

# Sound Of Surf

From Holden Beach  
By John Clarke

# Small Projects Become Threat

By JIM TYLER

About three weeks before a permit for a small pier on Bald Head Island was denied November 15 by the U.S. Corps of Engineers, a small notice appeared in the Carteret County News Times. It also was about a pier permit goes through.

These two piers are indicative of a dilemma. While conservationists battle the big projects, the accumulative effects of the small ones that do not receive much flak and reach completion are staggering.

Man-made changes along the coast are divided into categories. Different state and federal agencies handle different kinds. Besides the Corps, for example, the State Division of Commercial and Sports Fisheries began January 1, 1970, under legislative directive, a State permit system of evaluating proposals for dredge and fill development projects along coastal shores. Average incoming rate of such proposal is about one per day. Some - like the two piers - are from individuals, others are from corporations with big plans.

Some ecologists have expressed concern that perhaps the small projects will, in the long run, add up to be more significant than the total of the big and exotic ones.

The Corps was using the newspaper to solicit comments concerning a proposed pier to extend into Bogue Sound. An adjacent landowner wants to construct a 200-foot-long, four-foot-wide pier extending into the sound. The proposed structure would be larger than the Bald Head pier.

It seems valid to assume at least 150 feet to the Bogue pier would extend over public property (land and water below the mean high tide line are supposed to be public). If you figure a five foot width on either side of such a pier for docking skiffs, you have more than 2,100 square feet of public bottom tied up by one family. The area in question is adjacent to a populated and easily accessible to the public for boating, wading, floundering, and gathering certain species of shellfish. Besides reducing public use, there would be environmental alteration. There is the aesthetic aspect, too - a lot of people would have another pier cluttering the view if the

Last Monday evening, Vic Brown suffered a fire in his house at 222 Ocean Boulevard East. Smelling smoke, he discovered the fire approximately 10:15 p.m. Forgetting his own phone in the excitement, he ran down the street for the assistance of Police Chief Julian Bowman who lives at 209 Ocean Boulevard East.

The Tri-Beach Volunteer Fire Department, located north of the waterway, was summoned immediately and arrived at the scene in less than ten minutes. They were able to confine the fire to the upstairs room where it apparently had started, but there was considerable damage throughout the house from the dense smoke and a pet chihuahua dies from asphyxiation.

Approximately 35 of our new cement-post street markers are in place already. With the assistance of some of our beach developers, Street Commissioner Doris Newman measured and marked where each post should be located.

The following day, a power post-hole digging machine set the markers at the corners of the intersecting street rights-of-way. The balance of the markers will be placed later. During the winter the cement posts will be painted and identified with the appropriate street names.

All kinds of State Highway equipment have been busy doing their thing at the intersection of State Road 130 (Jordan Boulevard) and State Road 1116 (Ocean Boulevard). Apparently they are widening Ocean Boulevard there to allow a better flow of west-to-east traffic through the intersection, which can be quite congested at times during the summer season.

I hope they also will widen Jordan Boulevard's north-to-south lane from the swingbridge. Such widening would permit the continued flow of traffic making right-hand turns westward, which presently cannot pass any vehicle waiting to make a left-hand turn eastward.

Discussing the recent dredging of the Intracoastal Waterway with Major Joel Callahan of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Wilmington, he confirmed my earlier report that the dikes west of Heritage Harbor were built to protect the marshlands from the overflow of dredged material.

Further, he referred me to a deed made June 15, 1931, between the State Government of North Carolina and the United States of America. Said deed conveyed "the perpetual right-of-way and easement into, through, over and upon the hereinafter described premises to be used ... as necessary for the construction, use and maintenance of the said Intra-Coastal Waterway from the Cape Fear River at Southport to and beyond the

North Carolina-South Carolina State Line." In essence, the right-of-way and easement area deeded to the Federal government extends a total of 1,000 feet perpendicular to the center line of the waterway, with a good portion of it at Holden Beach extending to the south.

At the Planning and Zoning Board Committee meeting November 21, it was generally agreed that the main thrust of the town's environmental-impact-statement ordinance was to alert our local citizenry that changes were in the making.

Prior to the ordinance, only a limited number of people were advised and the town had little opportunity to evaluate how its interests might be affected. State officials had suggested that if the town were concerned, it should enact enabling legislation to insure that they were informed of such developments before the filing of any data required by the county, state, or federal agencies that might be involved.

Therefore, the Planning

and Zoning Board felt that the town ordinance could be modified to require only the presentation of a full disclosure of plans and intentions. Then, at a later date, the town also would be supplied with copies of the more detailed data required by the governmental agencies that were concerned and responsible for protecting the general welfare. Board Secretary Jim Griffin is drafting a recommendation for discussion at the next Planning and Zoning Board meeting on November 27.

This fall, several persons have commented on the beautiful display of purple button mums around a cabbage palm tree in front of Mayor John F. Holden's home at 191 Ocean Boulevard East. He told me that the luxuriant growth, now totally surrounding the base of the tree, had been developed through the years from a start he obtained from the flowers offered by friends on the occasion of his father's funeral in February, 1958. L.S. Holden had lived on

Holden Beach since 1936, when he came to operate the first hotel on the beach. It had been built and operated originally in 1925 by Mayor Holden's grandfather, John Holden, near the northeast corner of the present Surfside Pavilion. However, the hotel had fallen into disuse after the waterway was dredged in the early 1930's, until the ferry was put in operation.

Now it's that time of the year here on Holden Beach when we can see the sun rise out of the Atlantic and, some nine or ten hours later, see it set in the Atlantic. For years, a basic orientation drilled into these Yankee bones of mine was that the sun rose in the Atlantic and set in the Pacific. But, as the song says, "It Ain't Necessarily So," y'all.

Another concept I am having difficulty in accepting is the "hugin' and the kessin'" that y'all are accustomed to. Being bred and schooled in the raw New England climate, my cold Puritanical blood is much too self-conscious to allow me to act so naturally.

Nevertheless, I like to think that I am still capable of learning how to live better, and enjoy it. Sitting here in the sun on the south deck while roughing out this column, I know that life can be warm and loving. It's good to be hugged.

## More Trees Are Needed

"If the people of North Carolina are going to have the trees to meet their needs for wood and wood products 30 years from now, 1.3 million acres of trees will be planted in this state during the next decade," according to Brunswick County Forest Ranger Kenneth Johnson.

"Since it takes 20 to 30 years of growing before a pine forest can be harvested, it doesn't take much reasoning to figure that North Carolina will have to plant 130,000 acres of trees every year between now and 1983."

This is the goal set for North Carolina at the recent National Tree Planting Conference in New Orleans. The ever increasing demand and use of wood in the United States and the nation's growing population indicate that 50 million acres of trees will have to be planted during

the next ten years. The southeastern states alone plan to set out trees on more than 14 million acres during this time period.

County Ranger Johnson stated that N.C. Forest Service is helping to fill this need by assisting landowners reforest their woodland and restock the woodlands which are not growing the number of trees they could.

Johnson said he has applications for forest tree seedlings and is available to help landowners obtain seedlings from the N.C. Forest Service. "We can help the landowner manage his forest, prepare his land for tree planting, plant the trees, and even find a buyer for the wood when he is ready to harvest it. All he has to do is come by office at Bolivia Tower or give me a call at 253-5297."

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