so talented that with one shot he returned from the field with two bass, a mud turtle, a row of ducks and a buck. The tale won Porter second place.

Bob Johnson of Ocean Isle Beach, a last-minute entrant, regaled listeners with vivid details of "The Battleship Wreck," claiming third place.

Other contestants were David Grimes of Sunset Beach, Carroll Sexton of Greenwood, S.C., and James H. Boone of Rock Hill, S.C.

Grimes claimed a snore that registers 8.6 on the Richter scale, and he also claimed to be the world's fastest talker.

Sexton related what he said were personal experiences, telling of a

dog so smart that it saved the family's fire insurance policy.

Boone's tale was entitled "The Family Reunion."

In addition to Porter, past winners of the contest include Lewis Williams, Concord, 1986; Warren Sing, Belmont, 1987; and Bob Johnston, Matthews, 1988 and 1989. The contest is sponsored annually by T.J.'s Electric.

Judges for this year's event were Beth Simmons, Annette Odom, Susanne Sartelle, Ann Laughinghouse and Rosie Scarborough, with David Clegg as chief judge, ballot counter and timer.

Judging was based on factors such as content, originality, use of exaggeration to create a story that is almost believable, and use of body language, vocal expression and appropriate language.

Mrs. Gore, a former contestant and former judge of the event, succeeded longtime master of ceremonies and contest founder Jess Parker, who has retired as county Veterans' Service officer and moved to Washington State.



ELLIS GORE
"BULLSHOOTING CHAMP"

Hunter Spends Hours Lost In County's Green Swamp

BY TERRY POPE

A lost hunter spent about seven hours in Brunswick County's Green Swamp last Thursday night before searchers found him.

It marked the fifth hunter in the past three years who has gotten lost in the heavily-wooded area near the N.C. Nature Conservancy property on N.C. 211 near Supply, said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

Each time, the hunters have been rescued with just minor injuries or mild hypothermia, a drop in the body's temperature due to cold weather.

Albert Shelton, 65, of Weaver-

ville, was hunting with four other men from western North Carolina when he couldn't find his way out of the woods last Thursday evening, said Logan.

"People get in there and everything looks the same," said Logan. "This man had gotten worn out walking and finally just sat down."

Shelton told Logan that he had dropped a cigarette lighter in the dark and couldn't find it when he wanted to build a fire.

He was feeling the effects of hypothermia when a tractor from the N.C. Forestry Service reached him, said Logan.

Shelton was taken from the woods

around 1:15 a.m. and into a waiting Coastline Volunteer Rescue Squad vehicle, where he was wrapped in blankets and warmed but wasn't transported to the hospital.

Panic set in when the four other hunters realized that their partner was lost. The men returned to the woods around 6:30 p.m. to search for Shelton, reported Brunswick County Sheriff's Detective Gene Caison.

They were Larry Oxendine and Bobby Sanders of High Point, Mike Shelton of Asheville and Bill Treadway of Shelby. They, too, became lost after re-entering the woods to look for Shelton, Caison reported.

Treadway managed to find his way back to N.C. 211 and drove to Kirby's Food Center on U.S. 17 in Supply, where someone called the sheriff's department for help.

The other three men emerged from the woods around 10:53 p.m., Caison reported.

"I drove down into the woods as far as I could go and got on my PA system," said Logan. "I could hear just a faint yell."

Sheriff's Sgt. Carl Pearson piloted an airplane to help direct the tractor to the lost man.

Volunteers from Tri-Beach, Supply and Civietown fire departments also helped in the search.

Federal Aviation Administration To Study Plane Parts

Federal Aviation Administration officials have been called to Brunswick County to investigate pieces of an airplane that washed ashore recently on Bald Head Island.

A green and white piece of metal found on the south end of the Bald Head beach strand has been identified as the engine cover to a Cessna

airplane, said Cecil Logan, Brunswick County Emergency Management coordinator.

"It had Cessna written on the inside of it," said Logan. "That's all that I know about it."

The matter will be turned over to FAA officials for investigation, said Logan, who did not know when au-

thorities would arrive.

Officials have speculated that the parts may belong to a single-engine Cessna 172 that is believed to have crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near Frying Pan Shoals at the mouth of the Cape Fear River on Jan. 7.

Two men were aboard the plane that took off from the Brunswick County Airport at Oak Island and was lost off of radar about an hour later. At last reports, the plane was located about 10 miles northeast of the Cape Fear at Frying Pan Shoals.

Pilot Jessie H. Vernon, of Wilmington Beach, and John R. Fitzgerald, of Carolina Beach, were on the plane.

Officials at New Hanover County Airport lost all contact with the

plane after weather conditions in the area grew worse. No distress signals were issued by the pilot before the plane disappeared off radar.

The U.S. Coast Guard searched the waters for several days. When no sign of a downed plane was discovered, the Civil Air Patrol began a search over land, scanning a 715-mile area.

Someone walking on the Bald Head beach found the debris and notified the police department there, said Logan.

"They (police) had checked the beach quite often after it happened," said Logan, "but they could never find anything."

Some debris found just after the search was from a sailboat, he said.

Suspect Takes Seafood, Cash

A man who ordered a carryout dinner at the Eastside Restaurant in Calabash Saturday night left with more than just seafood.

Brunswick County Sheriff's detectives say the man reached into the cash register and robbed the restaurant on N.C. 179 of an undetermined amount of money.

The white male is described as approximately 6 feet 3 inches tall, weighing from 120 to 130 pounds, and wearing dark sunglasses, a black baseball cap with gold lettering, dark shirt and blue jeans, said Detective Billy Hughes.

The suspect had called in his order ahead of time, said Hughes.

"He gave the cashier \$20," said Hughes. "When she opened the cash register, he grabbed the money and his food and fled on foot."

He took an undetermined amount of \$20 bills and was last seen running toward Jimmy's Pantry. No weapon was used in the strong-arm robbery, said Hughes.

The incident occurred around 9 p.m. and is still under investigation, said Hughes.

"We're still looking for the suspect," he added.

Fire Destroys Shrimp Boat

Fire destroyed a commercial fishing boat that was working in the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway near Little River Inlet last week, but the captain wasn't injured.

The *Bon-Jon*, a 55-foot wooden shrimp boat, was consumed by a fire that started in the engine room last Wednesday afternoon, said Petty Officer Brent Phelps of the U.S. Coast Guard at Oak Island.

Phelps said the boat was a total loss, but he couldn't provide an estimated value.

The fire was reported to the Coast Guard around 2 p.m. "By the time we got down there the vessel had burned down to the water line," Phelps said.

Another boat in the area rescued the captain, who jumped overboard after opening the engine compartment and noticing the fire. "It was

all up in smoke, and he couldn't see anything," said Phelps.

Phelps could not provide the name of the captain, but said he wasn't injured. "He was able to come off with no harm done to him."

Democrats To Feast

The Democratic Party of Brunswick County will hold a "homecoming" feast of barbecue and fish Sunday, Nov. 3, at the party headquarters building on U.S. 17 between Bolivia and Supply, from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. Food for the event has been donated.

The Brunswick Democratic Women have been asked to bring desserts. The women's group welcomes new members. For more information about future meetings, call 754-8880.

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The festival includes rides for the kiddies, chicken bog cook-off with prizes for the winner, chicken bog plates for sale, chicken chuckling contest, arts & crafts, educational demonstrations, classic car show, Civitan Bog-Off Run, and much more. All types of entertainment during the day for your enjoyment.
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