

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



AS I SEE IT Bruce Barton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Joe Freeman Britt Press Conference Seemingly by Invitation Only

Get this! Joe Freeman Britt, the district attorney for this area, called a press conference and, according to the information we have been able to come up with, only invited the Robesonian newspaper and WAGR Radio.

Jack Anderson, the brilliant investigative reporter, who recently appeared on the PSU campus, probably would have written a heady column about it.

The press conference was called to report on the SBI findings concerning allegations made by certain Lumberton police officers contended that certain Lumberton City Councilmen pressured them "to fix tickets" for certain Lumbertonians.

The Carolina Indian Voice was not invited to the press conference. We are in good company; neither was the Fayetteville Times, who prompted the press conference by writing a series of copyrighted articles on the matter.

Oh-by the way, some of the press and media, including the POST newspaper and WTSB Radio according to news reports, in Lumberton report, were not invited either.

Although Britt was careful to not name names, he spent a good portion of the press conference lambasting a certain newspaper reporter (Dennis Patterson) and a "foreign" newspaper (The Fayetteville Times).

Joe Freeman Britt, according to the reports we have received, seemed mostly upset that the SBI report had cost \$10,000 and that the Fayetteville Times had "made something big out of something small." How could the public know it was something small unless the story was dragged out for public scrutiny?

Britt also lauded the local press for being "cooperative." Newspapers should not necessarily be "cooperative" with the district attorney. They should be courteous and business-like and professional, but never "cooperative."

What did the report find? According to Britt, there are moral problems in the police department and he found 26 cases where tickets were voided "at a request to help someone out." He found no indictable offenses. We are personally glad because Councilmen Glenn Maynor and Rev. E.B. Turner, two of the accused, are considered personal friends of the editor of The Carolina Indian Voice.

But, seemingly, if everything we have heard is correct, Britt should present the findings to a Grand Jury and then release the details of the SBI report to the public.

A newspaper's role is to be an adversary to public officials, if need be. Newspapers have a responsibility to "find the truth" even if it hurts. The Carolina Indian Voice must categorically report to its readership that we are not a member of that "cooperative local press" that District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt talked so glowingly about at his press conference. The Carolina Indian Voice is fiercely independent, and not a minion for any public official or body.

Selective reporting is as wrong as by invitation only press conferences. One should conscientiously attempt to be honest and open, whether the party is the press or a public official. The people have a right to know everything a public official is doing, especially when the public official is working for the people.

The Carolina Indian Voice takes a certain perverse pride in not being invited to Mr. Britt's press conference. If we attend a press conference by Mr. Britt, based on the past, we will have to ferret out the time and place ourselves. That is not right. We expect no favors. But we do expect (and even demand) to be treated fairly and equitably. All press and media should be invited to all press conferences.

A Tribute To Rev. Roy Maynor THE BUILDER In early morn, before the day While many still in beds did lay A sound was heard and mother would say, "The Builder was on his way." His tools were chipped and worn with tear. His hands were tough and much could bear. Whether for naught, or be it for pay, The Builder was on his way. He worked to build someone a home. From wife and children too often gone, To help someone in trouble or dismay The Builder was on his way. From digging soil and building trusts To funerals, revivals, a constant rush. When at rest he needed to stay, The Builder was on his way. He loved his work, but most God's Word And from the stand the Gospel declared. And when none else was left to say, The Builder was on his way. We'll miss this friend, his laughter and strength, Who gave to others as God had sent. And when at last the seeds were sown God called the Builder home. Rev. Tony Brewington

PSU Girls Lauded Editor: Congratulations and thanks to the Pembroke State/University Girls Club that took the time and effort to clean up the trash along the highway between Pembroke and Lumberton on Tuesday the 13th. C.E. Hall, Mgr. Woods Store P.O. Box 2000, NC

Community

Last fall a number of people in Robeson County got together regularly in an attempt to create a community. The enclosed notes served as a basis for discussion about what we wanted to do. We met every other week for several months. We usually ate together, with each person bringing a dish of some sort. Activities varied from just good conversation to singing and games, with occasional meetings of the entire community to discuss meeting places—which were hard to find—or how to get more people involved. Even though there was a lot of enthusiasm and support from many people, attendance eventually dropped off and our meetings ceased.

As I see it there were several reasons for this. First, we began without a sufficient commitment from a core group to start with. Many people expressed an interest in what we were trying to do. Few came regularly. This is not surprising. We're all busy, and each of us has to set his/her own priorities. But it does seem pretty clear that if a community is to flourish, a core group—perhaps 20 or so—must make it a high enough priority to attend pretty regularly. Secondly, the group did not represent a cross section of the county, which was what we had hoped for. Very few Blacks and Indians came.

We still feel that a commitment is necessary. If you would be willing to come fairly regularly twice a month for at least 6 months, the community could "get on its feet" and could become a worthwhile as well as an enjoyable activity. The library will allow us to use the auditorium and kitchen for our meetings. Our first meeting is scheduled for Friday, September 16th, at 7:00 p.m. Come. Bring food. Bring a friend.

Barry Childers

General Elections for Waccamaw Indian Tribe

The General Election for the Waccamaw Indian Tribe to elect nine Tribal Councilmen and one Chief has been postponed from October 10, 1977 until a later date. There will be a General Election in the Waccamaw Indian community in the near future. This will be the first public election in the history of the Waccamaw Indian Tribe where by the Indian citizens will have the opportunity to elect the leaders of their community and do it by ballot. In the past most any member of the tribe played the part of the chief, not officially. The present leadership is composed of a family circle which has brought about a lot of confusion among the tribe. The jobs, opportunities and funds from the national, state and local level have not been equally administered among the tribe due to this family circle. Hopefully, this election will clear the water and there will be equal representation for all the Indians of the tribe.

Roscoe Jacobs, Sr.

WJSK RADIO Your "Great American Country" Station (Lumberton) -PRESENTS- PEMBROKE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL "Warrior" Football Every Friday Night (Game Time 8 P.M.) SCHEDULE September 2 at Rowland September 9 at Orum September 16 at Hallsboro September 23 at Tabor City September 30 at Prospect October 7 at West Columbus October 14 at West Brunswick October 21 at Whiteville October 28 at East Bladen November 4 at Fairmont BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE FOLLOWING PEMBROKE MERCHANTS: Lumbee Bank Pates' Ladies & Men's Shops Central Auto Sales Pembroke Furniture Company

Kiwanis meet

Program Chairman Bernard Lowry introduced Mr. Glenn Wilkes from the Charlotte Office of the Gulf Oil Company who spoke to the Pembroke Kiwanis Club concerning the energy crisis and oil production.

Mr. Wilkes opened his remarks by expressing his pleasure at being in this area of the state since he at one time resided in Laurinburg, has many friends and acquaintances both in the immediate area and in greater southeastern North Carolina.

Energy is on everyone's mind these days and everyone has his or her ideas as to what should be done to meet the increasing energy needs of the American people. Gulf Oil Company is also concerned and one of the many avenues it is pursuing to increase our energy supplies is that of getting more oil out of the ground from known deposits.

With conventional methods of obtaining oil from the ground, only an average of 1/2 of the oil known to be contained in a specific reservoir that has been drilled is actually pumped to the surface. The remainder lies in the porous rock in the well. It is interesting to note that the word "petroleum" is derived from the Latin words for rock (petra) and oil (oleum). So one of Gulf's priorities is the extraction of oil from this porous rock.

Another facet of the Company's oil production efforts is that of drilling new wells—in deserts, on land, and in the off-shore areas of the ocean. The drilling of new wells always has been very exciting but it takes a great capital outlay and the willingness to take a chance that the well will be highly productive.

Today we import 42 percent of our oil and oil consumption in this country is still rising, with the cost of a barrel of oil now \$13.75. American oil companies can find more oil, but it takes time. Oil leases take from three to four years to be developed. Probably the best source of oil in the future will be from off-shore wells 20,000 feet or deeper into the ocean floor. Gulf Oil Company will spend 7 billion dollars during the next five years in oil production.

Announcements following Mr. Wilkes' address included a schedule of the programs for the next few weeks. On Sept. 20th John Rimbregt will have charge of the program and will also invite PSU faculty members to be guests at Kiwanis Club that evening. October 4th will be the annual installation of officers meeting at which Lt. Governor D.A. Drexel of South Pines will be conducting the installation. This meeting will also be one to which the ladies are invited to attend.

The children are only part of the joy I find on my visits to the area. There is something moving and tranquil that invades my mind and spirit during a lazy stroll down the Alma roads to the river. I can find a contentment there I can find nowhere else.

The life in this community is not dull by any means. Along with the tranquility there is a delightful confusion which can range from watching the train speed down the tracks to an all day, all night cookout complete with delicious food, good friends and music.

Music is another love of these wonderful, hardy people. All of my most wonderful memories of Maxton are connected with music in some way. The tastes range from Percy Sledge to Charlie Pride and I love it all!

Besides the deep love I have for these people there is a fearsome respect I feel too. The Indians are a dark and handsome and proud people who speak of their ancestors with awe and reverence. They will defend their homes and families with a courage that would make their ancestors proud. Many of these strong and life-loving Lumbees are involved in programs of Indian affairs and education.

I could never explain to another the feelings that this place arouses in me. Unless

I Timothy 6:11-12... "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

"Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereupon thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses."

II Timothy 3:11-17...

"Persecutions, afflictions, which came unto me at Antioch, at Iconium, at Lystra; what persecutions I endured; but out of them all the Lord delivered me. Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

Dangers Facing The Man of God

"But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. "But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them.

"And that from a child thou has known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Keep our feet walking in the way of God.

RONALD BROOKS 1631 Cider Lane Augusta, Ga.

Warm Remembrances of Alma and Friends

Dear Sirs: Having just returned home from one of my all too frequent visits to the Maxton Alma area of Robeson County, I was reflecting on my visit when I decided to put my thoughts on paper. When I was in my early teens, my family and I moved to the Alma community in June of 1967. This was the beginning of many unforgettable experiences for me and never having lived in an Indian community, it was a little frightening. But my fears and prejudices were quickly replaced by a deep love for these extraordinary people.

In ten years since having become acquainted with the Lumbee Indians I have never seen a family closeness equal to that of these people. The children are raised with gentleness and deep love more evident in these families than any I have ever seen and all children are considered precious. The children grow to respect their parents and while all children rebel against authority at one time or another, the Lumbee children continue to regard their elders with a pride and respect rarely seen today in any other society.

Perhaps the most amazing thing I have seen is that even the youngest child can competently care for an infant or toddler with no trouble.

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According to Scripture

EVANGELIST TED BROOKS Box 339, Pembroke, N.C. 28372

Revelations 3:2 "Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain."

Last week we spoke to you on the churches and their condition as of today. If you as a Christian would read and study God's word, you would not be blown about by every word and doctrine of man. Man will have his doctrine because he wants you to think he knows something and every thing. You get to talking to these people and they begin to compare schools. "Oh," one will say, "I received by Doctorate of religion from the school of so and so. I got my Ph. D. or M.D. from Texas or Alabama."

But the truth is, the only degree one needs is the B.A. Degree. Jesus told Nicodemus that he needed to be Born Again. This is the only degree one needs. You don't get to know Jesus by I.Q. But you get to know him by a degree which is known as I Will.

Jesus said in Revelations, "I have a few things against thee because thou hast them that hold doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balok to cast a stumbling block before the children of Israel." If you have read and studied your Bible, you know the doctrine of Balaam. Moses almost had this type of sin at one time to try and enter in his congregation. Moses said in Numbers 31:16 "Behold these caused the children of Israel through the counsel of Balaam to commit trespass against God." Before Moses would allow these people in his camp of people, he had to be slain. He knew they were in that they would teach the children of Israel the sins of Balaam.

We have the ways of Balaam in the church today. You don't want to believe it. You don't want to acknowledge it, but the sins of Balaam are there. Nobody wants to admit that their father or mother is an alcoholic. But they are and they will continue to be so till they get help. It just won't go away by itself. Neither will those who God said would run to and fro telling people that what God once said was wrong is no longer wrong. And when it comes to a vote, vote for it.

I know a church which for years from its beginning preached against adultery. One day all the big men overhead in a far off state agreed it was alright now to stop preaching it. Somehow, they discovered it is alright now in this modern world. You see, this is the message Jesus gave to the perogomum church which had settled in the world, read Revelations 2:12. Jesus said I know thy works, and where thou dwellest, even where Satan is a people who had faith and who hold his name and yet Jesus told them to repent for you have taught the way s of Balaam to his children.

The way of Balaam today is in the church. No longer do we tell the people that God said to have one wife and one husband. You see, it gets down to money and a large church enrollment and the church wants a pool hall and a kitchen and next it will be a bedroom.

I have a special request by prayer. I can only say that I know all about it and I ask you to pray for me and all Jesus for his will to be done. Amen.

Yours in Christ, Mr. Chancy Chavis celebrates 80th birthday

Another grandson, Webster Lynn Cummings, just finished his four year stretch in the Air Force in time to make it home for his grandfather's celebration.

Two great grandchildren, Little Lee Eather Chavis and Trent Cummings enjoyed the occasion, also a third great grandson, Little Chancy, flew in from Jackson, Miss. along with his mother, Mrs. Carney Chavis, to visit with his great grandfather.

Mr. Chancy Chavis celebrated his 80th birthday Aug. 27th with several of his children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends. The celebration was held at 2901 Anne Street in Lumberton.

Two of his sons, Mr. William Ralph Chavis of Lincoln Park, Mich., and Mr. Allen Chavis of the Saddletree area and his only daughter, Mrs. Hartford (Bernice) Cummings of Maxton were in attendance. Other attending included: Mrs. Chancy Chavis, Mrs. Allen Chavis, Vickie Chavis, Mrs. Regina Chavis, Hanford, Wil-

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