

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barton



**THE PEMBROKE AREA PRESBYTERIAN MINISTRY IS A VIABLE FORCE IN THE COMMUNITY THANKS TO THE IRREPRESSIBLE REV. JOHN A. ROBINSON, JR.**

One of the most amusing, (but wonderful) realities imaginable is the presence of a Presbyterian Church in Pembroke. Pembroke, as most of you know, is made up of more than 90 percent Indians. TO MY KNOWLEDGE THERE IS NOT A SINGLE, SOLITARY INDIAN PRESBYTERIAN IN PEMBROKE OR ROBESON.

The Presbyterian Church was for many years a spiritual refuge for the mostly non-Indian employees of Pates Supply Company. In keeping with the times, the membership of the church dwindled until services were suspended for lack of walking about Presbyterians in recent years.

That's when Rev. John A. Robinson, Jr. came on the scene in 1977. Many of us greeted him with reservations but he has done a heck of a job since arriving in town with his lovely wife, Helen.

The church is once more vibrant and alive and it is being used for and by all the peoples of Pembroke—Indians, Blacks and Whites. God never intended, as happened in the case of the Pembroke Presbyterian Church, for His people to use His church for racial one ups manship. Human relations was not the strong suit of the church until Robinson came to town.

The past should not condemn us but one cannot know where he (or she) is going unless one knows where he (or she) has been. No Indian attended Pembroke Presbyterian Church when regular services were held there. They were not welcome. When services are resumed in the near future (as I am sure they will be) Indians

will be more than welcome. Robinson is irreplaceable and committed to humanity period, no matter what the color.

Robinson has changed my mind about a lot of things. He reflects the message in the poet's song: "Hope is an echo; hope ties itself yonder, yonder." As long as a Robinson comes along ever once in a while we will keep at the task of making Robeson County a good and decent place for all men—Indian, Black and White—to live and work and play together.

The Pembroke ministry is vibrant and exciting. Robinson heads a mission that encompasses a youth program, a ministry on the PSU campus, a community workshop, community development, and other exciting avenues of approach.

He is undertaking a fund raising effort that will insure the continuance of the program. The ministry is administered by a ten person committee appointed by the Fayetteville Presbytery. Robinson was appointed to a four year term in 1977. Robinson is a native of Portland, Oregon and a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and the Union Theological Seminary.

Funds come from many sources, but mostly is dependant on individual contributions. If you would like further information about the ministry write Rev. John A. Robinson, Jr., c/o the Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry, P.O. Box 1162, Pembroke, North Carolina 28372. Or you can call the guy at (919) 521-3795 or 521-2386.

I would not be surprised if an Indian Presbyterian came out of all this. I know Robinson would like that very much. Really, I recommend Robinson and the ministry to you.

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## The Carolina Indian Voice

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Wounds Reopened by Letter From Prison

To The Editor:

Thank God for Joe Freeman Britt. He seems to be the only one who knows that we, the family of Jimmie Locklear, want justice. Our father was murdered in Robeson County. I sat through the trial and saw James Calvin Jones tried. We know Mr. Freeman did all he could to get justice for our father. And we know he will try just as hard again. He worked hard on the trial to talk for our daddy who was dead and couldn't talk for himself. He came to daddy's house with the officers on many trips and measured the distances, and talked with people many times. He worked late at night and would come to my house on weekends to get proof. During the trial I have never seen anyone work harder.

James said his lawyer did not try his case right. I was there and I know that his lawyer did everything he could with what he had to work with. James was asked by the judge four or five times if he wanted to take the stand. When the judge sentenced him, he asked him if he had anything to say. I heard James mutter that it had already been said. James was in prison and out on pass when our daddy was murdered.

Now the wound has been opened up again. Today, Feb. 23, 1979, A Letter From Death Row Concerning Legal Representation of Atty. Horace Locklear, by James Calvin Jones of Central Prison in

Raleigh. This letter came out in The Carolina Indian Voice. There have been three articles already this month, to my knowledge, twice in The Robesonian, once in The Carolina Indian Voice. God only knows how many articles have been sent to other places. We know these articles were written to get sympathy. Each time these articles are published, the wounds of the children of Jimmie Locklear are opened up again, just as fresh as July 3, 1977.

James, you won't give we children time for the wounds to heal. There is so much hurt and sorrow, not only for the family, but there are others who loved and cared very much for him. Within five days of his death he would have been 69 years old. No one can share the sorrow and hurt that was brought into our home at the way he had to leave we children. We know that you are there with time on your hands. James, give us, the family, a chance for the wound to heal.

James, forgive me if I have written or said anything that would offend you in any way. In today's newspaper, you signed your name "In Christ, James Calvin Jones." Romans 10, Verse 10 goes like this: "For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made into salvation."

Lord, May Your Will Be Done,  
Mable Locklear

### MUSING... by Reasonable Locklear

**EDITOR'S NOTE: Received this letter from Ol' Reasonable. Said a buddy of his who is "purty good" at writing helped him dress it up some.**

Anyway, says Ol' Reasonable, the message is that the Indians had better get their act together and quit fighting amongst themselves.

It's good to hear from Ol' Reasonable but he won't write anymore except when he feels like it.

...SINCE YOU INDIANS CAIN'T AGREE AMONGST YORESELF...

I am writing this letter as a "Lumbee" Indian and as a supporter of PSU. My letter has to do with the chancellorship of PSU.

Two of the candidates are Lumbee Indians...highly qualified. I am aware of the fact that each Indian candidate has had strong and active supporters. This is a normal process. The supporters wanted their man to be on the list submitted to Mr. Friday.

I understand that the list of nominees has been submitted to Mr. Friday by the Board of Trustees and that both Indian candidates, together with two others are on the list that is now on Mr. Friday's desk.

Through the years, one song has regularly been sung to the Indian community on a county, state and federal level: "Well, since you Indians cannot agree among yourselves-it is best that we go outside of your group in order to reach a proper solution to this problem."

I remind the Indians of that old saying now (which is still too true) in order to lay the basis for what I am now going to say:

"Please, Indians, two highly qualified Indians names have been submitted by the Board of Trustees to Mr. Friday. If the supporters of each continue to fight among themselves...the chances are - Mr. Friday will name some other nominee - and justify it by saying that the Indians we n't satisfied with having two of their own submitted - but that they still fought among themselves about the two, and therefore, as a practical matter, he was forced to go outside-to a complete stranger-who would at least not start off with a bunch of wild eyed enemies."

Please, my friends, cool it now! Do not tempt Mr. Friday to choose a non-Indian.

### Charter To Be Signed

The Council of Native Americans of South Carolina cordially invites you to attend the signing of their charter March 3, 1979 at 2 p.m. at the College Place Methodist Church on the Columbia College Campus. A reception will follow.

Attend the Church of your choice this Sunday.

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We have given them our moral support; now we must give our financial support. If these cases are not carried through the courts where amends can be made and justice delivered, we can expect more and more Tonys and Terrys... maybe in your own family.

There is a Legal Defense Fund established at the Lumbee Bank to help pay the legal expenses for Tony and Terry. Neither Tony or Terry's families are able to sustain financially the burden of this responsibility. We must help. A contribution is your investment in the protection of our basic rights as human beings.

If You Would Like To Help Send Your Contributions To

Tony Blue/Terry Lockee  
**LEGAL DEFENSE FUND**

c/o Robert Locklear  
P.O. Box 694  
Pembroke, N.C. 28372

## 4-H Talent Show Rescheduled

The 1979 4-H Talent Show has been rescheduled and will be held on Saturday, March 3, in the auditorium of the O.P. Owens Agriculture Building beginning at 2 p.m. All 4-H leaders, 4-H'ers, 4-H parents, and 4-H sponsors are invited to attend and bring a friend.

Talent acts to be presented include vocal solo; instrumental solo; dancing; novelty acts; humorous reading or recitation; vocal duet, trio, quartet, or chorus; instrumental; and skit. Winners selected will represent Robeson County at the South Central District 4-H Activity Day in Harnett County during June.

For additional information concerning the 4-H Talent Show, contact one of the 4-H agents at 738-8111 or visit the O.P. Owens Agriculture Building.

Thursday, March 1, 1979  
**TOUCH ME WITH YOUR HEART**

To lose that which you never had,  
To pluck from the breast of a bird its heart,  
To end its flight,  
To silence its song,  
And dash the beauty of the bird to the ground,  
Take from the sun a ray of light  
To brighten my world,  
To melt the frost that would fall in the night,  
Cooling the fire that burns in my heart,  
Take from the wind the song of ages,  
Let it ring in my ears and lift my heart  
Give me wings and let me fly.

David Malcolm  
January 19, 1979

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