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Rich Square Businessman Gives \$50,000 To ECU Medical School

GREENVILLE — Charles E. Myers, Sr., of Rich Square, N.C. Wednesday presented a \$50,000 gift to the East Carolina University Foundation to be used in part to establish scholarships for two students in the School of Medicine at ECU.

The intent is to encourage the recipients of these scholarships to return to the Northampton County area to practice medicine and thereby increase the availability of medical care in the area.

Myers stated, "Physician shortage is a very real problem in my section of the state and this is the most practical means of which I am aware to solve this problem. At the same time, this gift will be helping some aspiring medical students as well as East Carolina University in general."

Don Leggett, director of the ECU Foundation stated, "This is one of the largest gifts ever received by the Foundation and it is gratifying to know that ECU has such loyal and dedicated friends. This gift will be a tremendous boost to the Foundation, the ECU Medical School and to the University in general."

Myers is a successful entrepreneur of northeastern North Carolina. He is a former Mayor of Rich Square and a long-time civic leader of Northampton. He has assisted in the development of many community projects for the educational, health and business improvement of his area. He is married to the former Lillian Valentine Britton.

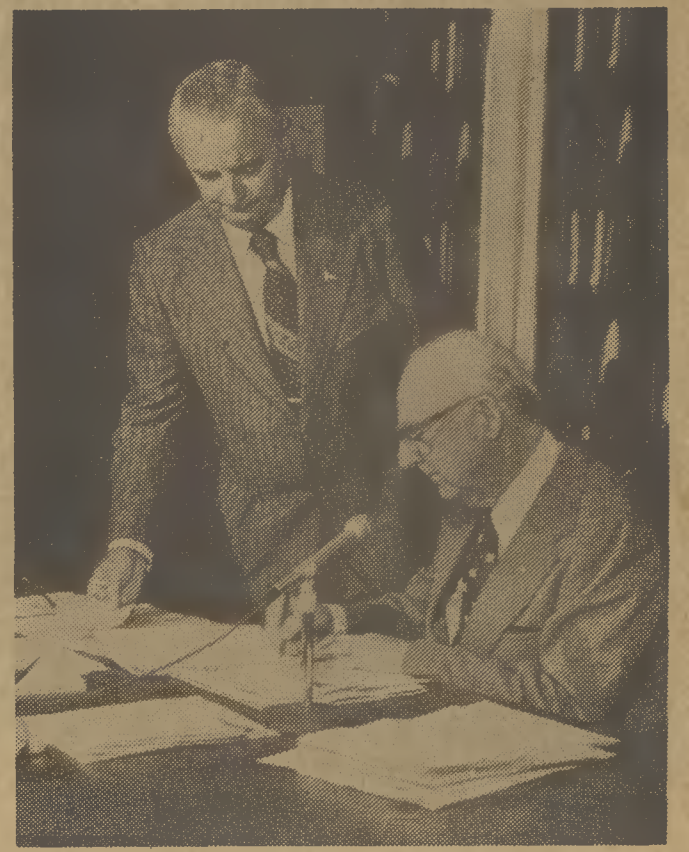
Myers said he became interested in the gift to ECU because of the possibility the school at Greenville can help improve the health care situation in Northampton and other eastern counties.

"I am working for the four-year medical school at East Carolina. I do not think it will come all at one time, but I do feel the school is ready to handle medical students." Myers said the primary benefit of training doctors in the East will be the advantage of luring doctors into the rural corners of the state.

Pointing out that 20 students applied for each of 20 openings in ECU's first year med school program, Myers said that is sufficient indication that a medical training facility is needed at Greenville.

"We never had an even break east of Raleigh in roads or anything. The University board is definitely bent on keeping the money for the new medical school west of Raleigh," Myers said.

Myers' contribution to the med school scholarship fund is the largest single gift from a private citizen to date.



PRESENTS CHECK — Charles E. Myers Sr. of Rich Square becomes a \$50,000 benefactor of the East Carolina University Foundation with a gift earmarked for medical student scholarships at ECU. Myers made the presentation in ceremonies Wednesday with ECU Chancellor Dr. Leo W. Jenkins looking on.

Renovated County Home Awaits Occupancy by Social Services At Old County Home

Faults Being Corrected

JACKSON — The majority of the discrepancies found in dual inspections of the now-complete renovation of the old County Home have been corrected, it was reported Wednesday.

Monday county commissioners and Horace Guthrie, county building inspector, presented the project architect, engineer and general contractor with two lengthy lists of faults found in the workmanship of the rejuvenated building. The lists were compiled by Guthrie and by county board Chairman Jasper Eley, a civil engineer.

Eley and Guthrie charged that a number of door fittings in the building are not secure to provide for adequate locking of inside and some outside doors. They also charged that a number of windows in the building were stuck and that numerous windows locks were not installed.

The reports questioned the location of access doors to the building's underpinning on the inside of the building rather than on the outside.

Questions were also raised about a light fixture on the front portico that is slightly off center. The location of support columns at the rear entrance and at a northern entrance were also debated as was the quality of materials used in front columns.

Eley stated that lack of supervision by the contractor in the \$289,000 renovation project was cause of the errors noted in construction.

In answering the charges by commissioners and the building inspector, Paul Brown, Raleigh architect responsible for the project, said the idea was to rejuvenate the building at the lowest possible cost and "not to gold plate it."

Eley responded that all the faults found in the project cannot be blamed on the age of the building in that a number of discrepancies were noted in totally new partitions.

Guthrie stated that if the contractor took time to correct all the problems noted in the two reports, it would be the first of the year before the building can be occupied by the Northampton County Department of Social Services.

Architect Brown, Engineer Dave Arnold and Contractor Don Cocherham went over the building item by item with Guthrie and some of the commissioners before the

afternoon was over.

County Manager Tim Ellen reported Wednesday that most of the problems have been ironed out.

The county plans to rent the building to the Social Serviced Department for an annual fee exceeding \$30,000. Funds obtained in lieu of rent will be used to maintain the spacious facility and reimburse the county for the renovation cost.

In other matters, the commissioners:

— Appropriated \$6,000 in revenue sharing funds to the Choanoke Area Development Association through the county Department of Social Services.

The funds were approved upon request of Wendell Edwards, CADA transportation director, who reported that funds for transporting Northampton

medical patients to Duke University Medical Center and to North Carolina Memorial Hospital have been depleted.

Edwards reported that last year 756 patients from the county were taken to the two hospitals at a cost of \$7.50 per person.

Surrounding counties also approved the funds allocation, Edwards told the board.

— Appointed Clyde Barrett of Conway to a position on the three-man Jury Commission following the resignation of W. Wheeler of Conway. Wheeler resigned due to ill health.

— Heard a report from county attorney Felton Turner Jr. on bonding procedure for the county register of deeds. The board discussed raising the bond from its present \$25,000, but further action was tabled.

In accepting the gift Dr. Leo W. Jenkins, ECU Chancellor, stated, "Mr. Myers has certainly shown an important way to many rural communities, needing adequate medical care, on how to take effective action to remedy their medical problem. His generous gift assures the availability of professional medical personnel in an area of the state that might never have it otherwise. It is also a fine example of the determination of our people of the East to meet their medical care requirements."

Myers is a retired theatre owner and real estate developer. He first went to Rich Square in 1921 as a Ford dealer. In 1933, with the boom in the theatre business, Myers left the car business for fulltime theatre work. He owned and operated 25 movie houses in eastern North Carolina and three deluxe drive-ins in southern Florida.

He developed Myers Park subdivision in Rich Square and has done extensive building in Charlotte.

He served as Rich Square's mayor for five terms, first serving in 1935 and last serving in 1969. Myers is responsible for the town's water and sewer system as well as more recent extensions to the system.

He was active in building Valley Pine Country Club at Laker and he served as president of that organization for three years.

Burgwyn Argues With State Board

JACKSON — County ABC Chairman B. R. Burgwyn Monday pleaded his case before the state ABC Board.

The ABC Board, which has previously demanded that Burgwyn relinquish either the post of chairman of the county board or the position of county ABC system manager, has made no comment since the hearing.

Burgwyn said his Raleigh lawyer argued his point that he is not holding down two offices with the system as has been charged by the state board.

Burgwyn said he served as parttime manager of the county system while it was being organized from 1965-67. He said that after that time he has served in the capacity of chairman of the board at an annual salary of \$6,000.

Burgwyn has offered to resign if the county composite board so desires, but there has been no such expression.

Political Activity Picks Up In County

JACKSON — Political activity is picking up in Northampton with candidates having only one more week to enter municipal elections.

The deadline for filing for office is noon Oct. 12 and the registration deadline is Monday.

In Garysburg, incumbent Mayor W. E. Conwell is seeking that post again along with newcomers W. W. Hughes, Arthur Lee Best Sr., Stanley Davis R. and Wendell Perry running for commissioners seats.

Dr. John H. Stanley, present Woodland mayor, has no opposition there. Aubrey R. Smith, Rev. Kimsey King and

W. C. Reece have filed for Woodland commissioner seats. Martin of Conway has entered that mayoral race and faces no opposition at this time. Seeking the four seats on the town board are William M. Garriss, James G. Taylor, William D. Johnson and Sidney M. Edwards.

In Seaboard Reid V. (Vicky) Harris II, Melvin F. Broadnax and Robert L. Wilson are vying for commission seats.

In the county seat J. S. Coker, J. D. Carver and Jeri Gay Boone are after commissioners' posts and

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Further Delay Expected

Gaston-Woodland Housing Units Switched To Conventional Plan

ROANOKE RAPIDS — The 100 public housing units planned for Northampton County on the federal turnkey program have been switched to conventional housing units.

The announcement was made today by Leigh Tinsley, director of the Roanoke-Chowan Housing Authority, headquartered in Roanoke Rapids.

Construction was to have begun on housing projects containing 50 units each in Gaston and Woodland this month; however, the change in the administration of the project has caused further delay.

The earliest possible occupation date of either of the two Northampton projects is now set at March 1975, Mrs. Tinsley projected.

Conversion of the Northampton units from turnkey to conventional will give the tri-county authority more direct responsibility over the projects.

Under the old proposal, the authority would hire a developer which would be responsible for site acquisition and construction and would own the project until the key was turned over to the authority upon completion to

authority specifications.

Now the authority will purchase its own sites, advertise for bids on the project and administer the project through its construction stage as well as upon completion.

Plans are now being redrafted for the letting of bids, the housing director stated. She noted that none of the preliminary drawings and architectural work completed under the turnkey program will be scratched.

The housing projects are essentially the same as under the previous program. Only the method of construction has changed.

Mrs. Tinsley noted that total cost of the Gaston and Woodland projects when funding was announced in early 1972 were \$1,092,498 and \$1,009,212 respectively. Additional funds will now be sought, due to increases in the construction industry.

The units in Gaston and Woodland will be two and three bedroom single family dwellings and duplexes constructed in a subdivision-like atmosphere.

Sites have already been selected for the two

Northampton projects. The authority's next step will be to acquire the parcels of land.

The housing projects will be the first low rent housing available in the county. Occupancy will be determined by income levels and based on need. An occupant will pay no more than 25 per cent of his monthly income for shelter rent and utilities.

The Roanoke-Chowan Housing Authority serves Northampton, Halifax and Hertford counties. In addition, Mrs. Tinsley triples as executive director for the Roanoke Rapids and Ahoskie housing authorities.

Twenty-four per cent of all housing units approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development last year in North Carolina went to the three authorities. Roanoke-Chowan, in addition to the 100 units in Northampton, has 50 in Murfreesboro, 20 in Winton, 50 in Enfield, 50 in Scotland Neck, two in Halifax and 78 in Weldon. Roanoke Rapids has 138 units spread over two sites and Ahoskie has 100 units to be located on a single site or dual sites.

Regional offices for the authority will be located in an administration building that

will be built on the Gaston project site. The 3,540 square foot building will house offices for rent collection, accounting and administration. There will be maintenance equipment space and an assembly room and arts and crafts facilities.

The three-county region will be subdivided into three zones under the main Gaston office. The zones will include Roanoke Rapids, Weldon and Gaston in Zone I, Ahoskie, Winton and Woodland in Zone II and Scotland Neck, Enfield and Halifax in Zone III.

When asked about the continued delays in the housing project construction, Mrs. Tinsley stated that the projects in the tri-county area "are as far along as anyone in the state that was funded at the same time and ahead of many of the authorities."

The Roanoke-Chowan authority, organized by the county commissioners in Northampton, Halifax and Hertford counties in 1970, is made up of one representative from each county. They are Chairman John Oliver of Roanoke Rapids, George Harris of Jackson and Robert Rowe of Ahoskie.

Rural Health Center Discussed For County

JACKSON — Health planning that could lead to establishment of a rural health care facility in Northampton County was discussed at a special meeting Wednesday night at the courthouse.

A dozen Northampton County key persons who were invited to the meeting called by County Manager Tim Ellen and Seaboard Commissioner Jack Faison attended and conducted an informal discussion with Region L executive director Bill Howell, formerly of Northampton, and

Region L health planner LaMont Nottingham on specific health needs for Northampton.

The meeting came on the heels of an announcement made late last week by Gov. Jim Holshouser creating rural health facilities in Sampson, Edgecombe, Mitchell, Yadkin and Dare counties.

Preliminary planning work was begun earlier in anticipation of landing one of the clinics for Northampton County. County Manager Tim Ellen, who has been to the governor's office to discuss Northampton's medical needs, stated that the county did not anticipate obtaining a rural medical center in the first announcement. He was optimistic, however, that the county may be included in the next group of counties to get rural health facilities.

Cost of medical care would be the same as a visit to a doctor's office. The program, once on its feet, would be expected to be self-supporting. The clinics are established by an approximate \$100,000 contribution by the state with the remaining cost coming from local sources.

Northampton commissioners have already set aside \$300,000 in revenue sharing funds in the area of health care in anticipation of initiation a rural health care center here.

The primary purpose of the clinics is to help solve the problem of maldistribution of doctors in rural sections of the state.

James D. Bernstein, chief of the Office of Rural Health Services, which is handling the clinics program, has visited Northampton County and met with county officials.

The rural health center, which would provide services not now offered by any public agency in the county, must have the support of physicians in the county, Nottingham stated Wednesday night.

The group in attendance agreed to refer the matter of health planning to the county planning board which will be assisted by the Region L health planner.

The Jackson meeting was the first such meeting held in Region L. Northampton was selected since it is the only county in the five-county region without a medical care facility.

N'ampton Officials Support School Bonds

JACKSON — The \$300 million school bond issue was given the unanimous support of the Northampton County Board of Education.

The action of the education board on the issue, which could mean \$1,566,197 in construction money for Northampton schools, was also given the stamp of approval by the Northampton Board of Commissioners in a simultaneous meeting Monday.

Voters in Northampton County and across the state Nov. 6 will decide the fate of the most ambitious school bond issue in the history of state education.

In a resolution offered by board member James H. Jones of Garysburg, the board urged citizen support of the bond issue and stated that the

money the county will get from the bond issue is "greatly needed to construct buildings which are necessary if the county is to have an outstanding school system."

The resolution stated that passage of the bond issue would prevent property tax increases to cover needed school construction here.

State Treasurer Edwin Gill has announced that the bond issue can be successfully carried out without an increase in state income taxes.

The Northampton education board listed 19 projects currently considered top priority in the county system.

The projects include installation of covered concourses connecting buildings at Conway, Jackson, Rich Square, Seaboard and Woodland schools; construction of a school bus

garage; construction of gymnasiums and kindergartens at Coates in Seaboard; addition of a cafeteria and enlarged library or new library at Conway School; and renovation of the auditorium at Eastside or construct a new gymnasium and include restroom facilities for the lunchroom staff.

Construction of a gym at Garysburg School to allow the present facility to be used only for lunchroom and auditorium use is also on the priority list along with construction of additional classrooms at Garysburg to replace nine mobile units.

Gaston Elementary School needs remodeling or replacing and a lobby, concession area and dressing rooms are needed at the Gumberry gym. Supt. Roy F. Lowry reports.

The board also plans to construct three additional rooms at Jackson School and an auditorium at Northampton High along with an enlarged lunchroom and additional home economics and shop space.

Rich Square and Seaboard schools need complete renovations and more classrooms are needed at Squire in Gaston to replace existing seven mobile units, the superintendent noted.

An auditorium is needed at Willis Hare School at Pendleton and the W. S. Creevy School at Rich Square needs an occupational education building, a new gym and additional classrooms. Existing buildings across the street from the main campus should be abandoned and remodeled and the library

needs remodeling, the superintendent noted.

A new gym, additional storage area for the lunchroom, renovation of the main building and improved lunchroom toilet facilities are planned for Woodland-Olney School.

Other projects include construction of a new administration building, improve parking areas, pave drives and construct hard surface play areas at all campuses and air condition all school buildings.

The education board cannot hope to accomplish all the projects listed in the resolution, a board spokesman said; however, passage of the school bond issue would assure a good start toward completion of capital outlay goals.

The 1973 General Assembly

authorized the \$300 million bond issue, subject to approval of voters in the general election.

Overall state construction needs include 11,975 additional classrooms, 461 media centers, 302 lunchrooms, 292 gymnasiums and 201 units classified as other.

"Financing of all the capital school improvements in the local school unit has become more difficult and in many instances the cost is more than the unit can pay," the board's resolution stated. "Sharp increases in the interest rates are making it increasingly more difficult to raise large sums on the local level."

The resolution added, "In the event the bond referendum fails, the needed construction funds will have to be raised from local property taxes."

The clinics announced last week and the one that is sought for Northampton would offer what is called "primary medical care," which is basically services rendered by a family doctor including the initial examination, treatment of minor ailments and illnesses and referrals to specialists.