



St. Petersburg Times — FRED VICTORIN

The waters of Sarasota Bay are taking big bites out of the land where Syd Solomon and Pasco "Bill" Carter have their homes.

## As the land disappears, two seek help to keep sea out

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SARASOTA — Midnight Pass, between Siesta Key and Casey Key, is shifting its bed from south to north, gobbling the beach as it moves.

On Siesta Key, a scant 20 feet from the advancing water, is Syd Solomon's house, and in that house is his life's work. Solomon is an artist who designed his house to display his paintings.

But Pasco "Bill" Carter, his neighbor, is in an even worse predicament. The ap-

proaching water has consumed three-quarters of his swimming pool and has undermined one of the concrete supports of his house.

Carter notes that his house was "built for hurricanes, but not this lateral tidal flow."

**IT WAS BACK** in June that Solomon and Carter realized they were in serious trouble. They appealed to the Sarasota County Commission for a permit to sandbag their properties.

Since they asked for an "emergency action," a 4-1 vote of approval was needed. They didn't get it. Commission Chairman Robert Anderson and Commissioner Jeanne McElmurray opposed. They said no one should tamper with Mother Nature.

More appeals, as Midnight Pass ate several feet of their property every day, finally resulted in commission approval to sandbag. By this time Carter's pool had succumbed.

The sandbagging proved too little too late, they both say.

So now they want to dredge a new channel, redirecting Midnight Pass to where it was in 1960 — that's on the opposite side of the existing pass, on what is now the north end of Casey Key. Casey Key is now built up with sand from Carter's and Solomon's properties. The material dredged would be used to fill up the present pass and restore the Solomon-Carter beachfront.

**THE COMMISSION** resisted. The

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