



STAFF PHOTO BY BOB HORNE

### U.S. 17 Construction Progresses

Heavy machinery piles up burning trees and other growth cut to allow the widening of U.S. 17 between Bolivia and Winnabow. The work is part of the project that will eventually result in U.S. 17 being four lanes from Wilmington to the South Carolina line.

## Mayors Say Beaches Are Recovering From Hugo

BY DOUG RUTTER

Brunswick County beach town officials say their beaches are looking good, less than a year after Hurricane Hugo's storm surge washed out a lot of dunes that had been protecting valuable island property.

Although the beaches seem to be on their way to recovery, South Brunswick Islands mayors admit that it will be a while before the dunes are back to the condition they were in before Hugo made landfall Sept. 22, 1989.

"Our dune system was in excellent shape before Hugo," said Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson. "I would say we're in very good shape now."

Getting the beaches back together wasn't cheap. Two of the three beach towns in the South Brunswick Islands brought in bulldozers to reinforce flattened dunes, and all three communities purchased sand fence and beach grass to help stabilize the berms.

The town of Holden Beach spent more than \$300,000 on its beach following Hugo. That included the cost of bulldozing sand dunes almost the entire length of the eight-mile-long island.

Mayor John Tandy estimated that the town lost about 25 percent of what it spent on dune reconstruction shortly after the project was completed, as the new berm eroded and sand fence

*"Our dune system was in excellent shape before Hugo. I would say we're in very good shape now."*

—Ocean Isle Beach Mayor Betty Williamson

collapsed. "The ocean has come in a little bit," he said.

But Tandy said the beach and man-made dunes now appear to be holding up. "I think we're in good shape at this stage," the mayor said. "It still needs a lot more stabilizing."

Ocean Isle Beach had truckloads of sand hauled in and dumped on the beach to reinforce damaged dunes. The town later put up sand fence and planted beach grass to help stabilize the dunes and help them grow.

Mayor Williamson said she's very pleased with the way the beach has recovered. She said tourists who have visited the beach this summer have been pleasantly surprised.

The sand fence has worked so well, in fact, that the dune has grown over it in some areas, Mrs. Williamson said. And the beach grass is do-

ing well, thanks in part to a lot of rain in August.

"All of that stabilization is really going to help in case we ever have another hurricane," Mrs. Williamson said.

Primarily because of oceanfront setbacks, Sunset Beach avoided the property damage that the other local beaches experienced as a result of Hugo. But the southernmost beach in the state still lost some of its dunes.

The town didn't bulldoze sand dunes after the storm like Holden Beach and Ocean Isle Beach, but workers did put up sand fence and plant beach grass to help the strand recover.

"We've come a long way," Mayor Mason Barber said last week. "We're just extremely well pleased with the amount of sand that's started coming in and the way it's building back."

Although town officials are pleased with the way the beaches have recovered, they agree it will be years before the dunes are back in the shape they were in before Hurricane Hugo.

Tandy said Holden Beach needs at least two years without storms for the man-made dunes to become stabilized. "We couldn't stand any more giant storms. I could tell you that," Tandy said.

Mrs. Williamson said she hopes the beach and dunes will be back to their pre-Hugo form before the next hurricane hits. "This is something Mother Nature has to do, and the natural process takes time. We're keeping our fingers crossed."

## Sunset 'Lot 1-A' Clears Hurdle

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property was not restricted. The area was used by the general public for vehicular and pedestrian access to the beach and for picnicking and other activities.

In 1968, suit was brought by B.F. Industries Inc. (Frances and David B. Kanoy Jr.), which at that time owned the adjacent Sunset Beach Fishing Pier, against M.C. Gore and Sunset Beach and Twin Lakes Inc.

On the grounds that Sunset Boulevard to the Ocean was a dedicated and accepted road, the Kanoy's sought and obtained a temporary restraining order to prevent Gore from building on "Lot 1-A."

The suit was settled in late fall of 1970, with the Kanoy's signing an agreement waiving and quietclaiming to the Gores any interest they might have had in the lot. At about the same time, at a Nov. 2, 1970, meeting, the Sunset Beach Town Council purported to formally reject and not accept the dedication of the street. However no declaration of

*"That is your right-of-way access to the ocean in perpetuity as far as we can determine."*

—James B. Maxwell  
SBTPA attorney

withdrawal of dedication was filed.

In May 1984, after a Sunset Beach councilman and developer, Ed Gore, offered to give the town an oceanfront tract on the west end of the beach for public parking, then-Mayor Frances Kanoy received a letter from businessman Al Odom suggesting the town develop the property east of the fishing pier (Lot 1-A) as a public parking/access area.

Odom, who now serves on the town council, wrote, "It is the opinion of many people who have investigated the rightful ownership of this property that it is owned by the town."

A similar request was made slightly more than a year later by the Sunset Beach Taxpayers Association before it joined in filing the suit. In the July 1985 letter to Mayor James Gordon, SBTPA officers John G. McCarthy and Minnie K. Hunt suggested use of the lot as "a logical solution" to the parking and beach access problems being experienced by the town.

"It is our opinion that this is public beach property that ought to now be utilized by the Town for the public purposes and benefits to which it was originally intended," they wrote.

## Next Few Days Slightly Cooler

Residents of the South Brunswick Islands area should notice a slight cooling over the next few days, but can still expect plenty of warm days ahead.

Shallotte Point meteorologist Jackson Canady said the outlook calls for normal temperatures and rainfall for this transitional time of the year.

He anticipates temperatures that average from the upper 60s at night into the upper 80s during the day-time. The area can expect about

three-quarters inch of rainfall.

For the period Aug. 28 through Sept. 3, Canady recorded a maximum high of 96 degrees on Aug. 28th and a minimum low of 69 degrees on Sept. 1.

A daily average high of 91 degrees and a daily average low 71 degrees resulted in a daily average temperature of 81 degrees, which Canady said is about two degrees above average.

He measured .43 inch of rain at his home near Shallotte Point.

## CP&L Fined \$62,500

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CP&L later determined that the actual exposure to workers was within the limit allowed by the NRC.

Three instrumentation and control technicians had entered a contamination control tent in the reactor building to complete modifications to the system. During calibration of a probe, an activated, newly installed portable detector and cable were withdrawn too far out of the core, into the area in which the three were working.

Clark said the base civil penalty for this type of violation is \$50,000. It was increased in this case, because the company had received prior notice about similar events associated with work on similar systems at other plants.

CP&L said the fine was less than

it otherwise would have been because, according to the NRC, the utility "promptly notified the NRC resident inspector and took prompt and extensive corrective actions."

CP&L has 30 days from receipt of notification to either pay the civil penalty or to protest it in whole or in part. CP&L announced last Friday that it does not intend to contest the civil penalty.

As of Friday, the NRC had not announced whether it proposes to cite CP&L for any violations following an Aug. 19 automatic shutdown of one unit of the plant. The "scram" occurred when technicians failed to follow established routines for conducting a monthly maintenance test. The regulatory agency is reviewing an investigative team's report on the incident.

## Superintendent Decision Postponed

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He contended that the new board might be less divided, a prospect Slockett questioned.

While Baxley recommended a two-year term as a means of "damage control," Slockett instead proposed a four-year term retroactive to June 30, with no compensation for the period from June 30 until "she—or he" begins work. Earlier he had referred to the next superintendent as "she".

"I feel we are fully ready to make a decision," Slockett said, his comments similar to those of Mrs. Worth and Ms. Baxter. "Two (finalists) we know extremely well and we've visited the home territories of the other two. We've discussed their qualifications and are prepared to do more tonight."

However, board attorney Glen Peterson said that while in executive session the board reviewed the "merits and demerits" of the four finalists in detail, then decided to talk to the applicants a second time.

In open session speakers W. A.

Stanley Jr. and Belinda Hankins had urged the board to choose Hankins as superintendent, as well as receiving a list of recommended selection criteria compiled by the Concerned Taxpayers of Brunswick County.

"Not only is he the best qualified man, he deserves it," said Stanley.

Peterson said that while board members did not refer to any of those specific comments, their "general tenor" was discussed behind closed doors. "You would have to ask individual board members if the comments had any influence on their position," he said.

The finalists were among 15 candidates interviewed in two marathon weekend sessions in July. Under consideration for the post are interim Superintendent P.R. Hankins, interim superintendent since June 30; William Harrison, assistant superintendent for curriculum; Barbara D. Rogers, principal of East Wake High School; and Betty Cloer Wallace, who is on leave from the N.C. Department of Public Instruction where she was a deputy assistant superintendent.

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**THE BRUNSWICK BEACON**

Established Nov. 1, 1962  
Telephone 754-6890  
Published Every Thursday  
At 4709 Main Street  
Shallotte, N.C. 28459

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