

## Move of the Century?

Promptly at 10am, Monday, January 18<sup>th</sup>, the truck tasked with hauling Serendipity began to move the famous beach house to its new home. Though it may not have rivaled the 1999, “Move of the Century”, where the Cape Hatteras Lighthouse was the star, this move certainly had the attention of islanders and others intrigued by the Hatteras Island home made famous by the Nicholas Sparks novel based movie, “Nights in Rodanthe.” As Serendipity made the slow move to its new home, it was followed closely by a parade of news media, curious onlookers and even a helicopter. Your electric cooperative was on hand also and had a unique perspective on this interesting day.

CHEC became involved in the planning process a few weeks prior to the move. Although the move would be a short one, less than a mile south on it would impact some existing power lines that ran highway. In Rodanthe, the transmission lines (lines power to the island) run on the West side of Hwy 12. from these lines to homes on the East side of the service lines are erected that run overhead and road to poles on the other side. These lines hang feet above the road. Serendipity’s highest point trailer was 48 feet. Six of these overhead services had to be taken down and pulled across the road prior to Serendipity’s move leaving those homes served by the lines temporarily out of power.



Highway 12, across the that feed To get power road, taps or across the about 20 sitting on the

While temporarily removing these services was routine for the Cooperative’s linemen, a much greater challenge was two overhead guy spans that hung in the path of Serendipity. Guys are wire that are attached to the top of a pole and angled to the ground and anchored. These down guys provide strength to the poles especially in situations where the lines come in at an angle increasing the strain on the pole. Obstacles like highways make angling the guy wire downward impossible, creating a need for overhead guy spans. These guys, normally two or three spans, are attached to the top of the pole and then to the top of another adjacent pole, which is then itself anchored into the ground with down guys.

Guy wires can’t just be moved. Removing them will create unbalanced forces on the pole and would cause the pole to break or fall over, possibly resulting in outages or creating an unsafe environment for the linemen and the public. Rather than moving the guy wires, CHEC installed a new, taller pole in one of the overhead guy spans which raised the height of the wires. The other overhead guy span could not be changed.

50 feet, enough room to allow close, underneath. When taking two foot window seems very Hatteras Electric lineman had a was up in a bucket watching to fit underneath the guy wire. in the distance, it looked like it came nearer, I could tell she would make it.”



It was measured to be a height of Serendipity to pass, however on a project of this magnitude a small. Chris Deyarmin, a Cape bird’s eye view of the move. He make sure Serendipity did indeed “When she first came on the road would be really close. As she

This wasn't the first house move on Hatteras Island and certainly won't be the last. Like seashells, homes at times make a journey to a new spot, farther away from encroaching waves. CHEC is determined to bring you reliable service no matter what the challenge. Visit our [Photo Gallery](#) on our Community Tab for more pictures of what turned out to be an exciting winter day on Hatteras Island.