

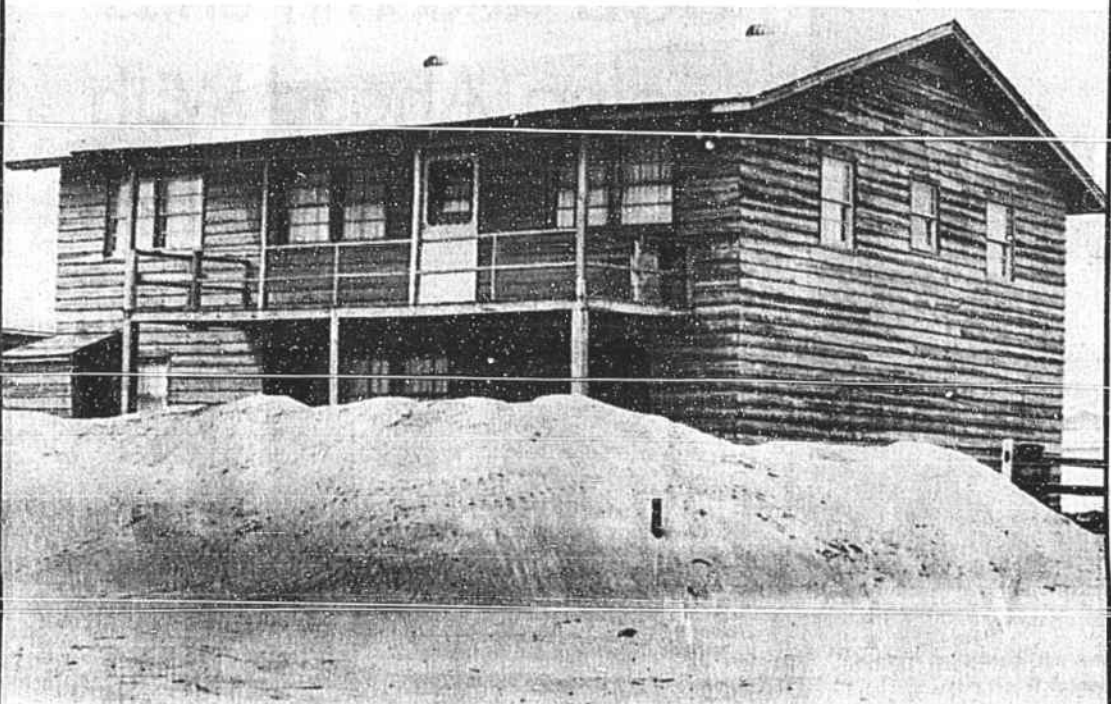


STAFF PHOTOS BY EDDIE SWEATT

Try, Try Again?

These before and after shots of the "Four R's" at 671 Ocean Boulevard West at Holden Beach tell a story of their own as oceanfront property owners attempt to keep ahead of winter storm damage. The top photograph shows the house after the Jan. 1 storm, while the middle one shows efforts to protect the repair the damage. Like many other Holden Beach property holders, the owners took advantage of a blanket permit

obtained by the town to have sand pushed up at low tide to form new dunes. But at the "Four R's," as at some other locations along Brunswick County beaches, unusually high tides and southwesterly gales later reclaimed a chunk of the newly-created dunes (bottom photo). The old adage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," may suit the situation to a T.



State Education Plan Generating Need For More Teachers, Space

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port. That way you can accomplish the intent of the program," he said.

The program is not intended to make all school systems equal, he stressed, but to make sure a basic program of instruction is available to all students.

"It should make a difference to young people," he said. "It should make a difference in the types of programs they will have access to."

What the plan is not is a "lock-step" system like those adopted in some states, Church indicated. "We're not saying every child should be on page 48 on Oct. 14."

Rather, guidelines spelled out in 19 volumes of teacher handbooks are supposed to be starting points for school systems to develop their own curriculum that meet the state's minimum standards.

Brunswick County has already begun developing some of its own competency-based curricula, which earned Church's praise for their inclusion of learning activities and measurement of progress, said Jean Parker, public information officer.

Two Major Changes

The two major instructional changes, said Church, are that school systems will have to offer a second foreign language—in Brunswick County's case, French—to students in grades kindergarten through 12. They must also offer four arts components—dance and theater in addition to the music and visual arts now generally available.

The basic program will be required of students in grades K-5, including study of a second language. In grades six through eight, students must take a normal core curriculum, plus one of the four arts components each year. Pre-vocational and foreign language classes will be electives.

Development of thinking and reasoning skills and integration of learning are covered in the program, he added in response to a question from Chairman Forstner. "We hope we do not get caught in a mastery trap of read and regurgitate."

Learning, he said, needs to be less fragmented by subject matter so it makes more sense to students.

General education students in the "no man's land" between those who

are college-bound and vocational are the ones most likely to drop out, he continued, because they see no relationship between what they're studying and what they'll be doing as adults.

In high school, students must take the 11 courses required by the state, plus additional work to make 20 credit hours, the minimum required for graduation.

Preschool screening will be required, as well as early intervention planning for those who appear to be academically at risk. "We hear so much about dropouts in North Carolina. It is not a high school phenomenon," said Church. "The decision is often made much earlier." Also covered in the plan are promotion and retention standards for each grade, with summer school sessions for students who fail to meet these standards. Church described last year's summer program for students in grades three, six and eight as very successful.

Planning Begins

Before the executive session, the current four-year plan for the school system was presented to board members to work from in preparing a new plan. They were also asked to bring back suggestions as to which programs should be continued during the coming year.

The board also set a meeting for 6:30 p.m. Monday, March 30, at the Southport conference room to discuss next year's budget and programs. That meeting will be considered the board's regular April session.

Superintendent Gene Yarbrough noted that he would like to see the system implement a wellness/fitness program for employees, offering staff help with weight loss, stress management, efforts to stop smoking and the like. Fit employees are more productive, he said.

Chairman Forstner also announced an advisory council workshop has tentatively been scheduled for May 16.

Following the executive session, the board approved hiring Michael Hewett of Supply as a mechanic.

UOB Recommends Going Ahead With Assessment District

(Continued From Page 1-A)

and provide the meter. Williamson asked that the installation costs be considered part of the company's assessment when the project is completed.

Also, the board plans to recommend to the county commissioners that the standards for water line pipe be changed to allow use in most situations of a less expensive grade in common use statewide and more easily obtainable.

Earlier, former county engineer Dan Shields had recommended against the pipe, saying it was less durable and would experience greater maintenance problems in the future.

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Temps Should Warm Slightly

Near-normal temperatures and rainfall are expected over the next few days, which means more springlike weather for the South Brunswick Islands after a week of cooler weather.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said temperatures during the week should average from the mid-40s at night into the mid-60s during the daytime, with about a half inch of rain.

"All in all," he said, "we have a fairly nice progression this week into the beginnings of spring."

For the period March 10-16, the maximum high of 72 degrees occurred on the 16th and the minimum low of 27 degrees was recorded on the 14th.

An average daily high of 59 degrees combined with an average daily low of 33 degrees for a daily average temperature of 46 degrees. Canady said that was about eight degrees below normal.

There was no measurable precipitation, a marked change from earlier weeks.

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