

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. It's sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things.



—BLACK ELK

Appetizer Kabobs
You can make a colorful assortment of kabobs for the appetizer tray easily with canned luncheon meat. Simply cut the luncheon meat into 3/4-inch cubes and thread each cube on a wooden pick with a slice of sweet-sour pickle and a canned pineapple chunk that has been rolled in flaked coconut.

—An Editorial Viewpoint—

Treasure Of The Lumber

Reprinted from The Fayetteville Times

Moore County's elaborate countywide water-sewer system ought to be carefully assessed for environmental impact on the Lumber River. That assessment can take place after the results are in on March 29 when county voters are to decide whether to approve a \$12 million bond issue to launch the system.

Moore County authorities have promised such a study (to be undertaken by the engineer for the system), if the voters approve the bond on March 29. That study should involve more people than just the engineers who made the plans. It should involve experts in growth planning as well as in water resources.

The environmental impact of the project, which would create one of the most elaborate such public works systems in a rural area anywhere in the country, ought really to have been considered earlier. But it is the nature of engineers to largely ignore such considerations when the opportunity is presented. The Moore County project was put into planning before environmental impact requirements were written into law.

The system would undoubtedly serve its main purpose, which is to promote industrial and population growth in the county. Moore County does indeed need industrial growth. Despite being home to famous golf resorts, the county has one of the lowest family income levels in the state.

But such projects can also promote building sprawl and unwise location of industrial and commercial facilities, and invite developers to develop terrain which would best be left in its natural state.

The proposed system has many safeguards in it, especially in its sewage treatment provisions. The treatment plant would be of the so-called "tertiary" type. Such units return waste water essentially

in the same form taken from a source except for phosphates.

The real worry of environmentalists is the longrange impact of such an elaborate public works system would be to promote industrial and urban sprawl on headwaters of the river and even damage the ecology of the river downstream. They have noted that studies to justify the water-sewer system estimated a population of over 135,000 in the area in two decades, compared to less than one-third of that now. Even proponents of the system concede the figures may be nothing more than an engineer's pipe dream.

Before any such system is carried to final form, the impact of such growth on the lower Lumber should be assessed scientifically and in a policy sense. The Lumber is one of the state's finest natural watercourses. In its lower reaches, it is immensely rich swamp-and-river resource. That area is too valuable in its natural state to be offered up on any altar of industrial growth upstream. There are alternatives which could allow Moore to grow without damaging the Lumber.

A thorough-going environmental study could well provide recommendations for cooperative use of the river and headwaters, use which could serve needs of people all along the river. The Lumber is, after all, not merely a potential water-sewer resource of the people of Moore County. It is a natural treasure for people all along its course. Indeed, it is a natural treasure of all the people of North Carolina (and South Carolina, too, which knows it as the Pee Dee). It can serve all of them properly used as a total resource and such projects as the Moore water-sewer system are held strictly accountable in overall use plan.



AS I SEE IT
Bruce Barton

LUMBEE RIVER ELECTRIC COOP MEETS TODAY IN SPECIAL SESSION

The Board of Directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation is calling for a special session today. The meeting is being held at the Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium and the session began at 10 a.m. this morning.

As just about every one knows, I am a strong supporter of the present board of directors. I respect them for being fore-runners and developing a real listening post for country folks like myself. I especially today and respect Rev. Elias Rogers because he brought the lion to bay with his lawsuit and now the board of directors is truly reflective of the membership at large. Rev. Rogers persevered and made the coop responsive to minorities too.

Too, I believe the coop has justifiable reason for the spiraling electric bills. I, too, as the management does, believe most of the fault lies with an unresponsive federal power commission and the haughtiness of generating plants like Carolina Power and Light Company, plus the strong arm tactics of energy producing countries abroad. Too, the times are a little crazy these days.

The present administration of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation seems honestly to be trying to grapple with the "times that try men's souls."

That is why I find it hard to justify this special meeting. Why? Are they over reacting to the celebrated consumer committee that is asking them hard but answerable questions? Why not just tell the committee what they want to know and let's get on with running the coop.

I for one cannot attend the special meeting. If the meeting was held in Cumberland County to discourage attendance and participation by those who have questions to ask then I too strongly disagree with the motive seemingly behind the meeting. I am for democracy period. I might disagree with the questioner but I will defend their right to seek answers.

I have a newspaper to get out today and I do not have time to go to Cumberland County to read graphs and hear experts discourse on generating power and the hard winter that we have recently endured. I too want reason returned to my electric bill reading.

I say answer the consumer committee forthrightly. Let them see the books...and

anyone else who wants to see them, if they are consumers. They deserve the answers to the questions they are asking. I for one believe the coop is being run reasonably well. If it is not, then maybe the committee has a point or two to make.

There are many like me who support the coop whole heartedly but only if we can justify it. To date, I have been able to do so. I think the present board should stand firm and deal with the questions by answering them. After answering the questions...well, let's get on with developing a coop that is reflective and representative of all the consumers. But the fact of the matter is that I do not have time to travel to Cumberland County to listen to lectures by experts. I too have a job to do; and that is putting out an exciting and interesting news paper. That is what I will be doing today while this "special meeting" is going on.

And if the committee has enough petitioners for another special meeting...well, let's hold it. Democracy is an impartial lady. She just exists and does not necessarily satisfy everyone. As long as no one is denied a right to vote I am in favor of democracy in any form, including a special meeting by consumers. I believe in democracy and the threat of Cecil Dunn not withstanding, I am prepared to stand by the wishes of all the people, as long as no one is denied the right to express himself via dialogue or the all powerful vote.

AFTER TWO HUNDRED YEARS OF NOTHING... ARE THE INDIANS MOVING TOO FAST

The Robeson County Board of Education's firing of I. Murchison Biggs has raised an interesting but foolish question: are the Indians moving too fast? Ahem.

That's the question that was asked me by a seemingly responsible Indian, the other day following Biggs' dismissal. He, in essence, asked me to go easy and not push for traumatic action, inferring that my aggressiveness might set back certain alliances that are forming in the county.

Well, to be perfectly honest, the Indians (and Blacks) are moving too slow. I think they should fire Y. H. Allen as county school superintendent at the very next meeting. Why? Well, I believe, despite what all the experts say, that Allen is a poor superintendent and does not reflect the views and needs of his constituency...the pupil enrollment of which 80 percent is minority and 20 percent Black. Fire him! To be mag-

unanimous for the wrong reason is worst than being patently cruel for the wrong reason.

I for one do not believe that Indians are moving too fast. How can we move too fast after 200 years of denial by suddenly asking for our rightful share?

We have Indians who are qualified to be county school superintendent. Why not replace Allen with one of our own.

I cannot deny my honest opinion even for political considerations. Where were those "don't do unto them as they have done unto us" when they were doing it unto us? I see nothing wrong with demanding quality education for my children. They deserve the best we can give them and Y. H. Allen, as I see it, is not the best.

He's (Allen) a personable man and I might even enjoy going on a fishing trip with him but I do not think he should be superintendent of an 80 percent minority school system when we have imminently qualified Indians and Blacks standing in the wings.

INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE UNDERWAY

It's a happening and a good one at that. It is the second annual Indian Unity Conference sponsored by the N. C. Commission on Indian Affairs and the Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.

The three day conference which began yesterday is being held in Greensboro. I think the theme is a good one: Unity. God knows Indians need more of that. And it is a good forum for an exchange of ideas and dialogue. It is always good for people to talk to each other. An Indian Unity Conference, as is a letter to the editor, is better than the negative feed back of a shot gun blast. If Indians ever learn the art of being agreeably disagreeable...well, the sky's the limit. We can do what ever we want to do.

Probably the high light of the meeting will be the banquet tonight when the special speaker will be Mr. Howard Lee, Secretary of the N. C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

But the three day series of workshops, presentations, banquet, etc. is just an old fashioned pow wow where Indians throughout North Carolina come together and talk and reason together and learn about one another. That's a good reason to have a meeting any time.

TRIVIA

Creative Casseroles
Cubes of julienne strips of ham plus a cooked vegetable, plus a can of condensed soup plus a dash of seasoning add up to an appetizing casserole. Create your own combinations and bake until bubbly and heated through.

Ham and Egg
Ham and eggs are a time-tested team. Pan-fry slices of leftover ham and serve with fried eggs; stir bits of cooked ham in scrambled eggs or fold into omelets. For a deluxe brunch, count on Eggs Benedict — toasted English muffins topped with hot slices of ham, poached eggs and hollandaise sauce.

Agricultural Pests
Starlings, sparrows, Japanese beetles and roughly half of the United States' major agricultural pests have come from foreign lands. On the other hand, the North American muskrat overran Europe and the European rabbit nearly ruined Australia.

Big Harvest
More than 53 million acres of soybeans were harvested in 1975.

Government Employs
Government is this nation's biggest single employer. About one out of every six persons is now employed by government compared to one in 10 in 1959.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Cry for Justice

The things in the past, the things that happened in the pre-dawn of my life; these things my hand was not upon. Though many things have happened that were inevitable, this does not take away the suffering and resentment from the hearts of my people.

In the many years since the first white people came to the America that my people of so long ago knew, it has been bent to serve and honor them as they saw fit.

Over this span of time many of my people have harbored in their hearts feelings that are not because of things and happenings in their lives, but because of the suffering and misery that their ancestors knew and lived in for so long. Discarded and rejected because of the ignorance and prejudice of a few that became the ignorance and prejudice of so many, they sought to make a world aside from that of the "great white civilization" from which they had been rejected.

Again and again my people were deceived, cheated, accused of doings from which lies were told, from which evil images of Native Americans were conjured up. Injustice after injustice followed for my

people. Yet there are those who cannot understand the Wounded Knee occupation of 1973, the BIA Building takeover, the occupation of the Alexian Brothers Monastery on land that was supposed to be Indian land according to writings and so-called "promises" of these very same men!

All the treaties and promises that were broken; are these agreements the whites never meant to keep? If so, God have mercy on their souls!

I plead to my people that they will not allow the prejudice that condemned them to come into their hearts and guide them on the path that was the one chosen by those who had condemned them.

Indifference to the problems of Native Americans on the parts of all of our people will only aggravate the problem that has ruined so many. Indifference will only bring more problems and will destroy what progress has been achieved.

Oh God be with us!

L. D. Malcolm
Pembroke, NC

Pembroke Girl Scouts Observe Girl Scout Week

On March 6 the Pembroke Girl Scouts observed Girl Scout Week by attending their sponsor church, First United Methodist Church in Pembroke.



Front row, left to right: Dixie Oxendine, Tina Marie Jones, Karen Kay Deese, Karen Stickney, Amanda Hunt, Billie Jo Hunt; back row, Angela Sawyer, Lisa Schoffer, and Sherita Hunt. (Elmer Hunt Photos)



Shella Regan, Shirley Adams, Darlene Rogers, Shella Rev- els, Rose Stroud, Meritta Locklear, Robin Hunt, Tina Rogers, Lorraine Locklear.

Nudist Party
The person to watch in future Presidential elections might be the Nudist Party candidate. Their slogan is: We never keep anything covered up.



Leaders: Mary Lene Oxendine, Pat Maxwell, Maureen Regan, Karen Revels, Sherry Revels, Belva Locklear and Doreen Jones.



BIG BELL... Small visitors are dwarfed by formation in Missouri Caverns, Leasburg, Mo., called the nation's largest Liberty Bell replica.

Broiled Potato
Cut one medium peeled crosswise in one-eighth inch thick slices. Place slices on rack with beef patty; brush with one teaspoon butter; sprinkle with dill. Broil until tender and lightly browned — about six minutes. Makes one serving.



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Letters to Editor Po

LETTER TO THE EDITOR
Letters to the editor are welcome. We encourage our readers to express themselves subject to the following conditions:

Letters should include the signed name, address and telephone number of the writer. The editors reserve the right to reject letters of a nature or those of a bad taste.

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God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and wisdom to know the difference.

Managing Editor Bruce Barton
Associate Editor Connie Barton
Associate Editor Garry L. Barton
Circulation Manager Donnie Barton

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Howard says:
Pembroke Drug Center, Odum and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC, Dial 521-4805

Safety caps aren't for every bottle
Readers Digest reported on a man who died after trying in vain to open his safety-capped heart medicine. This tragedy should not have happened because pharmacy regulations explicitly exempt the two heart medications in question (nitroglycerine and isorbide dinitrate) from safety cap dispensing.
With this incident in mind, it makes sense to select your pharmacist carefully. Know that he's aware of and understands the most recent safe-dispensing regulations. And trust that he will follow these to the letter — for your sake!
We invite you to put your trust in our hands. Rely on us and we won't let you down.

pembroke DRUG CENTER