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ROBESON COUNTY

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PEMBROKE OFFICIALS SUED

BY ALFRED COOK

COOK'S ATTORNEY IS OSBORNE LEE, JR.

"On or about the 20th day of May, 1978" an incident allegedly occurred between a Pembroke property owner, Alfred Cook, and certain town officials, to wit, Police Chief Vernon Oxendine, Policeman Harvey Bullard and Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings.

Alfred Cook has filed a complaint in the matter more than a year later, at 9:04 a.m. on the 20th day of July, 1979. The story of the complaint appeared in *The Robesonian* on the same day. The story was written by Paul O'Connor, a staff writer for *The Robesonian*.

Alfred Cook's complaint was filed by Osborne Lee, a Lumberton attorney who was recently by passed in favor of Sam Britt and others as a special Superior Court judge by Governor Jim Hunt.

Cook's complaint noted that his deceased wife owned two parcels of land located behind Woodell's Park and Shop Convenience Store in Pembroke, among other properties at the time of the alleged incident.

O'Connor's story in the *Robesonian* stated the incident this way:

"Cook charges that he was plowing land on his Pembroke farm on May 20, 1978 when town officials approached him and told him to stop plowing.

"Cook says he refused to do so, and that he ordered the town officials off of his land. They refused to leave, Cook contends, and then Oxendine and Bullard proceeded unlawfully, willfully, and maliciously to commit an assault and battery upon Cook by yanking him off his tractor, thereby seriously and permanently injuring his back."

Cook also complains in his law suit that he was unlawfully imprisoned causing him great mental anguish and embarrassment.

Cook is asking damages in the amount of half a million dollars.

Cook charges that McDuffie Cummings "desired to have a right of way across the plaintiff's land." Cook claims that he was coerced by Cummings, acting as an agent for the town of Pembroke.

According to records Cook was charged by Police Chief Vernon Oxendine with injury to real and personal property and resisting arrest.

According to witnesses, Cook was offensive and abusive to the police officers when they approached him and asked him to stop plowing the land in question. The land in question is not "his Pembroke farm" as O'Connor noted in his story in the *Robesonian* but a parcel of land in the heart of Pembroke directly behind Woodell's Park & Shop Convenience Store and in front of Cliff's Package Store that had, until the day of the incident, been used as a public alley way. The land had been maintained by the town of Pembroke "as long as I can remember" according to one former town official.

Town officials later took out a temporary restraining order against Cook to force him to stop plowing and barricading the land. When Cook's case appeared before District Judge Craig Ellis the charges were dismissed because, according to a reconstruction of the matter, town attorneys did not show up at the hearing to prosecute Cook. According to a reputable source Ellis dismissed the charges and ruled in Cook's favor because the attorneys did not show up, not on the merits of the towns case. Town attorneys are Dexter Brooks, Arnold Locklear and Arlie Jacobs (Locklear, Brooks and Jacobs), Dexter Brooks, when queried, refused to comment.

After the charges against Cook were dismissed the town dropped its attempt to obtain a permanent restraining order. Cook, a white in his 70s, reportedly, ran into the police car with his road plow inflicting the injury to property, accord-

ing to court records.

No date has been set for a hearing on the matter.

Town attorneys are reportedly suggesting that Oxendine, Bullard and Cummings retain private counsel in the matter citing, according to our source, "conflict of interest," since they represent the town proper and her elected officials.

Some questions raised by the law suit

A number of questions have arisen since the suit was filed.

Where were the town's attorneys in the matter? Why did they not appear in

court to prosecute Cook?

Was the case decided in Cook's favor on the merits of the case or simply because the attorneys did not show up?

How was Cook able to erect fence barriers shutting off a "as long as I can remember" public thoroughfare?

Why was the case filed more than a year after it happened?

Is the law suit political in nature? Some think so, although no one believes that anyone in his (or her) sound mind would admit it if it were in fact political in nature.

Why were the elected town officials not sued in the matter, etc. etc. etc.

New PSU Trustees

Governor Jim Hunt has named James H. Hammonds of Lumberton and Grady G. Oxendine of Pembroke to the Pembroke State University Board of Trustees.

Hammonds is an assistant principal in the Robeson County Schools System. He received his B.S. degree from Pembroke State University.

Oxendine is principal of Union Elementary School. He received his undergraduate degree from Pembroke State University.

The Board of Trustees is composed of 13 members, four appointed by the Governor and eight elected by the UNC Board of Governors, plus the president of the student government association who serves as an ex officio non-voting member. Members serve for a term of four years.

The Board serves as an advisor to the UNC Board of Governors on matters concerning the institution and also serves as an advisor to the chancellor concerning the management and development of the institution.

Also named was Dr. Otis Tillman of High Point. They replace Republican Indians John Robert Jones of Pembroke, Lonnie Revels Jr. of Greensboro and David Thompson, a Black Democrat from Lumberton.

3rd Annual Pow Wow Planned

The Guilford Native American Association's Board of Directors, Staff and Third Annual Pow-Wow/Community Day Committee wish to extend to you, your staff, your family, friends and all interested people from your agency and community a special invitation to join us for this special occasion. The dates of the Pow-Wow are FRIDAY September 14-Sunday, September 16. The location is Lake Juno Park, Liberty, N.C. (This is approximately 20 miles from downtown Greensboro or from the GNAA Indian Center).

There will be space for overnight camping, plenty of food (traditional Indian food and American food) for sale, craftsmen from across the state and country, Indian social dancing, Indian competition dancing, the crowning of a Miss Guilford Native Princess and a Pow-Wow Princess, gospel singing, a variety of games and many other activities to keep everyone busy and entertained.

We encourage all of you to make plans now to attend part or all of our activities. We have not completed all details as of this date. We will notify you within the next few days of the specific details concerning camping, traders, prize money for dancing, directions to the Pow-Wow site and other details for your information. We hope you will put these dates on your calendar today.

Pembroke Medical & Dental Clinic Plans Dedication



Dr. Sarah Morrow

PEMBROKE--Dr. Sarah Morrow, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, will be the dedicatory speaker on August 1 when the Pembroke Medical and Dental Clinic is dedicated and opened to the inspection and use of the general public.

Mrs. Morrow, who won accolades state wide for her development of the Guilford County Health Department assumed the mantle of responsibility at the North Carolina Department of Human Resources in 1977.

She has won many honors, including the North Carolina Public Health Association Merit Award in 1963, Mother of the Year, 1969, Woman of the Year, 1970, and the Nathaniel Greene Award presented by the chamber of commerce in Greensboro in 1971.

She will be introduced by Rep. Horace Locklear.

Welcomes will be extended by Dr. Bobby Brayboy, a native of Robeson county, and associated with the U.S. Public Health Service. He, along with Hubert Brayboy locally is given the Lion's share of credit for realizing the dream of the Pembroke Medical and Dental Clinic although, as Mr. Hubert Oxendine put it "heroes are plentiful in this endeavor."

The clinic will be staffed by Dr. Frank Worriax, an Indian general practitioner; and Dr. Jeff Collins, an Indian dentist. Both are natives of Robeson County.

Church To Honor Mr. Claude Sampson



Claude A. Sampson

DEEP-BRANCH Deep Branch Baptist Church will honor Mr. Claude A. Sampson this coming Sunday (July 29) with a special dedicatory service and a program honoring him for his contributions to his community and church, but mostly for his fidelity as a Christian for 58 years.

Mr. Claude celebrates his 78th birthday today, July 26. On July 29 Deep Branch Baptist Church will note his physical birthday with special services. But his 58th year as a Christian will be the focal point of services Sunday. Mr. Claude accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as his personal Savior on July 29, 1921.

A member of Deep Branch Baptist Church "as long as I can remember" Mr. Claude remembers many pastors including the present pastor Rev. Chesley McNeil, Rev. T.M. Swett, Rev. Steve Hammonds, Rev. Ed Hunt, Rev. W. Godwin Hunt, Rev. Silas Lowry, Rev. Henry Coleman and others.

Mr. Claude and his lovely wife, Mary, are enthusiastic members of the Deep Branch community. He is presently serving as president of the Deep Branch Volunteer Fire Department. He has served on the board of deacons of Deep Branch Church and in just about every capacity. Presently he teaches the Senior Adult Men and is chairman of the social committee.

He and his wife, Mary, are the proud parents of 6 children, with one son, Linwood, being deceased. Other children are Mrs. LaRuth Mabe, Mrs. Linda Dubois, Mrs. LeVonda Rowe, Lee Edward Sampson and Claude A. Sampson, Jr.

Mr. Claude Sampson is a retired teacher. He enjoys working in his garden, fishing and studying "the Word of God."

Mr. Claude Sampson is a much loved member of the Deep Branch Community.

Sunday will be a special day for him and his community and his church. A covered dish "dinner on the grounds" will be held at the Deep Branch Volunteer Fire Department following church services.

Jaycees Plan Car Wash

The Union Chapel Jaycees are planning a Car Wash Saturday from 8 a.m. until. No fee being set. Give what you wish to.

Proceeds will go to the family of Thomas Deese of the Red Banks community who was burned out earlier in the week by an unfortunate fire.

The family lost everything. Please come out and support this worthy cause being sponsored by the progressive Union Chapel Jaycees.

President of the Union Chapel Jaycees Ronald Oxendine.

PEOPLE AND LAND THINGS... C E S

OXENDINE REPLACED AS PRINCIPAL

RAEFORD--The Hoke County Board of Education Friday selected Dr. Linwood Simpson of Halifax County principal of Hoke Senior High School.

Simpson, 43, is currently principal of Enfield High School in Halifax County.

Hoke County Superintendent G. Raz Autry announced Simpson's appointment following a special meeting of the school board Friday.

Simpson replaces former Hoke High principal Earl Oxendine, who was appointed earlier this month to a new position with the county's school system.

Oxendine was appointed director of compensatory education by the school board July 9.

Simpson's selection meets the board's goal of filling the Hoke High principal's slot before the scheduled start of the school year next month.

Four applications were considered by the board at Friday's meeting, including those of John Ray, principal of Red Springs Senior High, Paul Browning, principal of Hoddon High School in Newton Grove and Lonnie Bledsoe, principal of Mt. Airy Senior High School.

Bledsoe is a former principal of Upchurch Junior High in Hoke County.

Simpson earned both bachelor of arts and master's degrees from East Carolina University.

He earned a doctorate from Duke University in Durham and also holds an advanced administration degree from that university.

Simpson's wife, Jo Anne, is also an educator.

PSU'S COMMUNICATIVE ARTS DEPT.

PEMBROKE Dr. Thomas J. Leach has been named chairman of the Communicative Arts Department at Pembroke State University, it has been announced by Dr. William P. Turner, vice chancellor for academic affairs at PSU. The appointment is effective immediately.

NAMED TO DEAN'S LIST

Mr. Lavern S. Oxendine has made the Dean's List for the spring semester of 1979 at W.C.U.. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Larce Oxendine of Union Chapel.

LRDA'S SUMMER YOUTH RECREATION PROGRAM

Pembroke State University is the scene of a two-week LRDA (Lumbee Regional Development Association) Summer Youth Recreation Program Monday, July 23, through August 6.

Directed by Ed Chavis of LRDA (which is based in Pembroke), the program is expected to attract 250 Indian youth whose ages are 8-13 years old.

Using the excellent recreational facilities of Pembroke State University, the students are taking part in arts and crafts, swimming, tennis, archery, softball, basketball, singing and dance.

On the final day of activities, August 6, they will participate in competitive field events and be presented awards.

The youngsters are divided into five groups in a round-robin schedule which begins each day at 9:30 a.m. and concludes at 4 p.m.

They are using such PSU facilities as the Natatorium, the Jones Center auxiliary gym, new tennis courts, archery range old gym (for dancing), and Moore Hall Auditorium. Lunch and free time is held from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. each day at Pembroke Junior High School, adjacent to the PSU campus.

The youth are transported to PSU by bus from all areas of Robeson County. They have breakfast at Pembroke Elementary School before beginning their day's activities.

"This program," says Chavis, "enables these youth to take part in some of the real enjoyable things of life that they might otherwise not have access to."

Chavis is a 1974 graduate of Pembroke State University with a degree in Spanish. He has been employed by LRDA for six years, working this summer as coordinator of its Summer Youth and Recreation Program. Prior to this he taught Indian history and culture in four different county schools: Pembroke Elementary, Piney Grove, Oxendine and Prospect.

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED

Robeson County Schools Superintendent Purnell Swett has announced public hearings for the proposed West Robeson High School that will involve the consolidation of the present Pembroke Senior High School, Prospect High School, and Maxton High School.

Three public hearings will be held, each in the respective school effected. The first public hearing will be held Monday, July 30 at 8 p.m. at the Pembroke Senior High School Cafeteria.

The second hearing will be held at the Prospect High School Cafeteria the next night, July 31, at 8 p.m.

The third hearing will be held at the Townsend Middle School at Maxton on August 6, 1979. Time will be 8 p.m. The hearings are open to the public.

NAMED BANKING OFFICER



Elmer R. Pierce

Elmer R. Pierce has been elected Banking Officer by the Board of Directors of Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, N.A. in Laurinburg, North Carolina. Announcement of the action was made by Murray S. Porter, Vice President and City Executive of the Laurinburg Office of Wachovia.

Mr. Pierce joined Wachovia in September, 1975, as a Field Representative Sales Finance Department, in Laurinburg. Currently, he is serving as a Credit Manager in that department.

Mr. Pierce is a native of Greensboro, North Carolina, and is a graduate of Pembroke State University, Pembroke, North Carolina. He and his wife, the former Marilyn Oxendine, reside in Maxton, North Carolina, and attend the Preston Chapel Church.

YOUTH REVIVAL

Youth Revival is planned at Evergreen Holiness Church in the Union Chapel community.

Ministers will be Rev. Roy Clark and Rev. Michael Cummings.

The time will be 7:30 p.m. nightly, beginning August 5, 1979. Director will be Jimmy Jones, Youth Leader. The pastor is the Rev. Joseph L. McCull, S.C.

Pembroke Little League Champs!



Here are the regular season and tournament champs of the Pembroke Little League. They are shown with their coaches Lacy Jacobs (far left - 2nd row) and Alonzo Oxendine (far right - 2nd row).

regular season games plus their tournament games to remain undefeated. The Pembroke Little League program is for boys 9 to 12 years of age, and is composed of 6 teams in the Pembroke area.

Robeson County Parks and Recreation Commission.

The "Yankees" began more tournament action at the county and district level of play last night with a game against Laurinburg. (Results next week)

The "Yankees" won all twelve of their

Little League play is sponsored by the