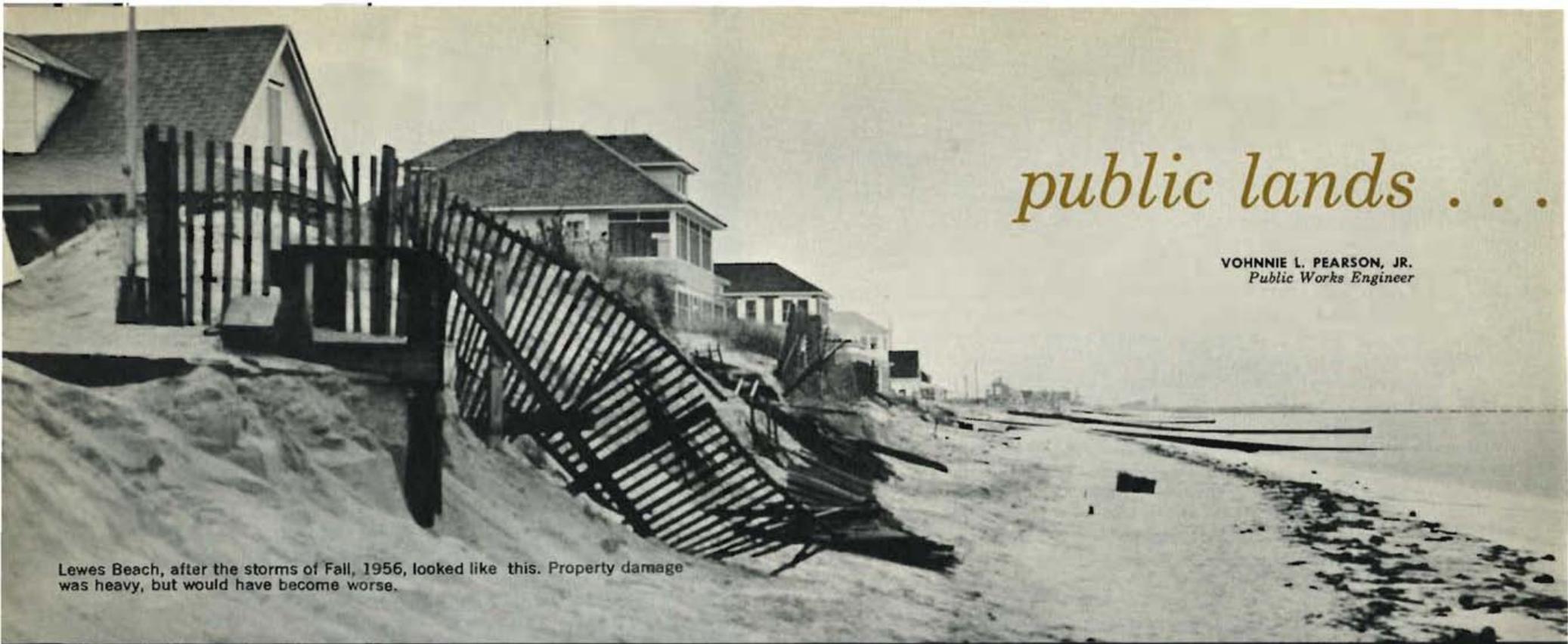


# *public lands . . .*

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Lewes Beach, after the storms of Fall, 1956, looked like this. Property damage was heavy, but would have become worse.



Delaware's largest beach erosion control program made the storm-ripped beach look like this one year later. Property value saved and recreation improved.



One of the finest beaches on the Atlantic Coast. Key Box Road between Indian River Inlet and Rehoboth.

# for all to enjoy

Unlike most states, Delaware's State Highway Commissioners are charged with the responsibility for matters on land, sea and air. The land responsibility is obvious, of course. Aircraft are currently employed to spray mosquito breeding areas and the use of airspace may become more important soon if aircraft are purchased to be used as an aid to traffic control by the State Police.

One of the most unusual jobs for a State Highway Department is the responsibility for State lands . . . including miles of ocean beaches, picnicking and camping areas.

The ocean front projects of the State Highway Department are handled by the Public Works Division, which works in close cooperation with the Bridge Division and the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

It is primarily responsible for the planning, engineering and inspection of beach protective projects and for the development and operation of State-owned beach lands.

## PROTECTION

During the past year one of the most massive and important beach erosion control projects in the history of the State was undertaken. After a thorough study by the Governor's Beach Erosion Committee and a technical study by the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, a program for the rebuilding and protection of the beaches of Delaware began actively

on September 15, 1957, when the first funds were made available from the initial sale of the Beach Erosion Bonds.

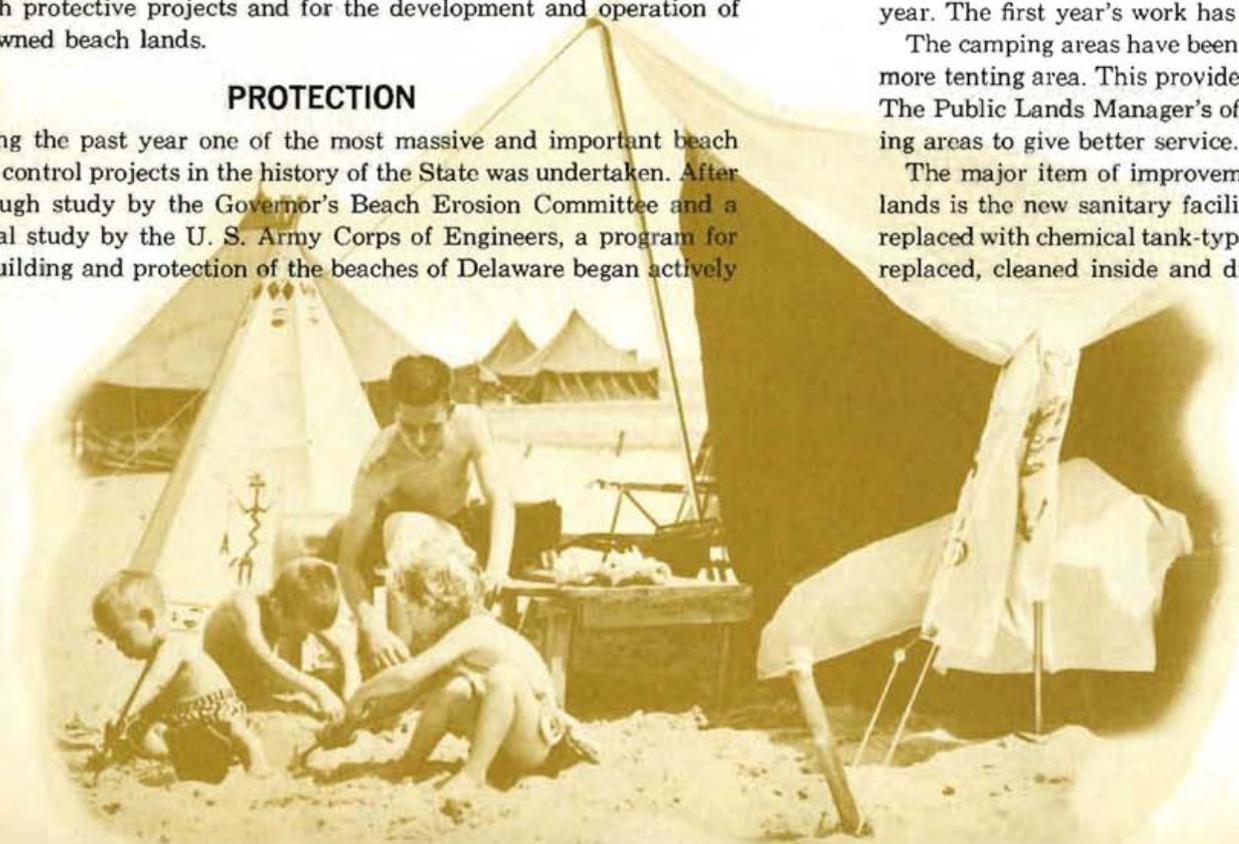
The first phase of the program has been completed and considerable work is planned for the future. In addition to the contracted beach erosion works, many dunes were rebuilt by earth moving equipment and miles of sand fence were installed.

## UTILIZATION

Like the attraction of a huge magnet, Delaware's beaches draw tourists from the major centers of population. On peak summer days between 35,000 and 40,000 tourists visit Delaware's beach resorts. With full knowledge that existing facilities are not adequate to accommodate this kind of an influx, a ten-year master plan was developed during the past year. The first year's work has been completed.

The camping areas have been reduced from four areas to two, but with more tenting area. This provides for improved management and control. The Public Lands Manager's office was moved nearer to the main camping areas to give better service.

The major item of improvement along the Indian River Inlet public lands is the new sanitary facilities setup. The old pit-type toilets were replaced with chemical tank-type toilets which are pumped out, chemicals replaced, cleaned inside and disinfected every night.



Fun on Delaware's public camping grounds, Indian tepee and all.