

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barron



ODDS & ENDS & THIS AND THAT

A VISIT TO THE THOMAS WOLFE MEMORIAL IN ASHEVILLE

I like big and imposing heroes, like Muhammad Ali, and the late Thomas Wolfe, who wrote prose as if he were on fire. He created a stir in his hometown of Asheville, North Carolina in the 30s when he wrote his first book entitled "Look Homeward Angel...". The book, autobiographical in nature, created a fury in Asheville when it came out. Many Ashevilleans thought they read themselves in the book. Their reaction to the book kept Wolfe from going home for many, many years and prompted him to write "You can't go home again," another book. His prose was flowing, like a river, big and mighty. Like a brook, he bubbled up. He wrote like a man possessed.

Maybe he was. He died at the early age of 38 from tuberculosis of the brain. He was a big man, handsome and awesome. He weighed close to 300 pounds and loomed up to 6 foot, seven inches.

He was a little mad, like all mountaineers and all men who live in confined quarters and then one day find themselves free. But are we ever free, you see? His prose was a primal scream, tinged with a wild paranoia. Maybe he never really liked himself. I don't know. I know that he wrote as if he were trying to exorcise himself of evils.

Everytime I find myself near his home that has been preserved first by the city of Asheville and his family and then by the North Carolina Department of Natural Resources, I go by and wander through the house, now an historical site, and get a feeling of the man. It's a great experience if you are ever in Asheville. The architectural design of the house, and the antique furnishings are worth touring the house for, but the spirit of the man is there too.

Anyway, my family and I took the long weekend and went to visit our friends, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lowry, and family, who reside in Columbus North Carolina, approximately 45 miles from Asheville. The leaves are turning now, and the colors will turn your head. It's a good time to visit up towards the mountains.

Jim and Phyllis and Chad and Jayme, their children, have moved to Columbus because they recently acquired a Chevrolet dealership in nearby Tryon, North Carolina.

It was good to see them again. And the mountains, and the foliage and Thomas Wolfe's old homeplace. It was a very pleasurable weekend. Jim is the son of the late Rev. Harvey Lowry and Mrs. Myrtle Lowry of the Union Elementary School area. Phyllis is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bracy Locklear of Pembroke.



We left Jim selling Chevrols last Saturday morning as we headed for Asheville. Here is (L-R) Phyllis Lowry, Chad, her son, our beloved Sissy and Brandi, Jayme, the Lowry's daughter, and Barbara, my wife.



And, so I can show myself in front of Thomas Wolfe's house, my wife snapped me and Sissy and Brandi. I'm the far guy in the middle.

A SLIGHT DISAGREEMENT WITH LARRY CHEEK, THE ERUDITE COLUMNIST OF THE FAYETTEVILLE TIMES

In one of his columns last week, Cheek wrote about "Blue Laws and the Bible." Some of it was pretty good. He came back hard at a reader who had written him and referred him to the Bible to "explain the blue law." Well, I went along with Larry Cheek, sort of.

You see, the Bible says to let yea be yea and nay be nay. In other words, the Bible is not the answer to 20 questions. The Bible only (and nothing is more important than this) points one to the saving grace of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Bible should never be used to answer questions that are unanswerable. We should just leave stuff like that alone.

Now, one has to be careful with Larry Cheek. He is one of the best writers in the newspaper business. He can "come back" at you better than anyone in the business except maybe Jerry Bledsoe.

So, I am treading lightly. He got in some good shots. And the reader should be Mr. Cheek if he was a Christian.

Well, he should not have done that. Mr. Cheek said, "The answer is innovative and simplistic. And I refuse to answer."

Now I am concerned about Mr. Cheek's "come back." And I want to be careful about what I say.

But I must say this to Larry Cheek. We do not have to ask one another if we are Christians or not. We will tell it ourselves. And our actions will announce it most of all.

AND A FINAL NOTE...

I am an ex-convict. I will always be an ex con. One is what he is. I am a product of my past. It has tempered my life and given me an understanding of human nature and God that I could not have found in the universities of the world. I am truly an educated man because of my time spent in the prison system of North Carolina. I have developed friendships with guys in prison. All of us are human beings, most of all. We all need understanding.

Elsewhere on the page is an article entitled "Prisons Takeover Threat Remains." It is an important article about an important subject. It is reprinted from the Asheville Citizen Times Newspaper. We gratefully acknowledge the source of the article.

If the state cannot treat prisoners humanely then the Federal Government has a solemn responsibility to do so.

PEMBROKE NEWS

by Mrs. Bazie Hardin

The Ladies' Auxilliary of Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church met Tuesday night in the fellowship hall and held their meeting. The president, Mrs. Helen Faye Locklear, presided at the event. Prayer was offered by Mrs. Frances Bryan. Mrs. Shirley M. Locklear was in charge of the program. The topic was "The Pattern for our Christian Life." The refreshments were furnished by Mrs. Dora M. Oxendine. Present, other than mentioned above, were Mrs. Linda C. Bullard, Mrs. Floy Smith, Mrs. Christine Burke and grandson Freddie Blair, Mrs. Mary Oxendine, Mrs. Betty Maynor, Mrs. Maebeil Elk, Mrs. Jean Chavis, Mrs. Mary Sue Lowry, Mrs. Grace Bell, Mrs. Libbie Lowry, Mrs. Brenda Lowry and daughter Miss Nicole Lowry. The benediction was given by Mrs. Christine Burke.

Homecoming was held Sunday, October 22, 1978 at the New Bethel Methodist Church. Attending from Pembroke were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Brewington and Mrs. Lindburg Locklear. Singing groups attending and participating in the song service were the Deep Branch Baptist Church's Choir (The Adult), The Young People's Choir, and the Young Adult Choir, The Union Chapel Methodist Church Choir, The Oxendine Family, Ashpole Methodist Church Choir, The Community Gospel Singers of Fairmont and the hostess church's Adult Choir, their quartet and the New Bethel Bethelites.

Mrs. Lena J. Dial was accompanied Tuesday of the past week by Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Osborne, Jr. to Charlotte where Mrs. Dial filled her medical appointment.

Mrs. Eula P. Strickland of the McColl, S.C. area was a guest Wednesday night in the home of her mother, Mrs. Jesse Smith of Rt. 1, Pembroke.

Visiting Thursday and getting in some fishing at the Sunset Beach, S.C. were Mrs. Donnie Deese, Mrs. Woodrow Dial and Mrs. Martha Lee Smith.

Rev. C.C. Allen, Sr. of Hope Mills was the guest speaker at the morning service at Pembroke Church of God. After service Rev. and Mrs. Allen, Sr. were dinner guests in the home of their niece, Mrs. Shirley Smith and children of Fourth Street. Mrs. Allen and Mrs. Smith attended the singing Sunday evening at the Pembroke Church of God. The pastor is the Rev. Jack Hunt.

Mrs. Gladys Scott attended church service Sunday at the Thompson Baptist Church. After being absent some time due to illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Dial of Lumberton had as their dinner guests Sunday their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Sampson of Wilmington.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chavis visited Tuesday of the past week at the Cherry Grove, S.C. beach where they did some fishing.

Mrs. Jessie Dial, a patient at Southeastern General Hospital of Lumberton, was reported as of Tuesday to be improving satisfactorily.

Mrs. Lillie Warriax was admitted Sunday in Southeastern General Hospital, having suffered a stroke.

Mr. and Mrs. Nash Lowry left Sunday for their Gibbstown, New Jersey home after spending part of their Fall vacation visiting with their daughter and her family, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Joseph Domingo of Charleston, S.C. Enroute home they came by Pembroke and visited with Mrs. Lowry's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hezlie Deese of the Saint Annah Community.

Mrs. Johnnie Lowry spent the past weekend visiting with her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Cox of Bennettsville, S.C.

A family fish cookout with all the trimmings was held Saturday at the Cherry Grove Beach, S.C. Attending were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chavis, Mr. and Mrs. P.R. Bullard and daughter Jana, Mrs. Jean Chavis and children, and Mrs. Barbara Jones and children.

Mrs. Iuela Chavis and Mrs. Christine Burke visited Tuesday with Mrs. Ret Chavis, a patient at the North Carolina Cancer Institute of Lumberton. Then on Thursday Mrs. Burke and Mrs. Chavis visited in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson and Mrs. Cattie Oxendine. They are all three on the sick list.

Saturday guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bazie Hardin and Mr. Bazie Hardin, Jr. were Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hardin and daughter Cherisse of Chapel Hill, Dr. and Mrs. Benford Hardin and daughters Alicia and Christie, and Mr. David Maynor of Whispering Pines. The Elwood Hardin family also visited with Rev. and Mrs. Dawley Maynor.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Elk and children Kelvin and Kristen Ronette were overn't guests Friday in the home of Mr. Elk's sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Young of Charlotte. Upon leaving Charlotte Saturday, the Elk family went on to Greenville, S.C. where they were guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Epps and Mr. and Mrs. S.G. Underwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Horace Dial of Philadelphia, Penn. and formerly of Robeson County, announce the birth of a son, Kevin Joseph, who weighed seven pounds and 13 ounces when born Wednesday, October 18, 1978. Mr. and Mrs. Dial also have two other sons, Michael Lynn, age 8, and Gary, age 7. Kevin Joseph is

IN MEMORY OF...

I will never forget October 1977. James doesn't come to see us anymore. In answer to his prayers, God called him last October. "A home for you I prepared. Come now, I am ready for you," James said. "Anything you say God, I can't live this way. There is nothing here for me."

In memory of James E. Cheek. He passed away last October after a few weeks sickness. Let us not be sad, but remember our day is coming soon. -By Myrtle W. Oxendine, a cousin.

the grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Dial of Lumberton, and the maternal grandmother is Mrs. Lila Mae Hunt of the Greenville Acres area near Lumberton.

The beautiful Fall flower arrangement was furnished Sunday, October 22, 1978 at Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church in memory of Mrs. Corena Jacobs by her children.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Lowry, Sr. recently spent a night visiting in the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. James Strickland and family of Charlotte. Upon leaving Charlotte, Mr. and Mrs. Lowry went on to Asheville where Mr. Lowry attended the legal seminar for judges and magistrates held during the week of October 16, 1978 at the Holiday Inn in Asheville. The seminar was sponsored by the Institute of Government. On Tuesday a banquet was held for all those who attended this event, including their spouses. Mr. Lowry is the local magistrate for the Pembroke area.

Mrs. Dessie O. Lowry of Norfolk, Virginia, and formerly of Pembroke, left Monday by airplane for Spain where she will join her husband, Commander Bernard Lowry, Jr. for a two week vacation. Cd. Lowry is aboard the USS Enterprise and will be in port for some time in Spain. The U.S.S. Enterprise has been out at sea for several months. While Mrs. Lowry is visiting with her husband, their children will visit with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Alton Oxendine of Chesapeake, Va. Mrs. Lowry is a daughter of Mrs. Daisy Lee Oxendine of Chavis Street in Pembroke.

Mrs. Daisy Lee Oxendine is reportedly improving after having been in two weeks due to the flu.

The home of Mrs. Edna Maynor was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday morning around 7:30 a.m. The cause of the fire is unknown. The Pembroke Fire Department responded to the call but was unable to save the home. Mrs. Maynor, who is in her 80s, and a daughter, Miss Annie Jane Maynor, were alone in the house at the time.

Partners in prayer serve God as much as do His servants in more prominent ministries if they are faithful in their prayer life.

Hebrews 11-6 -- But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

Central Truth

Birthday Proverb for Thursday, October 26, 1978

Hebrews 11-6 -- But without faith it is impossible to please him for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

PSU In Full Swing

PEMBROKE -- Pembroke State University's sports schedule is back in full swing now after the fall break. The fall sports are coming to a close with the winter and spring sports getting geared up for exciting seasons.

The women's volleyball team, currently 12-10 on the season, will travel to UNC-Wilmington today (Tuesday) and then women's tennis will host Atlantic Christian Wednesday at 2 p.m. PSU's soccer team will host Carolinas Conference opponent Guilford at 3 p.m. Wednesday. The women's tennis team at Pembroke State will host UNC-Wilmington Thursday at 3 p.m. The women's volleyball team will venture to High Point over the weekend for the Carolinas Conference Tournament.

The highlight of the weekend will be Pembroke State hosting the NAIA District 26 cross country meet Saturday at Riverside Country Club. PSU finished third last weekend behind Carolina and NC State without the services of their No. 2 runner, Jeff Moody in the state cross country meet. Moody was out of the event due to sickness.

There is no charge for any of the fall sports events at Pembroke State University. For further information, contact the Sports Information office at Pembroke State.

of the fire. Mrs. Maynor was not injured in the fire but her daughter, Annie Jane, was badly burned. She was carried to Southeastern General Hospital Emergency Room but was immediately sent to the Burn Center in Charlotte where she is in critical condition. Mrs. Maynor was away at the time of the fire at work. Any one who wishes to help this family (they lost all of their clothes and house-hold furnishings) may call these numbers: 521-9088, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Maynor, or 521-3550. If you want to mail in a cash donation you may make the check out to Mrs. Edna Maynor and mail to: Rev. C.W. Maynor, Rt. 1, Pembroke. Mrs. Maynor's dress size is 14 1/2. Her shoe size is 9 narrow. Her son wears a pants size W-36, L-30-31. Shoe size 9 or 9 1/2 D. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

A gift of money was donated to Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church in honor of their birthdays by Mrs. Libbie Lowry on her 65th, Mrs. Louise S. Locklear for her 58th, Mrs. Vera Doris Malcolm for her 42nd, Mr. Harvey Lowry on his 36th, and his son Harvey Lowry, Jr. for his 15th, Brent Lowry on his 6th, and Cable Malcolm for his 5th. The flower arrangement was furnished at the same church for the morning service by Mrs. Malcolm in honor of her son and her birthdays.

Bible Thought for the Week

Saint Matthew 6:1 -- Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them. Otherwise ye have no reward of your father which is in heaven.

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Prisons Takeover Threat Remains

By BILLY PRITCHARD

Chico-Times Staff Writer
By refusing to review federal appellate court decision this month, the U.S. Supreme Court may have led the way for an eventual federal takeover of North Carolina's 77-unit, 14,000-inmate prison system.

The complaint, filed by 29 prison inmates from across the state on May 10, 1976 in U.S. District Court in Asheville, named former Gov. James E. Holshouser Jr., members of his cabinet and state prison officials as defendants.

The prisoners complained in their suit of overcrowding and unfit conditions within the prison system and asked the federal district court to intervene and supervise an improvement plan for the system.

The case came before U.S. District Court Judge Woodrow W. Jones of Rutherfordton, who dismissed it on Aug. 16, 1976, on grounds that the plaintiffs had failed to state a claim upon which relief could be granted.

The prisoners' attorneys, Russell P. Brannon and Allen E. Wellons of Asheville, appealed Jones' dismissal to the U.S. Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in Richmond, Va.

The appellate court rejected Jones' findings, reversed his decision and ordered Jones to conduct more hearings.

The North Carolina attorney general's office, representing the state in the suit, appealed the circuit court's decision and filed a writ of certiorari before the U.S. Supreme Court, asking the nation's highest court to review the appellate court's decision.

But on Oct. 2, the Supreme Court denied the petition, sending the case back to North Carolina for further proceedings.

The case was argued before the appellate court on Dec. 3, 1977, before a three-judge panel consisting of F. Clement Haynsworth, chief justice for the Fourth Circuit, Albert V. Bryan, senior circuit judge, and Circuit Judge Harrison Winter.

In a 2-1 decision on April 26, 1978, with Bryan dissenting, the appellate court sided with the prisoners, reversing Jones' decision.

Bryan, in his written dissenting opinion, accompanying the majority opinion, said that the suit of the district court taking over supervision of all 77 prisons in North Carolina "is a fundamental violation of federalism; it is a bold, bold and active usurpation of an official state function."

"To my mind, the district court had judged altogether wrongly. Its decision was not a judicial judgment. Plaintiffs were left free to bring separate appropriate actions for themselves and others suffering deprivations in the same prisons."

The appellate court decision also includes a note from Judge John A. Field Jr., the 66-year-old senior judge, who said he wanted to go on record as agreeing with Bryan, although he wasn't a member of the three-judge panel that heard the appeal.

There is precedent for a federal supervision of prison reforms in North Carolina, despite Judge Bryan's opinion. The biggest of the precedent cases came out of Alabama in 1976.

On Jan. 13, 1976, U.S. District Court Judge Frank M. Johnson ruled in Montgomery that the state must reform its prison system to guarantee a set of minimum standards for the treatment of prisoners and do so within six months under the supervision of a 39-member human rights committee.

Among other things, Johnson ruled that Alabama must provide each prisoner with at least 60 square feet of living space, a weekly change of linen, an individual safe locker, three "wholesome and nutritious" meals a day, "a meaningful job" with instruction available "designed to teach a marketable skill," and a recreation program.

Johnson also ordered the number of prison guards in the state increased from 383 to 682 to insure the safety of prisoners from prison violence, and that the guard force should resemble, in a racial ratio, the prison population.

The judge also ordered medical treatment, especially psychiatric, improved.

Estimates on how much it would cost Alabama to implement the federal judge's order ranged from \$80 million to \$100 million for construction, or capital outlay, alone.

Brannon, one of the 29 plaintiff-prisoners' attorneys, said recently that there were other precedents to be cited in the case, including court rulings from Arkansas, Florida and Georgia.

Brannon said he and Wellons took the prisoners' case free of charge. He said some of the costs of the lawsuit, such as copying and paper, are being paid for by the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union, which is sponsoring the lawsuit.

Brannon said the lawsuit, which could turn out to be a landmark case with nationwide implications, started with concern over conditions at Craggy Prison here, which is an overcrowded, outdated prison with a history of violence and fires.

"If it means a federal takeover, then I guess that is what we want," Brannon said. "But I don't think it will go that far. Certainly, we will get some relief, if we win anything at all."

Brannon said the decision by the higher federal courts will at least mean that the prisoners will now get a hearing before the lower court and that the state will have to respond to the complaints.

"We will eventually find out just how bad things really are," Brannon said, adding that the discovery period, when the state will answer allegations made in the complaint, will take another six months.

"It will probably be early next summer before the case is ever tried," he said. "It does have great potential and importance."

Shortly after the Supreme Court's decision not to review the case, Amos E. Reed, state corrections secretary, said many of the inmates' grievances are no longer true because of "a massive effort" to build new cells, improve maintenance and upgrade conditions.

The inmates filed the suit when the prison system had reached its highest population of 14,600 inmates in a system designed to hold only 10,000.

Of the original 29 prisoners named as plaintiffs in the suit, four were inmates at Craggy Prison -- Raymond Creason, Gerald R. Price, Gonzales Jones and Norman Anthony.

Leading the list is Thomas Brannon, who is serving a 10-year term in Central Prison, the state's maximum security unit in Raleigh. Three women inmates also joined the plaintiffs in the suit.

Also among the group is James Earl Grant Jr., a somewhat celebrity prisoner since he is one of the so-called "Charlotte Three," who were convicted in the 1968 burning of a Charlotte stable in which 15 horses were killed.

The Charlotte Three, who drew lengthy prison terms, have been labeled political prisoners by some groups. The case is under review by Gov. Jim Hunt.

In the case before the district court here, the prisoners complained of overcrowding, interference with prisoners' mail, long periods of isolation without adequate care and facilities, denial of due process in administrative procedures, such as transfers, disciplinary actions and prisoner classifications, and general prison conditions, such as food, health care, recreation and education.

The prisoners said such treatment, or lack of it, amounted to cruel and unusual punishment, denial of access to the courts or

legal counsel and denial of due process of law -- all in violation of both the state and federal constitutions.

In turn, the inmate-plaintiffs asked the federal district court to do 13 things. Among them: --Enter a preliminary injunction prohibiting the state from accepting any more prisoners into the system until the prison population could be reduced to "constitutional standards," giving each prisoner inmate a minimum of 80 square feet of living space.

--Enter a mandatory injunction ordering the release of all state prisoners eligible for parole, another move to reduce the prison population.

--Prohibit the construction of any new prison facilities until a program of education, recreation and work-release could be funded and developed.

--Prohibit further censorship or tampering with prisoners' mail.

--Provide for better health and hygienic care, food and access to books and writing materials.

--Require fair disciplinary hearings.

--Prohibit any retaliation by the state against the prisoners who filed the suit.

--Appoint a "Citizens Committee" to supervise the implementation of the federal court order requiring the changes in the prison system.

--Retain jurisdiction over the prison system until the plan is completed.

Girl Scout Volunteers Needed

The following volunteer jobs in girl scouting need to be filled for the Pembroke Service Unit. The volunteers are recruited for a one year period, but since it is so late in the year they will serve approximately nine months. At the end of this time period if they want to, they may volunteer for another year.

None of these jobs involve girls. The people will be adults in the community and county.

The jobs of Troop Organizer (we already organized for the year) and Troop Consultant, can almost be handled from one's home by telephone.

The job of Service Unit Chairman will require some training and travel. The Field Director can provide the transportation to the training.

For further information contact: Pines of Carolina Girl Scouts, P.O. Box 70, Pembroke, N.C. 28372 or call 521-2418.

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People in the U.S. consume eleven billion bananas annually, according to The World Book Encyclopedia. Most of them are eaten as snacks or in cereal, fruit cocktails, and salads.

The Statue of Liberty in New York Harbor has the face of the mother of the sculptor, Bartholdi, and the body of his mistress.