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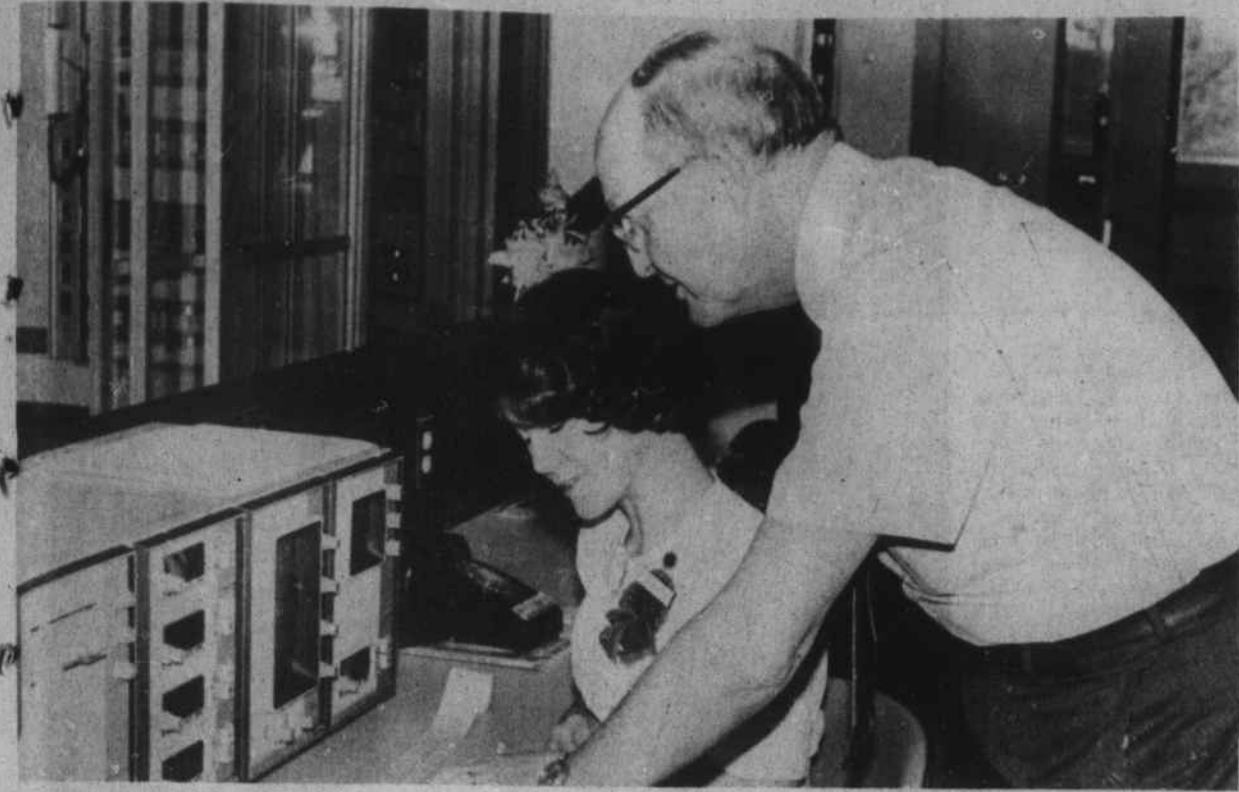


Photo by Emily Killete

INTENSIVE CARE UNIT - Patients are moved into the intensive care unit. Last Thursday, five patients were moved into the new nine-room ICU at Duplin General Hospital, which is said to be the best facility in this area of the state. Pictured above are Gwen Thomas, head nurse of

the ICU, and Dr. E. L. Boyette, medical director of the ICU, as they study a print-out tape of a patient's heart beat which has been produced from the electronic monitor connected to the patient.

Intensive Care Unit Opens

Duplin General Transfer Patients

By Emily Killete

The intensive care unit at Duplin General Hospital was completed, and patients were moved into five of the nine rooms in the facility Thursday, Dec. 20.

Hospital Administrator Richard Harrell said the construction work on the new ICU unit had been completed at the time of the dedication in September, but work on electronic systems in the unit had not been completed.

After working with the State Medical Care Association, Harrell said the hospital was able to meet the standards set by the association on electronic monitoring devices and other equipment in the unit to receive certification. According to Harrell, equipment from the old six-bed intensive care unit was installed in the new nine-bed unit, and only enough equipment to complete the new unit was purchased. The addition of the ICU cost the county \$700,000, and

Harrell said, the planning and construction of the unit took about ten years, with construction beginning in 1978.

The old ICU will be converted back into private rooms, Harrell said. The old ICU had been private rooms which were renovated and equipped to form an intensive care unit, he said.

Dr. E. L. Boyette, medical director of the ICU, commented that the facility is the most modern in this area. Boyette said the citizens of

Duplin have invested their money wisely in the ICU. He pointed out that the unit has nine rooms with an electronic monitor for each patient inside the room and at the nurses' station. The monitors are used to watch the patient's heartbeat. The monitors are especially useful immediately after a person has had a heart attack, and the ICU is close to the emergency room, said Boyette.

"The first hour after a person has a heart attack is the most critical time, because the patient's heart is beating irregularly, which can be fatal," Boyette said, "and with the use of electric monitoring, a heartbeat can be watched and the patient successfully treated."

According to Gwen Thomas, head nurse for the ICU, there will be no less than three nurses working the unit at all times. They will watch the monitors and check the patient's blood pressure, pulse and temperature on a regular schedule, Mrs. Thomas said.

The next project Duplin General plans is to build a small doctors' office complex near the hospital, said Harrell, and continue the efforts of recruiting more young doctors into Duplin County.

Williams Elected Chairman

Franklin Williams was elected chairman of the Duplin County Board of Commissioners for a one-year term expiring December 1980.

Williams was elected to the board of commissioners from Rockfish Township, where he has been a life-long resident. He is married to the former Paula Owens, also of the Rockfish Township, and they have one son, Franklin Owen Williams, a freshman at North Carolina State University. Mrs. Williams is a former public school teacher at James Kenan High School. The family attends the Oak Plain Presbyterian Church, where Williams serves as an Elder, church Treasurer and Sunday School teacher.

Williams, a director of the Bank of North Carolina, and on the advisory committee of the Tobacco Stabilization Corporation, received the Duplin County Young Farmer Award in 1970, and in 1977 the Williams family received the Duplin County Conservation Farm Family of the Year award.

Sewer Bids Exceed Funds

The total of low bids for the proposed water and sewer improvement and construction project in Magnolia totaled nearly \$500,000 more than funds available, town officials discovered when they opened bids last Wednesday, and no contracts were let.

Mayor Pro-tem Melvin Pope said officials hope to obtain additional federal and state grant funds because of inflation in construction costs.

The total of low bids on the proposed facilities was \$1,225,807. The total of loan and grant money available is \$799,000, officials said.

The low bidder on the sewage plant was J. A. Loving Co. of Goldsboro with a bid of \$492,000. The low bidder on the sanitary sewage system additions was So-Par of Jacksonville with a

Kenansville Ok's Water Bond

By Emily Killete

Citizens in Kenansville voted 153 to 62 in favor of a \$170,000 city water bond on December 18. The referendum had failed by one vote on September 4.

Mayor Douglas Judge said there had been about a 50% turnout for the water bond referendum, with 215 voting out of the 424 registered voters in Kenansville. However, on September 4, only 123 persons turned out to vote, and the water bond referendum was defeated 62 to 61.

The water bond referendum will provide a \$356,500 grant from FmHA, and \$170,000 in general obligation bonds from FmHA, and a \$169,500 grant from North Carolina Clean Water, and a \$73,000 grant from Coastal Plains Regional Commission. The total cost of the project is \$769,000, with an interest rate of five percent on the \$170,000 worth of general obligation bonds, which will be paid back over a period of forty years.

Kenansville Town Administrator Woody Brinson said construction on the project would begin in mid-1980 and be completed in about a year.

"The new water system will help the growth and the progress of Kenansville. Without the system, there would not be any growth," Brinson said.

Brinson added that he was pleased with the turnout to vote on the referendum, but he wished more people had voted. Mayor Judge also commented that he, too, would like to have seen a larger voter-turnout.

"The water system is a need we have in Kenansville, and by passing the referendum now, the town can pay for it with help from federal grants instead of paying for it later out of our own pockets, without help from federal grants," Judge commented.

Judge added that the passing of the referendum could not be attributed to any certain person or the Town Board — that the combined efforts of the Board and concerned citizens who had attended the meetings on the water bond were responsible for the water bond passing. Judge also commented that he looked forward to getting

the project underway, and he would be working to hold down the cost of the project as much as possible.

The proposed water project will consist of approximately 34,000 line feet of six- and eight-inch water mains, one 250-300 gallon-per-minute well, and a 250,000-gallon elevated storage tank. Upon completion of the project, the town

will have surplus water which could be sold to supply the county waterline which will be constructed between Kenansville and Greenevers, said Brinson. A meeting with the county Planning Board and the Kenansville Town Board is set for Jan. 7 at the Kenansville Town Hall to discuss the possibility of Kenansville supplying the county line with water, Brinson said. Members of the

Kenansville Board have voiced support in favor of selling water to the county upon completion of the new water project. Brinson said the Town Board would agree to sell the county water only if the Kenansville citizens were taken care of first, and the townspeople will be the priority in any contract between the town and county.



Photo by Emily Killete

THE KENANSVILLE WATER BOND - Eddie Hobbs was just one of 215 citizens in Kenansville who turned out to vote on the water bond referendum on Dec. 18. The

referendum was passed by a vote of 153 to 62 after it had failed by one vote on September 4th.

Tobacco Price Support Program Continued

By Emily Killete

The tobacco price support referenda passed in Duplin County with a 96.8% vote in favor of the program being continued for another three years.

According to David English of the Duplin ASCS, 2,082 farmers voted for the price support and marketing quota program, and 67 Duplin farmers voted against the program.

The Duplin farmers also passed the tobacco associates referendum which provides money for promotion of fuel-cured tobacco to overseas markets. The tobacco associates program began in 1947 and export markets for U.S. fuel-cured tobacco have increased to as much as half of the crop in 1978. The tobacco associates passed with 2,036 voting for the program and 106 voting against. The program is financed through a 10-cent per 100 pounds of each tobacco quota, which is allocated to be paid by farmers toward the program. Tobacco warehouse owners, chemical

companies and other tobacco related businesses contribute money to the organization.

The tobacco price support referendum will be in effect for the years 1980-82 to maintain an acreage-poundage marketing quota, and continue the farmer-owned Fuel-Cured Tobacco

Cooperative Stabilization Corporation which includes price supports and marketing quotas.

Landlord, tenant or share-cropper who shared in the production of the fuel-cured tobacco crop in 1979 were eligible to vote on the tobacco referendum.

Bridge Closing

The Division of Highways of the N.C. Department of Transportation has closed Rockfish Creek Bridge on Railroad Street to through traffic for approximately three weeks, according to Division Engineer Ted Funderburk. The bridge, located approximately one mile south of Wallace, will reopen Dec. 31.

This bridge is one of 16,000 statewide which are being inspected as part of an in-depth bridge inventory. The inventory is required by the Federal Highway Administration before the state can be considered for a

share of the \$1.1 billion additional bridge replacement and rehabilitation funds.

The temporary closing will allow NCDOT maintenance crews to replace the bridge with drainage pipe to carry water under the road. The pipe will be covered with dirt fill extending the road across the creek.

W.C. Casteen, bridge maintenance supervisor, said that every effort is being made to complete the project as soon as possible to minimize any inconvenience to the traveling public.

Joyous New Year