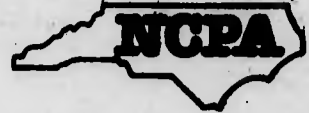




HIGHLIGHTS



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A Giant Step Ahead

By AUDREY WARD

Public Information Officer of Craven Community College

The "Step Ahead" program, a cooperative venture between the New Bern-Craven County Schools and Craven Community College, is more than half way through its first year and is working well. Three high school students are enrolled in the joint program. These students remain under the jurisdiction of the New Bern-Craven County school system. They take a minimum of three courses at the high school in the morning and then provide their own transportation to the college campus for their afternoon classes and labs. Presently two areas of study are available under the Step Ahead program, cosmetology and machine shop. Cristle Sanders and Regina Eaton are in the cosmetology program and Wesley Dail is in machine shop.

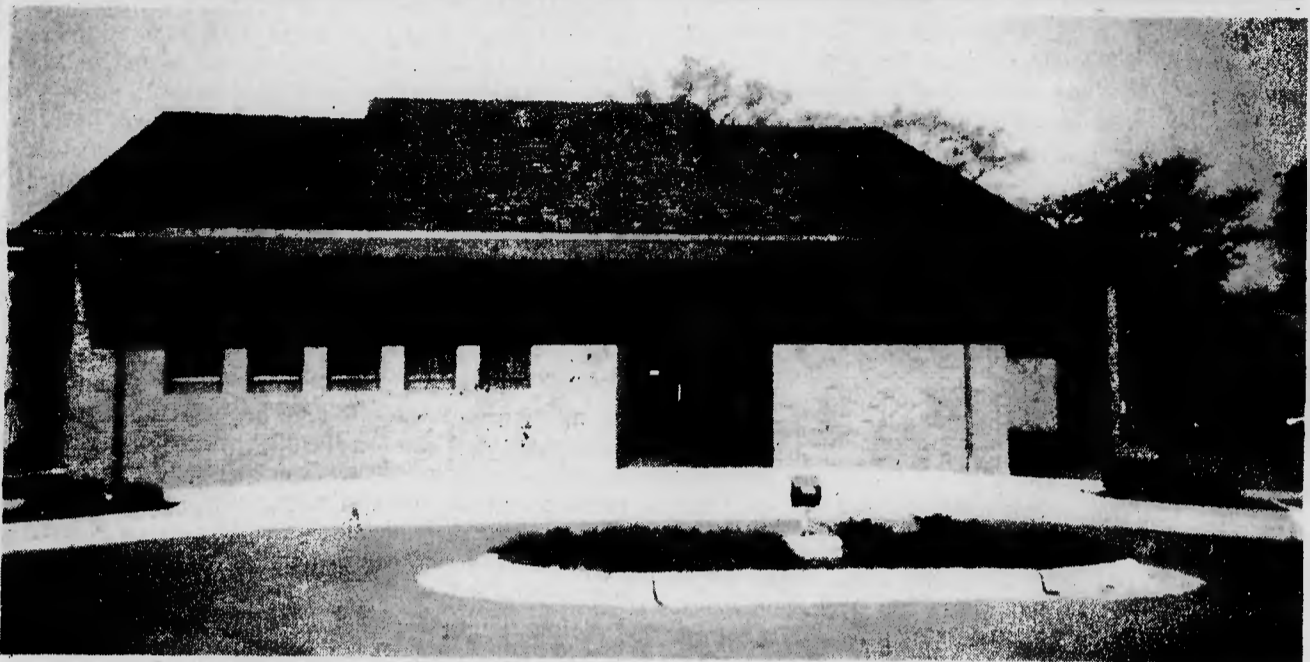
A program of this type has been under consideration for a number of years. Under the leadership of Dr. Ben Quinn, superintendent of the New Bern-Craven County school system, the program development began to pick up momentum. As soon as he gave the program his approval, Doug Davis, vocational director, Ruth Hoyle, assistant superintendent, Tommy Phelps, principal NBHS, and Sammie Purser, vocational counselor at New Bern High School, used their considerable talents to make the program work at the high school level. Dr. Steve Redd put his energies into working out the details from the college side. Suddenly a dream was becoming a reality.

Participating in the Step Ahead program gives a high school junior a chance to start vocational training that will provide him with entry-level skills soon after he graduates from high school. By attending college classes part-time, it will take him a little longer than 2 years to complete the standard 1-year diploma program. No corners are cut; no classes or labs are dropped; he covers all the material and skills training that the full-time student covers.

The costs for the Step Ahead student are the same as for other students. Cosmetology costs approximately \$190, including textbooks and cosmetology kit. The students must provide their own white uniforms. The cost for machine shop is approximately \$150.

The program lets a high school student get a head start on his career training. Students, age 16-18, can earn high school and college credit during their junior and senior years. At the same time, they are gaining valuable job skills that allow them to enter the job market, soon after graduation, at a potentially higher pay base.

Students interested in the Step Ahead program should consult their high school guidance counselor.



\$75,000 Expansion To Vanceboro Medical Center

The formal plans for the current status of the Vanceboro Medical Center was the purpose of the Friday night meeting of the Vanceboro Medical Board. Jimmie Morris gave current treasurer's report of \$552.40 in the checking account, passbook savings account of \$402.95, and certificate of savings for \$27,000.

The current plans for the Vanceboro Medical Center expansion of \$75,000 includes facilities for

adding of an X-ray room and a Pediatrician wing. The pediatrician wing will contain office space, waiting room, and examination rooms.

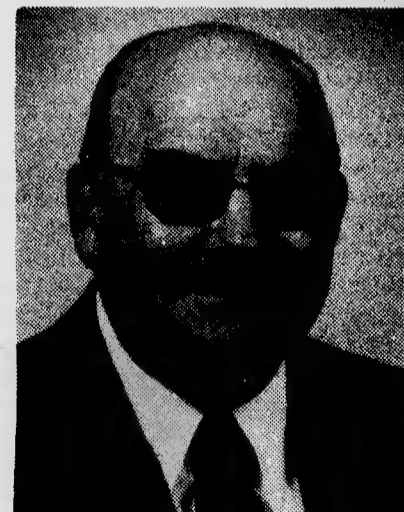
A loan has been secured from Wachovia Bank to cover the construction cost of the expansion. The rental for the center has been set at \$1,700 per month for a ten year lease. The lease agreement was approved giving the present doctors an option to buy the center at the end of the ten year lease.

Dimick Resigns, Whitley New Medical Board Chairman

In Friday night's meeting of the Vanceboro Medical Board, George Dimick resigned as Medical Board chairman after serving for the past several years. Mr. Dimick stated his tenure as chairman has been one of the most enjoyable works he has been associated with and thanked the citizens of the area for their support. Mr. Dimick's successor, retired senior banker Alton Whitley, was nominated and elected unanimously by the board. Other new members elected to the board were *Highlights* Publisher, Richard Cannon, Jr. and Elisha Gay.

The board re-elected George Dimick, Jimmie Morris, Brenda Ipock, Otis Gatlin, Blanche Pollard, Leon Fornes, and Joe Thomas for a two year term.

The Vanceboro Medical Board consists of ten



A. F. Whitley

members, with four members on the executive board and six members at-large. The executive members are A. F. Whitley, Brenda Ipock, Jimmie Morris, and Joe Thomas.

Any comments about the operation of the medical center should be directed to the board members.

Communities of Excellence Program Offers Workshops

Preparing for new industry will be the subject of a series of workshops offered to North Carolina's small communities in March. The workshops are sponsored annually by the Small Community Economic Development office of the N.C. Department of Commerce for communities applying for the Governor's Community of Excellence Award.

This year's workshop will put special emphasis on industrial site selection and the availability of outside funding for community development projects.

The one-day workshops will be held on March 15 at Martin Community College in Williamston, March 16 at Fayetteville Technical Institute in Fayetteville, March 17 at Wake Technical Institute near Raleigh,

March 22 at Wilkes Community College in Wilkesboro, March 23 at Rowan Technical College in Salisbury, and March 24 at Haywood Technical Institute in Clyde.

Each workshop will begin with registration at 9:30 a.m. and adjourn at 1:00 p.m.

For additional information, call 919-733-6973.