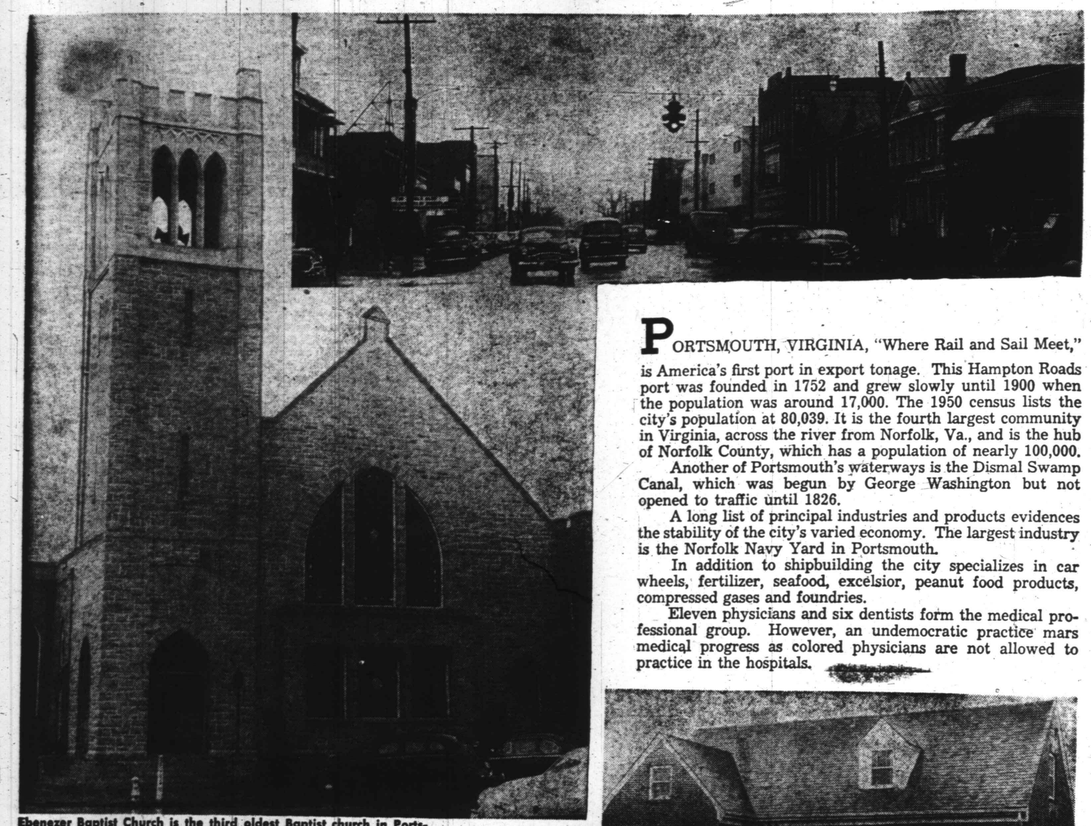
A Peek At Portsmouth, Va.



PORTSMOUTH, VIRGINIA, "Where Rail and Sail Meet," is America's first port in export tonage. This Hampton Roads port was founded in 1752 and grew slowly until 1900 when the population was around 17,000. The 1950 census lists the city's population at 80,039. It is the fourth largest community in Virginia, across the river from Norfolk, Va., and is the hub of Norfolk County, which has a population of nearly 100,000.

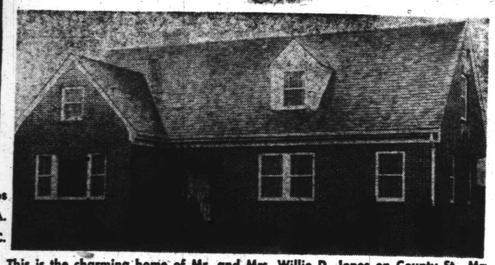
Another of Portsmouth's waterways is the Dismal Swamp Canal, which was begun by George Washington but not opened to traffic until 1826.

A long list of principal industries and products evidences the stability of the city's varied economy. The largest industry is the Norfolk Navy Yard in Portsmouth.

In addition to shipbuilding the city specializes in car wheels, fertilizer, seafood, excelsior, peanut food products, compressed gases and foundries.

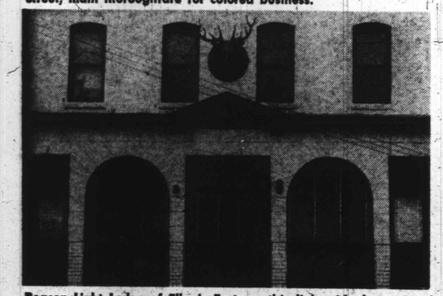
Eleven physicians and six dentists form the medical professional group. However, an undemocratic practice mars medical progress as colored physicians are not allowed to practice in the hospitals.

Ebenezer Baptist Church is the third oldest Baptist church in Portsmouth, Va. The Rev. Harvey Johnson is pastor. It was organized four months before the Civil War ended. At upper right is County street, main thoroughfare for colored business.

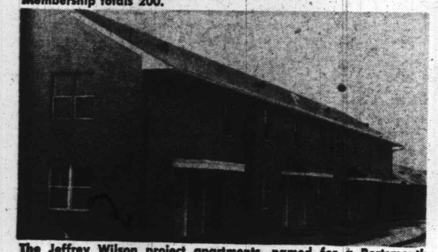


This is the charming home of Mr. and Mrs. Willie D. Jones on County St. Mr. Jones is a brick contractor. His wife is a school teacher.

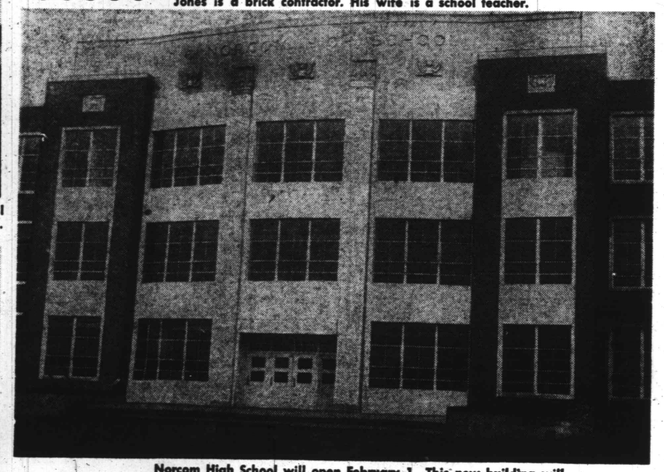
NEXT WEEK: Picture pages about HOPEWELL, VA. and FAYETTEVILLE, N.C.



Beacon Light Lodge of Elks is Portsmouth's link with the national order. Thomas Reid, attorney, is present exalted ruler of the lodge. Membership totals 200.



The Jeffrey Wilson project apartments, named for a Portsmouth newspaperman, are nearing completion.



Norcom High School will open February 1. This new building will be a Portsmouth showplace of progress.

Polio Is Everyone's Enemy

When it strikes, bias vanishes in Dixie hospitals. March Of Dimes Fund gives research grants to colored doctors, technicians and colleges to aid in fight.

"March of Dimes" is a term well known by Americans, for each year this is the appeal made to raise funds to finance the service program of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. This service program consists of research, patient care and education.

In 15 years, $148 million of March of Dime funds have been spent for patient care. There are no complete statistics on incidence of polio by race. Sample studies of incidence and the best medical knowledge indicate that polio affects all people regardless of age, race, color or creed.

Thus, since the National Foundation provides financial assistance to all polio patients who need it, very probably colored polio patients have received assistance exceeding their ratio to the population. This assumption is based on the economic status of several racial groups.

Research Funds For Colleges

Research for a means of preventing polio is the most important phase of the National Foundation's service program. Many institutions participate in this work. Howard University Medical School, Tuskegee Institute and colored students at other institutions are important team members in polio research.

Polio was more widespread in 1952 than in any previous year. The crippling disease struck in all parts of the United States. More adults appeared to be hit. More bulbar cases were reported in many areas. There were more multiple cases in one family.

More than 55,000 persons had been stricken according to United States Public Health figures dated October 30, 1952. The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis met the challenge of the dread crippler and no person went without medical care, for lack of funds, regardless of age, race, creed or color.

Polio patients are treated in general hospitals located in their home towns. A very unusual situation prevails when polio strikes: segregation is forgotten. In Texas, Florida, Tennessee, W. Va., and other states with segregation laws, many polio treatment centers have been established for all polio patients without regard to past practices.

Meharry, Howard Get Funds

Dillard University's School of Nursing, the North Carolina College School of Public Health, the National Medical Associates, the Howard University School of Medicine and the Meharry Medical College all receive education grants from National Foundation funds raised in the March of Dimes. For the school year 1952-53 the above named institutions were allocated more than $145,000.

March of Dimes funds provided scholarship and fellowship awards to 18 colored students for the school year 1952-53. The total amount of the awards is $40,617.50. Seven physicians doing post-graduate work in pediatrics and public health, and eleven men and women studying to become physical therapists and medical social workers comprise the colored medical workers whose graduate education is being aided by March of Dimes funds.

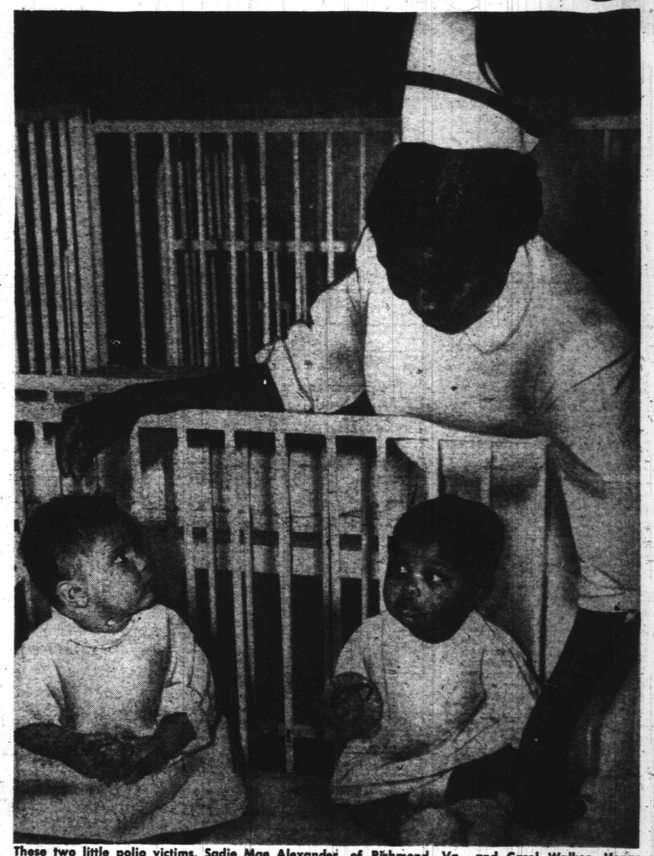
Since 1941, 184 colored students have received scholarship awards totaling $292,074.06. Two Meharry Medical College and three Howard University School faculty members have received fellowship awards. Twenty-five states, the District of Columbia and the Virgin Islands are represented by winners of the awards.

Tuskegee, 'Battle' Station

The Tuskegee Institute Infantile Paralysis Center is one of the two famous battle stations in the fight against polio, the other being the Georgia Warm Springs Hospital. Both of them are independent of the National Foundation. The National Foundation is a grant-making agency, raising funds each year in the March of Dimes. The funds are used to lead, to direct, and to unify the fight against polio.

This fight moves toward the finding of a vaccine to prevent polio.

It is hoped and now appears that such a vaccine will be found within the near future. Until the final victory, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, with the support of the March of Dimes, will continue to provide the best available medical care to all polio patients, who lack the necessary funds, regardless of age, race, creed or color.



These two little polio victims, Sadie Mae Alexander, of Richmond, Va., and Carol Walker, Henry County, Va., will receive careful treatment and will learn to walk because of March of Dimes contributions. They are in Va. Medical College Hospital, Richmond. Their nurse is Miss Sophie Ross.

Four-year-old Oliver Harris Jr., of Ferndale, Mich., was stricken with polio in July 1950. All expenses for his medical care were paid by the Oakland County, Mich., chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

At Children's Hospital, Washington, D.C., Ronald Benton receives treatment in the Hubbard tank. Polio patients often respond to water therapy.