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PEMBROKE, N.C.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 1979

ROBESON COUNTY

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Pembroke Chances "Look Good" in Rural Development Project

Lumber River Council of Government representative Ricky Locklear said, "There will probably only be 2 pilot programs of the Rural Development Planning Program." And, according to Sam Dial, Pembroke's representative on COG, "Pembroke's chances look good that we might be one of the two pilot programs."

Both matters carried on a 3-2 vote with the mayor, Reggie Strickland, casting the deciding vote.

Voting for were Councilmen Larry Brooks and Sam Dial; voting no were Councilmen Bob Brewington and Milton Hunt.

Brewington said, in regard to a town planner, "We have had a town planner in the past and received nothing in return for it."

The town planner will be shared possibly with the town of Raeford and the county of Scotland via an arrangement with COG and will cost the town a matching amount of \$2,925.

The same vote occurred as the town accepted a proposal from town engineers, Odell and Associates to map the town's water system for \$7,500.

The town did unanimously adopt the Lumber River Council of Government's Area Wide Housing Opportunity Plan.

Turns down county's water rate proposal

Commissioner Sam Dial's motion to table the county's proposal to purchase water from the town carried with Councilman Larry Brooks opposed.

Brooks made a motion which died for lack of a second to deny both proposals offered to the town. One proposal would have allowed the county to purchase water from the town at 45 cents per 1,000 gallons with the town maintaining the lines, billing and collecting and remitting collections to the county.

The other proposal would allow the county to purchase the water at 40 cents per 1,000 gallons with the county handling all billing and collecting.

The town also set guidelines for doing business with an elected official of the town, with Councilman Bob Brewington abstaining.

The town set stringent guidelines, with an elected official (including councilman) having to provide a much needed service at competitive prices. The resolution is in conformity with a recently enacted piece of legislation by the general assembly.

Councilman Bob Brewington, in times past, has provided welding services for the town.

And Town Manager McDuffie Cummings proposed that the town consider the following streets for paving in next year's street resurfacing and paving program: Florence Street, McInnis Street, Fourth Street (from Baine to Odom), Barker Street and Morrison Street.

And the town ended its session in executive session, with no action taken. It is thought that the town officials discussed the recent law suit filed by property owner Alfred Cook against the town and town manager, McDuffie Cummings, Police Chief Vernon Oxendine and Policeman Harvey Bulard. The suit concerns an altercation that allegedly occurred on a piece of property directly behind Woodell's Park and Shop Convenience Store, originally owned by Cook's deceased wife.

The town officials attempted to stop Cook from barricading the property that had been used for a number of years as a public alley way.

Town attorneys Locklear, Brooks and Jacobs reportedly will defend the town proper, with the officials having to retain private counsel. The town reportedly will pay for the additional counsel. The officials have retained Dickson McLean as their attorney in the matter. Cook's attorney is Lumberton attorney Osborne Lee.

Wilkins Man Claims Mistreatment by Highway Patrolman

by Bruce Barton

John Henry Wilkins went to church Sunday morning, like he usually does on Sunday morning. But he got to feeling bad, sweaty, etc. so he left early and went home and laid down for a spell. He took a valium pill about 10:30 a.m. and slept until about 2:30 p.m., as he recalls it.

Wilkins feels bad a lot of the time, as he suffers from heart problems, compounded by high pressure and poor circulation. He takes medicine, prescribed by a doctor, daily. He has a prescription of valium, to take as he needs it. His nerves bother him from time to time, especially since his father died, January of last year. He has also lost a brother and sister in the last few years. He is also a diabetic.

He lives in the Union Chapel Community with his mother, and a sister who is paralyzed since birth. John Henry Wilkins is 35 years old. He is considered disabled.

WHAT HAPPENED, AS RECALLED BY JOHN HENRY WILKINS

Wilkins remembers it this way: "I decided to visit my late brother's wife and her children, after I got up. After leaving there (Wilkins sat on the porch and talked a long time about old times, etc.), I headed home, thinking about attending revival services at our church... and I was stopped by state trooper M. Humphrey about 6 p.m."

According to Wilkins, Humphrey stopped him because one of his turn signals kept blinking...asking him to go and sit in the patrol car while he checked it and examined the car.

According to Wilkins, until this incident, he had never been arrested for anything, and had never been in a jail cell. He was concerned about a scanner, two turn tables and some other radio

equipment in his car. (Wilkins, sort of as a hobby, works on C.B.s, radios, etc., having taken a course in electronics sponsored by Good Will Industries).

Wilkins remonstrated with Trooper Humphrey, "If you are going to take me in would you tow in my car? That is other people's equipment in my car... I do work on other people's equipment, sort of to try and earn a little extra money, when I feel up to it. And it is impossible to lock my car..."

Wilkins reported that Humphrey told him he would only be gone a little while and sort of pushed him toward the trooper car, telling him to come with him. Wilkins, who suffers some paralysis on his right side, fell when Humphrey purportedly pushed him, worsening his condition.

Wilkins remembers his stay at the jail vividly with tears welling up in his eyes, "I have never been in anything like that: that tight little place, with the little white commode in the corner...I couldn't believe it...nobody could ever have told me how bad it is in there...They took all my pills but one... and I can't scream loud, if I needed help, because I have had a number of vocal cord operations..."

Wilkins stayed in jail about an hour, was subjected to a breathalyzer test on which records show he registered "0" and was cited to St. Pauls District Court on a charge of... "While under the influence of a narcotic drug."

His trial is set for August 23.

Wilkins is mad, and rightly so, as he sees it. He says, "I was treated wrong, and I want the whole world to know it... Humphrey acted like he wanted to start something with me. And I told them that I would hold the county responsible if my stuff was stolen from my car..."

While in jail, being arrested and placed in jail, Wilkins' stuff in his car was stolen, at a value of \$800-\$1,000.

Wilkins recalls: "He (Humphrey) talked rough to me... and wouldn't listen to a thing I tried to tell him... nobody should be treated like I was treated, putting me in jail...taking my heart pills...if he had listened to me, he probably would have taken me to a hospital instead of jail...I have never bothered no one..."

Humphrey seemingly was going to just write Wilkins a warning ticket about the blinking turn signal until he reportedly saw a librium pill lying in a coke tray. Wilkins said, "The pill has been there since my father died...in case I ever need it like the doctors told me."

When Humphrey saw the pill his attitude, according to Wilkins, changed. He became suspicious and asked him to return and sit in the patrol car with him.

Humphrey's superiors would not allow him to comment for publication. District Sergeant A.H. Campbell, contacted at home, said, "We are bound by civil and constitutional law... we cannot comment on a case in the public...we have to protect Mr. Wilkins' rights and the rights of the patrol too."

Sgt. W.M. Denning, who was on vacation during the incident said, "We have not received a complaint... There is nothing I can tell you."

Wilkins admits, "If a person didn't know me, with my problems and all, a person might think I was under the influence of something...the way I walk and everything..."

Wilkins says, "I have nothing against the highway patrol...they have helped me in the past. I just feel like Humphrey treated me wrong...and now my equipment in my car is gone...Who is going to replace it? The people it belongs to are going to be asking for it."

Wilkins recalls, "I know about a year ago I had a sweating spell and a young Black highway patrolman went out of his way to help me...that's what Humphrey should have done...tried to help me."

PEOPLE AND THINGS... C E S

REGISTRATION FOR PEMBROKE SCHOOL DISTRICT

All students, except those students who will be registering at Pembroke Junior High School, who have not registered for the 1979-80 school year who are now living in the Pembroke School District, should come out and register for the 1979-80 school year on Friday, August 10 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Students in grades k-7 will register at Pembroke Elementary School. Students in grades 10-12 will register at Pembroke Senior High. Then on August 13-14 between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., students in grades 8-9 will register at Pembroke Junior High School.

ROVING REGISTRARS TO BE APPOINTED

The Robeson County Board of Elections is now receiving names to be considered for appointment as special registration commissioners (roving registrars). All correspondence should be addressed to Mrs. Elizabeth M. Morton, Supervisor of Elections, Robeson Co. Board of Elections, P.O. Box 313, Lumberton, NC 28358. Closing date for names to be submitted is August 16, 1979. The appointments will be selected on August 17, 1979 at 10 a.m. in the office of the board of elections. Each commissioner's district will receive 5 special registration commissioners (roving registrars).

PROSPECT CLASS OF '64 PLANS REUNION

The Prospect High School Class of 1964 will have their reunion at the Town and Country Restaurant in Pembroke on August 11, 1979 at 7:30 p.m. Contact J.C. Thomas at 521-8356; Curtis Pierce at 521-9707 or Arlie Jacobs at 521-3413 for further information.

PLATE SALE AND GOSPEL SING

The Men's Bible Class of Saddle tree Church of God, Lumberton, NC is sponsoring a plate sale and gospel sing August 18. The plate sale consists of chicken and barbeque at \$2.50 per plate and will begin at 12 noon. The gospel sing will convene at 7:30 p.m. The featured singers will be The Jacobs Sisters, Felix Deal, McNeil Trio, the Heavenly Bound Boys, and the Saddle-tree Church of God Youth Choir. The public is cordially invited to attend.

BURNT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH PLANS CENTENNIAL

Burnt Swamp Baptist Church will observe their Centennial August 19, 1979 beginning at 10 a.m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

PEMBROKE JAYCEES TO HOLD LABOR DAY DANCE

The Pembroke Jaycees' Labor Day Dance will be held Friday night, August 31, from 8:30 p.m. until. Free refreshments. Admission is \$3.00 per person. Place: Jaycee Hut (Pembroke).

YOUTH REVIVAL

Island Grove Baptist Church of Pembroke, N.C. will host a Youth Revival beginning August 8th through August 12th. The services will be held each evening starting at 7:30 p.m. Rev. Christopher Hunt will be guest speaker.

Everyone is welcome.

STATE WIDE YOUTH EVANGELISM NIGHT

The Baptist State Convention is sponsoring its 9th Statewide Youth Evangelism Night, Friday evening, August 17, at the Greensboro Coliseum. Speaker is Rev. Steve Davis of Tulsa, Oklahoma and soloist, Cynthia Clawson, from Nashville, Tenn. The service begins at 7:15 p.m.

The Burnt Swamp Associational Youth Organization invites interested youth to join them in attending this conference. For more information, contact the Baptist Building, 521-9850 or Miss Helen Jacobs, 422-8571.

ESC GIVEN RELIEVE

The Robeson County Commissioners voted Monday to give the Employment Security Commission a 60-day reprieve on its contract to take applications for CETA jobs. The contract, slated to expire September 30 had been slated to transfer back to the Department of Human Resources after Chris Antwi, the human resources head, had complained about ESC's inability to process applications at an acceptable rate.

ESC head, Jesse Beatty, blamed the problem on a break down in communications between the two departments. Beatty pledged to upkeep the requirements of the contract, accepting part of the blame for the seeming disagreement between himself and Antwi.

SCHOOL BOND SALE APPROVED BY COUNTY

The Commissioners approved the sale of \$8 million in school bonds later this month Monday, a move that will force a tax increase of at least 15 cents in fiscal year 1981-82.

The bonds represent half of a \$16-million bond issue approved by county voters last spring for improvements in the county and four municipal school systems. The other half of the bond issue is expected to be sold some time next year.

Officials from the Local Government Commission said two weeks ago the county will have to raise the tax rate by 21 cents in fiscal 1981-82 because of bond issue. That projection, however, was based on current property values.

In 1981 a property revaluation will be completed. That adjustment will trim the expected hike to about 15 cents.

The resolution adopted Monday includes a 23-year-old payback plan, which state officials say represents the 21-cent tax increase.

During the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1980, the county will pay \$400,000 in interest on the bonds, but in the year beginning July 1, 1981, the county will pay \$1.6 million in principle and interest on the bonds.

MAXTON FAVORS SCHOOL CONSOLIDATION

Maxton expressed overwhelming support for the proposed consolidation of Pembroke, Maxton and Prospect High Schools last Monday night at Maxton's Townsend Middle School. No one at the brief meeting Monday night spoke against the proposal. Former Maxton Superintendent Douglas Yongue moderated the meeting, open to public comment. Yongue is now assistant superintendent of the county school system with his primary responsibility being the new school.

Aggie Deese, a counselor in the county school system, and a resident of Maxton, stressed the increased curriculum and educational opportunities in a consolidated high school. Others echoed her sentiments. The meeting lasted barely an hour.

Earlier Rufus Graham was named to the county board, replacing the recently deceased Robert Buchanan. Graham completes Buchanan's term slated to end in the fall of 1982.

PEMBROKE HIGH BOOSTER CLUB PLANS PIG PICKING

The Pembroke High Booster Club is planning a free pig picking, according to President Ocasus Lowry. Lycourous Lowry is donating one of his purebred Hampshires and Jeff Maynor is donating a Duroc from his stock.

The pig picking will be held at Pembroke Senior High School on August 20 from 4 p.m. until. All interested and prospective booster club members are urged to attend.

Pembroke's new football coach, Ricky Locklear will be a special feature in the function.

Brantley Blue, Judge, GOP Indian Official, Dies

By Maureen Joyce
Washington Post Staff Writer

Brantley Blue, 53, an administrative law judge for the Department of Labor and the only Indian to serve as a commissioner on the old Indian Claims Commission, died Thursday at his Arlington home after a heart attack.

The Indian Claims Commission was established in 1946 to hear and determine claims against the United States on behalf of any Indian tribe, band, or identifiable group of American Indians living in this country.

Mr. Blue, a Republican, was appointed a commissioner in 1969 by former president Richard M. Nixon after Nixon withdrew former president Lyndon B. Johnson's nominee, former Maryland governor Theodore R. McKeldin, to fulfill a campaign promise to name an Indian to the commission.

Mr. Blue served as one of four commissioners until the commission expired last October. He then was a special counsel to Native American Consultants Inc. in Washington before being named an administrative law judge for the Labor Department in April.

He was born in Pembroke, N.C. The Lumbee Indians, although never organized as a tribe, have lived in Robeson County, N.C. for hundreds of years.

Mr. Blue was the first Lumbee Indian to become a lawyer, having earned his law degree in 1946 from Pembroke State College in North Carolina. In 1948, he earned a doctoral degree in law from the old Cumberland University School of Law in Lebanon, Tenn., now part of Samford University in Birmingham, Ala.

He practiced law in Kingsport, Tenn., for 20 years and was Kingsport city judge from 1955 to 1959. He also was a past president of the Kingsport Bar Association.

A vice chairman of the American Indian Tribal Leaders' Conference on Scouting and a member of the National Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Mr. Blue was awarded scouting's Whitney M. Young Jr. award for "his diligent advocacy of the right of Indian youth to enjoy the benefits of scouting..."

He served in the Navy in Europe.



BRANTLEY BLUE

and in the Pacific theater during World War II.

Mr. Blue was a former Sunday school teacher and a member of Fairfax Baptist Church.

Survivors include his wife, the former Dorothy Millam, and a daughter, Patricia, both of the home in Arlington; another daughter, Janet Batchelor, of Jacksonville, N.C.; five sisters, Kitty Sanderson, of Bryson City, N.C.; Rena Mae Cochran, of Madison, Fla.; Gola Lowry, of Gaston, N.C.; Bernice Lowry, of Towson, and Alicia Wise, of Pembroke; three brothers, Adolph, of Pembroke, Don, of Baltimore, and Carl L., of Kingsport, and two granddaughters.

The family suggests that expressions of sympathy be in the form of contributions to the Brantley Blue Scholarship Fund, 2111 Jefferson Davis Hwy., Arlington, 22202.

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Dr. Frank Worlax decides not to associate with Pembroke Medical and Dental Clinic



Pembroke—Here is part of the over flow crowd that turned out last week (Wednesday) as dedicatory services were held for the long awaited Pembroke Medical and Dental Clinic.

Dr. Sarah Morrow, Secretary of the North Carolina Department of Human Resources, was the guest speaker.

But something has gone amiss since the dedicatory services. The clinic has been unable to sign Dr. Frank Worlax to a contract, leaving the half-million dollar clinic without a physician. Hubert Oxendine, chairman of the board of directors of the non profit corporation that sponsored the clinic said, "I don't know what to tell you; the only thing I know is that we have been unable to agree on a contract..."

Dr. Frank Worlax, in the meantime, has opened his practice in a building beside the Play Skool Nursery in

Pembroke, directly in front of the parking lot of Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church. Worlax has not made himself available for comment, and at press time, we had been unable to reach him by phone. While visiting his new office, we were unable to talk to him, because his office was over flowing with patients.

In the meantime, the clinic is open for dental patients with Dr. Jeff Collins the dentist.

None of the particulars were able to tell us what would happen in the future. Rumors are rampant that money and the right to hire personnel and decorate the offices were contributing factors toward Worlax deciding not to affiliate himself with the clinic.

Most knowledgeable folk in the medical professions assume that the clinic will begin recruiting for a new physician.