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Suggestion For Broader Lenoir County Hospital Plan

Present Plan In Need of Review Due to Du Pont

As this is written things are moving rapidly forward toward final realization of the long needed expansion of Kinston's hospital facilities. Last July voters of Lenoir County voted overwhelmingly for acceptance of Memorial General Hospital by the county and at the same time approved the issue of \$465,000 in bonds to finance the renovation and expansion of this hospital plant.

This paper supported fully and wholeheartedly this acceptance and bond issue, not because it felt this to be the best possible thing for Lenoir County but because it felt that the proposition being voted upon was the best AVAILABLE.

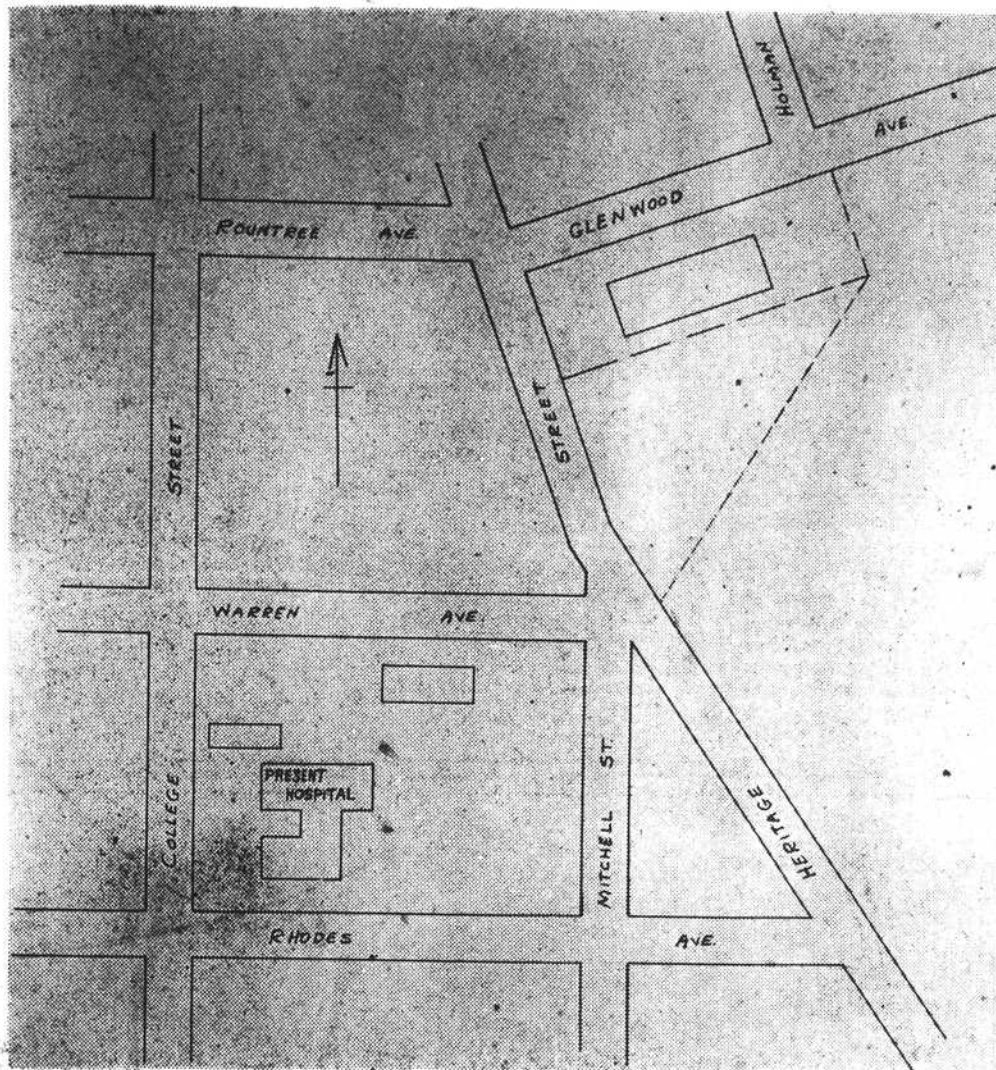
Today many like this paper who supported the plan of July have continued to look for something better, something that would, so far as possible, solve many of the problems that forcedly attach themselves to the plan approved by the voters in July.

One of the great objections voiced by the opposition last July had to do with the inadequacy of the site for expansion at the present Memorial General Hospital. Not even the most strong supporters of the plan failed to recognize merit in this argument. That problem still exists.

Based in about even proportion with this site inadequacy was the feeling of many people who did not want, or see the logic, in casting aside the present hospital plant; a goodly portion of which is in excellent condition and will remain so for a very long time.

A plan recently suggested to this paper and to other interested parties answers, intelligently and logically, many of the objections that have been raised on both sides of the fence in the two campaigns that have been held in the past three years on the subject of hospitals in Kinston.

This plan would include the purchase of a land now presently available is highly suitable and adjacent to the present hospital plant. This location of the new hospital facility would permit continued use of the almost new and completely adequate nurses' home that is now part of the present hospital facility. It would permit continued use of the old hospital building as a clinic in which space for every doctor in this area would be



The map reproduced above is included here to give a clear notion of the suggestion that is included on this page on the subject of hospital expansion in Kinston. On the map above the present hospital facility is marked and just above it is the almost new and completely modern nurses home. At the top right in the map above at the corner of Heritage Street and Glenwood Avenue the area roughly included in Harvey Estate. The nearness of this very practical site to the present hospital and to the home for nurses add up to the reason behind the suggestions included in this article for your consideration. This paper is a strong and active supporter of the plan voted on last July

for the renovation and expansion of Memorial General Hospital, but in view of the decision of the du Pont Company to build a huge nylon plant in the Kinston vicinity and due to the heretofore unconsidered possibility of locating the new hospital so that the present facilities would not be discarded this article has been written and printed here. Hospital facilities are among the most vital considerations a community must face in these times. Every person who is likely to need hospital attention in Kinston for the next 20 years should study the plan suggested here and arrive at some definite conclusion as to the soundness of the proposal in every way.

available, it would provide space for adequate quarters for the Lenoir County Health Department, for the Tuberculosis Association, for the Cancer Clinic, for use of one section as a home for the indigent aged of the county.

By placing the new building on a lot adjacent to the present facility the expense and time consuming chore of tearing down the older parts of the present plant would be avoided. The objections of being too near the

school house would be removed. The parking space objections would be much more than taken care of and above all plenty of room would be available for almost any possible future needs for expansion. Too many are inclined to be short-sighted about the future expansion of Kinston, particularly in view of the inevitable expansion that is bound to come from the location of du Pont's new nylon plant in the Kinston vicinity.

The question has been raised, and logically, as to whether or not the money voted in the July bond issue could be used anywhere except on the present site. That is a matter for legal minds, but it is not impossible to change any existing situation when the people will it so.

There is a small group that might urge that such a suggestion as this, coming at this relatively late hour, is just one more "red herring" being dragged a-

cross the path in order to delay further the expansion program that the people have asked for by a two to one margin.

This paper, speaking as one of the strongest supporters that the present plan had, says that little solid basis for such a charge can be made. This suggestion is the collective best opinions of a lot of people whose entire interest is to see the community get the best possible hospital facility from the most intelligent use of funds available.

No one who has given intelligent attention to the idea of better hospital facilities for this section can deny that merit attaches itself naturally to these proposals.

It is admitted that the court house is more than filled today with the expanding services one finds there, it is further admitted that the health department is, perhaps, the most crowded of all the departments housed in and around the court house.

It is admitted that there exists a need for a central office area for doctors. Why would it be impractical to make full use of the situation that presents itself by making ample space available for every doctor in the community at the present hospital. Rents collected from the doctors would to a large degree defray the cost of operating the building. Location of the health department, the tuberculosis association, the cancer clinic and the offices of the majority of the town's doctors would, in truth, make a health center.

While there would obviously be opposition to separation of part of the building for use as a home for the indigent aged of the county, the idea has plenty of merit and plenty of space does exist there, as well as kitchen facilities that would be ample for the care of the old people who are presently being cared for in a most inadequate and most unhappy manner.

This paper feels that no stone should remain unturned in an effort to crystallize all the thinking on every point of this proposal. To obtain the necessary land for this new location of the hospital a reasonable expenditure may logically be made. It is certain that the family which now owns the needed property is one of Kinston's most generous when it comes to repaying in service and in tangible gifts the community which has made it one of the section's wealthiest.

If there are any objections to this suggested plan they must be of a legal nature and it is not impossible to declare that legal impediments can be ironed out if proper energy and intelligence are applied toward that end.

Weed Quota Boosted

The Department of Agriculture's Production and Marketing Administration announced in Washington this week that flue-cured acreage quotas for 1951 would be increased by nine per cent. In Lenoir County where the 1950 tobacco allotment was 18,904.8 acres this means an acreage boost of 1,701.4 acres for the new year and in Jones County where the 1950 quota was 7,352.5 acres the increase amounts to 661.7 acres. At the past years average this would mean in Lenoir County an additional farm income from tobacco of about a million and a quarter dollars and in Jones County an additional income of just over half million dollars—presuming that the '51 crop will sell as high as the '50 offerings.

Europe, including the Soviet Union, is the center of the world's potato production.

Prominent Pitt Countian Held In Hit and Run Death Near Kinston

Death continued its harvest on highways in the Kinston area during the past week with the instant killing of 62-year-old William Henry Tripp of Grifton

Tuesday afternoon, more than 60 hours, after the hit-and-run death of 62 year-old Griftonian William Henry Tripp, Greenville Attorney and former Mayor J. Con Lanier same to the court house in Kinston and surrendered to officers of the highway patrol. After lengthy conferences with attorneys representing Lanier, warrants charging Lanier with manslaughter, hit-and-run driving and reckless driving were issued against the prominent Pitt Countian. Preliminary bond was set at \$5,000 for Lanier, who is general counsel for Tobacco Associates, Inc., but

on Wednesday efforts were being made to lower the bond.

at about 9:30 Saturday night when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver as he walked along the highway between Kinston and Grangers.

Very little evidence was available to officers Arthur Fields, Walter Taylor and R. H. Dillard of the local unit of the highway patrol, who are investigating the crime. Two bits of what may prove to be damaging evidence were picked up near the body of the dead man. They were a handle from the car door that had struck Tripp and a fragment of the glass from a broken headlight.

It was possible to determine that the door handle came from a Buick but here the officers ran

into the almost insurmountable task of finding the right Buick since the same type handles were used on all model Buicks from 1941 through 1949.

The officers have alerted all garages and auto repair shops to notify them at once in case anyone tries to replace a headlight and door handle on any make Buick.

Tripp was not identified until more than 24 hours after his death since he had no identification on his person. Sam McLawhorn, Jr., of Grifton, who finally identified the dead man, recalled that he saw him at about 9 Saturday night, walking in the direction of Kinston. McLawhorn was probably the last person to see Tripp alive except the persons who were riding in the car that killed the Grifton man.

Wildlife Meeting

All members and all who would like to become members of the Lenoir County Wildlife Federation are urged by President J. C. Rasberry to attend the Tuesday night meeting that is to be held next week at Emma Webb Recreation Center in Kinston. Matters of extreme importance to all who like to hunt and fish will be discussed and the legislative program of the State Federation of Wildlife Clubs is to be discussed.

