

# Jockey's Ridge on the move

Jockey's Ridge is migrating to the south and west, as is the rest of the Outer Banks. The battle to keep the dunes from further encroaching on Soundside Drive to the south of the state park continued this week as heavy equipment was used to load sand into dump trucks along the street.

George Barnes, superintendent of Jockey's Ridge State Park said that the sand is being transported to the north side of the park where it is dumped into holes. "Eventually, it will move back into the system," said Barnes.

The current project involves moving approximately 125,000 cubic yards of sand. "That should hold the problem off for a long time," said Barnes. "This should help for the next several years. After the sand is removed on the south side, we will put up sand fences, plant grass and use discarded Christmas trees to stabilize it.

Over the decades, the shifting sands have covered a number of structures including a putt-putt golf course. During the last two years, a castle that was once part of the golf course has emerged from the sand.

Two similar past projects involved only about 40,000 cubic yards in each effort.

Funding for the latest project was obtained from the state Parks and Recreation Fund.

— Sandy Semans

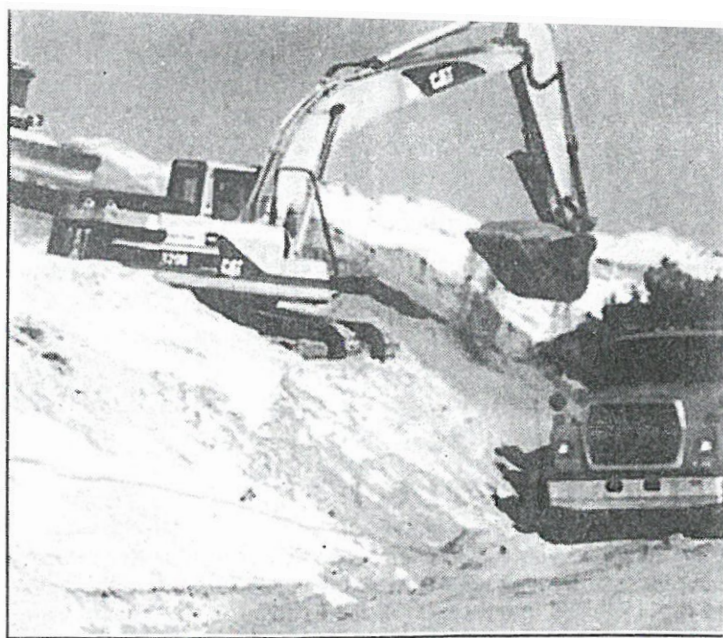


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In 1979, top photo, a hamburger stand and other attractions were located north of the Nags Head Baptist Church. Today, middle photo, the migrating sand has changed the face of the area. Bottom photo, heavy equipment and dump trucks began removing sand from along Soundside Drive where the dunes have been encroaching onto the road

