

by Jack Rider In the past year an under-indable concern has hit thou-ads of North Carolina famiho have family members in te hospitals.

This new concert stems from the fact that state hospitals have begun an all-out effort to collect more money from those who have members of their families institutionalized.

It has not been unusual for families to receive bills in ex-cess of \$10,000, backdated to the day of entry of their family member in a state hospital. A serious effort is now brew-

ng to amend the state laws pertaining to this particular prob-lem. Under the general provi-sions of existing laws all fami-lies with the financial ability to pay for the care of family members are supposed to pay up to \$105 per month for each patient. pital have ranged from nothing pital have ranged rom nothing up to this maximum, with the past policy being a realistic ap-praisal of each family's ability to pay; but now prodding from the higher echelons of the state government is causing a much more strong effort than ever before to extract every possible penny out of every possible fami-

This gives rise to a pair of diametrically opposed philosophies in this field:

One which the state is now pursuing, is that everybody who is able to pay ought to pay.

And the other is that nature has been unkind enough in visiting a family with a mentally re-tarded or mentally sick member and since every family contributes to the overall general taxation such long-term institutional care should be an expense born from general taxation, with no embarassing harassment of those families who have such bad luck.

In the overall picture of state finances the cost of total haspitalization is not beyond the

is of budget vies. On the l timates for this fiscal year the t would be \$5,012,571 for the e assum g the full responor all such cases.

But if the psychiatric hospitals are taken out of this considera-tion, because a large part of their patients are short term pa-tients the picture changes great-

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ly. There are three state hos-pitals for the mentally retarded, who generally are permanent custodial type patients, and the total cost of the state assum-ing full responsibility for all pa-tients in these three hospitals would be only \$859,200 . . . \$464,000 collected at Caswell Training School, \$200,700 col-lected at the West Carolina Cen-ter and \$174,500 collected at O'-Berry Center. Berry Center.

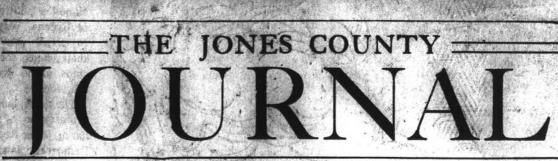
In the present fiscal year the cost of keeping a patient in Caswell is \$2,462 per year, and payment for patients whose families are able to pay amounts to \$258 of that total cost, leaving \$2204 to be paid from general taxation.

At West Carolina Center the annual cost per patient for this year is \$3582 and \$240 of that is expected to come from families of patients able to pay, leaving \$3342 to be paid from general taxation.

At O'Berry Center this year the annual cost per patient is \$2335, and families of patients able to pay are expected to pay \$137, leaving \$2198 to be paid from general taxation.

The total budgets of these three institutions for the mentally retarded amounts to \$10,403,213. Which is divided \$4,432,142 at Caswell, \$2,976,771 at O'Berry and \$2,994,300 at Western Carolina. The average daily patient loads of the three are 1800 patients at Caswell, 1275 at O'Berry and 836 at Western Carolina. of these three institutions .

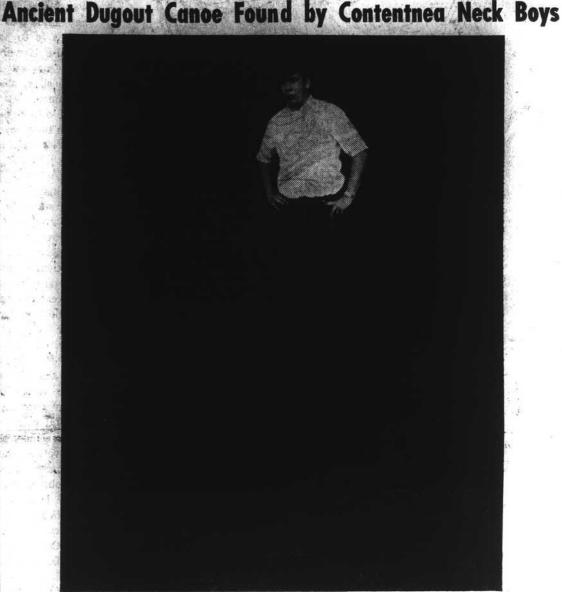
much less than 10 per cent. If the state were to assume Continued on page 10



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One result of the prolonged drought this summer was exposure of many sights that normally stay under several feet of water and one such sight discovered by three young Contentnea Neck explorers was this major part of an ancient dugout cance found in a Grifton. The trio who found the relic included Reno and Ricky Batchelor, sons of Mr. and

canoe remains is Raymond Oaks, next-doorneighbor to the Batchelors. One end of the cance has rotted away but the remaining end is extremely solid. Those who have looked at it so far, including this writer, are not expert enough about such matters to say with any

## **Jones County Woman Suing New Bern Doctor After Operation for \$200,000**

A law suit has been filed in Finally Mrs. Gray says memcreek running into Contentnea Creek near degree of certainty whether the dugout was Jones County Superior Court by bers of her family and nurses the work of indians or early white settlers Mrs. Goldie Hill Gray against at Craven County Hospital per-Dr. John E. Littman of New Bern suaded her to call in another in this area, but it is a far cry from the speedy fiberglass boats that churn up most local Mrs. Fred Batchelor, and Michael Cunningin which she seeks \$200,000 doctor, and this new doctor imdamages for injuries she claims mediately recommended another ham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cunningham, waterways nowadays. she suffered because of the poor operation to correct the injuries all of Grifton route 2. Shown here with the ractices and neglect she sufdone in the first operation. And Mrs. Gray said after this fered at his hands. **Another Law Suit Filed Over Brown's** second operation she had to re-The suit alleges that Littman **Cheryl Sasnett Now** operated on Mrs. Gray on March turn on May 17th for still fur-30, 1967 to remove a fibroid tumor from the uterus and to do an abdominal hysterectomy. President of Wyse Little White House in Pollocksville an abdominal hysterectomy, Following the operation Mrs. Forks 4-H Club Littman. During the past week one | hopefully the last about the little Following the operation Mrs. Gray says she experienced great pain and during a seven-day period after the operation her condition grew increasingly worse. And during this time she says Littman refused to treat her further and told her she only had gas pains. Littman's poor treatment and \$100,000 punitive damages and \$100,000 punitive damages. At the October meeting of white house of Johnny Frank and Mary Belle Brown in Polthe Wyse Fork 4-H Club officers locksville. for the new year were elected and Cheryl Sasnett was named In this suit brought by the Browns against Contractors Enpresident. terprises, Inc. they seek to re-Other officers named to cover \$14,100 damages; includserve with Miss Sasnett were Vice President Melinda Jones, ing \$4,100 actual damages and Thorn of Cherry Point, Wallace Earl Moore of Oriental route 1, They allege that on App Secretary Sue Moore, Treasurer **Traffic Charges Account for Most** They allege that on April 29, Joan Davis, Song Leader Beck and Albert Opdecam Jr. of 1964 they entered into an agree-Sasnett, Devotional Leader Cases Cleared in Recorder's Court During the past week pleas of guilty before the cierk or trials before Judge Joe Becton cleared is cases from the docket of man all but two were traffic in-tietments The non-traffic cases included public druntemess charge Delhi, Ontario. ment with representatives of Davis Thomas, Reporter Bobby White and Recreation Leader Gerald Davis, discount house, and that discount house foreclosed on the Browns' Little White House, and browns thrite white rouse, and they had to buy their own house back for \$6,600, which they point out is \$4,100 more than the agreed cost of the improve-(Continued on page 7) JOHES COUNTY AGRICULTURAL FAIR. BE SURE TO GO