

Survey Backs Facility

McCain Hospital Fate Still Undecided

No decision has been made by the State of North Carolina about the future of McCain Hospital. Gov. James B. Hunt Jr. told members of a Hoke County delegation Friday.

Four county residents, along with state Senator Robert Byrd Jordan III and Senator-elect David Parnell, met Friday in Raleigh with the governor and Department of Human Resources Secretary Dr. Sarah T. Morrow about McCain.

The local group presented the results of a recent survey conducted of North Carolina hospital administrators and doctors, which showed that the McCain facility should remain open.

Following the suggestion of Dr. Morrow, state officials are considering closing the hospital and transferring all tuberculosis patients to community hospitals.

County residents Tom Howell, Betsy Ann McNeill, Dr. Ramnik Zota and Earl Fowler met with the governor. All serve on a joint Raeford, Hoke County and Chamber of Commerce committee set up to study the McCain problem.

Committee members presented

the findings of the survey which showed overwhelmingly that there is a need for the McCain facility.

Letters were mailed to 82 doctors and of the 59 that responded 56 thought that McCain should stay open, the survey showed.

Of the 26 hospital administrators that responded to the 42 letters mailed out, 19 in favor of the hospital remaining open, five were negative and two had no opinion.

Following the presentation, the governor agreed to consider the committee's recommendation that McCain be funded as a 75-bed tuberculosis facility and the balance of the beds be used for other state medical cases, Howell said.

"We were pleased. Our presentation was good and he listened," Howell said.

The final decision on the future of the hospital will probably be made next spring when the state legislature reconvenes.

For the last five years, the human resources department has been considering closing McCain, however, Dr. Morrow admitted during Friday's meeting that tuberculosis cases are on the rise in the state,

Howell said.

"Our main concerns are for the hard core tuberculosis patients, most of whom are on the very bottom of the economic strata, are resistant to drugs and are treatment failures in community hospitals," Howell said.

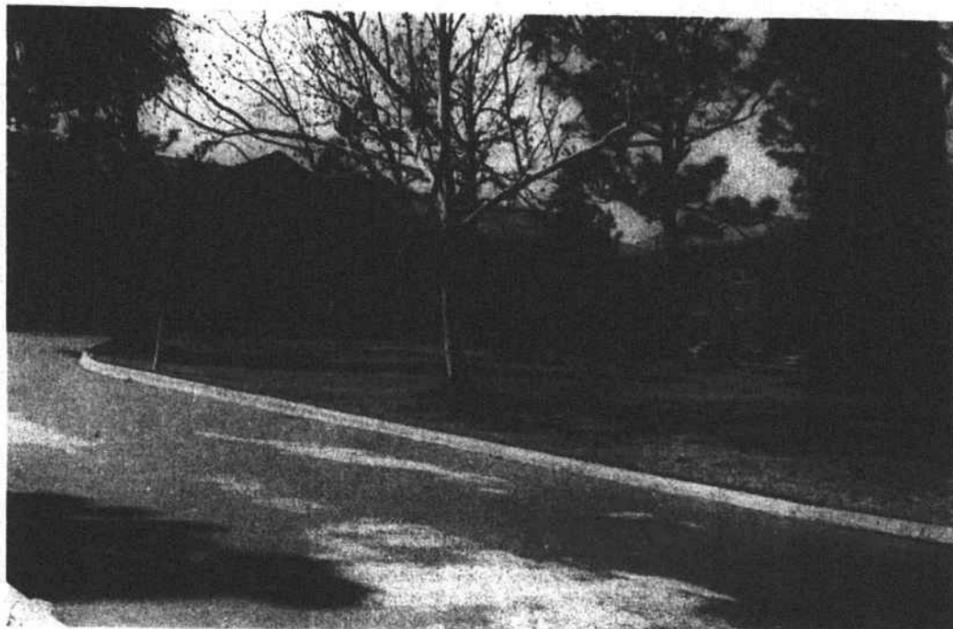
Many of the patients at McCain are alcoholics or for some other reason cannot be trusted to take prescribed drugs, he added.

It is the state's responsibility to care for these infectious patients.

A two-thirds majority of a Specialty Hospital Task Force of 1978 which was mandated by the 1977 General Assembly recommended after an extensive study that the roll of McCain should be expanded.

North Carolina is still ranked third in the nation in the incidence of tuberculosis, the committee report said, noting that the cost per patient day including doctors' services was \$165 during the last fiscal year.

The hospital is surveyed every two years by the American Hospital Association's Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals and has never failed to be accredited as an acute care facility, the report says.



McCain Hospital

County Zoning May Take Year

It could take 12 months before a countywide zoning plan is developed here, members of the Hoke County Commission said Monday night.

Prior to any plan being implemented, the North Carolina law requires that "several public hearings be held," Commission Chairman John Balfour said.

Balfour noted that all residents and members of the Hoke County Civic League, who appeared before the commission Monday during the regular meeting, would have ample opportunity to comment on zoning before its adoption.

League members attended the meeting to go on record in opposition to strict zoning regulations, group spokesmen Robert Warren said.

Zoning would infringe on the rights of others and place a burden on the poorer county residents, Warren said.

All some residents can afford is a small home or a trailer. They do not want to be forced into a mobile home park, Warren said, adding that zoning would require them to build on larger lots than they can afford.

"We didn't come here to accuse anyone, but people are upset about not being able to build on small lots without getting a variance. Some of them don't even know what a variance is," Warren said.

The zoning issue came up during a meeting last month after a group from the Chance Subdivision asked the commission for assistance in controlling development in their area.

County Manager James Martin was instructed to look into the issue, and commission members are expected to study ordinances from surrounding counties during the next few months.

Warren said outside the meeting that he believed the commission was delaying taking a stand on the zoning issue until after the November 2 election.

Monday's meeting was chosen because league members wanted to get the commissioners on record about the zoning issue before the election, Warren said.

Only Balfour and Commissioner James A. Hunt are on the ballot for re-election.

The civic league has more than 2,000 members, Warren said.

However, the group has never gotten involved with the election process and has never backed a candidate in the past, he added.

"That might change," Warren said.

Commission members would not be responsible public officials if they did not look at both sides of

the zoning question, Balfour said.

In the past some county residents have been falsely promised by unscrupulous developers that subdivision lots would have paved roads serving them and that buyers would be able to obtain septic tank permits.

"I've seen people invest their entire savings in lots where the roads are not paved. The state won't touch them because they are not built up to standards," Commissioner Daniel H. DeVane said.

"We're talking about the quality of life in Hoke County," he added.

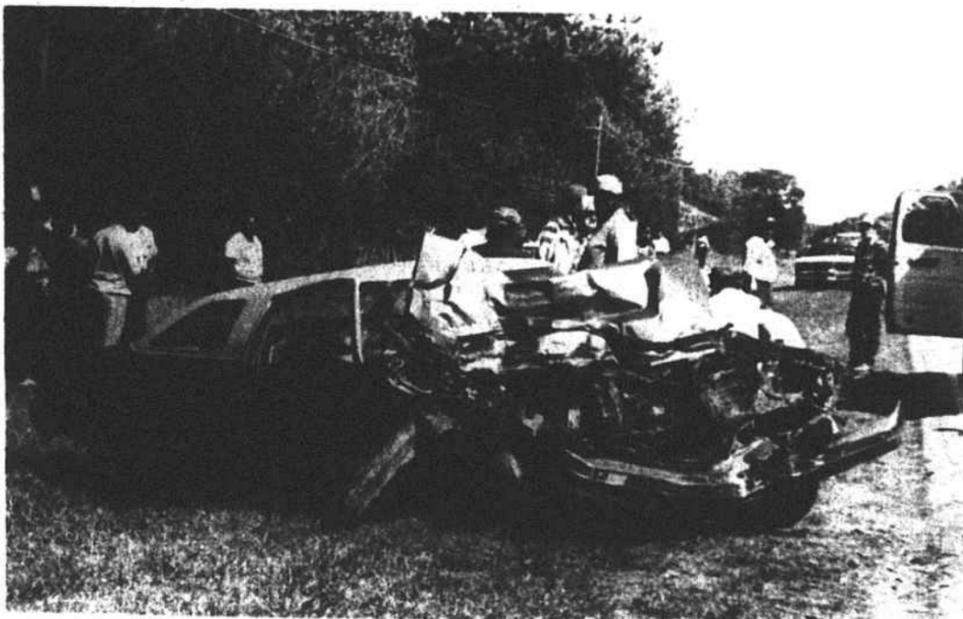
Warren admitted that he was not totally against zoning, but that the league was opposed to strict regulations which prohibited poorer residents from being able to build on smaller lots.

Audit Cleared

In other business during the meeting, county Auditor Frank Baker of Pittard and Perry Accountants told commission members that at the end of the fiscal year on June 30 the county's financial position was "strong."

During the last fiscal year, the county had total revenues of over \$4.25 million and expenses of \$3.8 million.

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Remains of the car Bobby Williams was reported driving Friday afternoon. [Staff photo by Pam Frederick.]

Two Hurt In Truck-Car Collision

Both drivers were injured when a car and a truck collided about 1:30 p.m. Friday on U.S. 401 about eight miles north of Raeford, the State Highway Patrol reported.

Bobby B. Williams, 26, of Raeford, driving the car, and Michael Anthony McQueen, 21, of

Wagram, driving the truck, were treated at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, the investigating officer, Trooper Bill Bowden said.

The officer said Williams was charged with driving left of center.

He said Williams was driving a 1976 Chevrolet north when the car

ran off the left side of the road, then went back on the pavement into the south-bound lane into the path of the 1975 International truck, and the vehicles collided head on.

Bowden estimated the damages at about \$8,000 to the truck and about \$2,500 to the car.

City Doing Part For Pound

Raeford has had a city animal control operation independent of the Hoke County program but the city cooperates with the county in the operation of the dog pound and the control work.

About a year ago, the city installed a water and sewer system at the pound, and in recent weeks new aluminum feeding troughs were installed for the pound's animals. City Manager Ron Matthews said the city and county each paid half of the \$300 bill. He said the troughs were ordered in August and showed the reporter a statement listing the troughs and their costs.

The troughs were ordered and installed a couple of months ago, before *The News-Journal's* report on conditions at the dog pound and before a letter stating the troughs were installed as a result of the newspaper's report were published.

The city also repairs the unpaved road to the pound when repairs are needed, putting on a fresh coat of gravel, and scraping the road smooth, filling in places washed out

by rains. Bill Sellars, city public works director and city manager, said.

He also said that last year the city ran in a two-inch water line and installed a wash-down trough. The trough empties into the sewer system.

The city also splits the cost of the maintenance materials evenly with the county, he added.

Matthews agreed with County Health Department Director Lloyd Horne's statement in the newspaper's October 7 report that the animals in the pound are being treated as humanely as the present conditions at the pound permit. He, like Horne, said the essential problem is the need for improvements to the facilities. The animals need protection from the cold, for one thing. The pound now has no shelters that can be heated. Part of the pound is roofed with metal, providing shelter from rain and sun.

Among other needs, *The News-Journal's* October 7 report indicated, are more room for the animals

and is partitioning for pens, so the larger animals can be kept separate from the smaller, and sick animals from the healthy.

Horne has asked the county and city for a total of \$27,000 to build a new animal shelter. Matthews said the city has \$7,000 in its 1982-83 budget to help pay for it. The county has been asked for the remainder for the current fiscal year but the county commissioners decided the money was needed elsewhere to help pay for roof work, costing an estimated \$63,000, at two schools, consequently it was not included in the county budget that was adopted.

County Manager James Martin has said, however, that it is possible that money from the county capital reserve fund could be used for the pound, but he said that is a decision that only the commissioners can make.

The city also had \$5,000 for a new pound in its budgets for each of the previous two fiscal years.

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Inside Today

This is an important citizen of Raeford and Hoke County.

A special section paying tribute to the county's textile industries is published inside today's edition of *The News-Journal*.

The special section is published in observance of National Textile Week.

Around Town

by Sam C. Morris

I know most folks didn't get up early enough Sunday morning to see the frost, but they should have seen it on Monday morning. The temperature was in the 30s and it was cold until the sun broke through the clouds in mid morning.

We all hate to see the cold weather come because it means a fuel bill, but then again most homes now have air conditioning and this is also expensive with the high cost of electricity, so maybe it is a "can't win" situation.

Don't forget the Ingathering today (Thursday) at the Antioch Presbyterian Church. There will be both barbecue and chicken plates and these are always the best food, but also think about the fellowship with all your friends.

So go out beginning at 11 a.m. and enjoy the day with your friends at Antioch.

The Hoke High Bucks won a

football game last Friday night against Pinecrest. The score was like a baseball score, 10-8. We know that this will help the coaches this week as they prepare for their next conference game.

So check your schedule and make plans to attend the next game at the high school stadium.

The west side of town is growing and it looks as if the new shopping center will be open before long. The center along with the new armory has added to the looks on the west side of the 401 bypass.

We still haven't heard anything definitely about the dedication of the new armory, but we will let you know through this column all the details as soon as something happens.

Many of the old Battery "F" men at our fifth reunion stated that they would like to attend the dedication when it came and the date is set.

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