

Plans Are Drawn for Additions

Seen 3/12/40

Construction of Wing or Separate Building Proposed

The county commissioners will consider possible expansion of the Durham county infirmary and county home at their meeting here Monday morning as a board of equalization and review, County Manager D. W. Newsom said today.

Newsom said he is having an architect draw plans and make preliminary estimates on the cost of erecting a duplicate of the present infirmary at the county home, of adding a wing to the present infirmary building, or of constructing an addition to the county home.

The present infirmary cares for about 20 patients and also has to house eight to 10 county home inmates who are not patients, Newsom said. This condition has existed for some time, he added.

The commissioners may consider, Newsom said, the possibility of expanding the home, itself, or the infirmary, or of keeping on paying hospital fees for charity hospitalization of patients who really no longer need hospital care but just a place for convalescence. The problem is of concern to the welfare board, the health board, the county commissioners and County Hospitalization Officer T. L. Pendergrass, he said.

The county manager went on to say that the board would not act on such matters until its April 1 regular meeting, but that it probably would discuss them Monday.

Newsom explained the care of such patients now is provided for in the hospitalization officer's budget, regardless of whether the patients need hospital treatment or merely a convalescent ward. The economy angle would figure considerably in such discussions, Newsom said.

In the event of an addition to the infirmary, the county official foresaw the possibility of increased nursing service and medical care there.

Newsom had no figures as to the approximate cost of the proposed construction projects.

Acting as a board of equalization and review, the commissioners Monday will hear complaints of any persons who have constructed new buildings or other improvements since the last assessment. If there are such persons who feel their property valuations are too high, they may appear before the board to present their views, Newsom said.
