

STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT  
**THE TIDE KEPT COMING IN** for an hour or so after this picture was taken from the Holden Beach Fishing Pier, which was also damaged by astronomical high tides and a low-pressure storm system. Most oceanfront homes lost decks, steps and walkways as from 10 feet to 12 feet of dunes were lost to the tide.

## Dredge Spoil Sought To Protect County's Water Transport Line

BY SUSAN USHER

Dredging of the Lockwood Folly River passage resumed Monday after storm-related delays last week, but no decision had been made on whether spoil material would be pumped onto the east end of Holden Beach to help protect a county water transmission line.

"We're discussing it now," said Jim Wells, dredging section chief for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Wilmington office. "We haven't decided yet. We don't know if we'll be able to do it or not."

He said Holden Beach had not been scheduled to receive spoil from the project because it had received some after the last dredging.

"When we schedule to place sand, we have to be consistent and everything in order," he said, noting plans weren't made except for Long Beach.

Holden Beach Mayor John Tandy requested the Corps' assistance Monday. County Attorney David Clegg said Monday night that Congressman Charlie Rose had also been asked for assistance in negotiations with the Corps.

The water main extends under Lockwood's Folly Inlet from Long Beach to Holden Beach.

Clegg said the line under the inlet weathered the storm well and re-

mained secure. However, erosion during last Thursday's storm had exposed a portion of the line on Holden Beach between the inlet and a valve.

"We're not in a bad situation; we're trying to avert a bad situation," he stressed.

With the cooperation of the N.C. Department of Transportation, the county plans to set pilings left from the old Holden Beach Bridge in front of the valve.

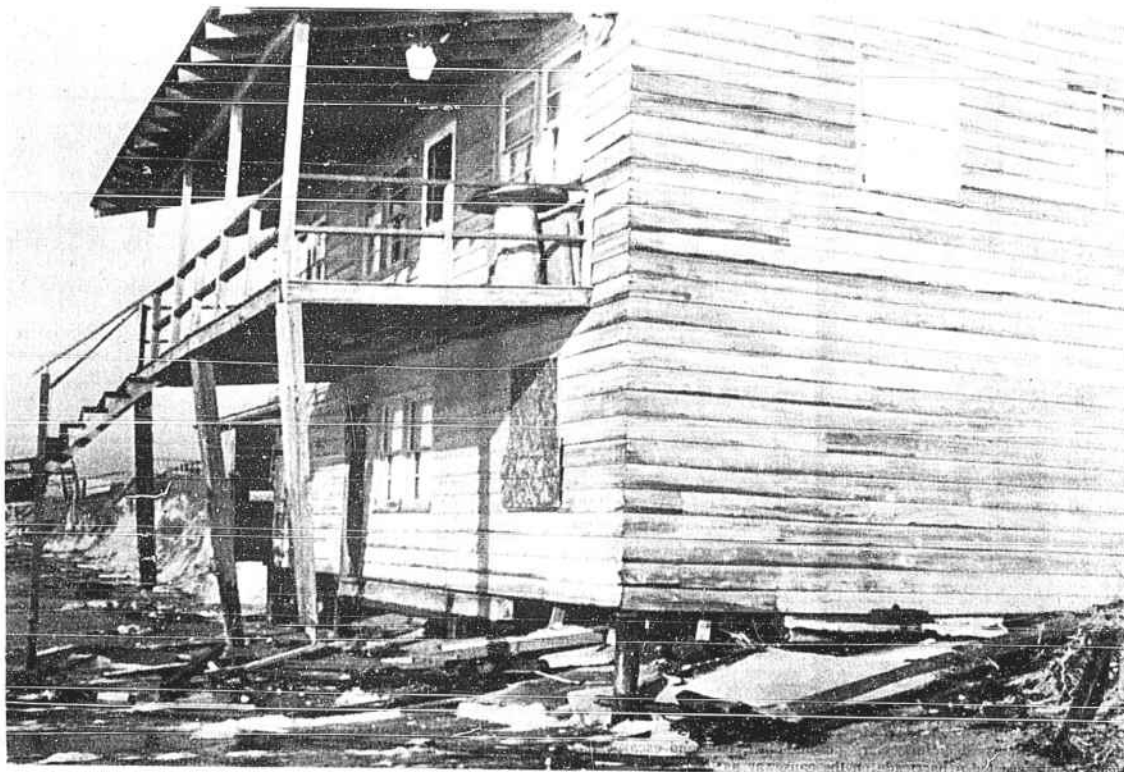
Any sand provided by the Corps would be placed over the pilings in an effort to create an artificial protective dune.

The Corps' dredging project has been interrupted several times, most recently by Thursday's storm, which scattered pipeline laid to carry dredge spoil to the west end of Long Beach.

The pipes were first disrupted during a Dec. 1 and 2 storm after pumping had already begun.

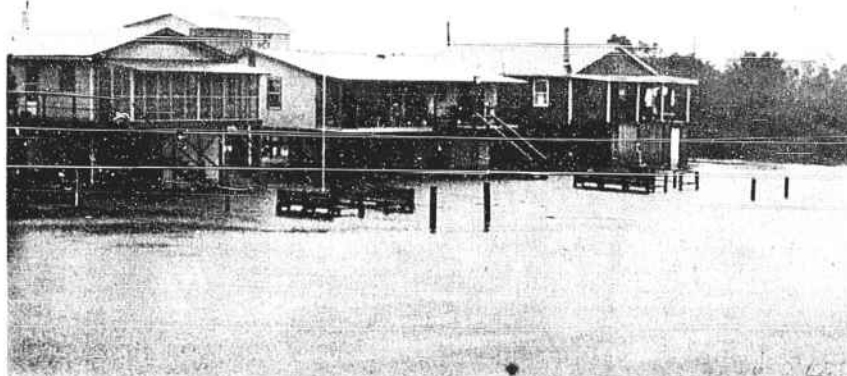
Wells said the Corps expects to pump about 100,000-plus cubic yards of sand from the dredge, but he couldn't predict what benefit it might have to the eroded west end of Long Beach.

"We're hoping it will do some good," he said. "It just happened we were going to be here. They're right lucky we got lined up with it."



STAFF PHOTO BY EDDIE SWEATT  
**AT 671 OCEAN BOULEVARD WEST** at Holden Beach, the "Four R's" suffered its first major damage since it was built 26 years ago, according to its owner, Raymond Edwards of Mt. Airy. Edwards was on the scene Friday

morning, propping up the porch and shoring up the underside of the house where the surf exposed the concrete slab on which it is built.



STAFF PHOTO BY ETTA SMITH  
**WATER SPILLED** over the sides of the canal and into yards and homes on Tarpon and Sailfish streets when the tide came in at Holden Beach. Since many owners

live out of town, there was no way last week to estimate the amount of damage done to these homes, which are located on Tarpon Street.

## Holden Beach Committee Discusses Solutions To Post-Storm Problems

BY ETTA SMITH

A special committee appointed by the Holden Beach Town Board at its Monday meeting will make suggestions to the town board tonight (Thursday) about how to handle problems resulting from the Jan. 1 storm.

The committee agreed Tuesday to suggest several possible solutions to the repair of damaged roads and dunes and to set policies regarding burning debris left on the beach from the storm, and on when this debris can be collected by anyone other than oceanfront property owners.

Committee members are Commissioners Lyn Holden and Graham King; Town Manager Bob Buck; property owner Bob Rohde, and Dwight Carroll, building inspector.

The main topics of discussion were the repair of damaged roads on some of the canal streets and the four areas where the dunes were breached by the high tides that swept over the area during the Jan. 1 storm.

Solutions suggested include the emergency bulldozing of sand from the beach to the dunes at the town's expense, with the hope of recovering some of the expenses from the pro-

perty owners on the oceanfront later.

Members also discussed bulldozing sand and at the same time have the board initiate procedures as set forth by state statutes to assess oceanfront property owners for the work.

Leasing a bulldozer and operator at the town's expense to repair the breached areas of dunes and asking property owners who want their property to be bulldozed to pay for it was another alternative the committee suggested.

"I think a lot of people are willing to pay up front to have the work done," said committee member Graham King. "In fact, a lot of them are ready to do it now."

Town Manager Buck said he has problems with assessment because the money is collected after the work is done, and he felt it would be difficult to get a contractor to agree to do the work unless the town could pay up-front.

King told the committee that he and Buck are also checking the possibility of getting some sort of federal assistance to help finance the cost of repairs, but that it looks highly unlikely, since other coastal towns with even more damage than

Holden Beach are being told they can't receive any.

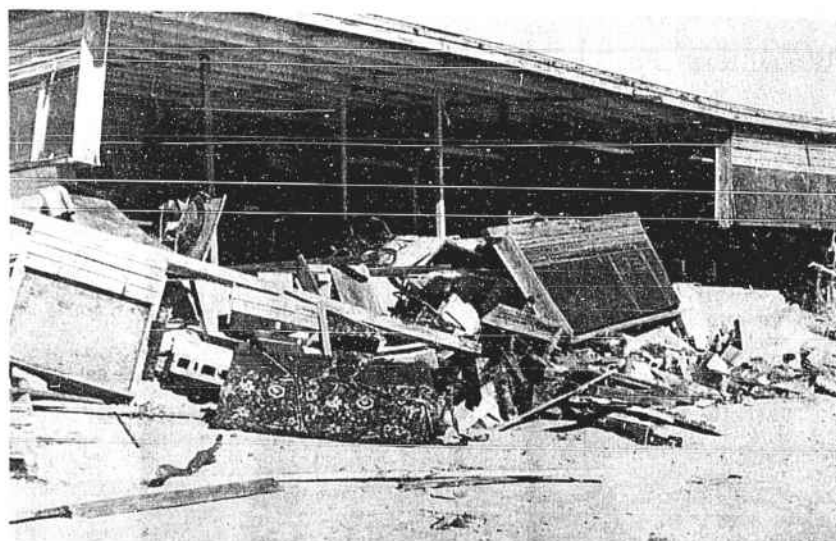
The committee decided to suggest to commissioners that Henry Thompson, the town's maintenance supervisor, be allowed to work with a contractor, under Thompson's supervision, to clean up debris from the town's streets and to operate a scraper where the streets need repair.

Buck told the committee that the town has about \$15,000 in capital outlay money that can be used for street repairs.

The committee will also suggest to the board that oceanfront property owners be allowed to burn some of the debris on the beach, but only with a permit issued by the town.

They will also suggest to commissioners that a policy be set allowing only oceanfront property owners to take lumber washed along the shore from damaged stairs and decks for a week following the storm. After the week is up, anyone can take the debris.

Buck told the committee members that there were trucks pulling on the beach and loading up with treated lumber following last week's storm.



STAFF PHOTO BY ETTA SMITH  
**MACE'S TRAILER PARK** at Holden Beach was badly damaged when high tides came crashing through this storage building. When the water moved back out to

sea, it took the entire south wall of the building and left everything from couches to bicycles scattered on the beach.



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER  
**WITH ITS BROAD STRAND** and deep frontal dunes, Sunset Beach sustained less oceanfront structural damage than other areas. However, 25 to 30 feet of fron-

tal dunes eroded and numerous streets flooded. Water was still deep Friday afternoon on portions of Canal and other streets.