

## Five Year Study Aims To Solve Problem Of Moving Sand Dunes



Nearly four days of northwest winds in January of 1959 resulted in sand dunes along Route 6 between Pilgrim Lake and Snail Road covering nearly half of the two lane highway. This scene has been repeated many times since that time as it was many times prior to 1959, and it will be one of the major problems studied by the University of Massachusetts under a five year, \$75,000 contract signed on October 25 in Boston.

-NEW BEACON-

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1962

### Study Begins To Halt Drifting Sand

A project whose aim is to solve the problem of sand drifting over the road on Route 6 has begun at the University of Massachusetts Agronomy Department in Amherst. The program, announced some time ago, is being financed by grants from the State and Federal government, who have jointly contributed \$75,000 for the five-year study.

A three-phase research program to combat the problem has been set up by John M. Zak, assistant professor of agronomy, who is research leader for the study. Evangel Bredakis, agronomy instructor at the University, will devote full time to the Agricultural Experiment Station project in connection with the problem.

The attempt to halt the movement of sand will be done initially by stimulating the existing vegetation by fertilization, and beach grass will then be planted in critical areas. At the same time the agricultural experts will try to develop and recommend grass-seed mixtures and other ground covers most practical for the Cape as well as for other locations in the state. The object of this phase of the research program is to stabilize the soils and provide maximum ease of maintenance with a minimum of cost.

Lastly the study will consider the recommendations of suitable chemicals and their safe and practical application in accelerating growth through the use of fertilizers and hormones, controlling poison ivy and other weed and brush growth and to inhibit grass growth in specific areas through soil sterilization.

- October 26, 1961 -

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## Federal Aid Comes To Help State Solve Dune Sand Drifting On Route 6 Here

There is hope that the problem of the shifting sands of the dunes off Route 6 here in Provincetown will be solved as a result of a meeting held Monday at Amherst. This is one of the major problems slated for study under a five-year \$75,000 contract signed by the State Department of Public Works, the University of Massachusetts and the Federal Bureau of Roads, at the meeting at the university. The contract covers research and planning on soil erosion, weed killers, grass seeding, control of shifting sand dunes and similar problems. The Federal Government will pay 78 percent of the contract and 22 percent will be paid by the State.

### Snow Plows In Summer

Commissioner Jack Ricciardi of the State Department of Public Works said at the meeting that, "we have to spend up to \$15,000 a year to keep Route 6 clear of drifting sand dunes. We use snow plows and men with shovels in the Summer. That isn't the right answer and we must find the solution." He added that the State has been spending this amount every year since 1954 and it is now up to the research men and engineers to get the answer. "It may be a soil-saving planting or some cover to the sand near the ocean," Mr. Ricciardi said. "We tried trees and they didn't work." He pointed out that rows of snow-fences with the fencing heightened each year didn't work either

and the fences were covered by the creeping sand.

### Seek Solution

The outcome of a preliminary meeting in Boston Monday between State highway engineers, roadside development engineers and the university agronomists, was that a team of university scientists would initiate a study immediately to seek a solution to the problem.

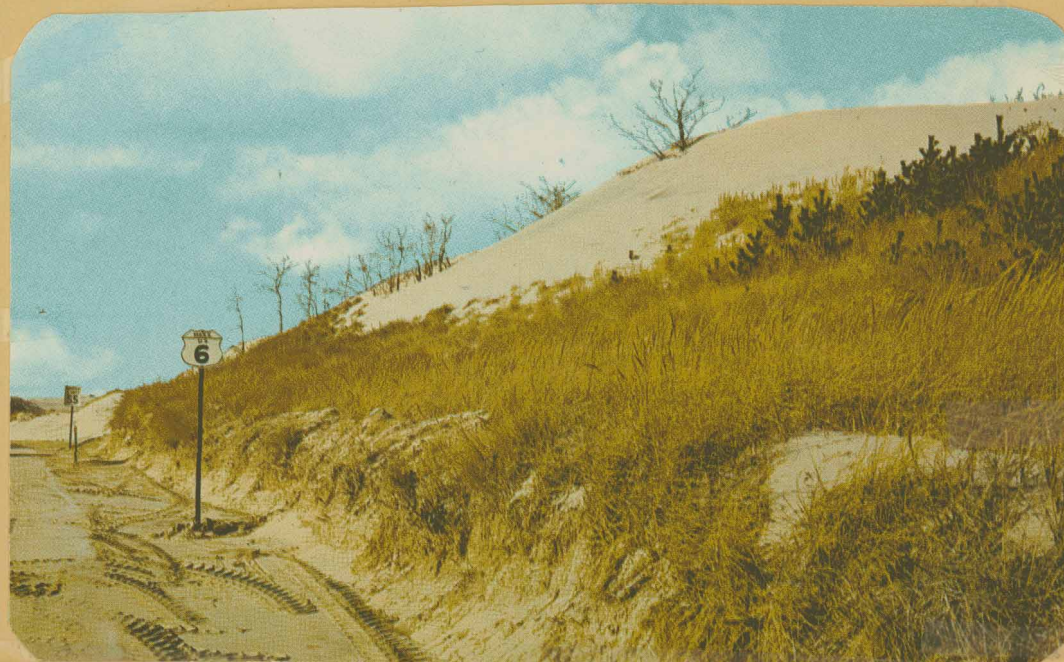
The DPW spokesman said no means or possible solutions were discussed at Monday's meeting. The DPW requested that the university scientists start as soon as possible.

Early in the Summer, the DPW initiated a co-operative research project with the university concerning roadside development in the State — a study of grasses and tree plantings which would best cope with soil erosion. A large part of this joint project is related to the drifting sand dunes at Provincetown.

### Formula Needed

Mr. Ricciardi said that the State, cities and towns pay more than \$50,000,000 a year for snow removal alone and "in this field there is room for real savings."

"We should have a standard formula for snow removal work with the cities and towns co-operating and working with the State," Mr. Ricciardi said. "Wrong types of plows are used and there is a distressing and costly lack of co-ordination."



Showing Drifting sand on Route 6 described above....

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