

PEMBROKE EYED AS BRANCH SITE BY ROBESON SAVINGS AND LOAN

by Bruce Barton

At the monthly meeting of the Robeson Savings and Loan Association board of directors held on September 8, 1977, the following motion was made by Clifford Bullard, seconded by F.K. Biggs and approved by all directors present:

"The secretary is authorized to apply to the Administration of the Savings and Loan Division, State of North Carolina for the authority to establish a branch of Robeson Savings and Loan Association, Robeson County, North Carolina.

"The motion further authorized the necessary expenditures that are necessary and reasonable in order to establish the putting in place of the branch office."

"APPLICATION FOR PERMIT TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH OFFICE FILED OCTOBER 25, 1977"

According to the application, Robeson Savings and Loan Association affirms that there are 2,214 inhabitants in Pembroke, according to the last federal census, and according to their survey, 2,486 at the present time.

Robeson Savings and Loan Association has its main office in Lumberton with a branch office in Red Springs.

According to Robeson Savings and Loan Association's survey submitted along with their application, they interviewed Jim Paul, General Manager, Pates Supply Company; Arnold Locklear, attorney; and Walford Jones, Jones Heating and Air Conditioning. Robeson Savings and Loan noted in its survey that "All those contacted were extremely familiar with the area and most encouraging."

Their survey noted that the population trend is "progressive" and that the population is "primarily Indian, farming, middle class average, \$10,000 to \$15,000 per family with Pembroke State University having a good influence in the area." Robeson Savings and Loan estimates that the Pembroke populace is 85% non white.

Robeson Savings and Loan Association notes that their business volume from the Pembroke community is now \$500,000 in outstanding mortgage loans and \$300,000 in savings deposits. They estimate that it would take three years for the proposed Pembroke branch office to achieve a profitable basis.

LUMBEE AND FIRST UNION NATIONAL BANKS IN PEMBROKE

Both banks have adopted neutral positions and declined comments on the matter.

Some contend that the branch office would be good for business. Some local businessmen contend that competition is good for the consumer. But they seem to be in the minority.

Most say that the branch office would principally effect Lumbree Bank, a bank predominately owned by Indian stockholders. Some stockholders contend that "Lumbree Bank is just now getting on feet financially and could ill afford to lose any of its long term deposits."

A random sampling by this columnist indicates, in preliminary findings, that the majority of Indians in Pembroke are opposed to the branch office.

Henry Melvin, President of Robeson Savings and Loan Association, affirms that they are merely interested in providing a service to the community. A spokesman for Robeson Savings and Loan when asked about minority employment, said, "Well now we are getting around to that."

But the record seems to show that minorities own little stock in the firm, no do they work with the firm. According to George C. King, deputy administrator of the Savings and Loan Division, the licensing agency, a tentative hearing date is set for December 15, 1977.

HOW TO STATE YOUR OPINION

Your comments, favorable and adverse, are welcomed by the Savings and Loan Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce. The deadline for comments is December 7, 1977. Comments should be

Hearing Date Scheduled Dec. 15

addressed to the Administrator of the Savings and Loan Division, P.O. Box M-27945, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Any person wishing to present oral data, views or arguments on the proposal before the savings and loan division, must at least ten days before the hearing date, file a notice with: Administrator of Savings and Loan, P.O. Box M-27945, Raleigh, NC 27611. Any person permitted to make an oral presentation is encouraged to submit a written copy of the presentation to the above named person prior to the hearing.

A request to make an oral presentation must contain a brief summary of the individual's views with respect thereto and a statement of the length of time the individual wants to speak. Presentations

must not exceed 15 minutes unless upon request, either before or at the hearing, the administrator grants an extension for good cause.

When the hearing is completed, the administrator will make a recommendation based on a study of the facts stated in the petition.

A decision will be rendered within 30 days from the date of the hearing.

The board of directors of Robeson Savings and Loan Association are Henry Melvin, Clifford Bullard, Furman Biggs, Wilson Blackman, J.N. Townsend, and J.L. Townsend. One vacancy exists on the board.

Survey Indicates That Pembroke Is Not Happy With Robeson Savings and Loan Association's Intentions To Establish a Branch Office in Pembroke

By Bruce Barton

The Carolina Indian Voice is in the midst of taking a sampling of the Pembroke community's feelings concerning the intention of Robeson Savings and Loan Association establishing a branch office in Pembroke.

Preliminary findings show an overwhelming negative response to the question: "What do you think about Robeson Savings and Loan Association coming to Pembroke?"

Of 30 random samplings so far, 24 opposed the intention of Robeson Savings and Loan Association to establish a branch office in Pembroke.

Some random samplings of opinion...

"It doesn't seem, at this time, to be a good thing...we've been used too much..."

"If they come to town Indians ought to be fairly and equitably represented on their board of directors..."

"They are coming to rip us off, not to give us service...We need to support Lumbree Bank, a creation of Indian people..."

"I am against it...it smacks of condescension..."

"They want our money...that's all..."

"We need a savings and loan association but we need to establish it ourselves..."

"They would take away from FUNB and Lumbree Banks, we need to support them..."

THE OTHER SIDE

But not everyone interviewed spoke

against Robeson Savings and Loan coming to Pembroke.

One Indian businessman interviewed said, "I have to be for it...I own stock in it..."

Another businessman said, "I don't care if the Ku Klux Klan heads it. We need the services it would provide..."

Another sampling noted, "Competition would be good for the business life in Pembroke. It would make the other financial institutions work harder..."

Another interviewee said, "I am for it. It should have happened 25 years ago...the only reason it hasn't happened before is because of the late Russell Livermore..."

Two interviewees did not express a preference, pleading ignorance on the matter.

The complete polling will be catalogued in next week's issue of The Carolina Indian Voice.

We have used the minority business directory prepared by Lumbree Regional Development Association as a source. Polling was conducted two ways: by telephone and or personal interview.

The intention of The Carolina Indian voice is to sample 100 Pembroke citizens to more fully express the opinion of the greater Pembroke community.

A cloak of anonymity was given freely to those interviewed so that they would be able to express their opinions freely without undue retaliation.

But, for the scoffers, the poll is notarized by those interviewed and a careful record kept by the pollster.

Parent Committee to Meet Nov. 28th

A meeting of the Title IV-A Indian Education Parent Committee for the Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project will be held at 7 p.m. at the O.P. Owens Auditorium in Lumberton on Monday, November 28th. The newly-elected parent committee will be meeting to review the plans for the follow-up of the Needs Assessment which is a preliminary activity prior to scheduling public hearings in each school district and

prior to making application for next year's project.

All meetings of the Title IV-A Indian Education Parent Committee are open public meetings and the public is invited to attend. Indian parents, students and teachers are encouraged to attend the meetings in order to discuss programs and issues affecting Indian education and particularly the Title IV-A Indian education program.

Matching Grant Awarded

The Robeson Historical Drama, Inc. of Pembroke is receiving a matching grant of \$1,000 according to Sara W. Hodgkins, secretary of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. The grant will be used for salary assistance for a stage manager during the coming season of the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!"

Recommendation for support was made by Theatre Arts-the section of the department concerned with the encouragement of North Carolina's professional, non-profit theatre-at the fall meeting of its 13-member board.

In announcing the grant, Secretary Hodgkins commented, "We are delighted

that this bicentennial drama has become a lasting part of the Robeson County community. "Strike at the Wind!" has been a leader in the employment of minorities in professional theatre and I want to commend their efforts."

"Among the other professional theatre companies receiving grants are: Carolina Playmakers Regional Theatre, Chapel Hill; Roanoke Island Historical Association ("The Lost Colony"); Manteo; the North Carolina Shakespeare Festival, Inc.; High Point; Southern Appalachian Historical Association ("Horn in the West"); Boone; The Cherokee Historical Association ("Unto These Hills"); Cherokee

100 CHARTER MEMBERS OF BRAVES CLUB

The 100 charter members of the new Pembroke State University "Braves Club" and their spouses will gather here Monday night, Nov. 28, at 7:30 p.m. for their first annual dinner meeting to which they have been invited free of charge.

From all indications, the event in the PSU Student Center should be a gala affair as these 100 continue to show their strong support for the PSU athletic program.

A total of \$5,000 has already been raised as each of the 100 has given \$50 "to back the Braves."

To emphasize the importance of this nucleus of 100, their names have been painted on a huge gold-and-black sign to be displayed at all Pembroke State basketball games. Gold and black are the official PSU school colors. The sign is a gift of the Lumberton Coca-Cola Bottling Co., whose general manager is Bill Hutaff, a member of PSU's Chancellor's Club.

"We like to call these 100 charter members the 'hardy hundred'," says Bruce Barton, editor-publisher of THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE of Pembroke who has chaired the seven-man steering committee that led in the formation of the Braves Club.

Barton, who has taken a great interest in Pembroke State athletics, has been the expediter of the committee which includes James F. (Buddy) Bell, assistant principal of Pembroke Junior High School; Dr. Ed Crain, track and cross country coach of Pembroke State University; Arnold Locklear, Pembroke attorney; Dr. Gerald D. Maynor, dean of student affairs at Pembroke State University; Walter Oxendine, development officer of Pembroke State University; and Jim Paul, secretary-treasurer of Pates Supply Co. of Pembroke. Serving as an ex officio member of the committee has been Gene Warren,

PSU public information director.

The club's initial objective is to raise funds for 31½ full scholarships (valued at approximately \$50,000). These are the number of scholarships PSU is permitted as a member of the Carolina Conference.

A previous Braves Club was organized by Crain and operated from 1973-76, but never grew as Crain hoped it would because, as he said, "It was then mostly campus-based. Now we have citizens from the outside interested, and this club is operating from the outside in instead of from the inside out."

The program for Monday night's meeting will include the following with Barton as master of ceremonies:

--Invocation by Purnell Swett, superintendent of Robeson County schools.

--Welcome by Dr. English E. Jones, chancellor of Pembroke State University.

--Comments by Alphonzo McRae, Pembroke State University honorable mention NAIA All-American basketball player of the 1971-74 era.

--Introduction of PSU athletic staff by Lacey Gane, athletic director of Pembroke State University.

--Charge by Bruce Barton, chairman of the Braves club steering committee.

--Election procedure, led by Arnold Locklear of Braves Club steering committee.

--Benediction by Rev. Welton Lowry.

The Braves Club is also planning a special awards banquet for all PSU athletes in the spring.

people and places and things

OXENDINE SCHOOL HOLDS THANKSGIVING PROGRAM

The third, fourth, and fifth grades at Oxendine School held a Thanksgiving program on Tuesday, November 22, at 7:00 p.m. in the school auditorium. The program was about the First Thanksgiving.

AMERICA'S ONLY INDIAN RELIGION

America's only Indian Religion is the Native American Church. The Native American Church of America has its roots right in Robeson County. Jim Chavis is president of the Church and has recently visited the Sacred Indian Lands where it all started way back before the first European settlers.

We have Indian remedies for any type of disease or sickness. We have the original Indian ceremonies passed down from the ages.

For more information please write or call The Native American Church of America, 678-C Archdale Dr., Charlotte, N.C. or 704-577-3474.

If you have any problem please feel free to contact us.

REVIVAL PLANNED AT ISLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival services are scheduled at Island Grove Baptist Church beginning November 27-December 3. Services will begin on Sunday and continue through Saturday beginning each night at 7:00. The Sunday night service will begin at 6:00.

The Rev. James Vincent of Greenville, Kentucky will be the guest speaker. The Rev. Mike Cummings of New Bethel will be the singing evangelist.

The public is invited to attend these services. The Rev. Coolidge Cummings is the pastor.

CABLE T.V. OFFICIALLY ACCEPTED BY TOWN COUNCIL IN PEMBROKE

In a special called meeting November 18, the Town Council officially passed a motion accepting a contract from N.C. Cable T.V., Inc. to operate a cable T.V. franchise in Pembroke. The agreement is for a fifteen year period.

The town had originally asked that N.C. Cable T.V., Inc. operate an office in Pembroke but was persuaded by the company that it would be too expensive to do so.

The cable T.V. company will set up a complaint and payment box in front of Pembroke Town Hall and provide a toll free number to its main office in Red Springs for the benefit of its customers.

Further details will be given in the next issue of the Carolina Indian Voice. One feature of the lease agreement between the town and the cable T.V. company provides a free channel for the use of the town and its citizenry subject to the control of the Pembroke Town Council.

CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE ROSE'S DISTRICT MOBILE OFFICE SCHEDULE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Congressman Charlie Rose, D-N.C., announced the Seventh Congressional District Mobile Office schedule for December 1977.

Rip Collins, Congressman Rose's administrative assistant and representative in the district, announced that the mobile office will be parked as close as possible to each post office.

Cumberland County

December 1, Thursday: Hope Mills Post Office 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; December 15, Thursday: Stedman Post Office, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Robeson County

December 3, Friday: Lumberton, Biggs Park Shopping Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

December 7, Wednesday: Fairmont Post Office, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; December 8, Thursday: Rowland Post Office, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; December 9, Friday: Maxton Post Office, 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; December 16, Friday: Lumberton, Biggs park Shopping Center, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

CORRECTION

JAMES E. BELL INCORRECTLY IDENTIFIED IN LAST WEEK'S REPORTAGE OF THE PEMBROKE COUNCIL MEETING

In last week's issue of THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, the following item appeared in reporting happenings at the Pembroke Town Council meeting:

"James Bell, one of the defeated candidates in the recent municipal election, in a letter to the council, said that he had always paid taxes although he found out recently that he is not in the corporate limits. He asked to have his property annexed or refund his tax monies paid to date..."

We have since learned that we incorrectly identified the wrong James Bell. James E. Bell is a long time resident of Pembroke and resides on Jones Street within the corporate limits of Pembroke.

We apologize profusely for our error.

The James Bell in question is James F. "Buddy" Bell, who resides off Cherokee Street. James F. Bell is assistant principal at Pembroke Junior High School.

Following is the actual letter from Bell:

Dear Mayor Strickland and Board of Commissioners:

I would like to advise the town officials that I was told by one of the former Mayors, Mr. Earle B. Maynor, that the property where my house sits and part of my father-in-law's farm and that general area where I now live was within the city limits. I have paid town taxes for the last several years with the assumption that my house was within the Town of Pembroke. I have been told in the last few weeks that I was not in the corporate limits and I was also denied the right to vote in the last election. I informed your Town Manager, McDuffie Cummings, and after an investigation, he informs me that the maps had been drawn, the lines had been run-off to where it could be annexed, but there is no record as to where the Board ever took official action on this.

I would also like to say that my father-in-law and I would like to have our property annexed in the Town, if possible, and if it is not possible to have this done then we request that we be refunded our tax monies plus interest.

I look forward to hearing from you in a few days; thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,
James F. Bell

The Council has taken the matter under advisement.

PSU BRAVES BASKETBALLERS READY FOR TOURNAMENT

The PSU Braves will take part again in the 7th annual Campbell Tip Off Tournament beginning Friday night.

The Cumberland Arena, 5,816-capacity, will again be the tourney battleground with the following pairings in Friday's first rounds: 7 p.m.-PSU (16-14 last year) vs. Georgia State (10-18); 9 p.m.-Campbell (23-10 and runner-up for the NAIA national championship) vs. West Chester, Pa., State (11-14). On Saturday a consolation game will be played at 7 p.m., followed by the tourney championship game at 9 p.m.

This will be the seventh annual Campbell Tip-Off Tournament--and the Camels have won four of the last six. Campbell captured the inaugural tourney in '71, then saw Pembroke State win in both '72 and '73, but Campbell came back to stamp the last three.



The 100 names of the charter members of the Pembroke State University Braves Club are displayed here on a sign to be erected in the PSU Jones Physical Education Center.

The sign is exhibited beneath portraits of former PSU All-American athletes. The sign was donated to the club by Bill Hutaff (left), general manager of the Lumberton

Coca-Cola Bottling Co., who is also a member of the PSU Chancellor's Club. Shown with Hutaff is Walter Oxendine, development officer of PSU and a member

of the seven-man steering committee which led to the formation of the new Braves Club.