

# Jones Journal

"A BETTER COUNTY THROUGH IMPROVED FARM PRACTICES"

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## Marvelous Operation Is Accompanied By Humor Hospital Board Asks For Funds To Build Negro Training School



In its appearance before the Advisory Budget Commission the North Carolina Hospitals Board of Control has asked for not less than two and a half million dollars to fill one of the biggest gaps in the state's system of hospitals, a training school for Negro children comparable to the Caswell Training School for white children already operating at Kinston.

It is much too far in advance to predict with any degree of accuracy just how this request will be met by the 1953 North Carolina General Assembly. Governor-Elect William Umstead has not made any public statements on this particular issue.

It is not even known at this juncture if the budget recommendations now in preparation will include this request. There is probability, however, that this request will be given serious consideration and for a number of good reasons.

The first and best reason is, of course, the pressing need for such a unit. At present feeble-minded Negro children are either cared for in their home or in the worst instances admitted to the hospital for the insane at Goldsboro.

If this two and a half million dollars request runs the gauntlet of the Assembly and the Hospitals Board of Controls finds itself with the necessary monies to fill this gap in our chain of hospitals then the next consid-

eration must be the selection of a site.

It has been projected that the school would be located at Goldsboro, since the state already owns sufficient land there and some savings in administration and operation might be effected by having the hospital for the insane and the school for feeble-minded located together.

This Goldsboro location of the school has not met with the 100 per cent support of the medical men connected with the board, who feel, in the majority, that the two institutions are so completely different in their intent and operation that putting them together would be most unsuitable from any professional point of view.

Since the great bulk of North Carolina's Negro population is located east of Durham, it is fairly well agreed by all who have given thought to this much needed school that it would properly be located somewhere in Eastern Carolina. If suitable lands were available and if for professional reasons the Goldsboro location is vetoed then the field is more or less wide-open in the rest of Eastern Carolina's 51 counties.

Jones County is one of the State's largest counties, in area, but is also one of the State's most sparsely populated counties. Both of these offer argument for top level consideration to Jones County as an ideal lo-

cation for this school.

In Jones County a site is available of several hundred acres, the former Oak Grove Air Base, which is now owned by the Federal Government but could be obtained for a state institution of the type proposed for this Negro training school. The availability of such a highly desirable tract of land plus its central location in Eastern North Carolina combine to cause even closer examination of Jones County as a good and logical site for this proposed institution.

This site is almost halfway between the Virginia and South Carolina borders. It has rail facilities for the moving of heavy freight and equipment. It is located close to one of the nation's major highways, US 17, and it is paralleled by a newly paved road. It is less than three miles from one of Jones County's largest communities, Pollocksville, is less than eight miles from Trenton, the Jones County seat. It is just over 30 miles from the white school for feeble-minded at Kinston, which would permit an interchange of information and methods between the two schools. It is only 13 miles from New Bern.

Jones County at present, in spite of being one of the oldest settled counties of North Carolina, has no state institution of any size or type within its boundaries.

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Thousands in this section have recently returned to his home after undergoing one of the world's most marvelous operations at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. Delicate and wonderful as the operation was it was not entered into with such a grave air, Coble says now in comment upon his visit to Baltimore.

World Famed Dr. Jack Guiton who has been performing corneal transplant operations since 1914 did the job on Coble and Coble says he did a good job.

Coble had been slowly growing blind and for several years had extremely poor eyesight. Early this fall he went to Baltimore, entered Johns Hopkins and began his wait for better sight.

Dr. Guiton is noted for his bashful air and rather hesitant manner. After Coble had waited in the hospital for about two weeks he says Dr. Guiton came around one morning and rather apologetically said, "I'm sorry as I can be about keeping you waiting for an eye, but you know, I can't just go out and kill somebody to get you one."

The transplanting of a cornea from one eye to another in addition to being one of the world's most delicate jobs is also one that has to be done within not less than 48 hours after the cornea is removed from the donor's eye.

Most of these donated cornea came from New York City where wide publicity is given in the search for sight for people either blind or growing blind. After being taken from the eye of the person who is giving it, then it is rushed to Baltimore by plane and then Dr. Guiton cuts the bad cornea from the patient's eye and places the good cornea in place.

After about a two week wait Coble was told that "his eye" had arrived from New York and he was taken to the operating room for Dr. Guiton to do his stuff.

The operation is performed

was wake and aware of all that was going on during all but a few minutes of this operation he would actually see the Doctor working on his eye.

He could see the Doctor cutting out his "no good" cornea, see him placing in the new, slightly used but perfectly good one and then watched the sewing take place. At one time during the operation Coble says the Doctor got to pushing down on his nose and he asked him to let up a little, since he was having trouble breathing.

Dr. Guiton cracked, "Don't worry, we haven't lost a patient yet."

After the operation both Coble's eyes were covered with bandage for about two weeks and then the eye that not been operated on was uncovered and then after about another week the "new eye" was unveiled.

Coble was elected "President of the Transplant Club" shortly afterwards when he became the first one to identify the colors of a vase of flowers sitting in a window of the "Transplant Clubroom."

Now Coble is walking about Kinston, without glasses and able to see better than in many years. In about two more weeks he will have glasses fitted, since now his is waiting for his "new eye" to get broken in. As Dr. Guiton told him, "There's no need of getting a pair of glasses now and then having to get another pair in a couple of weeks."

The cornea is the window to the eye. It lets the light inside where it touches the light-sensitive nerve centers which transfer the image to the brain centers. An eye that is completely bad cannot be repaired with this wonderful surgery but an eye that only has a defective cornea can be made almost "good as new."

Coble says that will have about 20-30 vision in his new eye after it is broken in.

Jimmy Rochelle, one of several listening to Coble recount

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## Miss Jones County Of 1952



Miss Shirley Howard of Trenton, bestows "a smile of a queen" for the photographer at the recent Jones County Agricultural Fair. Miss Howard was crowned Queen of the Fair by three servicemen-judges: Marine Sergeant

Laird A. Lhota, Camp Lejeune; William G. King, HM/3c. USN, U. S. Naval Hospital here; Aviation Cadet Richard Casey, Stallings Air Force Base at Kinston. (Official Marine Corps Photo.)