

Groundbreaking Ceremony For Autumn Care Was Four Years In The Making

It was four years in coming, but last Thursday, Autumn Corp. of Rocky Mount broke ground for a 110-bed nursing facility in Shallotte.

Construction of the 33,000-square-foot facility at the corner of Mulberry and White streets is expected to take approximately nine months, according to Autumn Corp. President Gerald Cox.

The structure was first proposed in 1984, after the state lifted a moratorium on nursing home bed construction. Autumn Corp. was one of six firms vying for state approval to construct beds allocated for Brunswick County residents.

In 1985, overriding the recommendation of the Cardinal Health Services Agency directors and upholding that of the agency's staff, the state's Division of Facility Services announced plans to award a certificate of need to Autumn Corp.

That decision was contested by Beverly Enterprises, which had hoped to build a facility adjacent to The Brunswick Hospital in Supply.

Last spring, after two years of legal negotiations and a contested case hearing, Autumn Corp. received the certificate of need required to

proceed with construction and announced plans to break ground by summer.

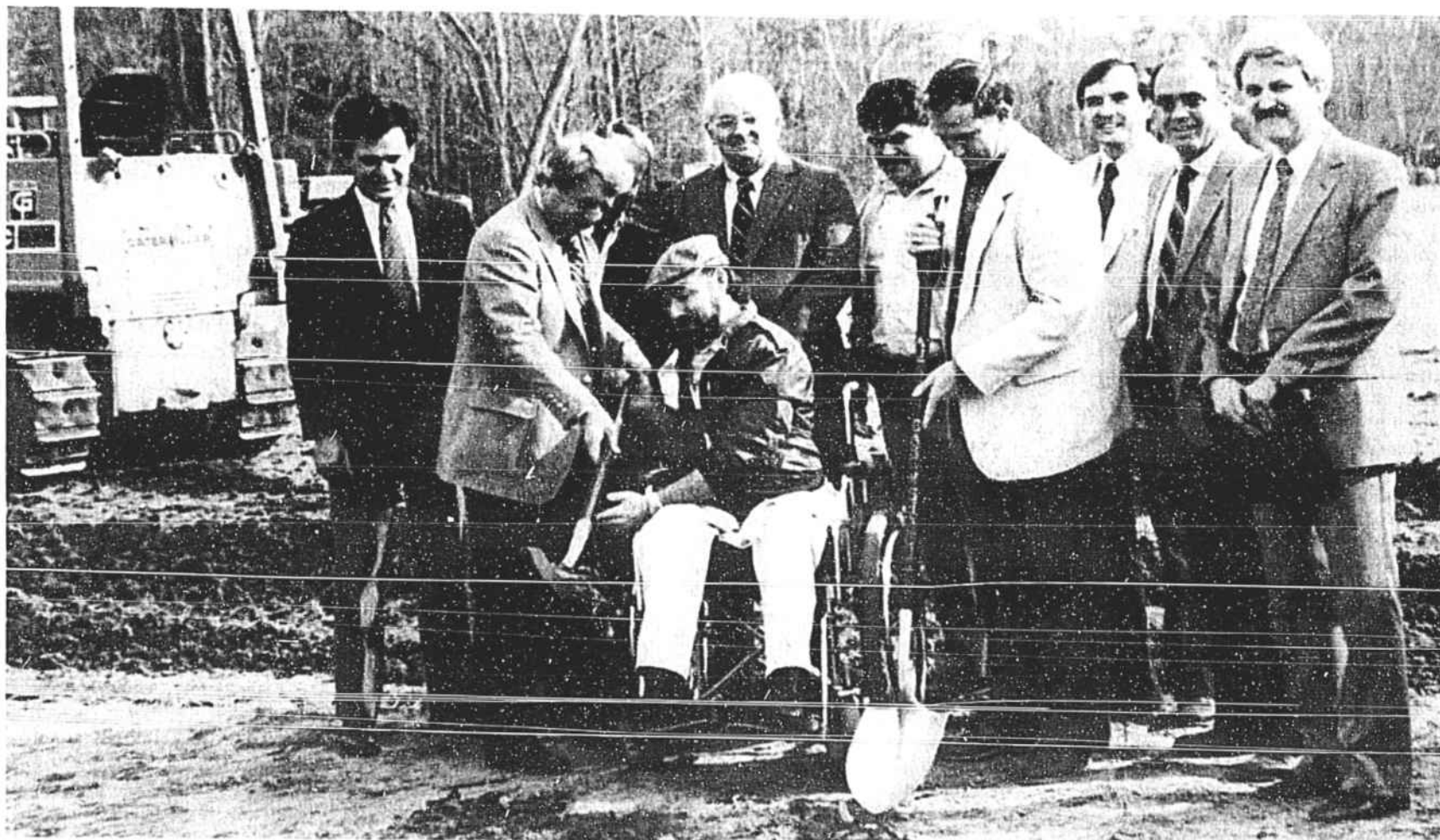
Approximately one year later, the groundbreaking ceremony was held at 2:30 p.m. last Thursday. The quiet event was attended by an estimated 30 persons, including six representatives of The Brunswick Hospital.

"I thought we'd never get here," said Doug Suddreth, director of development for Autumn Corp. "It's been a long time."

The 110-bed facility will be built in the shape of a spoked wheel, with support services and common areas in the center, and bed wings extending from the sides. It will offer 50 skilled care beds, 50 intermediate care beds and 10 home for the aged or rest home beds. Its estimated construction cost in 1984 was \$17.5 million. It is expected to hire the equivalent of 70 to 80 full-time employees.

Autumn Corp. President Gerald Cox said that while construction of the home has not begun, the firm is already exploring the possibility of expansion.

He told the group, "This facility will be the community's."



STAFF PHOTO BY SUSAN USHER

Four years after first expressing an interest in locating here, Autumn Corp. of Rocky Mount broke ground last Thursday for Autumn Care of Shallotte, a 110-bed facility expected to open in approximately nine months at the corner of Mulberry and White streets. From the left are shown John C. Thompson, BB&T representative; Gerald Cox, Autumn Corp. president; Deedy White of

White Investments, former owner of the tract; Paul Wayne Reeves, mayor pro-tem; J.R. Garrett, Autumn Corp. vice president; Jody Simmons, alderman; Jerry Jones, mayor; Jon Marshall, Brunswick Hospital administrator; Don Evans, South Brunswick Islands Chamber of Commerce president; and Doug Suddreth, Autumn Corp. director of development.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Two Appointed To Local Southern National Board

Betty Williamson of Ocean Isle Beach and Michael Dixon "Dicky" Powell of Shallotte have been appointed to the local board of Southern National Bank of North Carolina, according to Don Warren, the bank's city executive.



Williamson Powell

Williamson is mayor of Ocean Isle Beach and owner of Betty Williamson Realty Inc. From 1980-87 she served as town commissioner, mayor pro tem and chairman of the board of adjustments.

In 1987 she served as president of Island Group, Inc., a local group involved with promotion of Ocean Isle Beach. She is a member of the board of directors of Ocean Isle Beach Property Owners Association and is past secretary/board member/state director of the South Brunswick Islands Board of Realtors, of which she is currently a member.

A Whiteville native, she is a member of Camp United Methodist Church in Shallotte where she serves on the audit and finance committees. She and her husband, Frank, formerly of Nakina, have two children, Frankie and Derrick.

Powell is the owner/manager of Brunswick Funeral Service which has two locations, in Shallotte and Whiteville. He is also

owner/manager of Brunswick Memorial Gardens in Shallotte.

He graduated from the Dallas Institute in Dallas, Texas in 1966, the Clinical Laboratory and Blood Banking School in Norfolk, Virginia in 1957, the Pittsburg School of Medicine I Enucleation course in 1985, and the Bowman Gray Schools of Medicine I Enucleation class in 1987.

Powell is a member of Shallotte Lodge 727, a Scottish Rite Mason 32nd degree, the Sudan Shrine, a charter member of the South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club, charter member of the Toastmasters, and a member of the Calabash Elks.

He is a member of Shallotte Presbyterian Church where he has served as an elder and clerk of sessions since 1985.

He is married to the former Connie White of Ash and they have three children, Mike, Tim and Jimmy. He is the son of Vivian Hooks Powell of Shallotte and the late James E. Powell.

Hahn Elected

Brunswick County Finance Director Lithia B. Hahn has been elected president of the North Carolina Cash Management Trust Advisory Board.

The trust is a local government investment pool created in 1982 by the State of North Carolina and certified by the Local Government Commission. The board facilitates communication between the trust and the 450 public units such as school systems, cities, towns, ABC boards and counties who use the investment pool vehicle for public funds.

West Brunswick FFA Club Advocates Tractor Safety

West Brunswick FFA members are visiting farms this week and next, "branding" tractors with a safety message, according to chapter reporter Matthew Chappell.

The decal message is to remind tractor operators to practice safety and avoid accidents that could kill or injure a family member. Signed "Your family," the decal says,

"Please be careful, We love you."

Rollovers, runovers and unguarded PTOs are the major causes of serious tractor accidents, according to the Future Farmers of America chapter, which also has available information on tractor safety.

Participation in the national tractor safety program is just one of the ways the West Brunswick High

School FFA chapter is observing Feb. 22-29, National FFA Week. Members are also sponsoring a radio program and wearing their jackets every day.

Club members are also preparing to enter district competition in public speaking on March 5 and a Hunter Safety Competition slated March 16 in Clinton.

On Feb. 11, West FFAer Dean Smith placed first in the Sencland Federation public speaking contest held in Wilmington, while the chapter's parliamentary procedure team place second. Members were Dean Smith, Jeff Russ, Jeremy King, Jonathon Clemmons, Barry Newman and Trevor McDonald.

Horticulturalists Form Group

Sherry Roseman of Ocean Isle Beach will serve as chairperson of the new Brunswick County Horticultural Association, which organized Jan. 31 at the Agricultural Extension Office in Bolivia with 19



persons present representing 12 businesses.

Others elected to leadership posts were Tommy Robbins, vice chairperson; and executive board members Wilton Harrelson, David Lloyd and David Phillips.

The primary objectives of the association will be to provide for the educational needs of the horticultural community, improve the visibility of horticulture in the county and facilitate communication between businesses and assist in educational efforts for local residents. Membership is open to all horticultural businesses.

The next meetings is March 31 at 7 p.m. at the extension office in Bolivia. Dr. Ron Jones, N.C. State University extension specialist, will discuss plant diseases on common landscape plants. For more information, call William Barrow Jr., associate agricultural extension agent, 253-4425.

Officials To Attend Conference

Four Brunswick County commissioners and the county manager are scheduled to attend next month's 1988 National Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

The annual conference will be held March 5 through 8 at the Washington Hilton. Its purpose is for local government officials to meet with federal legislators.

Commissioners Grace Beasley, Benny Ludlum, Chris Chappell and Frankie Rabon, and County Manager John T. Smith will attend, according to Clerk to the Board of Commissioners Regina Alexander.

Ms. Alexander said the local delegation will meet with the North Carolina Legislative Caucus on March 5 to discuss key federal issues. Also, they will attend a breakfast given by U.S. Rep. Charlie Rose on March 8.

Because of the conference, the Brunswick County Commissioners' regular March 7 board meeting has been rescheduled for March 14 in Bolivia.

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