

# 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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton



#### MISREPRESENTED IN THE PAGES OF THE ROBESONIAN

I was honored (sic) last Thursday, December 1, 1977, by being, as I see it, misrepresented in the Robesonian, a newspaper that seems to articulate an 1860 democratic mentality. I am in good company. Many Indians have been misrepresented in the pages of the Robesonian, as I see it.

The article was written by a young fellow named Scott Bigelow. He done a job on me, as they say in newspaper circles. His article was entitled "Proposed S&L Branch Faces Further Pembroke Opposition." It was kind of silly because I have never met Mr. Bigelow and I hung up hurriedly on him when he called me on the phone. I told him, in my most abrupt manner, "I am not going to help you write a story about Pembroke. If you want to know what people are thinking... come to Pembroke and ask them." Evidently he did not do that. He went and talked to Mr. Henry Melvin, the operating head of Robeson Savings and Loan and quoted liberally from the Carolina Indian Voice, without permission.

But that's all right. I forgive Mr. Bigelow for his, as I see it, unprofessional conduct. I appreciate the publicity. They did spell the name of our newspaper right. I will give him credit for that. Thank you, Mr. Bigelow.

If I had the money and time I would probably sue Mr. Bigelow. Unfortunately, I have neither the time nor money to expend on an, as I see it, frivolous matter.

But, for the record, I refute Mr. Bigelow's story. It is littered with errors, half truths and misrepresentations. Here is his story as it appeared in the Robesonian, December 1, 1977.

#### PROPOSED S. & L. BRANCH FACES FURTHER PEMBROKE OPPOSITION

By SCOTT BIGELOW, Robesonian Staff Writer

A proposed branch office of Robeson Savings and Loan Association for the Town of Pembroke has encountered opposition among local residents and created an atmosphere of animosity.

R.S.&L.'s Board of Directors originally decided upon the proposed \$75,000 annex on Sept. 8 of this year, but must wait for the approval of the Savings and Loan Division of the North Carolina Department of Commerce which will meet Dec. 15.

According to Henry Melvin, president of R.S.&L., "no progressive town should be without a savings and loan association," and that R.S.&L. could provide a great service to the Town of Pembroke.

Melvin said that Pembroke is the second fastest growing community in Robeson County next to Lumberton, and that R.S.&L. already has \$600,000 in long term home-owner loans and \$200,000 in deposits from Pembroke. He feels that those individuals and future customers in Pembroke will be better served by a branch office closer to their home.

Opposition to R.S.&L.'s branch office is spearheaded by Bruce Barton, editor of The Carolina Indian Voice, who wrote in his editorial column, "They are coming to town to take our monies. As I see it, they are not bringing any money with them."

Barton also says that he believes that R.S.&L. is a racist institution although he does not use those words. He notes that no minorities are represented on R.S.&L.'s Board of Directors, that no minorities own stock in R.S.&L., and that "no minority works for Robeson Savings and Loan. I smell condescension in the air."

But Henry Melvin takes exception to each of Barton's criticisms. Melvin has already

Pembroke State University, nearby is University Sportswear, and other businesses contribute mightily to Pembroke's economy. If Pembroke needs a savings and loan... well, we have the capabilities and the know how to establish one. The fact that we are not welcoming Robeson Savings and Loan does not mean that Pembroke is "not progressive."

I have not said, inferred or intimated that Robeson Savings and Loan is "racist." That is Mr. Bigelow's word. Evidently, he is more comfortable using it than I am. I have called no one a racist. But, yes, Mr. Bigelow, I do smell condescension in the air.

It is a fact that no minority works for Robeson Savings and Loan or serves on its board of directors. That is fact. I had nothing to do with that. That fact comes under the heading of attitude, policy, operating procedure. America has existed for 200 years. Should we forget 200 years of history if, suddenly, an Indian were hired by Robeson Savings and Loan? One cannot know where he is going if he does not know where he has been.

Mr. Melvin's figures are debatable. Will he deposit Robeson Savings and Loan's monies in Lumbee Bank? In First Union?

And, Mr. Bigelow, my poll was not unofficial. If you think it was unofficial, come to Pembroke and ask those polled by this reporter. No, Mr. Bigelow, you are wrong. My poll was very official. No doubt about it.

Mr. Melvin and I did meet and talk. He stated his opinion and I stated mine. Who said there was no peace made? I did not know we were at war.

Anyway, where are the quotes from the citizens of Pembroke? Has Bigelow been to Pembroke and asked you what your opinion is? If so, I did not see it anywhere. Maybe he is coming next week.

Etc. Etc. Etc. Etc. It seems to me, as I see it, that they are going to cram a savings and loan down our throats whether we like it or not. We have dared to question their motives and, seemingly, they (including Mr. Bigelow) are angered by our response.

In closing, Mr. Bigelow, you say "Gnu's milk" and I, in turn, will say "Afghanistan." Come and look me in the eye, and talk to me (not at me) the next time you wish to write about me. God knows, The Carolina Indian Voice can use the publicity. But, for truth's sake, get your facts straight.

### AS I SEE IT

Now, let me make a few points about Mr. Bigelow's article.

Who said the proposed branch office by Robeson Savings and Loan had, as Mr. Bigelow said, "...created an atmosphere of animosity." Did you say that? I did not say that.

Every time Indians ask questions or search out motives they are creating an atmosphere of animosity, according to Mr. Bigelow's interpretation. Yes, I have asked questions and I have questioned the wisdom of allowing Robeson Savings and Loan to establish a branch office in Pembroke. Animosity has nothing to do with it. Pembroke is not the ward of white, conservative, money merchants. Pembroke's populace is 85% non white. What is wrong with the Indian populace establishing its own savings and loan if a need for one exists? That is the primary question I have asked since this silly, little debate began.

Bigelow quotes liberally from comments by Mr. Henry Melvin, who heads Robeson Savings and Loan. Yes, Pembroke is progressive. A study has shown that Pembroke is the second fastest growing town in Robeson County. Pembroke is the home of

## Lack of interest cited as reason for few minority owned stations

Dear Bruce:

In reply to your article (Nov. 24) about the lack of radio and TV stations owned by minorities, I know your paper's reputation for total news coverage, and I feel sure you will be interested in printing the other side of the coin. Here goes.

There is only one reason why so few stations are minority owned—LACK OF INTEREST! To begin with, there are hundreds of towns and cities with no station, and any citizen is perfectly free to apply to the FCC for a license to build one in them. No minorities, nor anybody else, has done so.

Number two: Stations are sold like any other real estate—they are either sold through a broker who publically advertises he has stations for sale, or the owner advertises himself in the trade papers that he wants to sell, or someone wanting a station picks one out and offers to buy it. In any case, there are no restrictions at all on who buys other than the FCC requirements that the buyer be qualified to operate it properly and have the financial resources to do so.

Like most statistics, yours fail to reflect any reasoning—just the outcome. Traditionally certain groups of people are in certain types of business predominate. (Greek restaurants, Jewish clothing and

jewelry, Oriental wig people, Italian entertainers, etc.) Apparently broadcasting is not a popular business with minorities, otherwise, there would be more of them. Come to think of it, how many other Indian newspapers are there?

I'll not go into the business reasons why the 45 day pre-disclosure of intent to sell a station is unthinkable, but believe me it would bankrupt many stations before the sale could be completed by simply destroying confidence in the station. It would open the buyer to a virtual flood of people wanting to sell to him, destroy your chances of selling, and virtually put all station sales on an auction block.

ANY minority person or group of persons interested in owning a station may do so at any time and on equal footing with everyone else. And I repeat—the ONLY reason more stations are not minority owned is no more than a LACK OF INTEREST. Period. I know your story was a reprint from an outside source rather than your own research, and the credit for only telling half the story belongs on the original author. Let the record show its short comings were in no way the fault of my good friend Bruce Barton!

Dale Brooks  
WLAB Radio  
Lumberton-St. Pauls, NC

## Braves Resume Winning Ways

After winning the Campbell Tip Off tournament to kick off the season, the Braves basketballers fell to Coastal Carolina and Catawba in a heartbreaker Monday night, 65-63.

But Tuesday night, the Braves got back on the winning track with an easy 86-56 romp over the nearby St. Andrews Knights.

Substituting liberally, Coach Joe Gallagher saw his muscular center, Stan Rountree come into his own with a 16 point production and eleven big rebounds. Next in the points column were regular, Pete Mulligan and sub Chris Cromartie of Hope Mills, a talented freshman from Hope Mills who saw his first action of the season after recovering from a broken blood vessel in his ankle.

Lenwood Graham, from nearby Maxton, who usually provides most of the fire power in the Braves attack, contributed 12 points in a little more than a half of action.

Pembroke State, now 3-2, closes out its pre-Christmas schedule Saturday night at Methodist College.

ST. ANDREWS (56)—Leslie 13, Keller 8, Cestrone 5, Summers 2, Salzano 2, A. Jones 6, Kowall 6, Breen 2, E. Jones 4, Cherry 4, Odum 4.

PEMBROKE STATE (86)—Rountree 16, Mulligan 14, Graham 12, Reid 8, Griffith 8, Cromartie 14, Brown 4, Rotolo 4, Sampson 4, Smith 2. Halftime—PSU 42-27.

## Obituaries

### MRS. COLUMBIA LOCKLEAR JONES

Mrs. Columbia Locklear Jones, 77, of Rt. 2, Pembroke, N.C. departed this life Nov. 30, 1977 at 4:30 p.m. at Southeastern General Hospital. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 4 at Island Grove Baptist Church, conducted by Rev. C.M. Cummings and Rev. Elias Rogers. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

She is survived by her husband, Elias Jones; two daughters, Mrs. Dorothy Locklear and Miss Janie B. Jones, both of Pembroke, also members of Island Grove Church; one grandchild, Steven Elias Jones; deceased brothers, Robert, Britian, Rufus, Dock and Dewey Locklear; deceased sisters, Nora, Dora, Janice and Clarise.

### JIMMY OXENDINE

Jimmy Oxendine, 18, died Monday at Southeastern General Hospital. Funeral arrangements are incomplete. The body is at Revel's Funeral Home.

### ELLIS LOCKLEAR

Ellis Locklear, born February 26, 1911, died November 28, 1977 at the age of 66.

Funeral services were held Thursday, Dec. 1, 1977 at 2 p.m. at Bear Swamp Baptist Church.

He is survived by his wife, Leola Locklear; 5 sons, Ellis Locklear, Jr., Malcolm Locklear, Larry Locklear, Albert R. Locklear, all of Pembroke, and Wayne K. Locklear of the home; 3 brothers, Colonel, James and Johnnie Allen Locklear; 4 sisters, Mary L. Locklear, Georgina Dial, Pearl Locklear, all of Pembroke, and Ms. Garnetta Maynor of Laurinburg; 5 grandchildren; and a host of other relatives and friends.

## MT. AIRY NEWS

by Violet Locklear

The Mt. Airy Bible Class was concluded on Wednesday night, Nov. 30 with a covered dish supper. Miss I. Ruth Martin has been teaching the studies in Luke's Gospel. She was presented a nice gift. Mr. Alton Ray Haggains was surprised with a birthday cake. The group sang "Happy Birthday" to him. Special guest was Mrs. Jeannie Johnson, Director of Enrichment Education at Robeson Technical Institute.

Mr. Anderson Locklear had to be rushed back to Southeastern General Hospital last Saturday evening.

Dinner guests in the home of Mrs. Goldie Lowery on Sunday were Mrs. Rockie Jane Locklear, Mrs. Nancy Ann Oxendine, Mrs. Lola Strickland and Violet Locklear.

Visiting Miss Willie Mae Locklear at Chapel Hill Hospital on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buck Locklear and Mr. and Mrs. Grant Locklear. Please remember her in your prayers.

Mrs. Catherine Locklear and Mrs. Lucy Griffith spent last week visiting in Florida. Some of the places they visited were Kennedy Space Center, Sea World, Disney World, Wichie Watcha. They saw the mermaids and visited Cyprus Gardens and saw the water show. They returned Sunday morning a week ago. They report it was a wonderful trip.

Mr. Purnell Hatcher, son of Mrs. Delmer Cummings, who had been making his home with Mrs. Pearl C. Jones, was seriously injured Saturday while doing tree work. A limb fell on his head. He is a patient at Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville in the Intensive Care Unit. He remains unconscious. Please remember him in your prayers.

The Rock of Bethel Choir met in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Buck Locklear on Tuesday night and held a meeting in behalf of Mrs. Rockie Jane Locklear. The Choir rendered special music and their pastor, Rev. Winford Locklear, brought the message. Rev. Titus Locklear led the prayer. There were others present for the occasion. Mrs. Locklear seemed to be in good spirits and gave a wonderful testimony. We thank God for her long life and for what it has meant for not only her family but to others.

Mr. James B. Locklear entered Duke Hospital in Durham on Tuesday where he is scheduled for surgery. We ask for prayers in his behalf.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. M.H. Locklear needs your prayers. Mrs. Locklear's condition seems to be getting worse.

The week of prayer will be this week at Mt. Airy Church. We have so many in our community who are sick and depressed. Please remember them all in prayer.

### THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Our loved ones, even though they may not be able to be with us at Christmas, are never far away. So long as there are glowing hearths to warm our memories and glowing hearts to welcome those we love. The real gift of Christmas is God's love for you and me.

## According to Scripture

Evangelist Ted Brooks

### I HOPE IN THY WORD

Psalm 119:114. David when in trouble or when it seemed all hope was lost and his life was to be taken, he knew of a refuge and a hiding place. David said in Psalm 119:114 "Thou art my hiding place and my shield." I want to ask you this question: Do you have a hiding place? Are you sure of your refuge? Can you say thou art my hope? There are some of you who don't appreciate this kind of preaching. While you are disliking the word, have you stopped to think that at this very moment people are dying and being killed? Just a few minutes ago I heard on the radio of a killing and while we sit thinking of safety, Jesus said for us to work.

If you read your paper today you witnessed truck loads of beer waiting to be unloaded at the local stores to be sold. Now the world is in darkness.

But to a lot of us who claim to be in the light, we need to do something. I don't really believe that most Christians are aware of the punishment of a lost person. The Bible tells me that the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgement and prediction of ungodly men. II Peter 3:6-7. You ask does this concern us at all? Yes because both living and dead are going to need a savior in that day of judgement. We should be telling the people that Jesus offers life and that he spares our lives and gives us Bibles and preachers and teachers to show us the way of salvation. No one today wants to think or say that Jesus won't always be so gracious. But to you who have hardened your heart against the Holy Ghosts, be careful. Jesus won't stand and beg. In God's word he gave man solemn warning in Hebrew 3:7. "As the Holy Ghost saith, today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your heart." II Corinthians 6:2 says "Now is the accepted time." Now is the time. Now is the day of salvation. Tomorrow is not promised.

John Matthew it tells of ten virgins. Five were wise and five were foolish. Let's read what happened to the five foolish. "And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came and they that were ready went with him." Praise the Lord! The Bible said those who were ready went with him into the marriage. And the door was shut. We all know that when the door is shut or closed you can't get in. In the next verse it tells that afterwards came the other five foolish virgins saying, "Lord, Lord, open to us. But Jesus answered and said I know you not." Matthew 25:10-12.

Noah preached of the coming flood and no one believed him. The people went on building, buying, drinking, marrying, and believed not. The flood came and took them all away. Matthew 24:37-41. God himself in Christ is our refuge. The Bible tells me when God looked down from heaven he saw the great

wickedness of man. Gen. 6:5. And God resolved to destroy both man and beast. And the only reason he didn't was Noah. "Noah was a faithful man and the Lord saved Noah by telling him to build him an ark. While Noah was preparing this Ark, he warned the people of a flood coming. The people rebelled and said it never rained before, why should it rain now? When Jesus left he told us to let our hearts be troubled, he was going to prepare a place for us. "But as the day of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be." Matthew 24:37. Look around you. Count all the killing in the community of Pembroke alone. Check the age. Death is certain and unless you and I stand up and be counted it could be said as Paul said in Titus: "They profess that they know God, but in works they deny him." I:16

Let us awake and get out of the church and work the highways and byways. Jesus is coming and we need to prepare for him. Before I close, I want to share with you a thought I received a while back from the Spirit of the Lord. When people first started walking the road side picking up beer cans to sell or to make money. I was going to Lumberton about mid-morning and I saw this elderly woman and a young child picking up beer cans. My first thought was that this young person should be in school getting an education so that one day he wouldn't have to pick up beer cans to make a living. But all at once a wonderful feeling came over me and it was just like a voice said, "Son, they are picking up and cleaning up for my soon coming." Then the verse came to me from the Bible when Jesus sent his disciples to a village to get a colt to ride on and upon his way the people placed their garments and cut down branches from the trees to spread them in the way. And the people went ahead of him crying, Hosanna, Hosanna, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

I believe Jesus is soon coming. How about you? Can you cry Hosanna, Hosanna? If not, you can. When Nathanael said thou art the son of God, thou art the King of Israel, Jesus said because I saw thee, I saw thee under the fig tree, believest thou? John 1:49-50.

Where you are right now, Jesus sees you and he knows what you are doing and if you would look to Jesus and say, "Lord Jesus, I believe thou are the Christ, the son of God. And here where I sit I need thee. Please help me to be ready at thy coming. And by my own mind and of good faith I believe. Please forgive me of my sins. Amen." If you said these words from your heart, the Bible in Romans 10:9 says thou shalt be saved. And to those of you who are Christians, let it be said among us as it was said of Paul, "Brethren, my whose heart is for Israel is to be saved." Romans 10:1. Or we could say that our whole heart is for Robeson County. Amen.

Yours in Christ,

## Happy Birthday! Happy Birthday!



A birthday party was held for Amelia and Amra Locklear, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby D. Locklear. It was given by Mrs. Lucratic Locklear and Mrs. Stella Oxendine. There were twenty persons in attendance. A meal was served along with cake and ice cream. The twins were eleven years old. Wm. P. Revch Photo

## Warriors Win Again

PEMBROKE — The Pembroke Warriors picked up their second win of the year over the Orrum Raiders, last night downing the visitors 48-30.

Johnny Pipkins led all scorers with fifteen points and contributed several key rebounds. Granford Oxendine added fourteen points and acted as the Warriors' floor general throughout the game. The Raiders were led in scoring by Cameron Jones with nine points. No Raider got into double figures.

The Orrum junior varsity defeated the junior Warriors in an earlier contest to salvage a split on the evening. With the game tied at the end of the third quarter, 31-all, the junior Raiders went on a 23-point scoring rampage to salt the win away.

Orrum 30: Willie McRae 2, Willie Gerald 6, Tom Lee 3, Cameron Jones 9, Tim Lewis, Tony Bullock, Russell Paisley 8, Ronnie Warwick 2, Kenny Burnett, Terry Campbell.

Pembroke 43: Granford Oxendine 14, Dwayne McDougall 6, Billy Thompson 4, Maurice Tuck, Johnny Pipkins 15, Joe Roberts 2, James Meekins, Eugene Emanuel 2, James Davis, Dwayne Locklear, Anthony Locklear, and Randall Cummings.

|                |    |
|----------------|----|
| Varsity Game   |    |
| Orrum          | 30 |
| Pembroke       | 43 |
| Junior Varsity |    |
| Orrum          | 23 |
| Pembroke       | 41 |

## Magnolia Wins Two

PARKTON — Magnolia's boys and girls defeated Parkton here Tuesday night and the Parkton jayvees won the third game.

Johnny Davis was the rebounding leader for Magnolia although he scored only one point in the game. Thomas Canedy led a quartet of Magnolia double figure scorers with 21 points.

Magnolia will play Littlefield at Magnolia Friday. The Magnolia boys are 3-0 for the season, the girls are 3-1 and the jayvees are 0-0.

Boys Game  
3-0  
Magnolia: Hardin 16, Strickland 11, Butler 16, Candydy 21, Davis 1, McGill 2.  
Parkton: Scott 14, Wilburn 18, Murphy 6, Benton 12, Shaw 4, Taylor 4.

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