

WORKERS WITH WAYNE'S BACKHOE SERVICE were on the job New Year's Day building a new dune in the 700 block of Ocean Boulevard West. The company has gone past its 60-day completion deadline. STAFF PHOTO BY DOUG RUTTER

## Holden Dune Project Runs Past Deadline

**BY DOUG RUTTER**  
Holden Beach officials had hoped to enter the new decade with a new oceanfront dune protecting property on the island.

But work on the biggest project in town history has spilled over into 1990, and in the process, past its deadline.

Construction of a new beachfront dune running the length of Holden Beach was supposed to be finished by the end of 1989. The new dune is being built to help return the beach to the shape it was in before Hurricane Hugo, which wiped out most of the island's protective sand dunes.

When the contract was awarded in late October, the contractor was given 60 calendar days to complete the work. But heavy equipment and workers with Wayne's Backhoe Service of Ocean Isle Beach were still on the job this week.

On New Year's Day, bulldozers and sand scrapers were building the dune in the 700 block of Ocean Boulevard West. Workers started at the east end of the island and are proceeding west.

Town Manager Gus Ulrich said there is nothing in the contract that would allow the town to penalize the contractor for going past the deadline.

In the contractor's defense, Ulrich said it's difficult to predict how long it will take to build a dune

until work begins. He could not offer an estimate on when the work would be done.

"He's got to work around tides and occasionally your equipment breaks down," said Ulrich. "He's moving full steam ahead right now. He got bogged down a little bit during the holidays."

So far, Ulrich said the town has paid the contractor about \$51,000 for work along 11,000 feet of beachfront. He said the town would probably pay the contractor another \$25,000 at the end of this week.

Before the project started, town officials estimated the total cost at about \$170,000. "I think it's going to be pretty close to that," Ulrich said Tuesday.

However, town officials have yet to decide where the dune project will end at the west end of the island.

The formal resolution calling for the construction work said the dune would be built in front of each beachfront home from the east end to the west end. But several residents at the west end have said they don't need any more sand dunes.

Ulrich said town commissioners will probably make a decision on where to end the dune at their Jan. 8 meeting. Last month, the board of commissioners rode on the beach to survey the work completed and to determine an appropriate point to end the project.

## Interim Manager To Revise Director's Job Description

**BY RAHN ADAMS**  
Interim County Manager David Clegg has put the hiring of a new Inspections Department director on hold while he rewrites the position's job description.

The job search, in part, spurred

an emergency meeting of the Brunswick County Board of Commissioners Dec. 21. Commissioner Benny Ludlum called the meeting after he heard that Commission Chairman Gene Pinkerton intended to hire a new director without con-

sulting the full board. Pinkerton denied Ludlum's accusation.

Clegg told the *Beacon* last Thursday that he recently notified the three applicants for the director's post that qualifications for the job would be rewritten and it would

be readvertised.

The position was advertised in-house last month. According to county Personnel Officer Debbie Bowling, all three applicants are currently employed in the Inspections Department.

Julius "Buddy" Lewis still serves as interim department head, Clegg said. Lewis initially was appointed to the post in mid-November when former Inspections Director Billy Ingram moved into the county's new purchasing agent slot.

"Basically, I had problems with both of those job descriptions," Clegg said, referring to the Building Inspections director position that was publicly advertised two years ago and filled by Ingram; and to the renamed Code Inspections director position that was advertised in-house last month.

Former County Manager John T. Smith, who was fired Dec. 4 by commissioners, received the county board's approval in late November to change the director's title, to reflect the fact that the department involves more than just "building" inspections. The department's inspectors also handle plumbing and electrical inspections.

Clegg said last Thursday that he felt that both job descriptions are "inadequate," and that the new one should be a "reflection of a department head where technical expertise is required." He added that he was not implying that no current county employees will meet the more specific qualifications.

The interim county manager also commented that after he rewrites the description and recommends it to county commissioners, he also will recommend that the job be advertised publicly, instead of in-house. However, he noted that the county's stated policy is to promote from within, if a qualified applicant is available.

## Siren Check

Low-volume "growl" checks of the sirens around the Brunswick Nuclear Plant are planned Jan. 9, 10 and 11 by Carolina Power & Light Co.

The sirens are located on poles at 34 locations within 10 miles of the plant, in Brunswick and New Hanover counties and are tested every quarter to make sure they work.



Shovel, Shovel, Toil And... STAFF PHOTO BY RAHN ADAMS

Since most sidewalks at the Brunswick County Government Center are covered, Building and Grounds employees David Long (left) and Winky Evans didn't have too much trouble clearing snow from exposed walkways last Thursday morning when the complex reopened after the county's Christmas weekend storm. Interim County Manager David Clegg said at least 80 percent of the county government workforce reported back to work last Thursday, despite snow- and ice-covered secondary roads in most areas sections of the county. The complex was closed Dec. 25 and 26 for Christmas, and last Wednesday due to hazardous road conditions.

## Lawmen Apprehend Teens

(Continued From Page 1-A)

with a knife and demanded her pocketbook and car keys.

Ms. Bianton said the man did not touch her during the robbery. He left the scene in the woman's 1983 Pontiac Bonneville and picked up another black man who was walking a short distance away on Village Road, the report indicated.

Both men were described as being around five-feet, 10-inches tall, and weighing between 150 and 160 pounds. One was wearing a royal blue jogging suit; the other was wearing a gray jogging suit.

Hewett said the car was recovered Monday by a sheriff's deputy near the intersection of Old Fayetteville Road and Parkwood Drive, Leland. Except for two flat tires, the vehicle was undamaged.

### Shooting Probed

The sheriff's department Tuesday

was still investigating a Dec. 22 shooting that was reported last Wednesday by a Shallotte area man. No one was injured in the incident.

Gary Gause of Route 2, Shallotte, told authorities that his 1979 Ford Mustang was hit by four bullets as he and Michael Stanley of Route 3, Shallotte, drove on Big Neck Road. Gause said the pair had just left an Ash area club when the shooting occurred Dec. 22 around 11 p.m.

### Businesses Hit

Local investigators last week also were still looking into separate break-ins that were reported Dec. 22 at two businesses in the Grissetown and Kingtown areas.

Leonard Sykes of Acme Convenience Mart on U.S. 17 at Grissetown told deputies that someone broke a front plexiglass window to enter the building between 9 p.m. Dec. 21 and 6 a.m. Dec. 22. Some \$1,000 in cash and eight cartons of cigarettes worth \$86 were stolen.

In the other break-in, Karen Thomas of the Corner Store near Kingtown said the intruder forced open the front door of the store and stole property worth \$241, including six boxes of shotgun shells, eight videocassettes and six cases of beer. The incident happened between 8:30 p.m. Dec. 19 and 5:30 a.m. Dec. 20.

## Normal Winter Weather On Tap

After two weeks of unseasonably cold weather over the Christmas and New Year holidays, the Shallotte area should see a return to relatively normal conditions through the weekend, according to Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady.

Temperatures over the next several days are expected to average from the mid-30s at night to the mid-50s during the day. Rainfall should measure about one-half of an inch.

For the period of Dec. 26 through Jan. 1, the daily average temperature in the Shallotte area was 45 degrees, which Canady said was three degrees below normal.

The daily average high temperature was 58 degrees, and the daily average low temperature was 32 degrees.

The maximum high temperature during the period was 67 degrees on Dec. 30. The minimum low temperature was 19 degrees on Dec. 27.

Canady measured 0.32 of an inch of rain at Shallotte Point during the seven-day period.

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