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VOLUME 1, NUMBER 10

Roxboro, North Carolina

Wednesday, October 17, 1979

Board of adjustment denies conditional use

Halfway house: "on the rocks"

Plans for establishing a rehabilitative halfway house for alcoholic women in one of Roxboro's most stately mansions were scuttled last night when the Roxboro Board of Adjustment, faced with an onslaught of opposition from nearby residents and property owners, unanimously denied a conditional use permit for property owned by Jimmy Abbitt at 400 North Main Street.

Abbitt, who now resides in California, was seeking the conditional use permit to operate the house, a mansion built years ago by Harry Winstead and known as the Winstead House, as a boarding house to be sold to the Orange-Person-Chatham Halfway House, Inc. as a rehabilitative house for recovering female alcoholics.

Residents of the North Main-Virginia Avenue-area filled Roxboro City Hall to capacity last night, voicing objection to the conditional use request on

several fronts.

Mrs. Charles Timberlake, 107 Virginia Avenue, presented the board of adjustment members with a petition of objection containing 167 signatures, a petition objecting to the request and the manner in which objectives of the request were made public.

"We feel very strongly that such a sale in our

neighborhood would result in devaluation and lessen desirability of our homes and property; furthermore as residents and tax payers of long standing of the community we would not welcome such an intrusion into an area of Roxboro that is primarily made up of

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Commissioners appeal 501 to Gov. Jim Hunt

In a strong personal appeal to Gov. Jim Hunt, an appeal that produced renewed optimism, members of the Person Board of County Commissioners Monday stressed the importance that the four laning of the Durham road from Rougemont to Roxboro would mean to the overall pattern of economic development to this area.

"I'm hoping we'll see some results," Chairman J. B. Oakley said following the 30-minute meeting. "He assured us that he's going to talk with Tom Bradshaw (North Carolina Transportation Secretary) and that he will be back in touch."

Oakley and Commissioners Dave Hodge, Malcolm Montgomery, H. G. Stonbraker and County Manager Roy Lowe carried letters of support to Raleigh Monday for their appointment with the governor, letters predicting the economic impact of the four-lane project to this area.

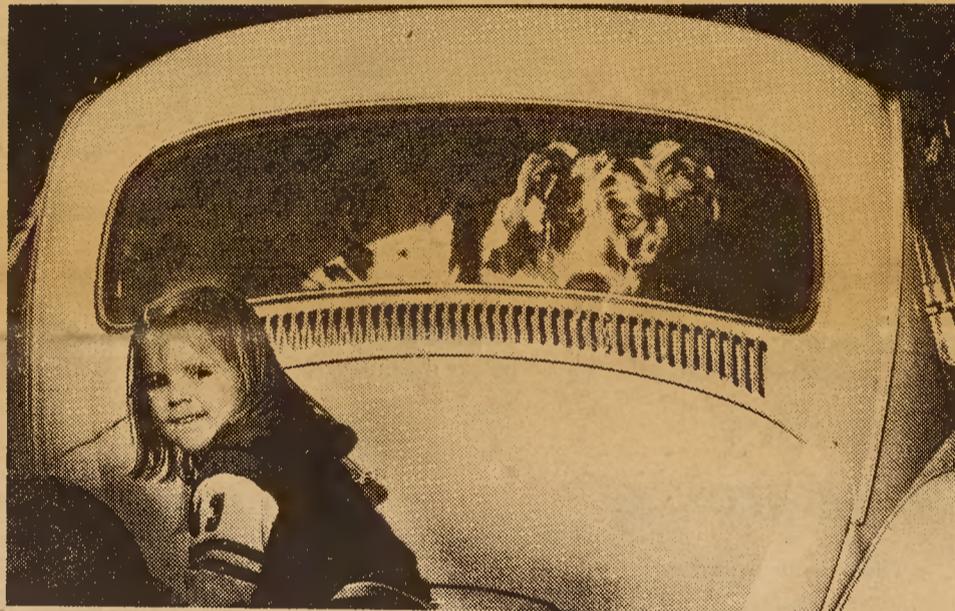
"We hope we made a strong appeal," Hodge said, indicating that Gov. Hunt had been receptive to the group, although he did cite monetary problems with the project.

According to Commissioner Malcolm Montgomery, Gov. Hunt indicated that primary road development throughout the state is suffering somewhat due to a reduction in gasoline sales, and

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"I guess I'll have to ride here"

Two-and-a-half-year-old Kellie Harris, daughter of Larry and Sherry Harris of Crestwood Drive and an unidentified friend.

(Staff Photo by Jo Catharine Winstead)

Following Tuesday letter

Excellence designation likely

Much to the delight and relief of the Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce's Community of Excellence Committee, indications were Tuesday that Roxboro will be designated such a community by Gov. Jim Hunt; a distinction chamber officials here see as beneficial to industrial recruitment efforts.

In a letter received here Tuesday, John M. Radford, deputy of the Governor's Small Community Economic Development Task Force, informed chamber officials that the state judging committee would recommend Roxboro for the award.

"You and the citizens of Roxboro are to be commended for the improvements that have been made in your community in preparation for more and better job opportunities," Radford said in the Tuesday letter. "Our judging committee will recommend approval of Roxboro for the Governor's Community of Excellence Award."

"We felt good about it," Tom Gilliam, chairman of the chamber's Community of Excellence Committee, told the chamber's board of directors Tuesday,

"but it makes you feel better to get the word."

Tommy Humphries, president of the Roxboro Area Chamber of Commerce, said Tuesday that the letter brought good news for this area.

"To me it's a big day," Humphries said, "At times I wondered if we'd receive it."

Following a second presentation last week of what this community has to offer an industrial prospect, Mary Louise Kraly, an industrial developer with the North Carolina Department of Commerce, commended the committee for its efforts.

"You've come a long way," Kraly said. "It's obvious your's is an ongoing program and not just a one shot deal. That helps."

Similar to the old Governor's Award program sponsored by the state several years ago, the Community of Excellence program, established by Gov. Hunt, is designed to assist communities of less than 15,000 individuals in attracting additional industry.

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