

DELAWARE'S GROWING ASSETS

... its beaches and recreational areas

Every year the beaches and recreational areas in Delaware play a more important role in the State's popularity and prosperity.

The Interstate Water Resources Survey, made in 1959, brought out this factor graphically when it predicted that these areas would continue to grow in importance and attract people to Delaware. In 1964 more people used these facilities than ever before, and from a wider area than formerly.

The State Highway Department has been charged with the responsibility of maintaining the physical integrity and general attractiveness of Delaware's beaches and recreational areas.

To provide adequate protection for its beaches, an extensive program has been launched to aid in both their preservation and nourishment. The Sussex County Division placed 52,700 linear feet of sand fencing. Dunes rose to a height of eighteen feet on essentially all public lands. This work was done as a result of the damage of the 1962 storm which

wrought havoc on Delaware's beaches. Also 200,000 cubic yards of sand have been machine-placed along the dune alignment.

Through the cooperation of the local soil conservation district and the Department of Agriculture, 70,000 plants of nursery-grown American Beach Grass were set out along the foot of the primary dune back slope in Sussex County with gratifying results. Also 25,000 of the same plants were set out in a two and one-half acre nursery plot on State lands at Lewes. Normal growth of these plants should provide almost a perpetual source of plants to be transplanted to the beach for erosion control. This transplanting will start in fall, 1964.

North of Rehoboth Beach, near the Henlopen Acres property, a new timber groin was completed this year, 340 feet long, for beach erosion protection.

All precautions are being taken by the Department and its various units, particularly in Sussex County, to maintain the beach area and protect it from natural hazards.



Left: Preserving and protecting Delaware's beaches by sand fencing.



A refreshing stop for travelers at one of the many wooded roadside picnic areas.



Left: Aerial view of Rehoboth Beach.



3/4 yard Drag Line engaged in ditching operation.

Activities of the Mosquito Control Division for fiscal 1964 followed closely trends established in preceding years with these highlights:

Federal funds were once more utilized for repair of permanent installations damaged during March, 1962, storm.

Generally, weather conditions during the breeding season were unfavorable to the mosquito.

Insecticide use was virtually unchanged due to the absence of effective larvicides.

Delaware is plagued by more than fifty species of mosquitos. They range from the house and "inland swamp" mosquito to the most annoying salt marsh or "Jersey" mosquito to which the Mosquito Control Division has directed its major efforts.

The potential salt marsh mosquito breeding grounds embrace over 100,000 acres of Delaware. Because of frequent flushing of portions of the marsh, mosquitos are likely to breed in only 70,000 acres with a reliable estimate that each of these acres can produce sixty to eighty million mosquitos a year. Of the total acreage only 20,000 acres have been eliminated as breeding sources by human effort, leaving 50,000 uncontrolled acres.