

Hospital Construction Solving Health Problem

Encouraging the construction of hospitals is one way in which North Carolina is solving the health problem which has become so acute in recent years, according to an editorial in the Greensboro News, which reads as follows:

"That there is a genuine health or medical problem in this country is obvious. It is not the problem of the rich who can stand high doctors' fees and hospital expenses, nor is it the problem of the poor who are provided for by charity. But it is a problem for any householder in the middle income class who has been confronted by the necessity of paying for a serious and prolonged illness in his family.

"This problem will not be solved by cries of 'socialized medicine' against any proposal to deal with it. Nor do we think that it will be solved by planners in Washington who put so much stress on compulsory health insurance.

"The root of the problem, it seems to us, is a shortage of doctors and hospital facilities. Heavy increases in health and accident insurance without a corresponding increase in doctors and facilities would be calculated to aggravate instead of ameliorate the problem.

"The law of supply and demand still has some standing. If there were enough doctors, it stands to reason that competition would lower costs and there would be more physicians in rural areas.

"Is there actually a shortage of doctors? The following excerpt from an editorial in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch may throw some light on that question:

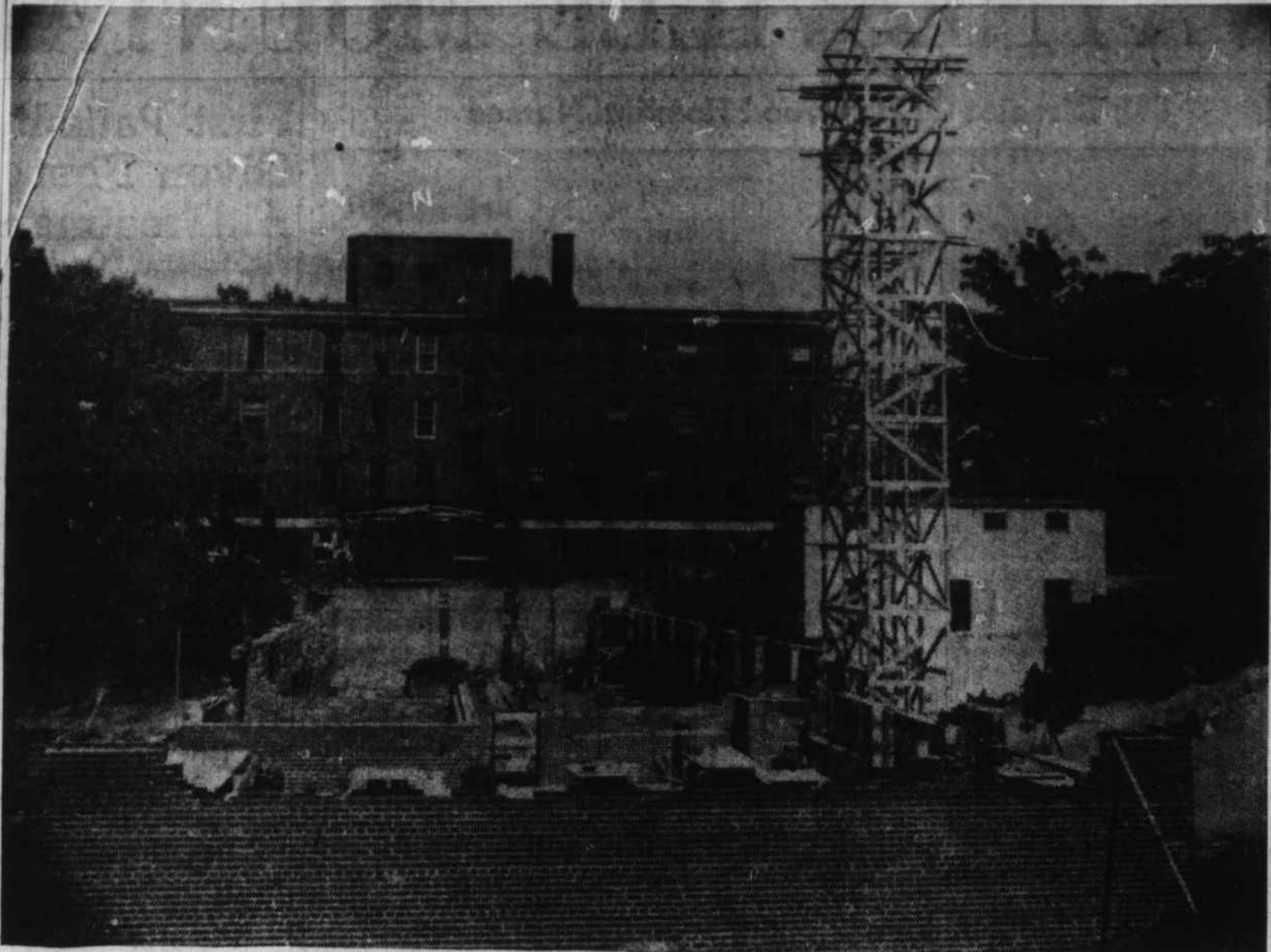
"In supporting Dean Leland, Dean William Guthrie of Ohio State said that fewer doctors were graduated last year than in 1905 although the population of the United States has nearly doubled. In saying this, Dean Guthrie stressed a point made many times on this page. There were 160 medical schools in this country in 1905. By 1915, the number was down to 96. By 1935, it was down to 77. Only one or two new schools have been opened in the postwar years.

"For about three decades, the number of medical students has been held down to a little more than 20,000; the number of graduates to about 5,000 a year. Even though some of the turn-of-the-century schools deserved to be closed because of their low standards, it is all too clear that the supply of doctors has been kept more below the demand.

"This is the first point to which medical reformers should give their attention. Broader opportunities for medical training are a prerequisite for any sensible national health program.

"North Carolina is going about solving the problem in the right way when it encourages the construction of hospitals and the training of doctors. This will take time, but we are on the right road."

Picture Of Construction During Early Fall Of 1951



This picture was made in the early fall and shows the progress of the construction of the new wing. The old unit is in the background. (Mountaineer Photo).

Hormone ACTH Is Stopping Leukemia In Its Tracks

Acute leukemia, the fatal blood cancer, is being stopped in its tracks by the wonder hormone, ACTH, three cancer experts report.

Five patients treated with the hormone all have made dramatic recoveries. Drs. O. H. Pearson, L. E. Eliel and T. R. Talbot, Jr., of the Sloan-Kettering Institute and Memorial hospital in New York report.

One child had a relapse three weeks later but again was brought back to health with ACTH. The others, two children and two adults, still were well one day to five weeks after getting the hormone. They had almost no signs of the disease. They had received daily injections for 24 to 30 days.

Whether they will have relapses isn't yet known, Dr. Pearson said. He said these recoveries still must be called temporary and incomplete.

Other treatments bring temporary recoveries in leukemia. But the best of these has been only about 30 per cent effective in children. ACTH thus appears to be the best drug yet found to help these patients.

Leukemia is a cancer of the blood, with the body making too many white blood cells. Acute, or fast-acting attacks, usually kill in a few weeks or months, or in a year.

Chronic leukemia, which people may have for years, also is halted temporarily by ACTH. It comes back later, but then the hormone can bring recoveries a second time. This effect in chronic leukemia was

reported a few months ago. The new results in leukemia were described before the New York Academy of Medicine meeting devoted to ACTH. ACTH is a hormone of the pituitary gland, and is made by the adrenal gland.

Another patient with leukemia recovered when ACTH was used. Dr. Pearson reported. Three children with leukemia, two of whom had been treated with ACTH or cortisone, died, cases they were already with leukemia, they said.

So far, ACTH hasn't had an effect against other forms of cancer, including cancer of the testes, and adrenal gland. ACTH, it destroyed cancer. The studies are going on to attempt to learn just how ACTH produces these effects and how to better the treatment.

Only small amounts of ACTH are being made. It is made from hog pituitary glands. There is going to be more research on arthritis, rheumatism, fever and other ailments.

Buckeye State Officially

COLUMBUS, O. (AP)—Despite some snide remarks about its odor the tree is to become the official tree of Ohio. Ohio long known as the buckeye state never has been officially designated. The state legislature, 150 years ago got around to making a designation.

The measure provided legislative fun as it passed. Although he voted for Sen. Arthur Blake, a farmer mented that the buckeye "scrubby," that it "stinks" that its fruit poisons children. Sen. I. E. Baker, chairman for passage, agreed but the committee approving "Even as bad as it stinks it."

For off-duty wear, she likes California casuals, "not too severe, not too frivolous." Of French ancestry, she likes to cook—and can. Her newest love is golf. One of the first things she did here was to look around for a golf course near Walter Reed.

Use the Want Ads

Babies Are Individuals, Have Inborn Abilities

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—"A baby sets his own pace . . . He doesn't follow any timetable in a book. . . Forget about comparing him with other babies. Remember, this baby of yours is an individual."

That's what "Infant Care," the government booklet which has served as a guide to mothers since 1914, says today. Modern advice is offered after consultations with psychiatrists, psychologists, anthropologists and parent-education workers as well as doctors, nurses and nutritionists. The emotional development of the child comes in for a large share of attention now, and stress is on removing the things which make children behave in an undesirable way rather than

on the behavior itself. The gradual relaxation of certain practices advised earlier on sleep, feeding, crying and toilet training show the results of the experts' influence. The experts insist too that the length of time it takes a normal baby to learn to lift his chin, smile, lift his head, reach for and grasp an object, laugh out loud, roll over, sit up, walk without help, stand alone and begin to talk is not overly important. Some babies do these things earlier, some later than other youngsters.

"Parents cannot 'make' a child develop any faster than he will naturally," the booklet says. "But they can give him surroundings and care that allow him great freedom for using his abilities."

Woman Doctor, In Regular Army, Wants Overseas Job

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON—First Lt. Fae M. Adams, first woman physician commissioned in the U. S. Regular Army, comes by her pioneering naturally. The slight brunette, who completed her medical studies under the GI Bill after serving in World War II as an enlisted physical therapist, is the great granddaughter of John Adams, bold sheriff of Santa Clara county in California's frontier days.

As one of the Army's 20 reserve women medical officers now on active duty around the world, Lt. Adams has been stationed at Camp Crowder, Mo., since July 1952. When she reports to Walter Reed Army hospital here in July, she will be the first woman to receive residency-training at an Army hospital.

"Excited, pleased and honored" at the assignment, she said when she came to Washington to be sworn in that she had held back from applying because no other women were yet in the field. Now that she's broken the "brass," she thinks her sister physicians will follow suit.

The daughter of Earl S. Adams of Morgan Hill, Calif., Lt. Adams had finished her pre-medical course at the University of California and was serving as Camp Counselor at

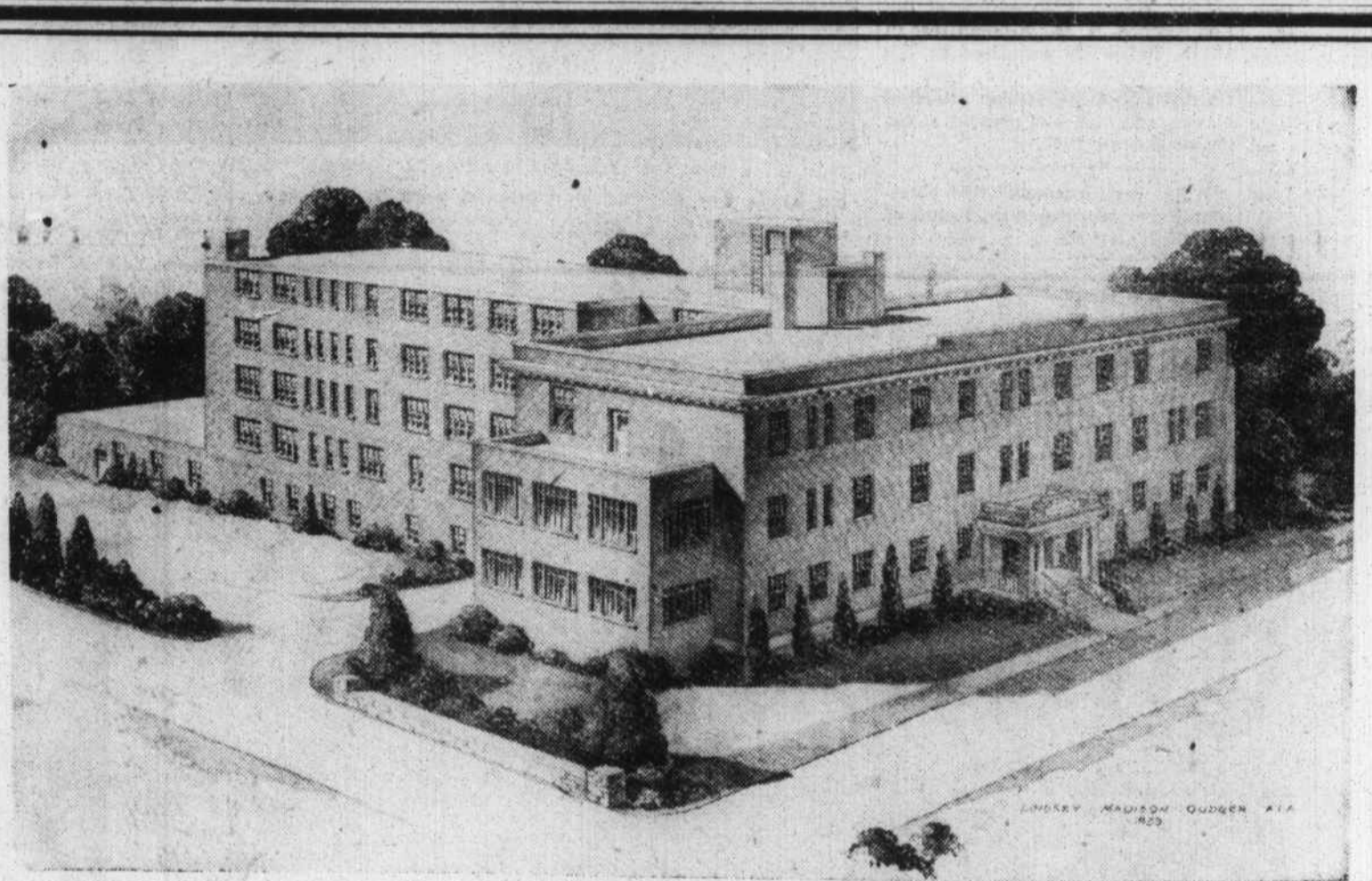
Lake Tahoe, Nev., in the summer of 1943, when she joined the WAC. In 1944 she trained at Lawson General Hospital, Atlanta, Ga., for her commission as a physical therapist. She served as Second Lieutenant in the Pacific area 14 months before her discharge in 1947. Then she entered the Women's National College of Pennsylvania under the GI Bill and was graduated in June, 1951.

At the Camp Crowder reception center she has assisted with the medical exams given boys about to be separated from the service.

"When a GI gets sick," she found, "he welcomes a woman doctor as readily as any other. They're the best patients in the world."

Though she says she's "not much of a talker," Lt. Adams, with a glint of mischief in her eyes and dimples showing when she smiles, expressed herself very definitely about her likes.

Her longing for overseas duty



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