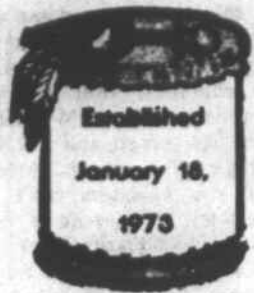




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LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE POOR COMES TO PEMBROKE

To Be Located In Old Locklear & Son Funeral Home Building

Pembroke-Indians in Robeson and adjoining counties have an oral tradition of "being ripped off by lawyers." Stories about land being lost, Indian males being sent to prison, lives being wrecked, insurance claims not filled, damages not sought for wrong doing, etc. etc. etc. It is a litany of law being used against the people, especially poor people- whatever the color of their skins.

Lumbie River Legal Services proposes to do something about law's poor record among poor people.

THE NEED FOR LEGAL SERVICES

Every person in this country is required to live under and obey the law. Every person is also entitled to use the law. Our democratic society requires no less. If some people- but not others- have access to the law, then the path of the law is inevitably skewed, and the law is inevitably unfair.

These are among the basic premises of the Legal Services Corporation Act of 1974. In the Act, Congress established the mandate of the Corporation: to provide "high quality legal assistance to those who would be otherwise unable to afford adequate legal counsel." That mandate was founded on the judgment that "equal access to the system of justice in our Nation" must be provided for all.

Congress adopted the Act to ensure that legal assistance would be available to poor people and that federal, state, and local laws would be enforced on behalf of the poor- not just on behalf of those who can afford counsel.

The tradition of free legal aid to the poor in this country was nearly 100 years old when the Corporation was established. But no more than a few of the poor ever had real access to a lawyer's services until the mid- 1960s. Until then, the only hope for most poor persons with civil legal problems was a

lawyer's charity.

By 1922, the American Bar Association had identified 33 legal aid societies in the country. In 1965, the number of those societies had grown to 248, but it had become apparent that the few legal aid lawyers and the voluntary services donated by private lawyers could not meet the legal needs of the poor. The traditional problems- in family law, housing, health, consumer concerns, and administrative benefits- were compounded by unemployment in many locales. Debt collections, evictions, repossessions, and related issues all increased tragically.

Against that background, in 1965, the Office of Legal Services was organized within the Office of Economic Opportunity, later the Community Services Administration.

The cause of providing free legal services to the poor made significant progress over the next decade. Limited federal funds were rapidly exhausted, however, as grants were made where strong community and bar support showed the need and desire for legal aid programs. As the 1970s began, the legal services program became an object of partisan political controversy. Funding for existing programs was virtually frozen from 1971 to 1975, and programs were forced to curtail their services drastically as the consequences of the budgetary freeze were exacerbated by record inflation.

In areas where the programs were operating, however, legal services attorneys provided service with extraordinary dedication and professionalism. Often working in shabby surroundings that no private lawyer would tolerate, legal services attorneys- idealistic and over worked, committed and underpaid- took on case loads of up to 500 legal matters a year.

As legal services efforts expanded, it

became evident that structural change was necessary. Legal services attorneys and their clients, and such organizations as the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the National National Clients Council, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association- recognizing the need to insulate legal assistance for the poor from partisan political pressure- moved in Congress and in their own broad constituencies for the establishment of an independent Legal Services Corporation.

The Corporation began operations in October, 1975. It is governed by an 11-member Board of Directors, appointed by the President of the United States, with the advice and consent of the Senate.

With funds provided through congressional appropriations, the Corporation distributes grants to approximately 320 legal services programs operating in about 700 neighborhood offices located throughout the 50 states, as well as in the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Micronesia. Approximately 320 legal services programs, 3,700 lawyers and 1,500 paralegals work in these offices. All programs are governed by local boards that include private attorneys and eligible clients from the community. The Act provides for the governors of every state to appoint nine- member State Advisory Councils, responsible for notifying the Corporation of apparent violations of the Act, or of Corporation rules and regulations, by Corporation- funded programs.

WHAT IS LUMBIE RIVER LEGAL SERVICES INC.? WHO IS IN IT? AND HOW DID IT BEGIN?

As mentioned earlier, Lumbie River Legal Services, Inc. is probably the newest of the legal service agencies funded through the national and state offices.

Lumbie River Legal Services, Inc. has a definite "Indian" look to it. It is actually a dual program.

The legal services program has (or will as soon as it is fully operational) a general legal service program and a special Indian Unit.

The special Indian unit is what seems to make this particular legal services program unique and apropos to the area it is located in- namely, Pembroke and Robeson County. Pembroke is known in some circles as the spiritual and economic center of the Lumbie Indian community, although not all Indians agree with that designation.

But everyone agrees that Robeson and adjoining counties' large Indian population is in dire need of legal services, especially those of us who are poor and unable to hire competent legal counsel for those worrisome "civil" problems that seem to haunt all of us in our daily lives.

The legal services program officially named "Lumbie River Legal Services, Inc." will provide legal services to a general low income area in a 4 to 5 county area that has a few small cities and a lot of rural farming. The area is very poor and has never had a legal service program. In addition, North Carolina has over 37,000 non- reservation Indians, a majority of whom are poor. These Indians live throughout North Carolina with the largest group living in Robeson County where approximately 30,000 Lumbie Indians reside. Additionally, some estimated 1,000 Indians reside in Robeson County who wish to be known as Tuscarora Indians and who are actively engaged in a legal battle to change their name from "Lumbie" to "Tuscarora."

The program, in its formative stages, is staffed by Cathy Sampson, Genneth Mercer and Sue Jamieson.

Dexter Brooks, a local attorney associated with the law firm of Locklear, Brooks and Jacobs in Pembroke is considered the "spiritual father" of the idea of a local legal services unit. He and his law partners, Arlie Jacobs and Arnold Locklear, have donated countless hours of labor and expertise to get the program off the ground.

They have been ably assisted by many others in the area, including Angus Thompson, a local Black attorney with law office in Lumberton and Mr. Richardson, another Black attorney who is a member of the district attorney's staff. Robert Locklear who heads Lumbie Regional Development Association's Right to Read Program is a member of the North Carolina Legal Services Unit, the governing and advisory body of the local effort, has provided considerable advice and serves on the local board of directors.

LRDA has helped, providing office space and staff assistance. Ruth B. Locklear, an LRDA staffer, has worked with the program as has Kenneth Maynor, executive director of LRDA, and other members of his staff.

Representatives from other Indian tribes and organizations have assisted, especially Julius Locklear, a member of the Guilford County Native American Association and Kent Patrick, from the Waccamaw- Siouan Tribe.

WHAT IS HAPPENING NOW AND WHO WILL HEAD THE PROGRAM?

Lumbie River Legal Services, Inc. is expected to close a deal today (Thursday) to buy the building that formerly housed Locklear and Son Funeral Home in Pembroke. The building, owned by Samuel Locklear, is expected to be signed over to the legal services unit today for a purchase price reportedly in the neighborhood of \$60,000. Locklear has relocated in a spacious and modern funeral home facility on Union Chapel Road. The old funeral home was being used as a fraternity. The building fronts the rail road that traverses through the heart of Pembroke and sits beside Pates Supply Company.

WHO IS GOING TO HEAD THE PROGRAM?

According to a source, the executive director will be an Indian. And the director is expected, according to unconfirmed sources, to come from a list of Indian attorneys comprised of Julian Pierce, Betty Jo Hunt, Brantley Blue and Arlie Jacobs.

Pierce is now a staff attorney with the Securities Exchange Commission in Washington.

Betty Jo Hunt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Hunt from the Fairmont area, is now engaged as an attorney in the Washington, DC area. She most recently headed a task force for the American Indian Policy Review Commission. She headed the task force on non- federally recognized and terminated Indian Tribes.

Commissioner Brantley Blue is finishing up an appointment as a judge on the U.S. Indian Claims Commission.

Jacobs is a partner with the law firm Locklear, Brooks and Jacobs in Pembroke.

All of the candidates are natives of Robeson County.

Lumbie River Legal Services is expected to be operational before the end of this year. The stand up budget is in excess of \$150,000.

Eventually, the legal services unit will have a staff of as many as 12 attorneys specializing in the civil aspects of the law.

people
and places
and things

THE PLAINSMEN QUARTET TO PERFORM

A gospel sing featuring the Plainsmen Quartet will be held at Sandy Plains United Methodist Church on Sunday night, August 20, 1978 at 7:30 p.m. The church invites the public to attend this evening of inspirational music and worship.

DEDICATION SERVICES HELD FOR BEAR SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH

On Sunday, August 13, 1978 a dedication service was held for the purpose of dedicating the new fellowship hall and sanctuary of Bear Swamp Baptist Church. A church history was given by Mrs. Dorothy Lowry and the message was brought by Rev. Steve Jones. Rev. T.M. Swett is pastor of Bear Swamp.

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING RESCHEDULED

Notice is hereby given that the regular monthly meeting of the Mayor and Board of Commissioners has been changed to September 5, 1978 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the town hall.

JOSEPH ROBERTS RECEIVES HONORS



Joseph Roberts

Joseph Roberts, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Poorboy of Route 1, Pembroke was awarded the most outstanding male athlete in the Governor's School at Winston- Salem, NC. While at the Governor's School, Joe studied various phases of mathematics, topology, abstract algebra, probability and computer science. He also studied Philosophical Thinking and Psychology.

Joseph was among three students attending Governor's School from Pembroke Senior High School. Joseph was chosen in academics, while Lisa Stover and Cindy Kay Locklear attended in the performing arts (dance).

Joseph is involved in numerous activities at Pembroke Senior High School where he serves as a marshal, and all- conference Tennis player, varsity football and basketball.

BURNT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH PLANS HOMECOMING

Burnt Swamp Baptist Church will observe its annual Homecoming on Sunday, August 20th. Guest speaker will be Rev. Varner Lockee from Lincolnton, NC. Lunch will be served and singing will begin at 2 p.m. Friends and relatives are cordially invited. Rev. Tilford Locklear is the pastor.

NANCY WOODILL FAMILY REUNION TO BE HELD

The annual meeting of the Woodell Family Reunion will meet this year at Union Chapel at the Burnt Swamp Multi purpose Center on Sept. 2. Dinner will be served at 12 noon and the fellowship will last until. Everyone is urged to bring a covered dish. Drinks will be on sale at the building to help defray expenses. Everyone is asked to please be present by Myrtle Woodell of Route 2, Pembroke. She hopes to meet you all there.

Kicks Off "Clean Up" Lumber River Campaign

Lumberton- Most petitions these days are for the removal of a politician from office. Bill Kebort, manager of the Hungry Bull Family Steak House in Lumberton, has changed the format a little bit.

He's passing around a petition for signatures to clean up Lumber River. Kebort, a transplanted Yankee and his wife, Virginia, like to go out on the river in their fishing boat. Or they did. Alas, debris, fallen limbs, silt deposits and the like have hampered some of their outings and Kebort decided to do something about it.

His petition read:

TO : UNITED STATES CORPS OF ENGINEERS:

"Whereas, the Lumber River in Robeson County is now overgrown with trees and stumps and is in such a state that navigation is impossible and where as, various vile substances have been deposited in said river which are harmful; now therefore, the undersigned citizens of Robeson County do hereby petition the United States Corps of Engineers to undertake its mission and clean and rid said river of all trees, stumps, shallow areas and deposits."

In other words, Kebort wants to take his wife Virginia out on the river again in his fishing boat. That's all.

And he wants the corp of engineers to clean up the river "not dredge it but clean it up."

Kebort expects Rep. Charlie Rose to meet with him and concerned citizens at a yet to be named location some time in September to receive the petitions he has collected.

Said Kebort, "When people get ready to do something in America it gets done- and it's time to clean up Lumber River."

Robeson County officials have responded enthusiastically to Kebort's petition drive. Petitions are available at The Carolina Indian Voice for those who would like to sign.

If an enthusiastic guy with a handful of papers and a Yankee brogue approaches you and asks you to sign a petition- SIGN IT!! It's for a good cause, to clean up the muddied Lumber River and restore her to her once sparkling, cascading self.

Warriors Open 'Scrimmage' Season Against Maxton Friday Night

Pembroke- The Pembroke High Warriors open their "scrimmage" season Friday night against Maxton here at home. The scrimmage is expected to give Coach John W. "Ned" Sampson an opportunity to look at his boys under fire since Maxton is always a strong contender for honors in their LA Cape Fear Conference.

But the Pembroke High Warriors are expected to see tough competition all year long. They kick off their official season September 1 against Rowland at home.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Construction of Old Main Now Official



As the sign implies, the restoration of Old Main is official. In addition to

restoration of the building, jobs are also available for the community. (Bruce

Barton photo)

An Open Letter From The Tuscarora Tribal Council

To Whom It May Concern:

We are the Tuscaroras of North Carolina. At the present time we are engaged in trying to get federal recognition as the Tuscaroras. It has been a long hard struggle, on a sometimes rocky road. The Tuscarora Tribal Council office, located in Pembroke, is concerned with Indian business and only Indian business. Our chairman, Carnie Brayboy, can be reached at this office. We have an attorney, Raymond Gibbs, and a historian, Peter Hammonds, to help fight our case when we reach the courts.

Anyone having questions concerning anything connected with the Tuscaroras may feel free to contact us. We now need help to win our court suit. Any donations will be greatly appreciated. All checks may be made out to the Tuscarora Tribal Council.

The office is located at Bevel's Motel, East 3rd street, P.O. Box 1356, Pembroke, N.C. 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.