



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Dedicated to the best in all of us



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Mayor Charges Possible Fraud as Petitions are Questioned At Pembroke Council Meeting

Pembroke—Said one fella, "It's been that kind of week." To top it off, The Carolina Indian Voice did not have a representative at the Pembroke Town Council meeting Monday night which played to the biggest crowd of the year, according to those who were there.

An over flow crowd came to hear Ira Pate Lowry present a petition to the Pembroke Town Council on behalf of a number of concerned citizens. That seemed to be all right, and Lowry spent a good portion of the time, according to those who were there, presenting a historical overview of the council and audience, recalling the days when the governor appointed the mayor and town council for Pembroke and when travelers on trains through Pembroke were, according to Lowry, "told to pull down your window shade-- you're going through Pembroke..." Lowry is a retired music teacher and a former gubernatorial appointee to the council.

The Carolina Indian Voice did not have a representative at the meeting for a very mundane reason, "We were not notified of the meeting although we should have known about it-- it's our business to know," said Bruce Barton, Editor.

But seemingly newspaper reporters

get careless sometimes too and rely on town officials to notify them of a meeting by sending them an agenda through the mail. It works reasonably well until the postal service gets into the act. "I got my agenda for Monday night's meeting Tuesday morning," lamented Barton.

Town officials said the agenda was mailed last Saturday. The Robesonian had a newspaper reporter at the meeting. "No, I didn't asked the guy who told him about the meeting," said Barton, "but whoever called him evidently didn't call me..."

While Lowry was giving his historical review, according to observers, Councilman Milton Hunt began to pepper him with some questions: "Did you sign the petition?" Hunt asked. Lowry reportedly replied "no."

When questioned about a statement inferring nepotism, Hunt asked Lowry who he was referring to. Lowry said that he assumed the mayor had some one on the pay roll who worked for the town.

Moddie Strickland, who was hired, according to town officials, during the administration of former Mayor Juddie Revels, is the nephew of Mayor Reggie

Strickland. Moddie Strickland is public works director for the town.

Although Lowry said he did not sign the petition is question, the petition he presented called for the resignation of the town manager McDuffie Cummings the public works director and "the unnecessary employees that were employed because of political and family connections..."

Lowry seemingly had presented the petition to town officials earlier in the week at a special called meeting because Mayor Strickland had a prepared statement ready. The statement intimated that fraud had taken place because a number of names on the earlier petition questioning the right of the town manager to drive a town vehicle home after hours and out of the town's limits mysteriously appeared on the petition that Lowry presented Monday night.

A number of people on the one list said, when contacted, that they had not signed the petition that was presented Monday night. Some of those present at Monday night's meeting intimated that a xerox machine had gotten into the act and that one list of names was photographed onto another petition.

Mayor Strickland spoke bluntly: "Mr. Lowry, my response to this petition will be brief and to the point. Quite frankly, I am disturbed by what appears to be fraud on the part of whoever prepared and presented the petition, Thursday, August 3, 1978. After reviewing the petition presented Thursday, we found that the signatures on the first two pages were the same signatures and signed in the same order, as the signatures on a petition presented at an earlier date dealing entirely with different concerns. After questioning many of the citizens whose name appeared on the petition, we learned that they had not signed such a petition. Today, the same petition was presented again, but this time with only half the number of signatures as the first. Mr. Lowry, I hope you nor any citizen, especially a citizen elected to represent all the people, would not risk the possibility of damaging one's credibility by using such distasteful tactics to satisfy selfish desires.

"I will have nothing further to say about this petition, until the attorneys have assured me that the law has not been violated in the areas of fraud, misrepresentation, misfeasance, malfeasance and conspiracy. Thank you."

The petition Monday night also called for "placing the water fund that was

moved to building funds back to the water fund" and "place the responsibility of the town back in the hands of the elected officials that we elected."

The petition presentation followed a series of ad hoc meetings reportedly held by a number of town citizens earlier.

55 people signed the petition in the possession of the Carolina Indian Voice. Some of those signing the petition, according to informal polling, reside outside the city limits.

OTHER ITEMS ON THE AGENDA

...Included a rejection of a request by two businesses to set up within town limits in mobile homes.

The Board also approved a transfer of ownership from NC Cable TV, Inc. to Jones Cable TV Company. The transfer of ownership seemingly is behind the delay in bringing cable TV to Pembroke.

Peoples Gas and Oil of Maxton requested an amendment to the town's zoning ordinance so that a car wash could be built in an area now zoned residential. A public hearing has been set for Sept. 5, 1978 at 7 p.m. for discussion of the request.

people
and places
and things

GOSPEL SING TO BE HELD

The Pembroke VFW Post 2843 will sponsor a gospel singing at the VA Hospital in Fayetteville on August 13, 1978 at 3 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

HOKE COUNTY JAYCEES TO SPONSOR SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

President Steve Chavis of the Hoke County Jaycees announced today that a Ladies Invitational Softball Tournament will be held in Raeford on August 11, 12, 13.

Chairman of the tournament announced that the tournament will be limited to sixteen teams and will be a double elimination tournament. Play will begin on Friday, Aug. 11 at 6 p.m. and continue on Saturday with the final games on Sunday afternoon.

Teams from six county area are being invited and this is expected to be one of the largest invitational ladies softball tournaments in southeastern North Carolina this year.

Trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place teams will be given, as well as trophies to an All Star Team and a Most Valuable Player.

Any team interested in participating in this tournament should call 919-875-5742 (day) or 919-875-4514 (night) for more information.

PEMBROKE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL REGISTRATION

All new students who have not registered for the 1978-79 school year at Pembroke Senior High School should do so on Tuesday, Aug. 15. The school will be open for registration from 8 a.m. until 3:30 p.m. In order to register students should bring their parents with them and any transfer information from their previous school where they were in attendance.

DR. I.E. READY TO ADDRESS RTI COMMENCEMENT

Dr. I.E. Ready, former head of the North Carolina Community College System, will deliver the baccalaureate address at Robeson Technical Institute's Commencement Exercises on Friday night, August 11, at Lumberton Senior High School. Ceremonies begin at 8 p.m.

Dr. Ready retired in 1971 after serving seven years as Director of the N.C. Community College System. He is widely known for his leadership in education, having served in various capacities from the high school level through the University level. He has been an English teacher and coach, principal, and superintendent in the public schools of North Carolina and South Carolina, and has served as the director of curriculum study for the NC State Board of Education. He has also taught at UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University and East Carolina University.

ROBESON COUNTY FARM BUREAU NEWS

"A membership of 500 farm families is the goal of the Robeson County Farm Bureau," according to Lycourous Lowry, president of the organization.

"The county's annual membership campaign is now underway," Lowry said, "and we are hoping to add at least 500 new members in order to reach this goal."

Lowry, who lives in the Pembroke community, said Farm Bureau membership continues to increase. "Farmers join because they know that only through a united effort can they gain sufficient strength to get results. This is more important today than ever before."

The county farm leader said it is urgent that farmers work together to make and keep farming a profitable

business. "A successful membership enrollment in Robeson County can help strengthen the farmer's voice and speed up agricultural progress."

A PORTION OF NC 71 TO BE CLOSED AUG. 15

Raleigh—North Carolina Department of Transportation (NCDOT) will close to through traffic a portion of NC-71 in Robeson County, Tuesday, August 15.

The temporary closing will allow Seaboard Coastline to repair a rail road crossing in Maxton, one mile from US-74. Work to repair the rail road crossing is scheduled to be completed Thursday, Aug. 17.

Traffic will be detoured on Old Red Springs Road (Secondary Road 1303), Flora McDonald Road (Secondary Road 1312) and NC-71.

RECEPTION TO HONOR DR. D.E. BROOKS PLANNED

The Young Adult Department of Bear Swamp Baptist Church will host a reception in honor of Dr. David Brooks, D.V.M. on Sunday, August 20, 1978 from 3 p.m. until 5 p.m. in the church fellowship hall.

The church invites the people and various businesses of the community to come and help welcome David as a new member of the business sector of our community.

Dr. Brooks is the son of the late Peter Brooks and Mrs. Annie Bell Brooks of Pembroke. He is a recent graduate of Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Ala.

CURTIS PIERCE GRADUATES FROM BANKERS SCHOOL

Curtis Pierce, vice president of Lumbee Bank, recently graduated from the North Carolina School of Banking at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. The schooling took 4 summers to complete (1 week each).

Pierce lives in the Red Banks community with his wife, Treva, and their 2 children. His schooling was sponsored by Lumbee Bank, Pembroke.

REP. DAVIS APPOINTED TO STATE INMATE LABOR COMMISSION

Speaker of the House Carl J. Stewart, Jr. of Gastonia, announced recently his appointment of State Rep. Robert E. Davis of Maxton to the State Inmate Labor Commission.

The Commission makes recommendations to the Secretary of the Department of Correction of the employment of state prison inmates on specific state public work projects, advises the secretary on the employment of state prison inmates, and makes reports to the secretary and General Assembly concerning inmate employment through out the state.

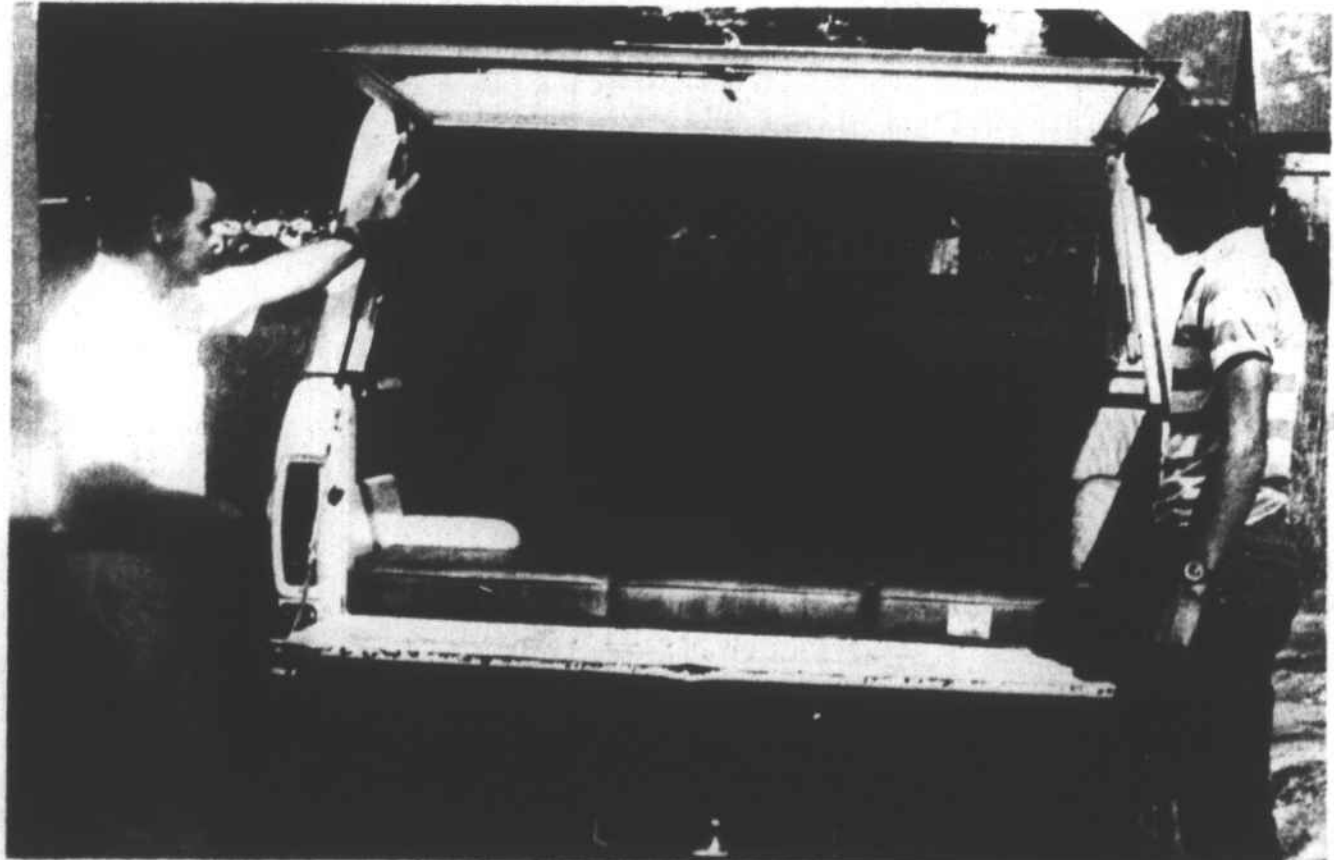
Rep. Davis was appointed to replace Rep. Joy Johnson of the 21st District who was appointed by Gov. Hunt to the State Parole Commission.

During the 1978 "mini" session of the General Assembly, he served as a member of the committees on Alcoholism, Beverage Control, Appropriations on Human Resources and Corrections, Corrections, Human Resources, Military and Veterans Affairs, Public Libraries, and University Board of Governors Nominating Committee. Robert is co-owner of the Davis Brothers Wholesale and serves on the Robeson County Health Board. For seven years, he served on the Maxton Town Board.

PEMBROKE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TO MEET

The Pembroke Chamber of Commerce will meet Thursday, August 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town Hall. Your attendance will be appreciated.

Ozmer Lee Oxendine Receives 2nd Patent For Invention

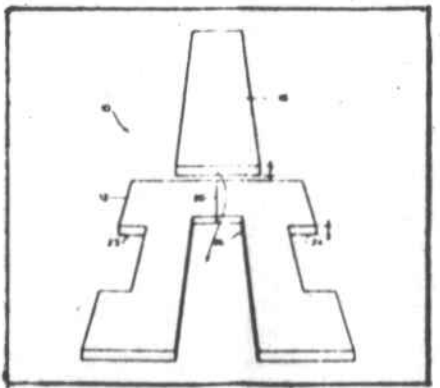


Ozmer Lee Oxendine, left, shows his invention, a pad for a vehicle having flat bed, to his son, Ozmer, Jr. (Bruce Barton, photo)

Ozmer Lee Oxendine is an inventive guy; he is always examining things to see how they work. Sometimes, as with his latest invention, he figures out how to do something and, after he has figured it out, it makes you wonder how come no one ever figured it out before. An inventor seemingly always figures out the simplest way to do something.

Oxendine has just been presented with his second patent, a patent for a pad for vehicles having a flat bed... like a truck for instance, or a van. It is a unique but simple invention, so simple that it had been over looked through out the life of America. Even Thomas Edison, deemed America's greatest inventor, never thought of it.

Here's a drawing of it.



Here's an abstract of the invention.

ABSTRACT

Disclosed a composite pad construction adapted to overlie the bed of a flatbed vehicle. In a preferred embodiment, the pad is formed from two pieces which may be fitted together to form a substantially rectangular construction that is custom fit to the bed. The pad comprises a substantially rectangular base portion that has a recess along its longitudinal centerline and a central panel that fits into the recess. The central panel, when removed provides a walkway in the center of the pad. The base may be provided with lateral cutouts on the sides for accommodating wheel wells that may protrude into the bed area. Also, auxiliary panels may be provided which may fit into the recess or may be used as pillows.

It's so simple that it is positively amazing in its complexity. Oxendine did not disclose what he's working on at the moment but based on his performance

in the past he probably is preparing another "discovery" for patent.

His first invention was for an orthopedic boot for a wearer with a deformed or mal fitting leg.

Oxendine is a dedicated school teacher at Union Chapel Elementary School and resides in the Harper's Ferry Community with his wife, Cora Sue, and their three children.

Oxendine firmly believes that one should keep his ideas to himself until he has filed a patent application with the United States Patent Office, preferably through a competent patent attorney.

by Bruce Barton

Lockee Trial Set To Start Today

Terry Lockee, the 22-year old Lumberton man whose arrest set off a dispute between local Indians and the State Patrol, is scheduled to appear in Robeson County Court today.

Lockee is charged with second offense driving under the influence, resisting arrest and assaulting an officer.

Lockee was severely injured on the night of May 20 as he allegedly tried to escape from Trooper Ray Davis. Lockee spent more than a week in the hospital recovering from head injuries apparently incurred when Davis struck him on the head with a night stick.

A state inquest into the affair was scheduled for early July, but it was postponed pending the outcome of Lockee's district court appearance.

Milton Hunt Attends Presidential Gathering in Wilson

An estimated crowd of some 10,000 people turned out to see President Jimmy Carter in the hometown of Governor Jim Hunt. President Carter made the trip to Wilson, North Carolina to help raise support for N.C. Insurance Commissioner John Ingram, the Democratic nominee for the U.S. Senate.

Pembroke Town Councilman Milton Ray Hunt, Robeson County Chairman for the Ingram Campaign was among a select group of State Leaders who attended a special luncheon with the President and party at the Heart of Wilson Motel.

Councilman Hunt gave us the following account of that event and the President's visit as a whole. "President Carter spoke glowingly of John Ingram as a people's advocate and committed to

helping Ingram get elected. He termed Ingram's election a matter of top priority as far as he was concerned," Hunt stated.

Councilman Hunt said the President was accompanied by Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland and Commerce Secretary Juanita Kreps. He spoke of his support for North Carolina's tobacco industry and concern for the state's economy as a whole.

Councilman Hunt, introduced to the President by John Ingram, said he chatted briefly with the President about a successful November election for Mr. Ingram.

The luncheon attended by Councilman Hunt was reportedly attended by a small group of about 100 people that

included the Governor, Lt. Governor, Council of State members, President Carter's Staff, and other VIPs. Hunt said he sat next to Jody Powell and had an opportunity to introduce himself and speak to him about national affairs in general and the Ingram Campaign. Hunt said the President left the luncheon to view a tobacco warehouse and was scheduled to leave Wilson about 4:50 p.m.

The Pembroke Councilman was accompanied by Lumberton City Councilman Glenn Maynor, Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings, and Pembroke Housing Director Clinton Thomas. Councilman Hunt said, "meeting the President was one of the most exciting moments of my life, and I feel his visit is certainly a compliment to the Ingram Campaign."