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-An Editorial Endorsement- DAVIS & LOCKLEAR FOR THE STATE HOUSE

by Bruce Barton

This is the first in a series of editorial endorsements of candidates running for elective office in the May 6 primary and later in the general election in November.

We've thought a lot about it and we've decided to endorse candidates in most races...unless there are so many Indians running that it is suicidal to do so. We'll try to be reasonable to justify those we endorse but, in the end, it's just our opinion. We hope you will agree with us but we don't expect everyone to do so. This is America, the land of free spirit and expression. Everyone has an opinion. These endorsements are our opinions, backed, we hope, by some justification.

Our first endorsement concerns the state house race. On May 6 the voters will go to the polls to decide several key races. As we see it, the most important of these races will be the contest for three house seats in the N.C. General Assembly from the legislative district representing Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties.

The incumbents Robert Davis, Horace Locklear and David Parnell are pitted against challengers William C. Gay, C.A. Brown and Tracy Britt. In the race *The Carolina Indian Voice* is endorsing only two candidates in the house race: **Robert [Bob] Davis and Horace Locklear.** Davis is a black legislator; Horace Locklear is the only Indian house member.

Since 1973, when Henry Ward Oxendine was appointed to the general assembly, the local delegation to the house has been tri-racial thereby reflecting the racial makeup of the area. This healthy balance was almost thrown out of kilter in 1978 when Gay, the

principal of Lumberton Senior High School, forced Locklear into a runoff. He almost beat Locklear.

Conservatives usually vote for white candidates, no matter what the qualifications of the other candidates might be. For instance, in 1978, Lumberton's Precinct #8 (one of the last bastions of white Conservatism in America) gave more votes to perennial candidate Tracy Britt than they did to Professor Adolph Dial, the respected and capable Indian agri-businessman and educator. Interestingly enough, as we understand it, Precinct #8 is the home of Robeson's very political clerk of court, Ben G. Floyd, Jr.

As a consequence of this racial bloc voting the Indian people almost lost their only representation to William C. Gay, the white principal of Lumberton Senior High School. Had it not been for the vote in several Indian precincts (most notably Prospect and Pembroke) the consequences would have been disastrous. And Mr. Gay is trying again to unseat and disrupt the tri-racial house delegation, apparently with the support and efforts of several members of Robeson's white political establishment.

As our readers recall, Rep. Davis and Locklear thwarted the efforts of several members of the conservative political establishment, including, as we see it, Rep. David Parnell, and Ben G. Floyd, Jr., and St. Pauls District County Commissioner Bill Herndon to reduce the influence and authority of the Indian-black majority Robeson County Board of Education. The conservative forces attempted legislatively to wrest the Parkton School away from the county and give it to St. Pauls City Schools, another conservative controlled establishment in Robeson County.

Had it not been for both Davis and Locklear the conservative forces in Robeson County would have hung another coon skin upon the political wall. Thanks to Davis and Locklear Parkton is still a part of the county school system.

Because of the above vote and others Davis and Locklear have both been targeted for defeat, with both or either one being the goal of the conservative forces arrayed against them. The game plan is to replace one of them at least with William C. Gay. Few take Brown and Britt seriously.

It's clear cut: Indians and blacks cannot afford to lose either Davis or Locklear. Given the past history of bloc voting by conservatives Blacks and Indians cannot, as we see it, really afford to vote for anyone other than Davis and Locklear. A vote for one of the white candidates, in a sense, is a vote against Davis and Locklear.

So, for the above reasons and more besides, we editorially endorse Robert (Bob) Davis and Horace Locklear for the state house.

Ray Lowery named Prime Contractor of the Year

ROBINS AFB, Ga.--Say American Indian to many persons and they conjure up certain stereotypes: the stately horseman concerned over the destruction of his environment, a tear sliding down his cheek; or, the fierce adversary of the American cowboy in old movies.

But those don't apply to Ray Lowery, a Lumbee tribe member of Pembroke, N.C. He's too busy earning his spurs as the southeast region's Small Business Prime Contractor of the Year to fit into any stereotyped role.

The Warner Robins Air Logistics Center Small Business Office nominated the 33-year-old Navy veteran-minority manufacturer for the Region IV honor and has high hopes he'll be named national winner in Washington, D.C., during Small Business Week in May.

Why not? As president of his family corporation, he has guided the destiny of the Pembroke Machine Company, Inc., through "10 years of hustling."

Lowery has brought the business from a zero employee machine shop operation in a rented room, representing an investment of less than \$10,000, to a work force of 20 with an annual gross of \$1.2 to \$1.5 million. "And, we hope to be out of here within 18 to 19 months," says the casually-attired dark-haired 1979 Lumbee Business Man of the Year, seated at his uncluttered desk.

That rented room, he said, gave him and his father about 1,000 square feet. His present plant, encompassing two fairly recent additions, has about 10,000 square feet.

Concerning his two awards, he says, "I was surprised about the regional award, definitely surprised. I'd probably croak if I were selected at the national level."

"The whole idea reinforces my faith in the system we have in this country. Just think what this says, my children in Pembroke have as much chance to become whatever they want to be as anybody in the country. Today people



Horace Locklear



Robert Davis



Prime Contractor devotes his attention to paperwork--Ray Lowery, president, Pembroke Machine Company, Pembroke, N.C., checks over a government contract. An American Indian, certified a disadvantaged small business firm, Lowery recently was named prime

contractor of the year for the Small Business Administration's seven-state Region IV out of Atlanta. He has been doing business with Warner Robins Air Logistics Center since 1975. [U.S. Air Force photo by Sklp Korson]

are concerned with only one color and it happens to be green."

But, it wasn't always this way for American Indians in tri-racial Robeson County which Lowery describes as the poorest county in the U.S. "We were 33 percent Indian, 33 percent black and 33 percent white. Our schools and churches were all Indian, all black or all white. You couldn't get served in a restaurant around here when I was growing up. The whites were the power structure--they were the doctors and lawyers and shop keepers."

"We had real racial conflicts here in the 50s and 60s then everything changed," recalls Lowery, matter-of-factly, without a trace of bitterness.

About his other honor, he says, "There's nothing greater than being selected by your peers." Obviously proud of his heritage, he adds significantly, "We (the Lumbees) are the largest group of non-reservation Indians east of the Mississippi."

His birthplace, built some 100 years ago, still stands about six miles away from his business. His house was built around the original log cabin.

Lowery punctuates his conversations with background information on the Cherokees of North Carolina and their Trail of Tears as they were transferred

to Oklahoma. He discusses North Carolina's Lost Colony, too.

"I learned about John White in the course I took on Indian culture. He brought the white settlers here in 1587 then went back to England. Three years later he returned to find no trace of the settlers."

"But, in 1730 when the Scots came here, they found Indians with blue eyes and blond hair living in European style houses and tilling the soil."

He sketches the saga of North Carolina outlaw Henry Berry Lowery who had a \$12,000 bounty on his head. "I'm his descendant. He killed over 30 people and then just vanished. He reigned in this area in the period 1864-74."

How did Lowery come up with the idea of a machine shop? "I really don't know. This is a farming area but we weren't farmers. I did farm work as a kid to earn money but my father did machine-related work. As an 18-year-old high school junior I worked as a layout machinist for an electronics firm."

After high school, he joined the Navy, trying to get into electronics, but was assigned to intelligence and sent to Alaska and Japan. Money he saved

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PEOPLE AND L AND THINGS... C E S

A BOOK FAIR IS COMING

In observance of National Library Week, the Fairgrove School Library Club will hold a BOOK FAIR in the High School Media Center for students, school personnel, parents and other interested persons. The dates are April 14, 15, 16; time is 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. each day.

There will be many interesting books, puzzles, posters and other materials on display. There will be a variety of stamp collecting materials. All materials have been carefully selected for their educational value and child-interest. Profits from all sales will be used by Fairgrove School to provide benefits for students.

Students will be scheduled to come in and enjoy the display and place orders for materials of their choice. Parents and other interested persons are invited to attend the display and make purchases on either of the three days from 8:30 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. The Library Club is looking forward to seeing you at the book fair.

FACTS ABOUT LOSING WEIGHT

Weight reduction should be guided by a doctor, says Ann W. Fail, home economics Extension agent of the Robeson County Agricultural Extension Service. Your doctor can help you decide how much weight you need to lose and give you instructions to follow. He may refer you to a dietician who can talk with you further about the diet.

A good weight reduction diet will lead to reversal in those eating habits which caused weight gain in the first place. Crash diets, diets that drastically decrease certain nutrients (such as low-carbohydrate diet), and fasting do not establish good eating habits that promote long-term weight control.

A weight control program for adults entitled "Calorie Countdown" will begin the first week in May and continue for six weeks at the O.P. Owens Agricultural Building, sponsored by the Agricultural Extension Service. The six-part weight reduction program is designed to help overweight adults lose weight by forming better habits, says Ann Fail.

Participants should obtain an approval slip from their doctor prior to the first meeting. Registration for these sessions may be made by telephoning 738-8111 or by registering through the mail to Calorie Countdown, P.O. Box 392, Lumberton, NC 28358. Sessions will be on "A Look at your Eating Habits," "Cooking Slim," "Input versus Output," "Exercise Counts," "Fad Diets," and the final session will be "Fashions to Flatter the Figure."

LAST DAY OF JESUS FILM

Thursday, April 10, is the last day to view the Christian film *Jesus at the Town and County Theater* in Lumberton. Although the special advance ticket price is past, special groups rates are available for morning and afternoon showings. Group rates are \$2.10 for the 10 a.m. showing and \$1.50 for the 2:30 p.m. showing. For more information, call 738-7193.

BEEKEEPERS MEET APRIL 15

The Robeson County Beekeepers Association monthly meeting will be held April 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the O.P. Owens Agricultural Building in Lumberton. The subject for the meeting will be "A demonstration of assembly of hives, frames, rack tops and bottoms for receiving bees."

GOV. SCOTT VISITS AREA

Pembroke--Pembroke was one of the stops on a series of campaign visits by former Governor Bob Scott Tuesday, highlighted by the opening of his Campaign Headquarters in the Old Carolina Theatre on Fourth Street in Lumberton.

He was accompanied through out the day by his co-chairmen, Rev. E.B. Turner, Ted Brewington and General Robert Hughes. Accompanying them throughout the day too was Rev. Elias Rogers, president of the board of directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation in Red Springs.

Scott visited with the workers at LREMC before going on to Lumberton to open his campaign headquarters in Robeson County and a visit to Pembroke where he spoke to a sparse crowd at Sims Restaurant.

Scott lambasted "the power grab" of Hunt and his cohorts, lamenting about the seeming waste inherent in Hunt's office.

Scott noted that when he was governor of North Carolina from 1969 until 1973 there were only 25 people who worked in the governor's office in Raleigh. Scott revealed that Hunt has 57 people working in his Raleigh office as well as two additional offices he has opened in Asheville and Washington.

Scott said the office staff in Asheville "mostly involves itself in local politics" and the Washington crowd spends most of its time booking and making arrangements for flights in and out of Washington and securing tickets for the Lincoln and Kennedy Performing Arts Centers.

Scott said, "We need to do some pruning in Raleigh...especially those bureaucrats making 35-40,000 dollars... and closing down two of the governor's three offices."

Scott promised some old fashioned leadership saying "You can count on my word."

Scott also noted that "I am just planning to be governor one term. I have no intention of running anymore because I'll be called on to make hard economic decisions."

Single
issue
increases
to 25c

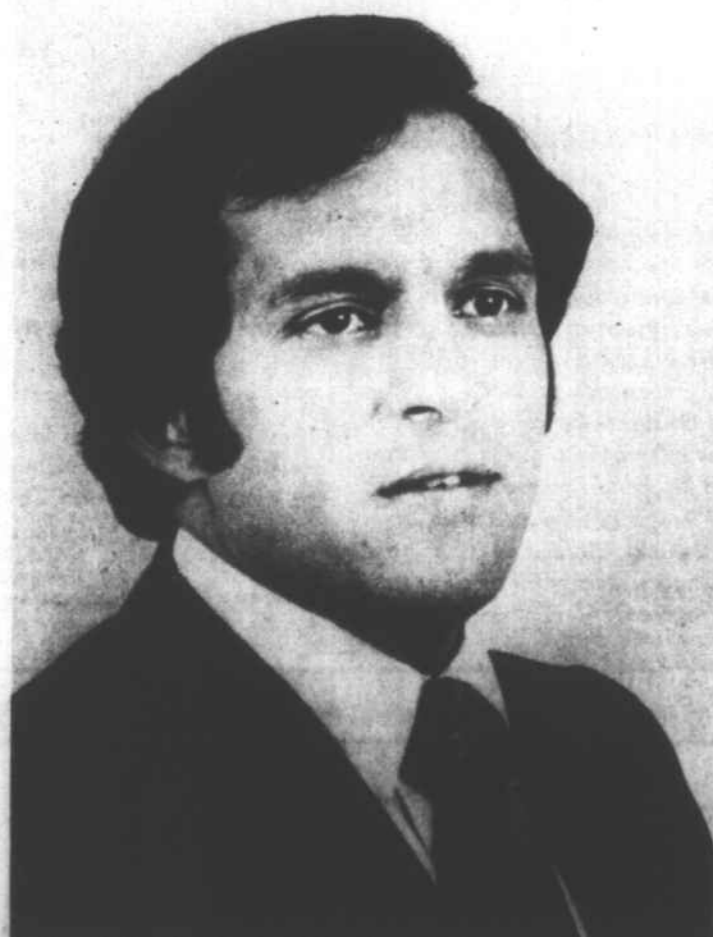
Single issues of *The Carolina Indian Voice*, effective May 15, 1980, is going to increase in price to 25c per copy (newsstand price).

The *Carolina Indian Voice* now costs 20c per copy from the newsstand. We are raising our prices reluctantly. The economy is out of whack, spiraling madly upwards. We have little choice in the matter. Stay up or go out of business seems to be the only alternative left to small business people like ourselves.

It's still a good bargain. We promise to continue to produce, as cheaply as possible, an exciting and news worthy newspaper.

Subscription prices remain the same for the time being anyway. We know the economy will stabilize soon. It is never wanting, to say the least.

Randall S. Jones promoted to Clinton LOF Plant



Promotion of Randall S. Jones to the newly-created position of personnel supervisor at the Clinton, N.C. plant of Thermopane LOF Inc., has been announced by Melvin B. Burwell, Jr., plant manager. Mr. Jones moves to Clinton from LOF Glass Inc., Laurinburg, N.C., where he had been a personnel assistant since 1972. Both companies are subsidiaries of Libbey-Owens-Ford Company, Toledo, Ohio.

In his new position, Mr. Jones will be responsible for a wide range of personnel functions at the Clinton facility, including recruitment, hiring and plant safety.

He is a native of Pembroke, N.C., and a graduate of Pembroke State University.

He is the son of Dr. English and Margaret Jones, P.O. Box 417B, Rt. 1, Rowland, N.C.

He is married to the former Diane Oxendine.