

# Health Service Sets Expansion

Drs. Richard N. Hines, Jr. and C. Clement Lucas, Jr., announced today that construction of a 37,000-square-foot major comprehensive ambulatory health care center for Albemarle Family Health Services will begin in the next few weeks. The owners described it as "one of the most important undertakings in health care in Northeastern North Carolina in many years."

The center will be located at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Highway 37, in neighboring Perquimans County.

Over two years in planning and development by Dr. Hines, a dentist, and Dr. Lucas, a family physician, the project is expected to cost over \$2-million when completed and fully equipped.

The facility will bring to the

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The facility will bring to the Albemarle Area for the first time ever a comprehensive array of health services under one roof including family dentistry, oral surgery, pharmacy, family medicine, pediatrics, internal medicine, pulmonary medicine, cardiology, dermatology, gastroenterology, abdominal and thoracic surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, urology, orthopedics, otorhinolaryngology, and ophthalmology, as well as psychiatry.

Also offered will be unique patient support areas such as an optical shop, a patient and health education center, physical therapy, respiratory therapy and a comprehensive blood laboratory and an extensive x-ray unit.

The administration will be based upon a sophisticated cost accounting mechanism utilizing an in-house computer for billing and patient appointments. Drs. Hines and Lucas indicated that every possible modern aspect of medical technology had been incorporated in the design. For instance, there will be a separate waiting area for well and ill children, and a separate entrance for ill newborns, as well as a playground for children.

In a continuing relationship with the Northeastern Rural Health Development Association, linkages to the three main satellite clinics will be maintained and strengthened. Health professionals in each specialty

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## Valentine Draws Active Sentence

Percy Valentine, alias Percy Lee Leary, of North Oakum Street, was given an active sentence in Chowan County District Court. The 39-year-old Negro was convicted of assault and assault on a female.

Judge John T. Chaffin sentenced the defendant to 12 months. Notice of appeal was entered but Valentine was returned to Tri-County Jail in Elizabeth City in lieu of bond.

Robert Day Hutchison has his first appearance in court on charges of breaking and entering and larceny. A probable cause hearing was set for January 16. Asst. Dist. Atty. H.E. Williams of Elizabeth City prosecuted the short docket with the following other action taken:

Duane Frederick Amman, no liability insurance, 90 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs. Notice of appeal was entered.

Ercell Griffin, shoplifting, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$50 fine and costs.

Mittie Brickhouse, shoplifting, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs.

Mary Douglas and Mary Hardy, simple affray, companion cases with each given 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$25 fine and costs.

Royal Nixon, judgement absolute on surety.

Richard Andrew Byrum, Jr., larceny, 30 days, suspended upon payment of \$100 fine and costs. Notice of appeal entered.

## Death Claims Local Attorney

Merrill Evans, Jr., 41, Edenton and Chowan County Attorney, died Monday in Leigh Memorial Hospital, Norfolk.

A native of Hertford County he was the son of Merrill and Margaret Smith Evans of Ahoskie. He was a member of the Edenton Baptist Church.

He graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute, Atlantic Christian College and Wake Forest University School of Law.

Besides his parents he is survived by one daughter, Miss Margaret B. Evans and one son, Cameron M. Evans, both of Greenville; and one brother, Andrew Evans of Virginia Beach.

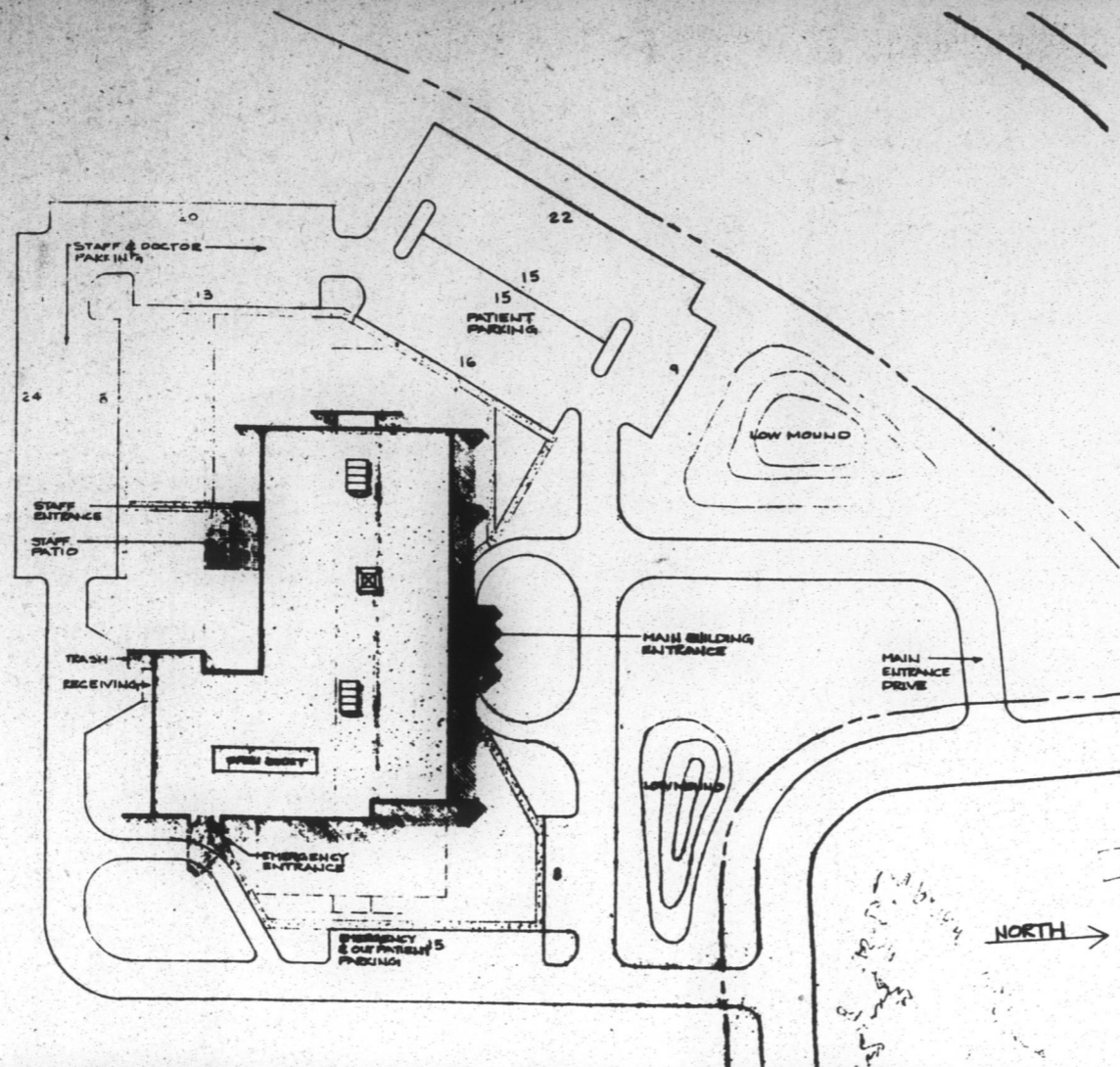
Funeral services were held Wednesday at 11 A.M. in the Chapel of the Garrett Funeral Home in Ahoskie by Dr. Robert Gray and Rev. Jim Langford. Burial was in the Ahoskie Cemetery.

The family requests that memorial donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Pallbearers were: Kel Elmore, James C. Dail, George W. Lewis, Thomas E. Francis, Haywood W. Jones, Vann H. Johnson, James E. Darnell and J.H. Conger, Jr.



Merrill Evans, Jr.



**PROPOSED HEALTH CARE CENTER** — Shown above is the preliminary site plan for a comprehensive ambulatory health care center being planned by Albemarle Family Health Services. The 37,000-square-foot facility will be built on a 26-acre tract at the intersection of U.S. 17 and Highway 37 between Edenton and Hertford.



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## Partial Consolidation Plan Considered

Partial consolidation of Edenton-Chowan Schools without a capital expenditure could be realized this fall if faculty and administration can work out the mechanics of a plan which will not "fracture off" the Ninth Grade from a 9-12 pattern.

This was cited as an alternative during a "working session" of the board Tuesday night. The board drew strong statements of support from staff and school patrons, but the first hint of legal action to erase curriculum inequities surfaced.

Cecil W. Fry, a former principal and school system administrator, made the motion which sent drafters back to the drawing board after Dr. John Dunn, superintendent, had outlined several alternatives — only one of which he said at this time appeared feasible. That was to put the Ninth Grade, countywide, at Chowan School.

Mrs. Emily G. Amburn, who supplied the second to Fry's motion, earlier had drawn a positive response from Dr. Dunn regarding the time element in

bringing about any form of consolidation at the beginning of the next school year. However, the superintendent said a great deal of planning is required and some action must be taken "right away".

After the motion to study further a 9-12 plan, Dr. Edward G. Bond said it would be "a shame for the board to go with a second rate curriculum" in any of the schools. He thanked the staff and patrons for their expressions of concern and support.

Earlier, Joe Hollowell, who was a driving force in the Concerned Citizens for Better Education group which unsuccessfully prompted the \$3.5-million bond referendum last fall, said he couldn't understand why the school board and county commissioners had not been sued over the course inequities. While he said he did not advocate such a class action, he hinted that it was not out of the realm of probability, even yet.

Dr. Bruce McGraw, principal at John A. Holmes High School, put

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## Net Sales Tax Collections Noted

Net collections from the 1 per cent local option sales tax in Chowan County in November amounted to \$32,752.11, nearly \$2,000 more than in Washington County.

Statewide, collections were in excess of \$15.5-million.

The eight other Albemarle Area counties had the following collections:

Camden, \$7,287.34; Currituck, \$16,999.18; Dare, \$70,498.13; Gates, \$8,810.83; Hyde, \$9,281.69; Pasquotank, \$103,956.05; Perquimans, \$13,914.51; and Tyrrell, \$8,446.33.

## Pledge Efforts

U.S. Sens. Jesse Helms and Robert Morgan last week expressed concern over the severe algae bloom in the Chowan River and have pledged their best efforts in getting action aimed at returning the river's water quality to a high standard.

Earlier, Rep. Walter B. Jones of the First Congressional District, contacted the Environmental Protection Agency in Atlanta, Ga., to express his deepest concern. EPA officials contacted Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce but chamber officials termed the agency's interest as only passing.

Sen. Helms has given the problem a "top priority" status and Sen. Morgan has joined him in pledging to state officials all the assistance at their disposal. Sen. Helms is known to have discussed the matter with Gov. James B. Hunt, Jr.

Locally, Chowan County commissioners continue to press for regional governmental cooperation in the matter. The board passed a strongly worded resolution at Tuesday's meeting, the thrust of which was to bring to the attention of Gov. Hunt their overriding concern for continued dumping of nitrogen at the Tunis point source.

Chairman C.A. Phillips said nitrogen entering the river at CF Industries is "burdening the system to a point that it will not take it."

The chairman expressed the opinion that "someone appears to be getting the attention of regulatory agencies... and it is not too soon." He said local involvement will continue to be "at the top level" and emphasis will

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## Merrill Evans, Jr.

Those of us who ply our trade on Cheap Side have lost a noble neighbor and a valiant fighter of human obstacles in the untimely death Monday of Merrill Evans, Jr.

Those who meander along the Public Parade who weren't subjected to his keen sense of humor, his untiring devotion to duty, his unequivocal loyalty to his family, profession and fellow man, must now take another's word for it.

Merrill Evans probably practiced more sidewalk law than most attorneys practice in the courthouse. It wasn't because of any lack of professional ethics, but because he loved the out-of-doors and would suggest a sidewalk conference in a heartbeat.

He came from a family with a long history in politics. His father, who is now Mayor of Ahoskie, was chairman of the highway commission in the Terry Sanford Administration. Merrill liked politics since politics is people. Nevertheless, he put his gaff at being Mr. Inside, not Mr. Outside.

Because of his unselfishness, his name probably won't be inscribed on many tablets which honor those of noble deeds along the Public Parade. It was not because he didn't contribute, it was merely because he contributed silently, without fanfare.

Merrill Evans held many positions of trust in his profession and in the community. However, he never lost sight of the fact that he was only a servant on this earth.

As attorney for Edenton Housing Authority for nearly a decade he would go to the most extreme of means to bring about a settlement rather than evict a tenant or take him to court for nonpayment. It was almost a creed with him to protect the rights of the underprivileged, rather than flex a muscle only to get his attention.

Merrill Evans will be missed by a lot of us. Unfortunately, those who will miss him the most will be those who never had the opportunity to meet him, even those who ply their trade on Cheap Side.

## Night Meetings

Tuesday night's meeting of Edenton-Chowan Board of Education was advertised as a "working session" dealing with consolidation. A lot of "working" went on with the best outcome being a session where the board came face to face with faculty and patrons.

The Chowan County commissioners earlier in the day, turned down, by a 3-2 vote, a proposal for night meetings in the middle of the month. The school board drew a crowd which forced it to be moved from the Third Floor Conference room to the Fourth Floor.

It may be because it was a single

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## Vepco Taxes Better \$1-Mil.

Virginia Electric and Power Company has presented checks totaling \$1,011,232 in payment of 1978 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 \$150,203 went to Halifax County. Other counties receiving checks included Northampton, \$107,050; Martin, \$69,850; Hertford, \$85,673; Dare, \$70,125; Currituck, \$71,678; Washington, \$41,068; Bertie, \$31,245; Edgecombe, \$27,259; Warren, \$24,136; Gates, \$29,637; Pasquotank, \$28,004; Perquimans, \$23,413; Pitt, \$37,534; Nash, \$9,801; Tyrrell, \$15,142; Beaufort, \$11,138; Chowan, \$14,024; and Camden, \$9,489.

The City of Roanoke Rapids received \$36,563, and the Roanoke Rapids School District and the Roanoke Rapids Sanitary District

received \$13,828 and \$4,911 respectively. Elizabeth City received a check for \$6,586. Other cities receiving checks included Greenville, \$7,049 and Washington \$1,549.

The largest town check of \$19,189 went to Williamston. Other towns receiving checks included Ahoskie, \$11,701; Plymouth, \$12,802; Murfreesboro, \$4,216; Nags Head, \$5,570; Manteo, \$6,163; Tarboro, \$3,111; Kill Devil Hills, \$4,242; Weldon, \$2,332; Winfall, \$2,477; Aulander, \$1,619; Edenton, \$2,204; Belhaven, \$1,319; Bethel, \$1,682; Columbia, \$1,860; Winton, \$1,546; Whitakers, \$1,150 and Robersonville, \$1,203.

Vepco's 1978 North Carolina state and local taxes are estimated to total \$8,394,000 including \$1,024,000 for property taxes and \$7,370,000 for taxes on gross receipts.

Bloodmobile Visit Mon., Jan. 8—American Legion Bldg.—125 Units