

# Editorial And Opinion Page



**AS I SEE IT**  
Bruce Barton

## Democracy in Prospect ...

I don't know if my readers know it or not, but I am eat up with Prospect-itis. My genes run rampant with the blood of the late Nocie and Ada Locklear, my mother's parents, and Harker R. and Catherine Ann Dial Barton, my daddy's parents. All of my grandparents and parents were born and bred in Prospect. I am the son of Prospect citizens--the late **Law Barton** and **Berna Locklear Barton** who now lives near New Prospect with my sister and brother-in-law, Connee Barton and John R. Brayboy.

I am fond of Prospect because Prospectans are doers, movers and shakers. I am especially fond of Squire Harbert L. Moore, and claim second cousinship with the late and beloved brothers Herman and Adolph Dial, among others in that fair land. Old Prospect's graveyard is full of my relatives, especially on my daddy's side. My daddy was buried there in 1999 and Aunts Elsie Barton Blue Locklear and Mary Jane Barton more recently this year. Many of my mother's people, at least in Grandpa Nocie's clan, are buried in nearby New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church's graveyard. My Great Uncle Paul Locklear, now 96, might be the oldest living Prospect citizen. I'm connected!

So, as you can imagine, I am torn between being buried in either Old Prospect (Prospect United Methodist Church) or New Prospect (Prospect Holiness Methodist Church) when I die, or I might ask my survivors to let me lie in spiritual slumber in the Barton Graveyard, smackdab in the middle of the Prospect community which is a mere two or three miles from Pembroke. If my folks do what I want them to do, I will be buried somewhere in Prospect when I leave this green life place.

I'm bragging about my Prospect connection this week because I felt a great deal of pride Monday night at the Public Schools of Robeson County's Board of Education meeting when dozens of Prospect citizens crowded the air-conditionless board room to politically flex their muscles and claim their democratic inheritance.

More people should "politic" like Prospect. Their spokesmen, including Harold Jacobs, and especially Eddie Moore, were eloquent and articulate in pressing their needs. The school board listened and accommodated them. It was democracy at its best, and a highlight for many of us who have not been unduly impressed by our stalwart leaders of late. Monday night was a positive political highlight film for Indian people, and all people in Robeson County.

**What the fuss is all about ...** There is a mold problem at Prospect School, and the Prospect citizens insist that something be done about it.

The school board figured out how to accommodate the parents of the Prospect students Monday night and agreed to allow a second opinion on whether or not the mold is gone, and whether, in fact, it is now safe for Prospect students to use the school site.

The board unanimously agreed to allow Eugene Cole of DynCorp, in Morrisville, to conduct the second test on the school. The second test follows one by Carolina Environmental, Inc. of Cary who gave the school a clean bill of health last Friday. Cole was the first choice of the Prospect parents.

Jacobs and Moore addressed the board and requested that the board allow Cole to inspect the school and take air and dust samples a second time. The parents wanted to err on the side of safety for the children.

Jacobs said, "We feel it would be a good faith gesture for the Robeson County School board to pay the expense." The board agreed.

After eloquent testimony by Moore and Jacobs, the board agreed to the test with the cost not to exceed \$4,900 (Cole's estimate) without board approval." Jacobs did note, in an aside, as he gestured to the full house, that "If it cost \$15,000, we've got a group of people to raise the money." A chorus of "ummm hummmm" followed.

In the meantime, until Cole's report, Prospect United Methodist Church is graciously allowing the school to use many of its classrooms to alleviate the problem. And school began a week late at Prospect because of the mold problem. Students, according to Supt. Barry Harding and staff, will not be allowed back into the contaminated classrooms until results of the inspections are received, hopefully, within a few days. The board voted unanimously to allow Cole to take air and dust samples during the week of August 20.

Cole's test will replace a second test originally planned by Carolina Environmental Inc. of Cary.

It was a positive sign, and gives democracy a good name for a change, in Ol' Robeson. Dr. Harding, the board, and Prospect are to be commended for allowing common sense and graciousness to carry the day. **Other asides ...**

The board also agreed to designate **August 31** as the first make up day. Since school at Prospect was set back a week, the days will have to be made up. Dr. Harding promised more information soon on how to make up the rest of the week.

Prospect parents plan another meeting tonight (August 16) at Prospect United Methodist Church to discuss the board's decision.

The board also heard encouraging news from Dr. Bruce Walters, Associate Supt. of Curriculum, as he noted that the school system is expecting nine "Schools of Distinction" to be named very soon, following his presentation of positive and encouraging improvement in test results by the students of Robeson County.

And Prospect board member Mitchell "Bosco" Locklear apologized for his boorish behavior at a recent board meeting when he threatened

harm to just elected board chairman Patrick Bullard. Bullard reciprocated and said that he and Locklear would continue to work together for the good of the children. **My God! I can't stand anymore good news.** Enough already! Let's just hope that Mr. Cole's test results will be positive so that the children of Prospect can return to their school and the parents can return to their way of life before mold became the dominant topic at the dinner table.

# Editorially Speaking

## The Calvary, The Scout, the Board of Education and the Continuation of Klan Mentality

Well if we had any doubt about whether there was a conspiracy between the daily editor and the Terry Smith cohorts to "take back" the political power in the county, the editor removed it in his Sunday editorial. As he was discussing re-districting the board of education districts, he stated that the re-districting was definitely being done to accommodate Patrick Bullard, chairman of the school board. The editor said that if we didn't like it, we should wait until election time and vote Bullard out. Or something to that effect. Those who understand his subtleties and nuances know what he was saying. Don't question the legality of districting a seated board member into the district he is elected to represent. At least, don't question the legality of re-districting definitely done to keep Bullard on the board because he is working with Terry Smith and others of Klan-mentality who want to control the board of education. They also want to take over other boards and positions. Nevertheless, we question the legality of it. We are beginning to wonder if the Klan-mentality group seemingly led by Terry Smith with the racist Donnie Douglas, adding supposedly private strategy, think that they are the Calvary of long ago and that Patrick Bullard is an Indian scout, hired by them to lead them to the Indian tribe!! You know how that worked. They would always have an Indian out front, working for them, and when they reached the tribe of Indians, they would massacre as many as possible and usually they included the scout. We are assured that if Robert Deese or Gloria Lowry were illegally seated or suspected of being so, the daily newspaper would be calling for their immediate resignation. What causes a different out cry when it is Patrick Bullard? We all know the answer to that.....They believe Bullard will lead them to the place of slaughter, symbolically speaking of course.

If you doubt that, you definitely did not get their coverage of Monday night's board meeting. They gave Terry Smith credit for calming the people of

Prospect who were concerned over mold in the school. Actually the motions were made by Robert Deese and Mitchell Bosco Locklear, both residents of that community. You couldn't tell that by reading your daily newspaper. If we didn't know better, we would believe that Terry Smith was the "Savior" of the children at Prospect.... What a joke!! We remember Terry Smith from his activity in the Save Our Schools Movement! Come on, Donnie, that was a little blatant, even for one believed to be a racist such as yourself. What was the SOS Movement? It was in reality a group of Terry Smith minded whites who wanted to seemingly "Save" the white Schools from Indian and Black encroachment. Do we believe Smith's attitude has changed? Not for one minute. At no time during his service on the board of education has he demonstrated any other mind set except "if it ain't white, it ain't right." We hope Patrick Bullard is not so hell bent on paying a personal vendetta with Dr. Barry Harding that he cannot see the forest for the trees. They don't have a Calvary anymore so there is no more need for a scout. We call on Mr. Bullard once again to do the right thing....Break that allegiance with those folks who demonstrate Klan mentality....They are not your friends!!!

Bullard, of course, wants his new house in the district he represents. If it isn't illegal why not leave District 5 as it is? We question the legality of it because of Bullard's own actions. Recently, Pearlene Revels, we understand, called and asked to be allowed to address the board of education. Bullard said "no problem." A couple of hours later he called her and stated that he had spoken with some of the board members and she would not be allowed to address the board. Come on, Patrick, you are in the middle of re-districting the county and you cannot let the Supervisor of the Robeson County Board of Elections address the issue???? We publicly question Bullard's motives on that one. Which board members did he call? Terry Smith perhaps??? Millicent Nealy???? Don't let them use you like that, Patrick. Do the right thing....If you are illegally seated, resign..... by Connee Brayboy, Editor

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Can Editorials Be Factual?

I want to give a standing ovation to Mr. Bruce Barton's editorial in the Thursday, August 2, 2001, issue of the Carolina Indian Voice, specifically as it addresses we Indians. His statement that "many Indians are especially good at ripping each other to shreds" is clearly evident in occurrences today. I have been a victim of what Mr. Barton is conveying about Indians by being Board Chairman of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center (NCICC). It seems that we have net the enemy and the enemy is we.

What Mr. Barton failed to articulate is that some Indians have hatred and bigotry in their hearts. These ills will not win over integrity and equality that is practiced today at the NCICC. If the energy spent on bashing and attempting to destroy the good works of the Cultural Center was used proactively towards the Center, Indians could have a superb facility to showcase American Indian arts and crafts, including recreation. Instead, rather than negotiate and compromise, Indian forces hold meetings for bashing and developing negative strategy without defining substance and justification for their mission. They have called the media, county health department, and other regulatory agencies in attempts to close down operations of the Center. If the NCICC had a Damage Control System, it would take years to repair the damaged caused by these forces in terms of marketing the Center. Media statewide has covered the events. I would hope that Indians and others who care and respect the Cultural Center would reject such for the sake of their Center.

It is no secret to any of us that our NCICC is beset by challenges. They include and emerging cultural/diversity boom, new competitors in the horizon, constrained public and private funding, growing resistance to enhancement, eroding infrastructure, and dealing with negative image strategies.

I believe the Indians of this state should commit themselves now to new ways of delivering Indian culture and recreational services to a demanding population seeking new knowledge. According to various cultural and arts publications, we are witnessing a revolution in the possibilities for learning more and more in the cultural arts. The NCICC is an excellent vehicle form which to start.

Gene Brayboy  
Board Chairman

**The Carolina Indian Voice** is published every Thursday by First American Publications, 207 Union Chapel Road-Pembroke, NC 28372. Publisher-Bruce Barton. Editor-Connee Brayboy. See Editorials on Page 2; Obituaries on Page 5; Classifieds on Page 9. The Carolina Indian Voice is a weekly publication owned and operated by Indians and has been publishing continuously since 1973.

## A Comparative Look at Credentials: Smith & Clark

To the Editor:

As a political observer and participant in Robeson County, I wish to address the recent promotion of my brother-in-law, Stanley Gene Clark, to the position of **Judiciary District Manager**.

Donald (Don) Smith, presently serving as Chief Probation/Parole Officer has filed a EEOC complaint stating he was overlooked for the promotion and that he is the most qualified.

I wish to share some information I have gathered. I simply offer a credentials comparison between the two gentlemen and will let the facts speak for themselves.

Donald (Don) Smith attended Pembroke State University and earned a BA in Political Science. He also has a Master's Degree in Educational Administration from Fayetteville State University. He began employment at Robeson Community College in 1981 and was employed there until 1989. While there he was Director of Placement, Recruitment, and Student Activities.

In November 1989 he became Assistant Training Coordinator with Adult Parole. When Probation and Parole Services merged with Adult Parole, he moved into the position of Intensive Probation/Parole Officer where he served for four years before moving into his present position.

Stanley Gene Clark attended Pembroke State University where he earned a BS Degree in Business Administration. He later returned to Pembroke State University where he earned a degree in Spanish. This additional study is very important in the county at this time because he is

bi-lingual which is almost a necessity with the amount of Spanish speaking people in the area.

Furthering his education, he also attended the North Carolina Justice Academy in Salemburg, NC. In addition, he has an Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate from the North Carolina Sheriff's Education and Training Standard. Also Mr. Clark has earned an Advanced Corrections Certificate through the North Carolina Department of Justice in the Criminal Justice Education and Training Standards Commission.

His employment career has been varied and includes Lumbee Guaranty Bank from 1975 until 1977; the Maxton City Schools from 1978-79 where he served as a counselor. He began his employment with the Robeson County Sheriff's Department in 1979 and served as a Deputy Sheriff until 1982. He was a Line Sergeant from 1982 until 1984 with the Robeson County Sheriff's Department. In 1984 he earned much experience in his position as an Investigator with the Robeson County Sheriff's Department, serving in that capacity until 1989 when he began his employment with the North Carolina Department of Probation and Parole. (Now the Division of Community Corrections) He began his employment there as a probation officer and since that time he has risen through the ranks of that department also. His next position there was as an Intensive Probation Parole Officer, then Chief Probation/Parole Officer. And most recently his promotion to Judiciary District Manager.

Madie Rae Locklear  
Prospect

## 11,000 People Cannot Be Wrong, But the Daily Editor Is

To the Editor:

The other week, when you published my editorial about the facts as I know them to be true in regard to the 2000 Strike at the Wind Art Dinner and Auction, I noticed that the editor of the Robesonian, who thinks he is running The New York Post, looked for him "another fish to fry." In his last editorial, he used the results from the website and said that 78% of the voters said the money should have been used somewhere else. Instead of using the beginning word in his website question of "should," he should have used another word because 78% of the voters said "yes" which means they agree with the spending of the money on the painting. But, he said that they "agreed with him." Does he think that these people who agreed with him are going to be the ones who replace Dr. Barry Harding with Mr. Patrick Bullard? We all know this is what some people want to happen and it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure that one out. Douglas also persecuted one of the people opinions that was posted on the Message Board without having the nerve to print the person's name so that they would not have been deemed by the community as a hero.

It is time for a history lesson, Mr. Robesonian! when there are well over 3,500 people in this county who cannot read your newspaper. Also, the fact that perhaps the writer was one of those who wanted to go to school and could not because back in the 60's when I came down here, it was not mandatory for a person who works on the farm or wherever to get an education. If he wanted to challenge someone, then he should have chal-

lenged me! Civil Rights did not come to Robeson County until the Civil Rights Act of '64. So, Mr. Douglas, wake up! This is Robeson County and you are not the editor of The New York Post.

Everyone is entitled to their opinions and an opinion is like a mouth, everybody has one. It is how you use it that counts. Have you published anything other than negative stories about our drama this year? If you have, none of us have read them. Now what does that say about a newspaper that is suppose to cover the community? If we went with them to a movie, they would probably want us to sit in the balcony because we are not the same color as Douglas. You would think that he is a member of the Klan or something.

While there were less than 200 voters on the website of the Robesonian, there have been over 11,000 documented visitors to the Public Schools of Robeson County Indian Education Resource Center since this painting was hung on its walls. People come from far and wide to visit this center, and I do not know of any place in the county that has had this kind of attendance in one year. This is not only a place for students but also for those who want to learn about Indian culture. I have never heard of any attendance record for the Native American Resource Center at UNC-Pembroke. If there was \$1 for every one who has seen that painting, and for those who did not register, it would have paid for itself and another one. So, when it comes down to the opinion of less than 200 compared to the documented visitation of over 11,000, just who do you think is wrong?

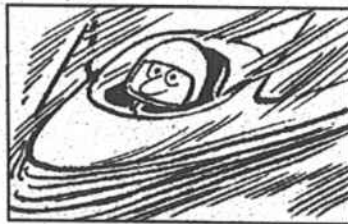
Most people think the Robesonian editor is a racist. I think that if he realized that it is the Robesonian and not the New York Post that he is trying to operate, there might be hope for him yet. I have seen several of the editors of the Robesonian leave because of the environment in this county. When there was an opportunity to go on to bigger and better things, they jumped at the opportunity.

When staff of the Robesonian decide to write anything about the PSRC Indian Education Resource Center, they need to go and pay a visit. Before they take another phone tip and tell the person who the article is written about that he will let them listen to a tape, then they go back and tell their friend who in turn called the Robesonian asked that this person not be allowed to listen to the message because they will know their voice, it makes me wonder if they know the meaning of the word "setup." Do they not understand?

While Pennie Arokisamy lied to the cast and others about the painting and has cost the drama thousands of dollars, she did not to the best of my knowledge show her face at the drama this season. She tried to make her own. The only other thing that I can say is we all know who we can trust and it is not her.

I really thing that the Robesonian could use a NEW EDITOR who knows what living in the county is all about because this one is looking at the world through "rose colored glasses" and not seeing the reality of life in the county as we know it.

Vinita Maynor Clark  
Pembroke, NC



The prefix Mach is used to describe supersonic speed. When a plane moves at the speed of sound it is Mach 1.



Mexican dollars, minted in 1790, could be chopped into eight pieces called bits, or into quarters, called two bits.

## Detroit 300 Great Lakes Champion Pow Wow

The Detroit 300 Great Lakes Champion Pow Wow will celebrate Detroit's Native American heritage. The cultural celebration will include drum and dance competitions, a large "traders' market" of traditional arts and crafts, and special events for the family in honor of Detroit's 300th birthday.

This is an alcohol and substance free event. The event will start on Saturday, September 22, at 11:00 a.m. and go until 9:00 p.m., then again on Sunday, September 23, at 11:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m.

Admission prices are: adults \$7.00, children 12 & under \$4.00, and seniors age 50 and over \$4.00. It will be at the Fairgrounds Park at Michigan State Fairgrounds. (8 Mile Road and Woodward Avenue in Detroit, Michigan.)

For general information call 1-800-DETROIT or visit www.detroit300.org.