

The SHORE LINE

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Mary Korff - Editor

After last month's Commissioners' meeting Mayor Hanan and others began to tackle the flooding problem that had been the subject of many residents' concern. Town officials contacted private contractors as far away as Wilmington and Fayetteville. One pump was tried on Yaupon but after pumping all day had succeeded in lowering the water level about 3/4 of an inch. Obviously something more effective had to be found.

DRAINAGE

PROBLEMS

ADDRESSED

Through the good graces of the U.S. Army, 824 Heavy Boat Company, a much more effective pump was brought in, and it pumped steadily for 5-1/2 days. Some hose was loaned by the Atlantic Beach Fire Department so that they were able to pump it through 1000 foot lines into the canal. Permission had been obtained to discharge it there since the Department of Natural Resources ruled that the canal was already restricted for shell fishing and this was deemed an emergency. Mayor Hanan had much to say about the helpfulness of the army unit and has written them a letter expressing his appreciation. He also said that the Sturmans, Salchows and John Lier had been extremely helpful.

So the immediate emergency is over. Permanent control of flooding situations is a very complicated matter and does not lend itself to easy solution. There is the legal problem of whether the state will allow the town to utilize general taxes for drainage projects. The town definitely cannot involve itself with the flooding of private property. It can, however, involve itself in maintaining the flow of traffic on municipal streets and/or the protection of public health and safety.

At present there are certain measures being taken. We have contacted CAMA about where we are allowed to discharge storm waters. The answer is: Not the canals, Not the sound but only the ocean. We are working with the county on a cooperative plan to drain water from the vicinity of the golf course into Hoophole Creek. We have contacted the office of the State Budget and learned that there is a chance of fifty percent financing if a plan can be submitted by April 1st and it meets with their approval. We have met with Colonel Dennison of Van Oesen Engineers to update the drainage study done by them two years ago. Now that it is established that drainage into the canal or the sound is out of the question they will study alternative solutions. The Planning Board has been asked to study flood-prone areas and recommend building restrictions if indicated.

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