

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

AS I SEE IT
Bruce Barton



UPDATE ON THE PEMBROKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE & AGRICULTURE, INC...

Word has reached us that the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Inc. is holding a board of directors meeting tonight (Thursday) at the Pembroke Town Hall at 7:30 p.m. The board of directors will discuss possibly holding an open meeting for the general purpose of accepting membership from the businessmen, professional people, etc. who might be interested in joining the, until now, mostly inactive organization.

I have talked to many businessmen who have expressed an interest in joining the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Inc. They tend to believe that an active chamber of commerce would be good for their businesses. I agree. And I take the above development as a positive step in the right direction.

I personally would like very much to join the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce & Agriculture, Inc. I believe my membership would be good for The Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper and Print Shop and the Town of Pembroke. More next week...

MRS. GRACE EPPS IS A REMARKABLE LADY

Some people notice nuances... others pay them no mind; but I have seldom criticized our educators. Most of my criticism has been directed at the administration and those who presume to know what is best for us and our children without asking our opinion. The superintendent of the county school system ought to be a qualified Indian and the school board ought to at least reflect the pupil enrollment which is 60% Indian, 20% Black and 20% White.

But a remarkable lady is retiring from service with the Robeson County School Unit as a teacher and supervisor. She has served well and I personally admire her very much. She is one who worked within the system and the system is better for her forbearance and understanding and insight. She did not stop and question the way things are as much as she began from her particular focal point and worked outward to make the system work better.

All of us owe her a debt of gratitude. I shall miss her, and the board of education will be



PEMBROKE DRUG CENTER

Allergy sufferers: here is good advice

People can make fun of allergies. Yet for nearly 10 million who suffer from the more serious asthmatic form, it is no joking matter. An untreated youngster, for example, may wind up with physical weakness, personality problems, heart damage, as well as disabling lung disease. Competitive sports are usually ruled out for them, and "no," they don't always outgrow their asthmatic conditions.

hard pressed to replace her. Her motto is "God bless the children."

I hope her retirement is peaceful and enjoyable and fruitful. We have lost a Warrior for Education.

WHY I AM SUPPORTING CARNELL LOCKLEAR FOR A SEAT ON THE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

My daddy and mama taught me never to be biggity and "above people." I like me mostly because I am not stuck up and do not consider myself better than anyone else.

I am a Robeson County Indian pure and simple. I have picked cotton and cropped tobacco and I still talk with an Elizabethan twang. I am no better than anyone else BUT I AM NO LESS! I am proud of who I am and what I am.

Carnell Locklear is a man who will speak up when the need arises. I believe he will represent the little people like myself on the board of education. I believe he will not simply "go along with the program" because that is the popular thing to do.

I believe Carnell Locklear deserves a chance to be on the county board of education because he is an Indian and is, I think, eminently qualified to serve the best interests of our children.

Some of our Indian leaders, in high places, have pooh pawed his chances simply because he is a Republican. I have heard rumors that many people in the county are telling the voters that they cannot vote for Carnell Locklear because he is a Republican. That is not true. You can vote for Carnell Locklear... if you want to. I am supporting Carnell Locklear because he is the under dog and has been, I think, needlessly maligned because of his party affiliation. Carnell Locklear is an Indian; after all, HE IS A LOCKLEAR!

And I like the under dog. I want people to have the right to vote for who they want to. If Indian people do not want to vote for Carnell Locklear... well, that is their business and I would not dare question that right. What I question is the mis statement of fact that they cannot vote for him if they want to. I support his right to run for election and I am going to vote for him because I think he is a good man who will represent the best interests of all the children.

Put it before them briefly so they will read it, clearly so they will appreciate it, picturesquely so they will remember it, and, above all accurately so they will be guided by its lights.

-Joseph Pulitzer



Dear Friends:

This afternoon I dropped in on the first session of the literacy workshop being held on the PSU campus. The workshop is for college students and others interested in becoming volunteer tutors. Second and third sessions are set for the next two Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m. Room 204, Library Building. If you would like to learn about the Laubach method, you are invited to be there this coming Tuesday, Oct. 19. Those attending for the first time will be filled in on how to teach the first lessons in Book 1.

For details you may call me at 521-4691, Vernon Hazel Locklear at 521-4323 or the Center at 738-5204.

MOTHER-IN-LAW

My mother-in-law, Mrs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Beware of tracks at Rennert

To whom it may concern:

I am a parent of children attending Rex-Rennert School. I am also a bus driver for the school. I also live 1/2 miles from the Railroad Crossing where so many lives have been taken. I cross that track 6 times a day, carrying approximately 73 students, including 2 of my own. I have a lot of responsibility. I care what happens to all those children as much as I do my own. I have had to cross that track some mornings when it was so foggy you could hardly see. When it's raining really hard, it is extremely dangerous. There are branches from trees blocking my view from both directions. We are suppose to stop 10 feet away from the track but at 10 feet there's no way in the world I could see either way. I have to be on the track almost before I can see. There is a dire need for some kind of signal there to let you know when a train is coming. I know there are caution lights at one crossing, but they are only there to let you know there is a railroad there. Most people know that, but if there were lights telling you when the train was coming, it would be a much safer place.

Most of the tracks up here are double tracks. When a train is on one track you can't see on the other until the train is long gone. One day you or your loved ones might come by there and get hit with the train. Maybe you don't care but I'm sure the family of the Hall's care very much. I know the trains have to run but please can't something be done about these tracks? People's lives are more important than the money it would take to put them up. If I had the money I would put them up myself and I'm sure there are more parents who agree with me. Please take my letter into consideration.

Thank you, Mrs. Nadine Hunt Rt. 3, Box 73-C Shannon, N.C. 28386

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REFLECTIONS

Lizzie Oxendine, is home from the hospital. She appreciates the interest shown in her during her illness.

BENEFIT CELEBRATION

All of us at the Church and Community Center are busy as can be inviting people to the Center's Benefit Celebration this Saturday night at the Jaycee Fairground- where the county fair was recently held.

The "Benefit" starts at 7 p.m. Besides a meal (which includes barbeque and chicken) there will be a speaker and three singing groups.

Each ticket is made up in the form of a receipt for a \$5.00 donation to the Center. Even the VISTA and CETA programs depend on having a certain amount raised by local people here in Robeson County.

Tickets can be bought from staff members or at Pembroke Drug Center. If you cannot attend the banquet, any donation you might wish to make would be appreciated.

We are very grateful to friends of the Center who are donating their time as well as for those donating their money to help us carry out the many different programs under the direction of the Center.

PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE

I make so many mistakes. Here is a prayer for guidance I am trying to remember to pray before making each decision:

Dear Father, If this is wrong, help me to know it. If this is right, help me to do it. Amen

Perhaps many of us will be seeing each other Saturday night at the Jaycee Fairground for the "Benefit Celebration."

With my sincere best wishes to each of you,
ALTA OXENDINE

Don't Vote Party- Vote for the Candidate

Between now and the coming election, you will be urged repeatedly to "vote a straight ticket." And let's face it- it is a temptation to make one x at the bottom of the ballot and be done with it.

But don't do it!

There are good Democrats. There are good Republicans. And we need those good candidates, no matter which ballot they will be listed on. But once you x one ballot, you have set your right to vote for a single person on the other ballot, no matter how desperately we need that person.

Carnell Locklear, candidate for the Robeson County Board of Education, will be listed on the Republican ballot. His name will be alone. But you will be required to mark an "x" beside his name in order to vote for him.

Robeson County, the State of North Carolina and the nation at large all need BOTH Parties represented in order to have the best possible representation. If one party or the other is in absolute control, how are we going to receive any constructive ideas from the other party? It's a little like trying to walk with one boot off and one boot on. You are totally without any checks and balances, and the party in power can do whatever it pleases, however right or wrong, without anyone having the power to say, "nay."

That isn't the kind of situation that makes for healthy disposal of the public's business.

We need Carnell Locklear on the Robeson County Board of Education. I feel certain that a majority of the voters know this, and want to support him. But the simple truth is, if you vote a straight Democratic ticket, you can't vote for Carnell Locklear, too.

Before the general election four years ago, Gov. Jim Holshouser kicked off his campaign right here in Robeson County with some soul-

searching words for Blacks and Indians of the county. The county's Democrats, he charged, were taking the Black vote and the Indian vote here for granted. "When the time comes that either party can take you for granted," he said truthfully, "neither party will do anything for you. Why should they? They don't have to do anything to get your vote. But I can promise you one thing, if you will vote for the Republican Party just this once, you will find both parties at your door, asking you what they can do for you."

The people of North Carolina took Jim Holshouser at his word and gave him to the state as the first Republican Governor of North Carolina in 80 years!

I have yet to hear one North Carolina voter, white, Black or Indian, say that Jim Holshouser led them wrong. I wish I could say as much of the President of the United States, elected the same year.

I'm saying, vote for the candidate. Don't vote blindly for any man's entire party with two little slashes of your pen. The time has come when we must pick and choose carefully. No man who fails to meet with our full and well-considered approval should be elected automatically, just because it's a little more convenient to vote for him.

Carnell Locklear will serve as well. His metal has been tested and proved over and over again. He is not the kind to break ranks and run simply because the going gets tough. He has demonstrated his deep interest in the education of our children since 1970. He is a tireless worker and an endless crusader for what he believes to be right. To lose him on the Robeson County Board of Education just because it will take a little more care in voting would be an incalculable loss.

I am proud to call Carnell Locklear my friend.

LEW BARTON

NIEA Convention held in New Mexico

The National Indian Education Association's (NIEA) Eighth Annual Convention was held at the Albuquerque Convention Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico on Sept. 27-30, 1976.

The program began Monday morning, Sept. 27, with opening ceremonies and keynote addresses by Senator Joseph Montoya of New Mexico and Dr. William Demmert, Director, Educational Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The theme of this year's convention was "Education and Knowledge Are Power." Native American educators, students, tribal leaders, and BIA and OIE representatives convened to discuss and evaluate the educational needs of the American Indian.

President Ford, in a message which was read during the opening session on Monday, congratulated the National Indian Education Association on its accomplishments and reaffirmed his support for the Congressional Findings and Declaration of Policy embodied in the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act which he signed 20 months ago. He said, "For the First Americans, the past has often been stained and shameful. In the last few years, your hard work and the co-operation of our federal government have been dramatically turning this tide. Today, the future for Indian children is full of newfound freedom, opportunity and self-fulfillment."

Workshops which were given in the four days included such vital topics as evaluation and selection of media materials, post-secondary education (college and vocational), and Library Assistance programs for American Indian librarians.

Other scheduled events included entertainment by National Native American Musicians (Bonnie Jo Hunt, Ed Wapp, Rosalie Jones, Makull, and XIT), a pow-wow with ceremonial dancing and singing.

ing, and Native American exhibits.

The 17 member original board of directors of the NIEA were honored Tuesday night at the evening banquet. They were presented framed certificates by NIEA president, Dr. Rick St. Germaine.

They were elected to the board in 1970 when the NIEA was incorporated. Board members honored, either in person or by proxy, are: Rosemary Christenson, Marigold Linton, Dillon Platero, Elgie Raymond Elizabeth Whiteman, Roger Buffalohead, Dr. William Demmert, Robert Powless, Joe Sando, Eugene Sekaquapewa, Dick West, Jr., Dr. Will Antell, Sparlin Norwood, David Risling, Hershel Shaumant and pothumously, Ned Hatahili and John Winchester.

The local steering committee for the convention also was honored. Dr. St. Germaine, banquet speaker, discussed "The Role of NIEA in Indian Education." Makull and XIT presented a concert in the auditorium after the banquet.

At a luncheon Tuesday, Albert Shanker, national president of the American Federation of Teachers, spoke on what role the union can play in Indian education. He also cited the strides made in teacher's salaries in the 15-year history of the union, and the benefits beyond salaries that the union contributes to education in the broader sense.

Luncheon speaker for Wednesday was Dr. Paul Salmon, head of the American Association of School Administrators.

The convention concluded on Thursday, Sept. 30. The highlight of the closing session was the announcement of the new 15-member National Advisory Council on Indian Education. This council is appointed by the President of the United States. Earl H. Oxendine, a Lumbee of Pembroke, was appointed to the Council.

An Editorial Viewpoint: Pembroke vs Lumberton

Robeson today is embroiled in a struggle of traumatic, earth shattering proportions; the outcome of which will decide nothing less than the destiny of every man, woman, and child within our county. On the one hand, we have the white political establishment which has controlled Robeson since Reconstruction. Traditionally, the seat of power for this establishment has been Lumberton; every white county-wide elected public official, save David Parnell of Parkton, resides within the Lumberton area. The white Lumberton political establishment has been able to dominate county politics through skillful use of several factors: the large white vote in Lumberton; disunity among the other white towns; fear, on the parts of whites in general, of Indian and Black political power; mutual distrust between Indians and Blacks; and the king-of-the-mountain syndrome, i.e. a natural reluctance on the part of most people - Indian, Black or white - to challenge the established political order. In its heyday, the white Lumberton political establishment made of Robeson a closed society: If one was not white and inside the system, then he was definitely out, period. People were bought and sold just as fully as were slaves on the auction block over a hundred years ago.

Today, however, several forces are battering the walls of this old order; a revolution is sweeping the land. One major factor of which has been the emergence of the Pembroke area as a force to be reckoned with in Robeson politics. Since the forced retirement of most of the old Indian Pembroke political figures, an aroused younger Indian political cadre has made the Pembroke area a hot-bed of political activity; a catalyst for revolution and reform. Such activism spawned the Save Old Main Movement, the Task Force to Break Double-Voting, and, more recently, the Effort to Reapportion the County Commissioner Districts. The rallying cry of the group has been INDIAN POWER. The vast majority of the people in the Pembroke area now realize that there is a fundamental difference between themselves and the people of Lumberton: Pembroke is Indian, liberal, and tolerant; while Lumberton is white, conservative, and racist. One need only compare voting trends between the two areas for proof of this simple truth. For illustrative purposes, we need only consider the two white-middle-class precincts of Lumberton, number one and eight; together with the Black Lumberton precinct, number six. In the recent presidential primary, white Lumberton supported George Wallace, while Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton supported Jimmy Carter. On the same day white Lumberton voted against the statewide bond issue for higher education, even though Lumberton receives more benefit from the presence of Pembroke State University than any other town, including Pembroke. Naturally, Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton voted for the bond issue.

In the Democratic gubernatorial race, Jim Hunt received overwhelming support from Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton, while he received only a minority of the votes cast in white Lumberton. The same pattern existed in the lieutenant governor's race, where Howard Lee won in Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton, while losing, of course, in white Lumberton to Jimmy Green.

The oldest rat in the Democratic barn, Thad Eure, carried white Lumberton, while his

young liberal challenger, George Breece carried Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton. Similarly, consumer advocate Lillian Woo carried Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton only to lose in white Lumberton to incumbent Henry Bridges in the state auditor's race. In the labor commissioner's race, liberal John Brooks soundly defeated Jessie Ray Scott in Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton, while losing to her in white Lumberton. Further, liberal Craig Phillips ran away from his more conservative opponent Ben Currin in Indian Pembroke and Black Lumberton, but lost narrowly in white Lumberton.

The above summary of voting trends clearly reveals that there is a basic difference between the middle-class Indian of Pembroke and his white counterpart in Lumberton. In spite of comparable education, there are basic differences in the philosophy espoused by each group. The Indian is more liberal and much more tolerant of other racial groups. The white is extremely conservative and a white supremacist at heart. It is a simple fact of life that the Indian can only find political allies in the Black community. Indians and Blacks are far more attuned in their thinking than are other whites, who seem to be far different from the other two racial groups. The recent judicial race clearly demonstrates the point: Oxendine carried Indian Pembroke by 9 to 1 and Black Lumberton by 5 to 1, while losing in white Lumberton by over 4 to 1.

The 1974 run-off in the sheriff's race compared with the 1976 judicial race clearly shows that a non-white candidate - Indian or Black - must have a heavy Pembroke vote if he is to be successful in a county-wide race. Further, the heavy Pembroke vote is there; one need only ask. The formula to political success in Robeson is very simple: An Indian or Black candidate need only make a frank appeal to the heavy Pembroke vote. Pembroke is homogeneous. Pembroke is Indian. Pembroke is populous. The time has come for the Pembroke area to assert itself. No other area in the county can challenge Lumberton in the sheer margin of votes for a candidate. The hopes of Indians throughout the county must of necessity rest on the voter turn-out in Pembroke. If the Indian people are to succeed, the Pembroke precinct must, at the very minimum, cancel out the votes of white Lumberton's two largest precincts, numbers one and eight.

The 1978 elections will be for all the marbles; let us begin to prepare now. The 1976 general elections will be the last warm-up that we will have before the 1978 sheriff's race. We have at our disposal a very clear cut race: Carnell Locklear versus Shirley Britt. Shirley Britt has demonstrated total indifference to the needs of the Pembroke community. Do our children really need four years of Ms. Britt's racial attitudes? We have a clear alternative: Carnell Locklear is Indian to the toenails. Does anyone in Robeson doubt that Carnell Locklear will not speak out for what is right? We need Carnell Locklear on that Board of Education. In order to be successful, Carnell Locklear needs the Pembroke vote. Let us send our white friends in Lumberton a message: We accept the challenge. The Pembroke vote is available to any candidate - Indian, Black, or white - who represents CHANGE. We fully intend to VOTE INDIAN. We fully intend to VOTE FOR EVERY LOCKLEAR ON THE BALLOT.