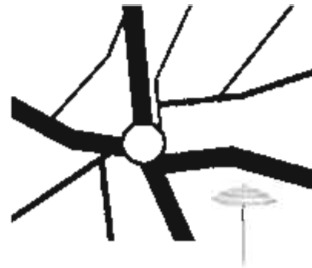


## Public Lands

Vohnnie L. Pearson



Nature sometimes is an "Indian giver." And it demonstrates this rather vividly with the beaches it gives and takes away in a never-ending process from our State's shore lines.

The fight to keep what beaches this State has dominates the Public Lands Annual Report for Fiscal Year 1958-59.

Erosion control groins—pier-like piles of rock, wood and concrete that jut out from the beach—were rebuilt and extended at Bethany and Slaughter Beaches. Fifteen hundred feet at the North end of Slaughter Beach was rebuilt, returning what nature had taken back. But it took 49,000 cubic yards of truck-hauled sand to do the job.

An estimated 312,000 people made use of the beaches and campgrounds last year. Preparing for an expected increase in these figures, the Department increased Key Box Road Campgrounds from 150 to 280 sites, curbed camping at Indian River Inlet to monthly and seasonal times, enlarged and treated existing parking lots and built new ones. It also created a new 1500 foot long beach at Savage's Ditch on Rehoboth Bay and added to it a picnic pavilion and parking lot.

One major problem still faces the Department . . . the lack of drinking water. It still has to be solved, though the need for sanitary and policing arrangements have reached an acceptable stage for the time being.



Busy camping area at Key Box Road along the Atlantic.