

KEEPING PARROTT HOSPITAL OPEN COMPLETELY DEPENDENT ON DOCTORS' COOPERATION

by Jack Rider

The Lenoir County Board of Commissioners and the Trustees of Parrott Memorial Hospital are making every possible arrangement to keep the county's oldest hospital open until the county's newest hospital is completed but all involved agree that keeping the hospital open is completely dependent on the cooperation of the medical staff of Lenoir Memorial Hospital.

All agree that hospitals cannot operate without doctors.

All agree that the 55 beds of Parrott Hospital are vitally needed until the new county hospital is completed.

All agree that the new hospital will not be in business until late in 1972, despite promises by construction officials that it will be ready for occupancy by the end of this year.

All agree that Dr. Dexter Witherington has been placed in a

position where he had no professional alternative but to resign the post he has held at Parrott Hospital for the past several years as chief surgeon, administrator and emergency room attending physician.

The death of several veteran staff members of Parrott Hospital, the decision of others to no longer admit their patients here and the pressures of modern medicine all combine to make Witherington's decision wise and inevitable.

Until its medical staff dwindled to its present level of just Witherington and Dr. Clifton West the hospital was operating at a profit, despite the fact that its charges were considerable below those of Lenoir Memorial Hospital.

When the county embarked upon a program to build a large new hospital three years ago it was recommended by the North

Carolina Medical Care Commission and the Duke Endowment that both existing hospitals be closed, and as part of that recommendation it was agreed that the county and the Duke Endowment would equally share the purchase of privately owned Parrott Hospital for \$300,000 when the new hospital was opened, or at such a time as the trustees of Parrott Hospital decided it was detrimental to the financial well-being of the hospital to keep it opened.

This latter decision was reached on January 20th of this year because reduced patient load at the hospital had put it in a money losing posture at the time of the year when hospitals ordinarily enjoy their biggest flow of customers.

And at the same time the patient load of Parrott Hospital was falling to a money-losing level patients were either being

turned away or put in hallways of Lenoir Memorial Hospital; the latter being a violation of state laws and good medical practice as well.

Repeated conferences between county officials and the trustees and medical staff of Lenoir Memorial Hospital have resulted in no agreement by either the trustees or the medical staff to fully cooperate in keeping the badly needed 55 beds of Parrott Hospital available to the community until mid or late 1972.

The trustees of Lenoir Memorial Hospital have hidden behind a thin veil of excuses, largely based on either Medical Care Commission or Health, Education and Welfare departmental regulation, pertaining to physical plant, staff or administrative procedures at Parrott Hospital. They have said Lenoir Memorial would lose its hospital accreditation if it attempted to operate Parrott Hospital as a wing, or as a branch for particular kinds of hospital care.

The medical staff of Lenoir Memorial has ranged from totally cooperative attitudes by some doctors, such as the orthopedic surgeons who are using Parrott Hospital, up to absolute refusal by some staff members to even consider using the facilities of Parrott Hospital under any circumstances.

This week the Lenoir County Board of Commissioners received an opinion of the State Attorney General that expressed the view that it would be legal for the commissioners to spend public funds to underwrite losses of the privately owned Parrott Hospital on an emergency temporary basis because of the pressing need of the community for these 55 hospital beds.

Acting in the light of this opinion the commissioners met Monday with the trustees of Parrott Hospital, who have agreed to hold a special meeting in the immediate future to come up with a plan under which they will continue to operate the hospital.

The commissioners and the Parrott Hospital trustees agreed that it would be impractical to keep the hospital with a staff of more than 60 people open for any great period of time unless the medical staff of Lenoir Memorial Hospital would admit patients to the hospital.

Trustees of Lenoir Memorial Hospital have also agreed to enforce rules against admitting patients to hallways except on the most extreme emergencies and only for a brief period.

The feeling of the commissioners, as expressed Monday to the Parrott Hospital trustees, is that

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Two Killed Saturday Night in Headon Crash Three Miles South of Snow Hill

Both drivers were killed in the headon crash of a car and a pickup truck at 7:05 Saturday night three miles south of Snow Hill on State Road 1002.

Robert Creech, 31, of Snow Hill route 3, was driver of the car and Thelbert Joe Hines, 53, of LaGrange route 2, was driving a pickup truck.

The investigating Highway Patrolman said it was most difficult Saturday night to determine which vehicle was in the wrong traffic lane at the time of the crash.

The matter is still under investigation and this twin-tragedy brought the 1971 traffic death toll in Greene County to six.

DUNHAM ON NORFOLK

Petty Officer Third Class Jimmy L. Dunham, son of Mrs. Lilla A. Dunham of Route 3, Kinston, is now serving aboard the amphibious assault ship USS Guadalcanal at the Naval Station, Norfolk, Va.

Six Jones Arrests

Jones County Sheriff Brown Yates reports booking six persons in his office during the past week: Jesse Earl May of Trenton route 2 and Thomas Lee Berry of Pollockville were charged with drunken driving, James Allen Houston of Dover route 2 was charged with drunken driving and resisting arrest. Leona Hinton and Baby Ray Julia Jordan of Pollockville were accused of being public drunk and Charles Roberts of Pollockville route 1 was charged with trespassing and assault with a deadly weapon.

Kinston Girl Among Finalists for UNC-G Reynolds Money

Two finalists and two alternates have been named by alumnae committees in each of the 11 districts in North Carolina in the 1971 competition for the Katharine Smith Reynolds Scholarships at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro.

Finalists in District One are Margaret Louise Leatherman, the daughter of Rev. and Mrs. Harold Franklin Leatherman of Kinston, and a senior at Grainger High School; and Stephanie Anne Maxon, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Don Kirby Maxon of Route 2, Havelock, and a senior at Havelock High School.

The first alternate is Emily Perry Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Graham Johnson of Ahoskie, and a senior at

Divorce, Eviction, Two Small Claims in New Court Cases

Jones County Court Clerk Rogers Pollock reports receiving four civil actions in his office during the past week, including two small claims suits, one divorce suit and one eviction effort.

H. L. Malone Insurance Agency of Kinston is suing William Bryant Haddock of Trenton route 1 for \$340.39 and Phillip H. Kornegay also of Trenton route 1 for \$264.88 for past due accounts.

Louise Ward brought action to evict Harvey Morton and family from a house at Oliver Crossroads due to failure to pay rentals.

Robert Sieker asks a divorce from Cynthia Leigh Sieker, alleging their marriage March 25, 1968 and their separation February 1, 1969.

Ahoskie High School. The second alternate is Claudia Jean Hardison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Leon Hardison of Route 1, Williamston, and a senior at Williamston High School.

Utility Poles Favorite Targets of North Carolina's Wilder Drivers

When it comes to crashing their motor vehicles into fixed objects along the streets and highways of North Carolina, Tar Heel Motorists proved again in 1970 that their favorite targets are utility poles.

During the past year, the state's drivers crashed into about 15 utility poles per day. That's a total of 5,452 poles and 3,995 trees for the year.

Sign posts were the third most popular target for erring drivers during 1970. A total of 2,373 posts were shattered for an average of about 6.5 posts each day.

Fences were fourth in popularity with an average of better than 4.7 per day and a total of 1,720.

The figures were drawn from the 1970 Fixed Object Analysis, compiled by the Driver Education and Accident Records Division of the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Other prime targets for North Carolina drivers were traffic islands, 1,170; bridges, 1,027; guard rails on shoulders, 593; guard rails on medians, 277; and underpasses, 62.

There were 13,227 miscellaneous fixed objects struck in addition to the items listed.

A total of 29,896 objects were struck during the year for an average of approximately 82 per day.

Land Transfers

Jones County Register of Deeds Bill Parker reports recording the following land transfers in his office during the past week:

C. L. Hardee Co., Inc. to Pitt-Greene Fertilizer Company 108.31 acres in Beaver Creek undivided interest in 200 ville Township and a one-third undivided interest in 200 acres of the P. J. West lands.

From D. E. Taylor to Ella and Robert Humphrey one acre in Chinquapin Township.

From Thelma and Milton Harris, Essie McDaniel, Edna Pearl Hill, Alberta Kornegay and Joseph Lee Hill to Joseph and Joyce Hill two acres in Trenton Township.

From Kathryn and Harry Collins to Harry Collins Jr. one lot in Maysville.

From Elma and John Pollock

to Joseph Carson Jenkins tracts of eight and 98.6 acres with stipulations that the sellers have right of occupancy of the lands until January 1, 1972 and have the right to cut timber from the lands until January 1, 1973, plus a right-of-way across these lands is reserved to other lands retained by the sellers.



HELPING HAND . . . An injured skier is loaded aboard an Army helicopter ambulance after being hurt near Ft. Carson, Colo. The Army helicopter is one of several being used in five cities under project MAST (Military Assistance to Safety and Traffic). The project is designed to determine the feasibility of using helicopters in civilian medical emergencies.



COMING IN . . . Helicopters of the 101st Assault Helicopter Battalion, 101st Airborne Division, transport troops of the 502nd Infantry to a fire support/operations base 28 miles south-southwest of Hue, Republic of Vietnam.