

Plays Hands Off

Efforts have been made to involve the N.C. Medical Society in legal means of blocking a federal grant being sought by the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association which would establish three satellite clinics in the Albemarle Area.

In a memorandum dated December 23, 1977, Dr. E. Harvey Estes, Jr., of Durham, president of the society, made mention of "informal suggestions" to involve NCMS. "This does not seem appropriate, and we have made no moves in this direction," he wrote.

He further stated that if the proposed clinics fail organized medicine could get a black eye, if they are opposed by physicians in the area.

The Project Review Committee of Eastern Carolina Health

Systems Agency will conduct a public hearing on the proposal tonight (Thursday) at 7 P.M. in the auditorium of Perquimans County High School in Hertford.

The Chowan Herald and other area newspapers last week printed a news release which stated that "competition" was among the reasons physicians and pharmacists in the area oppose the proposal. It has been determined that this was in error.

The competition aspect entered the picture, according to an out-of-town reporter who attended a meeting in Greenville on December 1, when supporters of a rural health clinic in Gates County spoke in opposition to the NRHDA plan.

Fear was expressed that the

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Strange Opposition

One of the strangest cries of "wolf" coming out of the current controversy over beefing up medical manpower in Northeastern North Carolina is coming from spokesmen from at least two general hospitals in the area. And it ain't right!

"The project as I understand it would create an overlapping of services and might hamper our recruitment efforts," Jean Combs, Bertie County hospital administrator was quoted as saying this week.

And over in Ahoskie, John Blanton, Roanoke-Chowan Hospital administrator, reportedly said for print: "We think the government could better spend money in some other fashion. We don't feel the plan would improve the quality of health services."

While physicians along the Public Parade have been in the forefront of opposition to an application by Northeastern Rural Health Development Association's for a federal grant to establish three satellite clinics in the area, no public position has been taken by Chowan Hospital.

Physicians have expressed more concern over plans of the privately financed Albemarle Family Practice, Ltd., just across the line in Perquimans County, than in the guts of NRHDA's application.

The two are related, and then they are not related. The private venture must stand on its own bottom. So must the satellite clinics. Both can remain erect with a lesser degree of effort through cooperation.

This area is fortunate to have a physician and a dentist willing to not only be bold, but gamble on the future. Without such medical support clinics which are so badly needed in the hamlets of our country are doomed from the outset.

The Outer Banks Health Center at Nags Head is a case in point. There were great expectations for the federally financed facility. But when physician support was lost because of bad politics, the facility turned into something less than a good first aid station.

NRHDA's board, composed entirely of consumers, and Drs. Clement Lucas and Richard N. Hines, Jr., are determined this won't be repeated in this section of the Albemarle. The key to the situation is medical manpower, which NRHDA is assured.

Maybe along the way some sacred cows will be gored. Area hospitals have no right to be among the first to cry "wolf" because they aren't among the most healthy institutions around.

The Duke Endowment reported that between October 1, 1975, and September 30, 1976, the acute unit at Chowan Hospital had a 74 per cent occupancy rate; Roanoke-Chowan, 83 per cent; Martin General in Williamston, 67 per cent; Bertie County, 68 per cent and Tyrrell, 48 per cent.

During the same period Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City enjoyed 98 per cent occupancy. From this you can see where the doctors are.

VEPCO Pays

Virginia Electric and Power Company has presented checks totaling \$1,305,676 in payment of 1977 real estate and personal property taxes to the county, city and town tax collectors in the 22 counties that Vepco serves in North Carolina.

The largest check of \$313,798 went to Northampton County. Chowan County received \$15,157. The Town of Edenton received \$2,306.

Vepco's 1977 North Carolina state and local taxes are estimated to total \$7,552,000 including \$1,316,000 for property taxes and \$6,061,000 for taxes on gross receipts.



MILL DESTROYED—Fire completely destroyed the M.G. Brown Company mill at the corner of Albania and Dickerson Street early Thursday evening. Through the alertness of members of Edenton Fire Department the blaze was contained in the main building. (Staff Photos by Amburn).

Local Firemen Contain Mill Facility Blaze

An electrical defect probably started the fire early Thursday evening which destroyed the millwork building at M.G. Brown Company on West Queen Street. Alertness of members of Edenton Fire Department kept the blaze from spreading to two nearby buildings, one less than six feet from the fire.

Fire Chief Luther C. Parks said Wednesday morning that investigation uncovered "evidence that strengthens our suspicion of an electrical defect." He said the origin of the fire was in the center of the building where the heating plant and main electrical distribution panel was located.

Preliminary estimates of damage to the frame structure was placed at \$50,000. No estimate of damage to the machinery and other contents was readily available.

Chief Parks was across the street at Mrs. Boswell's Restaurant when the alarm was sounded at 6:27 P.M. "I knew from the time I got to the door that the building was doomed," he recalls.

When firefighters arrived, efforts were made to contain the blaze. A wall of water was

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Sales Figures

Gross retail sales in the 10 Albemarle Area counties in October, 1977, exceeded \$34.7-million, according to a report released by the State Department of Revenue. Sales in Chowan County were \$4,065,007.

Throughout North Carolina, sales were \$2.2-billion with the food group accounting for \$510-million and the automotive group, \$430-million.

Gross sales in area counties in addition to Chowan were:


Camden, \$798,815; Currituck, \$2,990,420; Dare, \$6,162,081; Gates, \$1,453,332; Hyde, \$1,215,858; Pasquotank, \$12,334,634; Perquimans, \$2,373,033; Tyrrell, \$747,720; and Washington, \$3,944,754.

Hertford Clinic Is Leased


Chowan Medical Center, P.A., has recently signed a lease on the Hertford Medical Clinic, previously operated by Dr. Robert Hodgson. Dr. Richard Hardin, president of the Edenton corporation of physicians, signed a three-year lease on the property.

The members of Chowan Medical Center have been actively recruiting for the Hertford Clinic over the past three months. Thus far, five doctors have shown interest in the position by visiting Edenton and Hertford. "Hopefully, a doctor will be procured in the near future as a full time physician for Hertford with medical back up by the established Edenton group and the facilities of Chowan Hospital, Inc.," according to a spokesman.

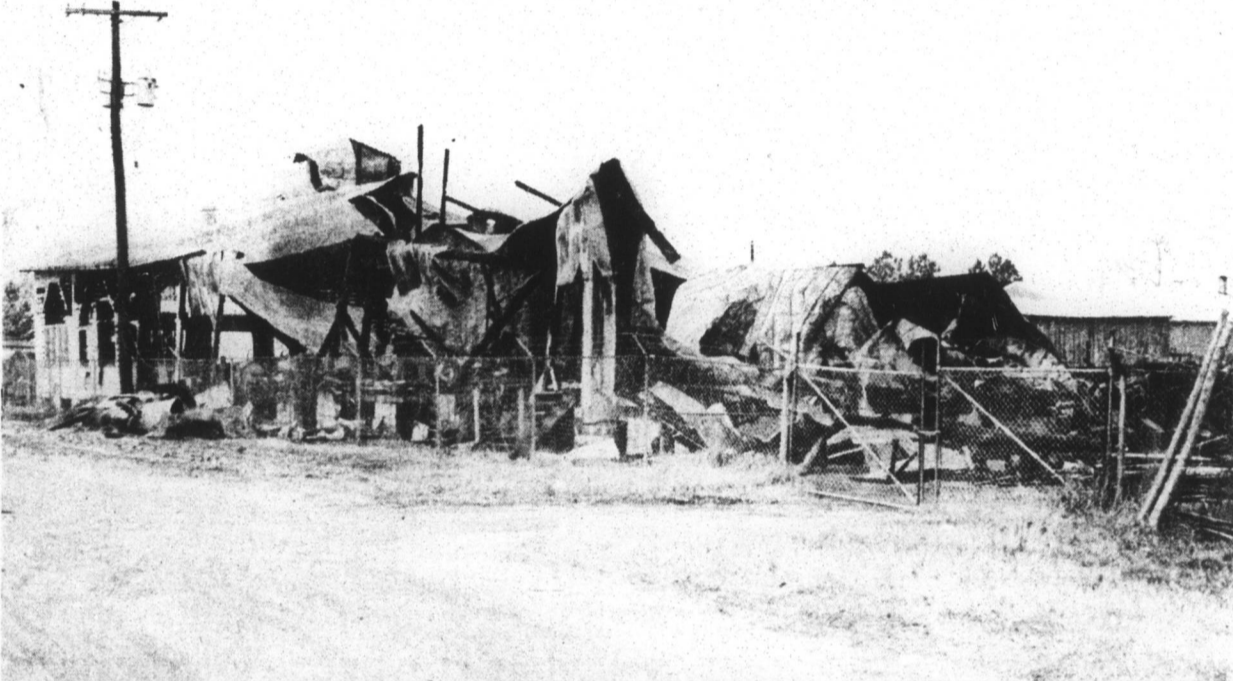
All previous patient charts will remain in the Hertford Clinic. For the interim, until a doctor is obtained, patients should contact the physician of their choice about any medical problems or contact their pharmacist, who in turn will contact the physician of the patient's choice about refills on their medications.



THE CHOWAN HERALD



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AFTER THE FIRE—Here is what the M.G. Brown Company mill looked like after it had been razed by fire early Thursday evening. At the far right can be seen a storage building and the retail sales outlet both of which were saved by the alertness of local firemen.

N. C. Congressional Club To Honor Sen. Jesse Helms

The N.C. Congressional Club will honor U.S. Sen. Jesse A. Helms with a dinner at the National Guard Armory in Edenton on January 20 at 8 P.M. Sen. Helms, one of America's leading conservative spokesmen, has been instrumental in efforts to

retain U.S. jurisdiction of the Panama Canal. A critic of wasteful spending by Congress, Senator Helms has returned to the Federal Treasury over \$800,000 allocated to him for use in his Senate office during the past five years.

The N.C. Congressional Club is a bi-partisan organization of over 2,000 members across the state. Sen. Helms is the honorary chairman of the club, which stands for principles of individual freedom, the preservation of the free enterprise system, and fiscally sound government.

Tickets for the barbeque and chicken dinner are available for \$5 each at both branches of the Bank of North Carolina in Edenton, at Southgate Cleaners in Elizabeth City, and at Hertford Hardware in Hertford. Student tickets are \$1 each.



Sen. Jesse A. Helms

AFP Election Set

New officers of Alliance For Progress, Inc., will be elected at a meeting set for January 5 at Angler's Cove Restaurant in Perquimans County. Riley S. Monds, Jr., chairman, said the business meeting will begin at 6:30 P.M.

Also, Monds said several proposals will be reviewed at the meeting with comments taken from board members.

Richard Baker is executive director of the six-county educational consortium which is headquartered in Powellsville. The service area includes: Bertie, Chowan, Gates, Hertford, Martin and Perquimans counties.

No Surprises With Election Filing Underway

No surprises developed Monday when filing began for May primaries and election in Chowan County.

Mrs. Lena M. Leary, veteran clerk of Chowan County Superior Court, and Sheriff Troy Toppin were the first to file for re-election with the board of elections. Both will be seeking four-year terms.

Neither Mrs. Leary nor Sheriff Toppin made a formal statement about their candidacy but one is

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Accident Takes Life Of Child

The seven-year-old daughter of a prominent Edenton family died in a Norfolk, Va., hospital Wednesday morning of injuries received in a multi-vehicle accident near Hertford last Friday.

Dana Darnell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Darnell, Morgan Park, suffered the fatal injuries when a car in which she was riding with her grandmother, Mrs. E.L. Hollowell, 13 Queen Anne, was in collision with a truck about 3:45 P.M., two miles north of Hertford on U.S. 17. Darnell is president of Chowan Veneer Company, Inc.

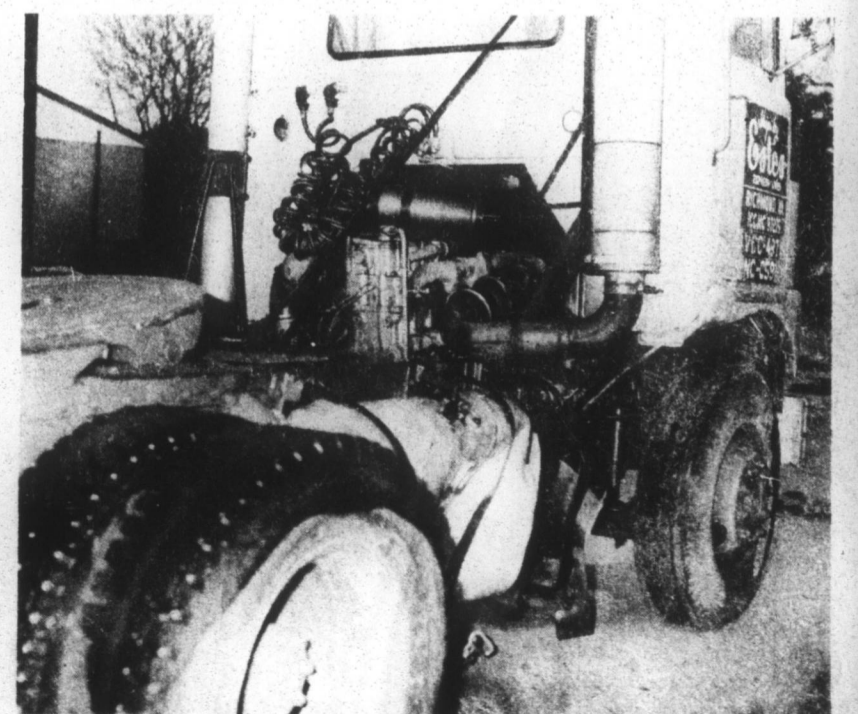
Mrs. Hollowell, who was seriously injured, is confined to Albemarle Hospital in Elizabeth City.

James Waverly Belch, Route 1, Tyner, driver of the tractor-trailer rig involved in the mishap, was treated at the Elizabeth City hospital and released.

State Trooper Y.Z. Newberry investigated the accident which resulted in the death. The 1974 Mercedes Mrs. Hollowell was driving was destroyed by fire.

The investigation showed that Belch, driving for Estes Motor Lines, headed north when he slowed for some traffic ahead of him. His rig jack-knifed into the southbound lane and into the Hollowell vehicle. A third car, a

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INVOLVED IN FATAL ACCIDENT—Shown here is the right side of the truck involved in a multi-vehicle accident near Hertford which resulted in the death of Dana Darnell, seven, of Edenton. The car in which she was a passenger collided with the truck at about the fuel tank. (Photo Courtesy Elizabeth City Police Department.)

Bloodmobile Monday At Edenton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall 12:00 Noon
Til 6:00 P. M. Quota 150 Pints