



RICHARDSON. . . (far right) meets with (left to right) Dave McRae, Rehabilitation Center director,

Rick Gilstrap, Assistant Administrator, and Warren McRoy, finance officer.

# Richardson Recalls First Months As 'Frustrating'

By CAROL TYER  
Reflector Staff Writer

Pitt County Memorial Hospital Director Jack Richardson is soft-spoken, but he carries a big burden, the running of the hospital and the planning for its future service to the county and the region.

Richardson breathes a sigh of relief, he says, now that the new hospital has been almost four months in service. "The first three were the most difficult," he said. "I had to tell more than one key person, "No, absolutely not," when they asked if I'd accept their resignations. All the administrators throughout the state who had previously moved into new facilities had told me that the first three months would be frustrating for everyone concerned, but that then one day we'd come to work and things would be better.

"This is what I've kept telling

all the others and I think we're all beginning to see the truth of it now. Jobs made hard by new equipment; new surroundings, new co-workers are getting easier to perform now.

"I'm especially glad about this as it relates to patient care. "People get angry when you make mistakes on their bills, but these mistakes are so much less likely to cause dire results."

Richardson spends a large part of his time on long-range planning for the hospital and meeting with people who are or will be instrumental in new developments. Much of the in-house work of running the hospital is delegated to other members of the administrative staff, he said, though, he is, of course, ultimately responsible.

He is the official representative of the hospital and often has visits from people outside

the community who wish to learn more about the medical community here.

He gets to work most days at 8 a. m., though he often is at breakfast in the hospital cafeteria by 7:15. His day lasts till about 5:30 or 6 p. m., if there are no meetings in the evenings. He says he tries not to schedule anything for weekends, but often "catches up on letter-writing and the like" on Saturdays because it's easier to work undisturbed when no one expects him to be in his office.

Richardson is a Rocky Mount native, but his family has ties in Virginia and moved back and forth several times between Rocky Mount and the Richmond area before he was school age. He and his brother, who lives in Lakeland, Fla. and his sister, who lives in Rocky Mount, graduated from Rocky Mount High School. He served in the U.

S. Army and, attended Richmond Professional Institute and graduated with a B. S. degree in business. He then attended the Medical College of Virginia, where he earned the Master of Hospital Administration degree. He worked at Roanoke Memorial Hospital in Roanoke, Va. before coming to Pitt Memorial in June, 1966 as Assistant Administrator under C. D. Ward, Administrator. He was appointed administrator in June, 1971.

A Presbyterian and a Kiwanian, he is serving this year as chairman of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Hospital Association. He is a past president of the Northeastern N. C. Hospital Administrators Association and serves on the Board of Directors of the Eastern Area Health Education Center Inc.

## Obstetrics, Gynecology

## A 'Primary Care' Course