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\$16 MILLION SCHOOL BOND SET FOR MARCH 13

by Bruce Barton

The voters of Robeson County are expected to mostly stay home March 13 when the \$16 million school bond issue is to be decided by Robesonians.

In spite of the anticipated tight turnout, the measure is expected to carry. The Robeson County School System (which contains more than half the students in the county) is expected to receive approximately \$8.2 million of the \$16 million to be allocated on a per pupil basis.

Robeson County's six school systems are all in dire need of "buildings" according to a well placed source within the county school system.

Contrary to some concern, the measure, if approved by the voters, is not expected to immediately effect the tax base which is now \$1.15 on a \$100 evaluation.

One reason is, according to school administrators, that the monies will be spent over the next few years "as needed." That means that the tax bite would be annually instead of "all at one time."

County officials concede that if the \$16 million were spent "all at one time" that it would mean a tax increase of "anywhere from 15 to 25 percent." County officials note, though, that the county tax evaluation should change in 1980 causing the tax rate "to probably drop."

As Robeson County Commissioner Chairman Herman Dial noted earlier this week, "If the six units are satisfied and are not ready to merge then I would have to be in favor of the bond issue."

Most county officials and all school officials seem to be in favor of the measure although most of them are reluctant to "over publicize it," as one of them put it, fearing adverse reactions from pro merger forces.

School officials note too that the county will be debt free of previous school bonds by June 30 of this year. Previous county school bonds (none asking for more than \$3 million) were floated in 1949, 1956, and 1963. Additionally, county schools profited from their portion of a 1953 \$50 million state school bond issue.

Most recently, the county schools

received some \$1,327,543 (excluding the 5 city units) from the successful 1965 state-wide school construction bond issue. The bulk of this money was used to build Pembroke Senior High School.

One local Indian leader put it this way, "As an Indian parent I have to be for education and this money seems to be ticketed for good constructive use in the schools, mostly to alleviate over crowding and substandard buildings. But it does not and will not solve the long term educational problems in Robeson County, only a county-wide consolidation program or complete merger can do that. But it will help temporarily...in our life times. And we have to do that for our children. For that reason I ask not to be identified. Race and politics go together in this county. One day we'll be able to separate them, I hope."

Saddletree Jaycees Plan Fund Raising for Rennert Youngster

The Saddletree Jaycees are having a fund raising plate sale for the benefit of Albert Grey, a youngster of the Rennert community who recently lost a

foot in a train accident. The plate sale will be Friday, March 9, at the Saddletree Jaycee Clubhouse from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m.

"Proud to Be a Lumbee" Album Now on Sale at LRDA

by Ben Jacobs

The album **Proud to be a Lumbee** was released for sale Monday at the Lumbee Indian Education Project of Lumbee Regional Development Association. Numerous people who had waited eagerly for the albums to be delivered came to receive their orders.

The album consists of 11 contemporary songs written and performed by Willie Lowery, Miriam Oxendine and several Indian youths. It was produced through the Lumbee Indian Education Project of LRDA with foundation monies and contributions from the Fayetteville Presbytery and the Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry, through the efforts of Rev. John Robinson.

According to Janie Maynor Locklear, director of the Lumbee Indian Education Project, the songs will be great assets to families who are proud of their Indian heritage, to schools which teach some aspect of the Native American culture and to libraries.

Locklear said, "The songs are very

entertaining and really express feelings that are common to most Lumbee people. The songs range from simple songs that young children can easily learn to gospel songs that make you feel the religious nature of our people."

Locklear said the LRDA Board of Directors and Kenneth Maynor, Executive Director of LRDA, were instrumental in getting the foundation monies to produce the album. She noted that special contributions were given by the Fayetteville Presbytery and the Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry, through the efforts of Rev. John Robinson.

Rev. Robinson, who was one of the first to review the album, said, "We're pleased and excited about the album, because it focuses on a positive identity that Indian children identify with. We are happy that the ministry can supply funding for a project that is so creative and positive." Rev. Robinson said the support from the Presbyterian Church was made possible by the vision of Mrs. B. Law, who was the Chairperson of the Division of Outreach for the Fayetteville

Presbytery. He explained that she made the arrangements for the funds to be given just two days before she died of a heart attack.

Willie Lowery, who is best known for his compositions for the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind," Miriam Oxendine a multi-talented Lumbee musician, combined their talents with those of Maurice Lowery, Teresa Tyler, Corry Lowry, Mickey Oxendine, Melinda Locklear, Clint Lowery, Teresa Locklear and Connie Lowery in producing the album.

The album has a full color jacket with photos of the musicians. A detailed song book is free with the purchase of an album or tape. The cost of an album is \$8.95 and a tape, \$9.98, plus tax and a shipping charge of \$5.50 if the album is mailed. Additional booklets are \$1.00 each.

Proud to be a Lumbee can be purchased through the Lumbee Indian Education Project at the LRDA Annex Building in Pembroke, by writing **Proud to be a Lumbee**, LRDA, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC or by calling 521-2401.



Shown left to right: Miriam Oxendine, Willie Lowery, Rev. John A. Robinson, Kenneth E. Maynor, and Janie Maynor Locklear. (Bruce Barton photo)

Rod Locklear Assigned to N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs



Roderick Locklear

The North Commission of Indian Affairs's director, A. Bruce Jones, announced today that Roderick Locklear, Regional Implementation Specialist, with HEW's Health Care Financing Administration, has been, under the HEW Departmental Demonstration Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA), assigned to work with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.

Jones is pleased that Locklear has accepted this assignment. "His experience and background in various programs are ideally suited to what I am seeking in the filling of positions at the Commission," said Jones.

Locklear's career over the past decade has moved from an Urban Rural Manpower Analyst to a private non-profit corporation to a regional implementation representative in the Health Care Financing Administration, HEW.

Locklear is a graduate of Pembroke State University with a B.A. in Social Studies. He completed the educational program for federal officials at mid-career at Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, Princeton, New Jersey.

He was born in Pembroke, N.C. and is the son of Rev. C.E. Locklear and the late Annie Lizzie Locklear.

Locklear is married to Ruth Locklear and is the father of two children, Glenn, 16 and Clarence, 14.

Locklear's assignment was effective February 26, 1979.

Locklear brings to the Indian Commission additional strong leadership and managerial skills needed to carry out the Commission's important responsibilities.

His wealth of administrative experience in both the private sector and in government will serve him well.

The state overseer, through his

Throughout his development he has been involved in human service program delivery on the local to the state to the federal government, with an increasing emphasis on how to develop cooperation and effective management decisions at each government level.

Each of his jobs has related to American Indians as an individual ethnic group or as a part of a total multi-racial setting.

Locklear, coming from a rural American Indian community has always been keenly aware of cultural differences and diversities and the need for special efforts to involve minority people in the outreach human services programs of the state and local government.

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Reverends allowed to remain in churches

LUMBERTON-State Overseer H.B. Thompson looked on sternly as Attorney Jay D. Hockenbury, counsel for the "Mother Church" argued that the disbarred pastors, Rev. Jack Hunt (Pembroke Church of God), Rev. C.C. Allen, Jr. (Eastside Church of God in Fayetteville) and Rev. Stelford Smith (Riverside Church of God in Lumberton) should be expelled from their respective churches as ministers.

The ministers were removed from their churches in a letter from Thompson earlier in the year for "sowing discord and advocating against the governmental policies of the Church of God."

The state overseer was asking the superior court to "restrain" the pastors from the grounds of the churches they have continued to pastor in the continuing dispute with the state and national office.

Testimony was presented by Attorney John C.B. Regan, representing the pastors, that the churches had voted overwhelmingly in favor of retaining the ministers in spite of the letter of dismissal from Thompson.

The injunction was denied by Superior Court Judge, Anthony W. Brannon but the judge told the pastors that they should not remove "so much as a folding chair" from the premises of the churches until the matter is finally resolved in a trial that has not yet been set. Speculation is that the state overseer will continue his legal battle to remove the pastors at a later session of superior court.

The judge also ruled that the pastors should supervise an accounting of all monies collected and distributed until the matter is resolved. In the mean time the pastors are allowed to continue pastoring their churches.

The state overseer, through his

attorney, contended that the mother church held title to the local church property because of church minutes that spell out the "connective form of church government in which local congregations have no autonomy but are ruled by a MOTHER CHURCH."

Testimony was presented in court that showed the three churches were valued at an estimated \$225,000 and that the "mother church" had never given any funds to two of the churches-Pembroke and Riverside-and had only given \$7500.00 toward a building program at Eastside.

An overflow crowd of supporters and church members were on hand to observe the legal proceedings. They were quiet and listened intently.

Regan said, "the real issue is ownership of the property." Court records show that local trustees are holding the land in trust for the churches contrary to rumors that contended that the "mother church" held title to the properties.

All three ministers are Indians and head predominate Indian congregations.

They dispute Thompson's contention that they were "sowing discord." They contend that the state and district levels of the national church have ignored the Indian pastors locally in making decisions affecting their churches.

For instance, without consultation with the local ministers of the predominate Indian churches, the 11 church district was recently split into two parts with the newly named district pastors both being non-Indians. The three pastors have been vocal in voicing their feelings. Many contend that it is mostly why they have been charged with "sowing discord."

PEOPLE AND THINGS... C E S

FOURTH ANNUAL INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE SLATED

Approximately 1,000 persons will represent Indian tribes and organizations from North Carolina and other states at the Fourth Annual Indian Unity Conference to be held March 29-31 at the Bordeaux Motor Inn in Fayetteville.

"The purpose of the conference is to work on strategies for the educational and economic development of Indian communities and to reinforce Indian pride and identity by sharing cultural experiences," said Jim R. Lowry, chairperson of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs which is sponsoring the conference.

The conference will feature addresses by LaDonna Harris, president of Americans for Indian Opportunity, and David Lester, commissioner of the Administration for Native Americans, United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Governor Jim Hunt will speak to the group on Saturday, March 30.

At least 15 different workshops will be held on topics covering four areas: education, legislation, economic development and youth. An Indian art contest will also be held.

The cost of pre-registration is \$20.00 per adult and \$15.00 per youth for all conference sessions including one banquet and three breaks. For those who wait to register upon arrival at the conference, the registration fee will be \$22.00. Advance registration is advised, since attendance will be limited.

For registration materials and information, contact the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, P.O. Box 27228, Raleigh, NC 27611 or call 919-733-5998.

ASSOCIATIONAL EVANGELISM CONFERENCE

The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association will hold its Annual Evangelism Conference this Sunday night through Tuesday evening, March 11-13. The theme for the three night conference is **Bold Evangelism**. The services will be held nightly at Mt. Airy Baptist Church at 7:30 p.m.

Scheduled speakers include: Rev. C.M. Cummings, Rev. Clifford Jones, Rev. Bruce Swett, Rev. Tommy Haggans, Rev. Grady Hunt and Rev. Thomas Rich.

Special music will be provided by Island Grove, First Baptist in Clinton, Thompson, Deep Branch, and Mt. Airy Choirs. Rev. C.M. Cummings and Mr. Woodrow Dial, Co-Evangelism Chairmen will preside and Rev. Mike Cummings will lead congregational singing.

LOCAL BAPTISTS TO ATTEND OKLAHOMA CONFERENCE

The Home Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention has invited Indian church leaders from Baptist churches across the nation to a National Indian Conclave, June 17-22, at the Falls Creek Baptist Assembly in Oklahoma.

Rev. Tony E. Brewington, Director of Missions in Burnt Swamp, has informed us that a Trailways Bus will be chartered to carry local leaders, clergy and laity to the conference. Approximately 24 have registered and 10 more are needed for the charter. Several churches are sponsoring their pastor and other church leaders.

Cost for the week, including transportation, room and food, is \$150. Purpose of the conference is to meet other Indian leaders, discuss common problems, needs and resources, worship together and study together. If interested in attending, please notify Rev. Brewington at 521-9830. A \$25 deposit is necessary for registration.

LRDA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ENDORSES SCHOOL BOND ISSUE

In a rare deviation from long standing policy the LRDA Executive Committee has publicly endorsed the School Bond Issue to be put forth to voters next Tuesday. This is the first occasion for the LRDA representative committee to publicly endorse a political issue.

According to Rev. James H. Woods, Chairman of the Executive Committee and the LRDA Board of Directors, county wide support of the School Bond Issue will be an "investment in Robeson County's future educationally and economically...attracting more industry into the county...making Robeson a better place to live, work and play."

LRDA operates a number of educational programs for Indian children and adults throughout the county. The School Bond Issue, to be decided next Tuesday at the polls, will mean a greater opportunity for all students to quality education, better school facilities in both rural and urban communities, and a better future for all. Maynor, Executive Director of LRDA. LRDA encourages a strong show of voter participation in this important issue and greater support for the public education of all students.

Indians Considered

Recommendations aimed at improving relations between the state Highway Patrol and Lumbee Indians in Robeson County were announced Monday by Herbert L. Hyde, state secretary of crime and control and public safety.

The recommendations grew out of meeting last week with members of the state Indian Affairs Commission.

Hyde recommended Monday that eight recruitment officers be named, one in each troop in the state, to concentrate on recruiting minorities and female applicants.

He directed the patrol to requisition 1,200 defensive batons, one for each member. The batons, according to Hyde, are the latest development in self-defense for law enforcement officers because they allow officers to subdue persons resisting arrest without harming them.

A staff member of the Department of Crime Control and Public Safety would be appointed to work with the Indian Affairs Commission in reviewing the curriculum of the Highway Patrol basic school to make suggestions for changes that might better prepare troopers to work with minorities, Hyde said.

Hyde said he may change patrol policies and procedures to allow the secretary of crime control and public safety to consider a hearing on any investigation of a formal complaint, whether a member is disciplined or not.

Robeson County Indians have complained of alleged mistreatment at the hands of Highway Patrol officers. One of the complaints involved Terry Lockee, who suffered a skull fracture last year when a trooper clubbed him with a flashlight.

Lockee was arrested May 20 by Highway Patrolman R.L. Davis at a trailer park on a rural road in the Union Chapel community of Robeson County.

He was taken to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton after the arrest and was transferred to Cape Fear Valley Hospital in Fayetteville, where he spent 11 days in the intensive care unit with a head injury.

Lockee was convicted last week of charges against him, including assault with a dangerous weapon.