

Brilliant Tar Heel Health Program Of 1944 Has Progressed In Rapid, Rewarding Campaign

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Division of Health Affairs.

Back in 1944 a distinguished group of 50 representative North Carolinians was asked by Governor Broughton to study the health needs of the state and to recommend a program to meet these needs. The results of the study startled most citizens. By many of the yardsticks which can be used to measure comparative health standards, e.g., physicians per 1,000 rejected because of physical defects, infant and maternal mortality rates, hospital beds per 1,000 population, etc., North Carolina ranked very poorly as a state. A brilliant action program was charted under the battle-cry of "More Doctors, More Hospitals, More Insurance."

The campaign for improved health standards was carried to the people of the State in 1945 and 1946. As one consequence, the General Assemblies of 1947, 1949, and 1951 made significant appropriations for new health facilities and services.

Where We Stand

Since 1946, in the field of "More Hospitals," North Carolina ranks second in the country in new hospital beds which have been built or are presently under construction. Many of the past needs for health facilities are being filled.

Considerable progress has been made since 1946 in the field of medical economics, also, with Blue Cross and Blue Shield enrollments having expanded markedly and many local governmental agencies having assumed a greater responsibility for the care of indigent patients. Major problems of financing health care have yet to be overcome, however.

In the field of "More Doctors" (or, more accurately, of more health personnel) it was proposed in the 1944 report that a complete health training center be developed at the University by converting the existing two-year School of Medicine to a full four-year program, by activating a new teaching hospital and new Schools of Dentistry and Nursing, and by strengthening the long-established Schools of Pharmacy and Public Health.

In 1947, planning was started of the University. In October, 1949, construction was begun on the first new major unit, the North Carolina Memorial Hospital. Other construction was started in the months that followed. New staffs have been assembled and these are being expanded. New curricula have been and are being planned and new teaching programs started.

The tooling-up phase of the basic components of the enlarged Health Center is nearly complete.

Current Picture

The following is a brief summary of the current picture in the Division of Health Affairs:

Construction of the 411-bed North Carolina Memorial Hospital was essentially completed by the early fall of 1952 and the Hospital accepted its first patient last September 2. At present, some 122 beds plus complete laboratory and out-patient facilities are in operation to serve patients referred from all parts of North Carolina with a wide variety of complex medical problems. Over 6,000 such patients have already been served during this beginning operation period of the Hospital. An excellent basic hospital service staff has been assembled and this is being expanded as the days go by to provide for an orderly activation of a complex teaching and service facility.

An 80-bed psychiatric wing, which will contain one floor on alcoholic patients, is under construction. It is currently expected that this wing will be ready to accept patients during the summer of 1954. Construction on a 100-bed tuberculosis unit, a new facility of the North Carolina Sanatorium system, has reached an advanced stage. This unit should be ready to receive patients in the late summer of 1953.

The School of Medicine rapidly expanded its clinical staff during the past year and started its first class of third-year students in the fall of 1952. The first class of students from this expanded program will be graduated in June, 1954. A "north wing" to the School of Medicine building, which provides enlarged facilities for three basic science departments, was completed and put into use in the fall of 1952. A similar "south wing" is under construction and should be ready for use by September, 1953. Plans are nearing completion for the inauguration of a new training

program for laboratory technicians by the School of Medicine, beginning in September, 1953.

The new School of Dentistry building, which was begun in May, 1951, was essentially completed by September, 1952. It was immediately put into use as a clinical facility for the training of dental students. The first class of dentists will be graduated from this school in June, 1954. Already, many low-income patients from all parts of North Carolina have been given service in the dental clinics. A new program for training dental hygienists is scheduled for activation in September, 1953.

The new School of Nursing building and dormitories were completed during the fall of 1952 and are occupied by two classes of student nurses in residence. The first of these classes will be graduated for service in North Carolina in June, 1955. Plans are now being drawn for the activation of a training program for practical nurses and the inauguration of a master's degree program for graduate nurses.

The Schools of Public Health and Pharmacy are carrying forward their normal program. As an indication of their vigor, however, the School of Public Health added a twelfth department, the Department of Mental Health (during the past year, and the School of Pharmacy awarded its first Ph.D. degree at the last University's commencement. Both of these schools are urgently in need of better housing in order to serve the people of this state more effectively.

Although this main tooling-up phase of the Division of Health Affairs is approaching an end, there is an enormous job ahead of expanding faculties, of maintaining sound financing and of carrying forward excellent teaching, research, and service programs. There is an equally large task ahead of making available the benefits of this Health Center to the communities and rural areas of the state. The future health of North Carolina is a big job. However, the size of the task seems less when compared with the size of the opportunity.



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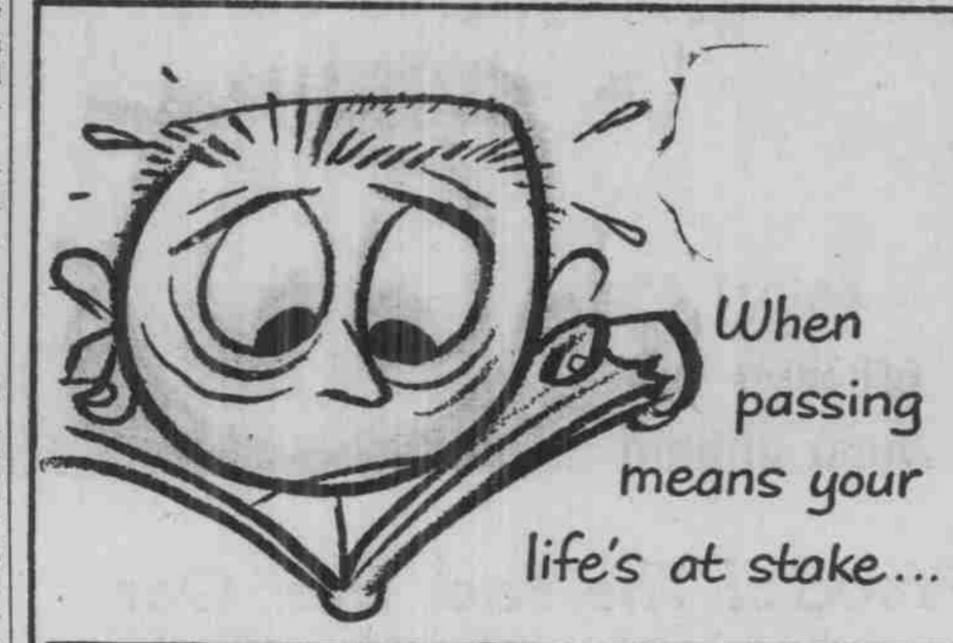
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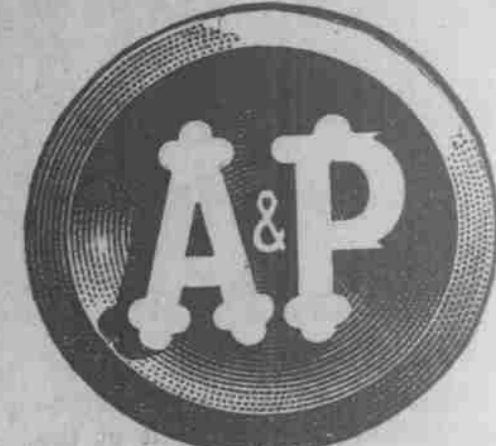
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