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Will Five Go Into One? Merger Possibilities In Robeson County

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the eighth in a series of articles about school merger possibilities in Robeson County. Will five go into one? History shouts "No!" We hope history will be proven wrong. The series of articles was written by Bruce Barton, editor of this newspaper.

The position of those who favor merger was stated quite fully in this writer's column, *As I See It*, which appeared in *The Carolina Indian Voice* on September 23, 1982:

"I've read a lot of media wringing of the hands lately about the travails of the residents of Clybourne Pines-Country Club areas who have been returned to the Robeson County School System from which they were unlawfully taken approximately twelve years ago. There have been administrative problems, inconveniences caused by all parties concerned. It has sometimes been unpleasant but always necessary.

As I see it, the return of Clybourne Pines and Country Club areas to the county system from which they were unlawfully taken is simply just a case of partial payment of a longstanding debt. It is sort of like if a man owed you a dollar and decided to pay you 45 cents on that debt. Would you not take the 45 cents and still hold the debtor responsible for the 55 cents still left unpaid?

Now there is talk of merger in the county. Maybe. But a lot would depend on how the minorities were treated in the transitional period. Who would be the superintendent of a system encompassing the whole county? That would be an important question that would need to be answered beforehand. History shows that Indians have always been short changed educationally in the past.

Ideally, total merger is the answer to the education woes of the county. No doubt about it. But who would run such a system? How could Indians and Blacks and Whites be assured of equal representation? Who could make that kind of decision? Could our provincial and racial notions be put aside long enough to do what is right for all the children of the county? History shouts "NO!" and "Be wary, Indians!"

The fact is that no one that I know of has

excused Barker Ten Miles and Lakewood Estates from being returned to the county system. The educational chickens are coming home to roost in Ol' Robeson. Their turn is coming, make no mistake about it. But let's remember what happened and why. No one can reasonably know where He is going if he does not know where He has been.

The fact is that the Lumberton City Schools was found guilty as charged for unlawfully annexing three areas-Barker Ten Miles, Lakewood Estates, and Clybourne Pines and Country Club-into the city system more than a decade ago. The illegal annexations were affected in order to escape the implementation of the 1970 desegregation plan imposed by HEW, and to buttress up misconceived notions of racial superiority.

Lumberton, when called on the carpet recently by the justice department, and found guilty of breaking the 1965 Voting Rights Act, decided to return Clybourne Pines and Country Club area to the county. Their hope is that they will be allowed to keep Barker Ten Mile and Lakewood Estates for having done so. As I see it, they will not be allowed to do so. The county board of education's position was to accept the partial payment of a longstanding debt. They said, in essence, "Yes, we will take Clybourne Pines and Country Club area back into the system from which they were unlawfully taken but you (the Lumberton City Schools) still owe us Barker Ten Mile and Lakewood Estates." There the matter stands.

That is why some folks now are lamenting and wringing their hands about merger. The legal handwriting is on the wall.

So, of course, total merger of the duplicitous five school systems in Robeson is the answer but not by the educational rape of the Robeson County School System, the aggrieved party in this matter.

The Robesonian and I almost agree on the need for merger-almost. The Robesonian seems to want to forget (or pretend it never happened) the past. *The Carolina Indian Voice* wants the illegal annexations remembered so that it never happens again."

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

Governor Holshouser Chairs N.C. Indian Cultural Center Board

Reprinted From "Indian Time"

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Inc. has moved steadily forward since its incorporation in December 1985. The 13-member board appointed by the Commission of Indian Affairs has adopted bylaws and elected former Governor James Holshouser, chairman; Ruth Revels, vice chairman; John Brooks, treasurer; and Jim Hunt, secretary. Others serving as board members are Tom Carter, Clinton Thomas, Ernest Jacobs, James Jacobs, Charles Lynch, Hector McLean, Grace Rohrer, Joffre Coe and George Esser.

The cultural center board has named Ben Jacobs and Sue Ennis, commission staff members, as assistant treasurer and assistant secretary, respectively. With these organizational activities completed, the board plans to move forward with the development of the center at a more rapid pace. As an archaeology survey of the site has been commissioned and preliminary findings show

habitation in the area more than 9,000 years ago.

Three teams of board members visited Indian cultural centers in New York, New Mexico and Washington. They will report to the full board on the operations of these centers and be part of the selection committee for awarding the market research contract for the next development phase of the North Carolina center.

The state, through Administration Secretary Grace Rohrer, has initiated the purchase of artifacts, costumes and movie set props used in the filming of the mini series "Roanoke." This production will be aired on public television stations as part of the American Playhouse Series this summer. "Roanoke" is a re-enactment of the John White expedition from England to North Carolina 400 years ago. The material purchased will be in the custody of the Commission of Indian Affairs until permanent displays can be arranged.



Jim Holshouser is shown riding in the recent Lumberton Homecoming Parade. Hol-

shouser is a particular favorite of the Lumbee Indians and remembered for his

efforts to restore Old Main on the PSU campus while he was serving as Governor.

TWO AREA LAWYERS APPOINTED BY JORDAN TO ADVISORY PANEL



Mike McIntyre



Dexter Brooks

Two Robeson County lawyers have been appointed by Lt. Governor Robert Jordan to serve on a statewide advisory panel for the North Carolina Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution.

Dexter Brooks of Pembroke and Mike McIntyre of Lumberton were named by Jordan to the Lawyers Advisory Committee of the Commission. The Commission, established by the N.C. General Assembly, began its work this year administering a three-year celebration of the bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution which was signed in 1787 and ratified by North Carolina in 1789. The state commission is coordinating its efforts with the federal Commission on the Bicentennial of the U.S. Constitution, which is chaired by the Chief Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, Warren Burger.

The N.C. Commission is chaired by Jordan and is composed of twenty-one citizens from across the state, including leaders in business, government, law, education and industry. The Commission will cooperate with other groups interested

in the Constitution, including local governments, state bar associations, chambers of commerce, historical societies, school systems and veterans' groups. It will encourage the formation of county committees for local celebrations, community forums and school projects, all in recognition of the Constitution's two-hundredth anniversary.

Brooks and McIntyre were two of nineteen attorneys selected from across the state to work with the Commission on behalf of the legal community. Brooks is a 1976 graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law and has served on the

American Indian Policy Review Commission in 1979. He has been involved in Law Day activities sponsored by the Robeson County Bar, and he has taught in the public schools and on community college and university level. McIntyre, a 1981 graduate of the UNC School of Law, is on the Executive Committee of the Citizenship Education Committee of

the American Bar Association. He is currently chairman of the Bicentennial Committee for the North Carolina Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division, and he is chairman of the Citizenship Education Committee of Robeson County Bar.

Dr. Cheryl Locklear Honored For Accomplishments Begins Private Practice



(Left) Dr. Cheryl R. Locklear, formerly public health dentist for Robeson County, receives a certificate of appreciation from Dr. Jean Spratt, representing the N.C. Committee for Dental Health.

Dr. Cheryl Locklear has begun private practice of dentistry in Red Springs. She was formerly the public health dentist for the Robeson County Health Department.

Dr. Rick Mumford, formerly of Hopkinston, Ky., has joined the staff of the Robeson County Health Department as its new public health dentist.

"I am looking forward to continuing the excellent program that was in existence here, particularly becoming involved in expanding the dental sealant program," he said.

At the health department Dr. Mumford will continue the work begun by Dr. Cheryl Locklear, who left the department earlier this year to pursue a private dental practice in Red Springs.

Dr. Jean Spratt, regional dental supervisor, recently presented a certificate of appreciation to Dr. Cheryl R. Locklear, the health department's former public health dentist.

Dr. Spratt, representing the N.C. Committee for Dental Health, cited Dr. Locklear's accomplishments in advancing the public dental health of Robeson

County.

Among her many achievements, Dr. Locklear pioneered a dental sealant program to maximize preventive dental services for children, expanded a small fluoride mouthrinse program to reach 13,000 county children, and assisted in developing oral cancer screening workshops for nurses.

"She developed a strong, stable dental public health program and in the process greatly improved rapport with the health department, with local private practitioners and the local dental society," Dr. Spratt said.

Sheriff's Department Continues Drug Crackdown

Lumberton--Drug investigators for the Robeson County Sheriff's Department are continuing a summer crackdown on marijuana production in the county, closing out another week of investigation with upwards of \$26,000 worth of the illegal drug destroyed.

According to Detectives Burnis Wilkins and Kevin Stone, officers made three investigations which netted nearly 250 plants in three separate areas of the county.

In the Pembroke area, officers discovered and seized 87 plants valued at \$15,000, growing in an old tobacco bed in a wooded area. Investigators say they have two suspects in that case but arrests have not been made to date.

Stone and Wilkins said 55 plants estimated in value at \$5,000 were taken off Carthage Road in Lumberton near the Vealord plant along the banks of the Lumber River.

According to officers, an additional 107 plants, estimated in value at \$6,000

were seized in the same area community, growing in a corn field. Investigation has determined a suspect in that case.

Officers acted on anonymous tips to seize the illegal crops and Wilkins said, "without such assistance from the public, the department would have a more difficult time in uncovering some of the crops."

Wilkins stressed use of the department's toll-free phone line for citizens to

report such activity, assuring that such calls would remain confidential. The number is 1-800-672-6161.

Sheriff Hubert Stone said of the drug seizures, "I'm pulling some officers off other things to help concentrate on the drugs. This is the season for drug harvest and we're attacking at the source of the harvest."

Stone said the department would also make use of the state's spotter plane and additional resources in its crackdown on drug production.

Locklear Joins Sheriff's Department

Pembroke--Robert L. Locklear, 38, an eight year veteran of the Pembroke Police Department joined the ranks of the Robeson County Sheriff's Department this week.

Assigned to the Robeson County Jail, Locklear is a Pembroke native and was an equipment operator before joining the Pembroke Police

Department. Married to Joyce Ann Locklear, the couple have four children: Pamela, 17; Robert Wayne, 16; Kelvin Dale, 13; and Becky Rena, 12.

A member of Elrod Baptist Church, Locklear served as an auxiliary officer of the sheriff's department for the past year.

Boston University Graduates Pembroke Resident

Boston, Mass.--Boston University has released the list of its 1986 graduates.

Among the 4,749 graduates was one resident of Pembroke, Stuart Renwick Locklear, who received a MBA in Business Administration and Management.

Speaking at the Commencement ceremonies was Boston University President

John H. Silber, who told the graduates to "stand in the tradition of our heroes ancient and modern" and that "facing the certainty of the worst, we can respond to the challenge of the best."

Boston University is the fourth largest independent university in the United States, with an enrollment of more than 27,000 students in its 16 schools and colleges.

Evidence Under Social Security

Applicants for Social Security benefits must establish their identity and prove that they satisfy all the requirements for benefits. While some documents are considered better than others to establish eligibility, Social Security is flexible in regard to the type of evidence it will accept. Even documents in a foreign language are acceptable.

For example, an applicant for retirement benefits has to show that he or she is at least 62. Although a public record of the individual's birth or a religious record of birth or baptism is preferred, other proofs are acceptable if the "best evidence" is not available.

Such other proofs are judged on the basis of when they were established or recorded and the circumstances at the time this was done. Among the factors considered in evaluating a document are the source of the information from which the record was made and the purpose for which it was made. Even its appearance, whether or not there are

indications that it has been altered, for example-could have a bearing on its acceptability.

Among the other factors evaluated are the age of the document, whether it was made under oath, and whether the source of the information stands to profit if the claim is approved. Any document submitted to establish the applicant's age must show the age or date of birth.

With these broad guidelines, a number of documents may be used to establish a person's age. They include, but are not limited to, school and marriage records, census records, employment and labor union records, and military and voting records.

Lack of needed proofs should not prevent anyone who believes he or she may be eligible for benefits from applying. The people at any Social Security office are prepared to advise an applicant about how best to proceed and to help him or her obtain the needed proofs.

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