

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. Its sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things. -BLACK ELK

AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton



I AM OPPOSED TO ROBESON SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHING A BRANCH OFFICE IN PEMBROKE

The above is what is called a straight forward header in the newspaper business. I am, for better or worse, a blunt man.

I speak for no other person. This column is my personal opinion although I am always happy when I find out that the majority of my readers agree with me on any given issue. But our readers do not always agree with me. That is as it should be. This is America, the land, supposedly, of the free.

Robeson Savings and Loan Association has noticed something interesting happening in the greater Pembroke community—an economic boom of sorts. A recent study by the Lumber River Council of Government showed that Pembroke is growing faster than any other part of the county, excepting Lumberton. Also, as many others have noted, in spite of the diatribes against low rent housing in Pembroke, there is an acute housing shortage.

Robeson Savings and Loan Association has noticed the economic phenomenon in Pembroke. They have decided to do something about it. They have petitioned the Savings and Loan Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce to allow them to establish a branch office in Pembroke.

Why have they done this? As I see it, they see our money circulating about and they want it. It is as simple as that. They (Robeson Savings and Loan officials) talk glibly about providing a service but their primary interest, as I see it, is getting as much of our money as possible.

In their application, they noted that they had interviewed an official at Pates Supply Company, a local attorney, and the owner of a heating and air conditioning business. They made no mention of putting their story before the public, for instance, in an announcement in the Carolina Indian Voice, the only newspaper in Pembroke. They put their required legal notice in the Robesonian. Evidently it was tucked away somewhere in the middle of a morass of legal notices. I did not see it. I heard of their intentions at Town and Country Restaurant, one of Pembroke's favorite watering holes. Robeson Savings and Loan Association, to my knowledge, has not contacted town officials, the chamber of commerce, or taken an in depth survey of the business community.

They simply see our money circulating about and they want it, as I see it. Indians have not in the past paid enough attention to economic matters. For instance, Pates Supply Company leases the building to the district court house and the post office. Why? Where are the Indian businessmen, the Indian entrepreneurs, the Indian money counters? Where are they?

THE SOURCE OF MY DISCONTENT

To the point, the source of my discontent with Robeson Savings and Loan Association coming to town is the lack of Indian participation. There are no Indian (or Blacks) on the board of directors of the firm. Few Indians or Blacks own any stock in Robeson Savings and Loan

The other side of the coin is that some businessmen in our midst say the competition would be good for our business community. They say that there would be little harm to Lumbear Bank (predominately Indian owned) and FUNB. I disagree. The banks have elected to take a noncommittal stance. That is their right to do so but I believe that Lumbear Bank would suffer most of all. Lumbear Bank is a testament to what the Indian community can do. Why topple our creation?

The above is my opinion. Anyone may disagree. The pages of the Carolina Indian Voice are open to those with opposing views, including Robeson Savings and Loan Association. No cussing, please!

The cooling of inflation since midyear is expected to boost consumer confidence in the economy and make it easier for the Carter administration in its battle against unemployment.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



visits daughter in High Point

Dear Bruce:

I have been receiving the Carolina Indian Voice for about six weeks now and I have enjoyed every week of it. I think it is wonderful for our people to bring themselves out into the world so other people can learn and read about us.

My father, Mr. Wiley Jones, has been visiting with us for about 1 1/2 weeks and I was wanting you to put it in the paper for us.

Thank you very much for your concern.

Lavonia J. Wood High Point, N.C.

Note of Correction

To the Editor:

I would like to inform everyone that I am not the James Bell mentioned in the November 17th issue of the Carolina Indian Voice. I am James E. Bell. I have been a lifetime resident of the Town of Pembroke, N.C. and also a taxpayer.

Yours Truly James E. Bell P.O. Box 133 Pembroke, N.C. 28572



questions raised concerning Robeson Savings and Loan Association

Editor:

Being a former resident of the Pembroke area, I read with much concern the November 10th issue of The Carolina Indian Voice, particularly the article dealing with the possible opening of a branch of Robeson Savings and Loan in the Town of Pembroke.

That there is a market for such a business cannot be denied. But...I have many doubts and concerns about this possibility. My concerns are these: should the major investors, most from outside the Pembroke area, be allowed to "siphon off" the profits of such a business? To "siphon off" the earnings of the community? Should they be allowed to "take the money and run"?

Would such a business be responsible to the real needs of the Pembroke community? Who would manage such a business? What is the likelihood of success of such a business with its known outside investors? How many minorities presently hold management positions with Robeson Savings and Loan? If given the franchise to open a new branch, what assurance is there that the money deposited, if any, would be loaned to the people of the Pembroke community and not loaned elsewhere in the county to those who have close ties with the present major investors and management of Robeson Savings and Loan?

I suggest that the answers to these questions will have a significant impact upon the growth of the Pembroke area, highly likely that the impact will be a negative one, too.

I am told that in order to establish a branch of a savings and loan institution, that those who propose such a business must show the need and the likelihood of success if given the opportunity to open. The need may be shown but the likelihood of success of a branch of Robeson Savings and Loan in the Pembroke community cannot be shown, knowing the strained relationships that exist now as in the past as evidenced by numerous prior events that have taken place within Robeson County.

I believe it would be fair to say that should a branch of Robeson Savings and Loan be established in Pembroke, this event would effectively foreclose the possibility of ever there being a predominately minority owned and operated savings and loan in Pembroke. Although there are

The issue before the people of Pembroke is not one cast in a racial context, but is a matter of community pride, community growth, and community development. The Pembroke Community, long stagnate in terms of growth, now has appeal to those who wish to gain at the expense of the good people of Pembroke. I suggest that if Pembroke needs a savings and loan business, that there are sufficient investors in and around Pembroke to assure the success of a locally owned and operated savings and loan. If you feel likewise, please voice your opinion in whatever way possible, preferably with a letter to those persons who will decide whether Robeson Savings and Loan gets to open a branch in Pembroke or not. The address is: N.C. Department of Commerce, Savings and Loan Division, Raleigh, NC. Please remember that the decision will soon be made, December 7th, so it is important to act soon!

MICHAEL REVELS Salisbury Street Greensboro, NC



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VOTE MACHINE ACTION DEFERRED

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners Monday night deferred action on securing voting machines for the county.

The Rev. Charles McDowell, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Election, made a detailed presentation in which figures for purchase of one of three types of voting machines were discussed.

McDowell stated that the board of election recommended voting machines countywide, but did not specify which type of machine they preferred.

"This is a progressive county. A county on the move. Our election system is a most important part of our progress because it deals with the citizens' constitutional rights," McDowell said. "We consider it a top priority, not how fast we are but how straight we are. This is a time not to think of economics but to think of righteousness."

Commissioner H. T. Taylor moved to recommend purchase of some type of machine, but did not specify which type. That motion, however, was killed by a substitute motion to take the matter under advisement. Taylor said the matter had been brought before the board several times in the past three years he has

been on the board. "We ought to be men enough to say we are going to buy the machines or not going to buy them," Taylor said.

The most costly of the machine types presented had a price tag of \$215,000. It is a lever-type machine. The lowest machine would be a "ballot counter," which is estimated to cost \$138,305.

The other machine, an automatic ballot punching machine, would cost about \$116,535, the board was told.

Commissioner Herman Dial of Pembroke, who made the motion to take the matter under advisement, questioned whether it would be feasible to spend the amount in question "for a few people who are serving as poll workers to be less tied up."

Commissioner Sam Noble, the board chairman, moved to put the recommendations on the board's January meeting.

McDowell, reiterating his disappointment, said: "We studied hard and checked all references for our recommendations. I consider your motion unfair to our commitment to the citizens of this county."

According to Scripture

HELP IS ON THY LIPS John 6:18-19 "And the sea arose by reason of a great wind that blew. So they rowed about twenty or thirty furlongs, they see Jesus." To those of you who have trouble and it seems there is no help and like the disciples here the water had rose and by reason they knew not. But one thing they were sure of was that they were in danger and needed help. Some of you now are pressed on all sides and you feel like surrendering and giving up. Death is more certain than yesterday. The doctor has given you the report and the wind has picked up its speed. But I want you to read again with me in the 18th verse of the Bible. It said they rowed. What you need to remember is that God said I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5. Who are you going to believe? "When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee." Isa. 43:2.

laughed him to scorn. Matthew 9:18-24.

Don't depend on people. When they get the doctor's report they start crying and making funeral plans. But you need to trust God. People will scorn and tell you to be strong, but let it come to them, and they are the loudest on the corner. But you need to row on like the disciples. They didn't know what had the wind up, but they knew they had to get to safety. And the Bible said they saw Jesus walking on the waters. What ever is happening to you or to your loved one, look for Jesus in it. No matter how bad it is, Jesus is walking in your way and He will speak to you as he did to the disciples. "It is I, be not afraid. If I be for you, what can be against you?" Now, in your heart say Jesus I am going to trust you. I know only my help shall come from thee. No more will I be afraid, willingly Lord I know everything will work to the good of them who love you. I put all my trust in you for you said in your words I will in no wise cast thee out. John 6:37.

Now, if you have sick ones in your family, go to them and let this be in you which was in Christ Jesus. Lay thy hand on the sick and sav in the name of Jesus and see the waters become calm and see the sun come in and watch darkness flee. Jesus is our high tower and our shield. Whom shall we fear. Amen.

Yours in Christ.

P.S. May the Lord bless you on this coming holiday.

Thanksgiving as Seen Through the Eyes of 5th Graders at Pembroke

THANKSGIVING

It's the time of year when leaves are falling upon the ground, with many colors flying around. But most of all, it's a time of year in which we give thanks unto the Lord. -Teresa Carter

ONE MINUTE SPORTS QUIZ

- 1. Who won the Western Open golf tournament? 2. When will the 48th All-Star game be played? 3. Ron Carew plays pro baseball for what team? 4. Who won the LPGA Hoosier Classic? 5. Who was named Texas Ranger's manager?

Answers To Sports Quiz

- 1. Tom Watson. 2. July 19, 1977. 3. Minnesota. 4. Debbie Austin. 5. Billy Hunter.

LET US GIVE THANKS

Thank you God for Thanksgiving. Thank you God that we are living. Bless the Pilgrims who came across the sea. Thank you God for them and us.

Thank you God for Thanksgiving Day. So we can thank and give you praise. Thanksgiving Day is full of joys, while people sing and rejoice. -Tonya Elk

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving Day is time to pray. For the food we receive each day. But don't forget instead of praying, there is also time for playing. Let us give thanks to those proud Pilgrims who came to this free land. But most of all let us give thanks to God, The One who gave them a hand. -Cochise Clark

THANKSGIVING DAY

Thanksgiving Day. As we say, Is the time of rest. And the time that's best.

It is a time for eating. And a time for meeting. But most of all, Let us give thanks to thee above. -Victor Dwayne Deese

THANKSGIVING

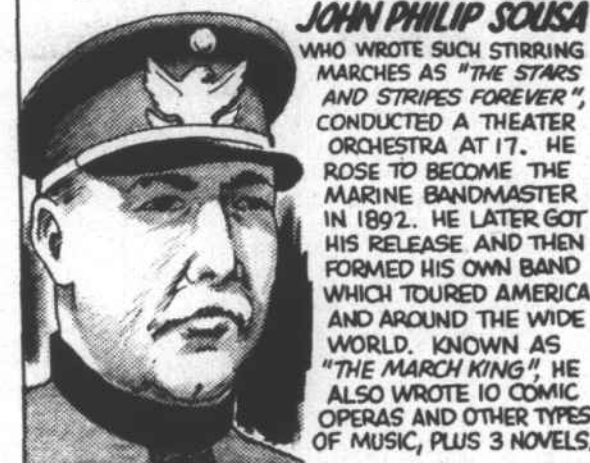
We give thanks to the Lord, For the food that we eat, And the shoes on our feet. When the Pilgrims came over and lived in a hard way. But I just to say, they took time to give thanks on the day called Thanksgiving. -Kim McCartney

THANKSGIVING

November twenty-fifth is a thankful day. It is when people give thanks and pray. When pilgrims came over and lived in a hard way. But I just to say, they took time to give thanks on Thanksgiving Day. -Cassandra Hunt

DID YOU KNOW?

IN THE UNITED STATES, THERE ARE ABOUT 1,800 NEWSPAPERS THAT ARE PUBLISHED DAILY, AND SOME 8,800 WEEKLIES. CIRCULATION OF NEWSPAPERS ALL OVER THE WORLD IS AROUND 350 MILLION COPIES A DAY. ADVERTISING FILLS 50% TO 70% OF THE SPACE OF A NEWSPAPER. SOME LARGE DAILIES EMPLOY AS MANY AS 2,000 PERSONS.



JOHN PHILIP SOUSA WHO WROTE SUCH STIRRING MARCHES AS "THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER", CONDUCTED A THEATER ORCHESTRA AT 17. HE ROSE TO BECOME THE MARINE BANDMASTER IN 1892. HE LATER GOT HIS RELEASE AND THEN FORMED HIS OWN BAND WHICH TOURED AMERICA AND AROUND THE WIDE WORLD. KNOWN AS "THE MARCH KING", HE ALSO WROTE 10 COMIC OPERAS AND OTHER TYPES OF MUSIC, PLUS 3 NOVELS.

Sparkling Gift Ideas For CHRISTMAS PEMBROKE HARDWARE Christmas Decorations CORRELLE DISHES Coming Ware 10% Off KITCHEN AID Heavy Duty Mixer \$99.00 Trees Bulbs Everything You Need For A Festive Christmas Tree! LOTS OF TOYS, INCLUDING... Mattell's 'Slime' Little Rocking Chairs For the Kiddies Tonka & Fisher Toys \$5.00 LAYS AWAY YOUR CHRISTMAS GIFT! Free Christmas Gift Wrapping!