

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barton



ODDS AND ENDS AND THIS AND THAT

Joy J. Johnson is a Remarkable Politician and Minister

There are two fields of thought: some ministers (mostly Blacks) get involved in politics up to their eye teeth; others shun the practice "as being of this world." I believe ministers of the gospel ought to get involved in politics. Now, that's just my opinion. If you don't believe ministers ought to get involved... well, that's all right, too. Opinions are like belly buttons. All of us have one. People talk all day long about how crooked politics is... and they turn their backs on the sordid practices and let things go along as is. Who could better teach us how to be responsible citizens than our ministers? They have a ready made pulp.

Rev. Joy J. Johnson is one who has involved himself in politics. We are all better for it. He is not bitter, although he is a Black man from a very poor background. An unblemished Black man from a past of poverty is a rare creature, indeed. When we find one, we ought to honor him.

Joy J. Johnson, now serving as a gubernatorial appointee to the North Carolina Commission of Paroles, was the first minority anything to get elected to an office in Robeson County beyond the county level. He was elected to the North Carolina House of Representatives. He is the best representative Robeson County ever sent to the general assembly. He was competent, engaging, compassionate while in the house.

He also is pastor of First Baptist Church in Fairmont. He has legions of Black and Indian and White admirers. He has transcended race. He knows what it is to look over on the other side.

He recently finished up a term as president of the North Carolina Black Baptist Association. The real name is the General Baptist Convention of North Carolina but all of us know that it is the mostly Black Baptist Group, the counterpart to the North Carolina (mostly white) Baptist Association.

Now he is talking about running for the North Carolina Commissioner of Labor. I know one thing: he is starting with one vote - mine! I would not count him out. He is a remarkable politician and minister.

Homecoming at "Old Prospect"...

Homecoming at "Old Prospect" is something extra special. "Old Prospect" is actually Prospect United Methodist Church where Rev. Bob Mangum is the pastor. A huge throng attended Sunday and heard a wonderful message on "Who Are They?" by Rev. Joseph Bethea, the District Superintendent.

Homecoming at "Old Prospect" is a time of renewing old friendships. Many, many people now living away manage to return for homecoming special day when they gather home.

But it is the people who make homecoming at "Old Prospect" special. Some of my kin folks still live there and I am flooded with warm and mysterious feelings.

Both my grandfathers and grandmothers were "raised" in the Prospect Community. My grandfather, Nocie Locklear, is buried at "New Prospect" Methodist Church not too far away. He, according to those who were privileged to know him, had a wonderful laugh. He knew life was short. He died of some silly thing like an ulcerated stomach at the early age of 39. I have never overed it, although I never knew him. He died before I was born. Sometimes I stop at "New Prospect" and look at his picture that my grandmother had placed on his tombstone. God! He was a handsome man!

He left with "that crowd" when they left "Old Prospect" a long time ago and started up their own church, "New Prospect." Oh, they say he could sing and laugh so gloriously. He was a man of the earth. He liked to hunt and fish. Sometimes the spirit would come over him and he would drop everything to go fishing (or hunting). Grandma would "give him a fit" but when the urge came over him a legion of Devils couldn't keep him from that of fishing hole.

Oh, I wish I could have known him. They say my brother, Garry, is a lot like him, easy going but firm about some things.

My other grandfather, Harker Barton, was a genius in his time. They called him the letter writing man. He got a lot of veterans their benefits by writing letters for them to the proper authorities. And any kind of letter. He was acknowledged as the one to go and see if you had a problem with the authorities. He was once fined a hundred dollars for "practicing law without a license." He could have been a great lawyer if the racists in our midst had allowed him to go to school and study and develop his mind.

Like all the flinty Scotsmen who settled in the Indian community and intermingled with the lovely Indian ladies, my grandfather was a disciplined and taciturn man. He didn't "over talk." He just said what he had to say.

A fellow told me once, "Now, your grandfather, Harker, was a man of discipline except for... well, he loved his women."

"Papa Harker" had three wives and 18 children. Some laid other children to him. I am just talking about the official stuff right now.

Anyway, he was a product of Prospect. He thought like a "Prospect man."

I was a wee lad of 11 or so when he died at the ripe age of 76. I miss him. I remember him well. I know nothing of his faults. He brought candy and things like that to me.

And my grandmothers, both warm and sweet women who could do just about anything. One I was not privileged to know. I never knew my daddy's mama but they say, "why Catherine Ann ruined your daddy. She spoiled him scandalously." And my grandmother, Ada Locklear, is still living on Pine Street in Pembroke. she is a woman of "true grit." She worked out a farm after Granddaddy, "Nocie," died in the midst of the depression. Her virtues are work and her word. If she tells you something you can depend on it. God bless her. I love her. And I love my Grandmother, Catherine Ann, although I never knew her. But I knew her through other people. Some say my mama, Berna, is a lot like her. If so, she was a sweet and kind and gentle woman.

It was good to return to Prospect and "touch the soil of my birth."

Completes Basic Training

Navy Airman Apprentice Roger D. Hunt, son of Roger E. Hunt of Route 7, Box 291, Lumberton, N.C., has completed several months of training at the Naval Training Center, Orlando, Fla.

designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 66 basic occupational fields.

A 1978 graduate of Littlefield Junior-Senior High School, he joined the Navy in January 1976.

During the eight-week training cycle, trainees studied general military subjects

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Interested in "JV" Scores

Dear Mr. Barton:

Since my husband and I and our family have returned to the Pembroke area, we have subscribed to your newspaper.

I can honestly say that I enjoy reading each and every article and that the newspaper as a whole is very informative.

However, my reason for writing this letter is - Why is there no articles concerning the successes and/or failures of the Junior-Varsity football team at Pembroke Senior High School?

I feel that the members of the "JV" squad are just as important as the Varsity team.

Sometimes people are oversighted because others feel these people are not important. These boys on the "JV" team work just as hard, practice as hard, and perhaps play better as a team than does the Varsity team. And I feel they should be recognized.

Thank You,
Mrs. Terry J. Brooks
Rt. 2 Box 100
Maxton, N.C. 28364

Purvis School plans Harvest Carnival

Purvis Elementary School is planning a Harvest Carnival November 3, 1978, beginning at 5 p.m.

There will be food, games,

and prizes.

Principal Ms. Ann Brinkley invites parents and friends of the school to attend.

The RTI board of trustees recently approved the projects which will give students practical work experience in their chosen trades under expert supervision, while the communities obtain public works improvements for the cost of materials alone.

The RTI board of trustees

RTI helps with Community Projects



RTI PROJECT--New entrance signs to the town of Pembroke will be constructed by Robeson Technical Institute. Robeson Technical Institute building trades students will provide labor for community construction projects in Fairmont, Red Springs and St. Pauls this year.

stretch of road up the road from offices of the Carolina Indian Voice. [RTI Photo]

In Fairmont, a brick retaining wall around a memorial garden in front of Fairmont High School will be provided by RTI masonry students. The project is expected to start this week and should be finished in a few days.

In Red Springs, a brick wall and pillars will be constructed along the street side of Alloway Cemetery. Masonry students are expected to complete the project within two to three months.

In St. Pauls, a new rescue unit building will be erected on Blue St. across from city hall. An existing house will be removed. The work will employ RTI masonry, carpentry and electrical students. The building is scheduled for completion by the end of August 1979.

When asked what type of requests he normally receives, Dean Lawson said most of the requests are for masonry work. "Usually sponsors want cinderblock construction because it's less expensive, so we really appreciate any brick-work requested."

"We also like projects that require framing construction, welding, electrical work, and heating and air conditioning," he added. "We particularly like projects that will allow all our building trades students to participate."

James W. Lawson, RTI dean

of degree and diploma programs, said that these projects offer several advantages. "The public gets needed construction projects for the cost of materials, and our building trades students get on-the-job training that cannot be given in classrooms and learning labs."

Dean Lawson said that he is constantly looking for community projects for his classes to do. "We've done dozens of things in Robeson County in the past several years," he said. "And most of them are still a permanent part of the community."

"We can only accept requests for projects from government agencies and from non-profit charitable, civic or community organizations, excluding non-secular and fraternal groups," Dean Lawson said.

"Once we have the request, we check the scope of the plan, the legalities, and determine if it is an appropriate project for our students to gain practical experience," he said. "Any project expected to cost more than \$1,000 must also be approved by the RTI board."

When asked to name some of RTI's previous projects, Dean Lawson said that Lumberton projects have included construction and wiring of the Recreation Center ballfield and of the Godwin Heights recreation building; erection of the Meadowbrook Cemetery wall; electrical work in the high school vocational building; and playground swings, climbers and other equipment for several city playgrounds.

In Red Springs, brick pillars and metal fencing were provided for the Garden Club's midtown rose garden next to the railroad; and new electrical circuits and lights for the vocational-agricultural building at the Junior High.

St. Pauls projects have included construction of the high school field house, partitioning and electrical work; and the building of outdoor grills, picnic shelters and playground equipment for the Old Stage Road Jaycee Playground.

Other county projects have been construction of the Howellsville and Lumber Bridge fire stations; brick veneering the Parkton city hall and Shannon fire station; constructing an addition to Greengrove School; and installing electrical circuits and lights at the Parkton High School vocational building.

'Original Drifters' PSU Attraction

PEMBROKE--"The Original Drifters" and Steve Bennette, an Elvis Presley impersonator, will present a special concert at Pembroke State University Wednesday, Nov. 8, in the PSU Performing Arts Center at 8 p.m.

Their visit is co-sponsored by Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity and the Pembroke State University Foundation, Inc., both of which hope to raise money for their organizations.

Advance tickets are \$2.50 for PSU students and \$3.50 for everyone else. At the door, prices will be \$3.50 and \$4. Tickets can be obtained from the PSU Foundation Office in Sampson Hall or from a Pi Kappa Alpha member.

"The Original Drifters" will play beach band music from

the 1950's. Numbers they are expected to play are "On Broadway," "Under The Boardwalk," "Save The Last Dance For Me," and "There Goes My Baby."

Bennette, a native of Johnson City, Tenn. who takes with him a five-piece band, has performed on the Grand Strand in South Carolina and also in Tennessee. On the Grand Strand, it was reported he was held over for 14 weeks. He has been impersonating Presley for the past 10 months.

Biggest crowd ever attracted to the PSU campus for a concert was last January when "Mother's Finest" drew 3,033 paid to the Jones Health and Physical Education Center. The PSU Performing Arts Center, location of this attraction, seats 1,700.

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