

by EMILY S. HESSE

Ar BALLSTON BEACH, TRURO, Cape Cod, seven shacks hang crazily on pilings at the edge of the road, and five more stagger up the hill behind the dune. Crooked little chimneys adorn their sagging roofs, their screens are rusty and torn, and most have no view of the sea. Since 1891, families have traveled great distances to spend their summer vacations in Ossie Ball's shacks, but the end is near. After a few more years, the shacks are to be torn down.

It is still uncertain what will happen to the site or what Ossie's longtime tenants will do. There is a rumor that a modern beach pavilion may be built there by the Cape Cod National Seashore; yet Lloyd Rose, former Chairman of the Truro Zoning Board, is fighting hard to keep Ballston Beach as a town beach, exclusive for the taxpayers of Truro. And the tenants. Some may build, in spite of the skyrocketing land values, outside the National Seashore. Only









On a blustery day last March, Ossie looks over his shacks after a storm. Their roofs leak, the water is rusty, the iceboxes are ancient and dented, beds are musty and waterstained, etc.—but tenants return summer after summer and there is always a long waiting list!