



THE CLUB HOUSE will be located in this clearing behind these live oak trees. Surveying the location with Harlee Hewett (center) are Mason Anderson (left) and Paul Dennis.

THE VIEW from the club house through the live oak trees includes the Intracoastal Waterway, the west end of Long Beach, as well as the ocean and Lockwood Folly Inlet.

CENTERPIECE OF \$5 MILLION PROJECT

Holden Beach Area's First Golf Course Being Developed

BY EDDIE SWEATT

A 466-acre tract of land near Holden Beach is being transformed into Lockwood Links, an 18-hole championship golf course which is to be the centerpiece of a 1000-unit resort housing project.

Construction of the golf course and streets is underway at the site, with two miles of shoreline, adjacent to

the Lockwood Folly River and the Intracoastal Waterway across from Holden Beach.

Plans also call for construction to begin by June 15 on a luxury club house, pro-shop and restaurant.

Included in the plans are provisions for a dry boat storage facility, private swimming pool and tennis court.

Cost of developing the raw land and construction of the golf course, club house, other amenities and sales office will top \$5 million. When all housing units are built, the total figure will be from \$75 to \$100 million, developers say.

The land on which the development is to be built has been owned by the Starling H. Hewett family for over 50

years. His son, Harlee; his two grandsons, Huey P. and Dean Hewett; and their mother, Dorothy Brown, joined with developers Paul Dennis, Mason Anderson, Tripp Sloane and Bill Benton to form Channel Side Corporation to develop the property.

Developers describe the site as a "virgin paradise" of live oak, pine, dogwood and other native coastal trees, which they say will be protected as development takes place.

"The golf course is being designed to protect and enhance the existing tree cover. Specific trees are being identified and the course designed to fit their location," says developer Paul Dennis who is supervising the land clearing operation.

Streets are to follow the same pattern, with desirable trees being identified, flagged and then the streets built around them. Home construction will be designed in the same manner.

The entire project will be designed to blend with and complement the natural surroundings, developers

say. Planning for the development has been such that all federal, state and county permits were approved without change when submitted, according to the land planner.

The golf course is scheduled to be completed by Nov. 1 of this year. Willard Byrd & Associates of Atlanta is the golf course architect and overall land planner. Byrd is known for his work at McGregor Downs in Raleigh, Wexford Plantation at Hilton Head, S.C., and over 100 other championship golf courses from Pinehurst and Myrtle Beach to Florida, and 900 planned communities.

Lockwood Links developers say Byrd is probably the most outstanding land planner/golf course architect in the Southeast.

Dennis, one of the principals involved in the development of Sea Trail Golf Links at Sunset Beach, when asked to compare Lockwood Links with the Sea Trail course and other renowned courses in

Brunswick County such as Marsh Harbour and Oyster Bay, said he expects Lockwood Links to be even "better."

Although southern Brunswick County has a number of golf courses in operation and several others either in development or on the drawing board, Lockwood Links will be the first in the Holden Beach area.

John Van of Atlanta will provide the overall architectural theme as well as design the club house, sales office, townhouses and patio homes. Construction of the sales and administration office is scheduled to begin in about 30 days and lot surveying and platting will begin sooner.

But one of the developers discounted an earlier news report that plans include incorporation of the resort community. "It's possible in the future that residents may want to consider the village concept similar to the form of town government at Bald Head Island, but there has been no discussions along these lines," said Anderson.



"In 1932 my father, S. H. Hewett, bought the land from the Holden brothers, founders of Holden Beach. He realized its unique location and its beauty.

"It has been a life-long dream and desire of mine that if and when something was done with the land that it would be done in such a manner that the natural beauty would be retained for all to see and appreciate.

"In 1986, in an effort to fulfill this life-long dream, the Hewett family began a search for someone who shared our aspirations and dreams in developing the land. After long and thorough consideration, we settled on bringing in Paul Dennis and associates as partners with their expertise in development.

"We feel fortunate in having found local developers who share and appreciate our wishes and are carrying out our dreams most satisfactorily."

—HARLEE HEWETT



REVIEWING THE PLANS are, from left, Willard Byrd, golf course architect and overall land planner; developers Paul Dennis, Mason Anderson, and Bill Benton; and Teri R. Boyce, project coordinator for Litus Corporation of N.C., sales and marketing agents for the project.

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