



The Carolina Indian Voice

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FEDERAL LAWSUIT CALLS FOR ONE COUNTY SCHOOL SYSTEM

Fayetteville— a group of Robeson County parents filed suit here Wednesday in U.S. District Court in an effort to put an end to what they consider to be the poor quality of public education available to their children; the duplicative and inefficient use of tax dollars earmarked for the schools; the perpetuation of racial segregation, especially through the planned construction of two new high schools; artificially contrived school district boundary lines; and "Tokenism" in the place of true integration of school students and faculty populations.

Named as defendants are five Robeson County school systems, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, the N.C. Superintendent of Public Instruction, the State Board of Education, and the Secretaries of the U.S. Department of Health and Human

Services and the Department of Education. A sixth Robeson school system, Maxton, is slated to merge with the county system and is, therefore, excluded from the suit.

Concentrating on the federal statutes that mandate equal educational opportunity for all students, the suit avoids mention of the quality of education provided in Robeson County and deals only with tax dollars as they are used to support segregation. However, a spokesman for the parents, who are represented by Raeford attorney Philip A. Diehl, said that both quality of education and its cost are at the heart of the suit.

"We believe that our children are being denied the kind of education they deserve and for this we, the taxpayers of Robeson County, are paying far in

excess of what good management would require," commented one of the parents. "You cannot operate five separate school systems in a county of about 90,000 without duplicating many of the costs."

The parents back up their claims regarding the quality of education by pointing to statistics compiled by the State. In 1978-79, for example, competency testing for 11th grade students resulted in the following failure rates:

Robeson County System, 23 percent reading, 31 percent math; St. Pauls System, 14 percent reading, 24 percent math; Fairmont System, 19 percent reading, 25 percent math; Lumberton System, 10 percent reading, 16 percent math; Red Springs System, 15 percent reading, 17 percent math.

For the same year, the average dropout rate for all systems in the county was 9.25 percent, representing a range from Fairmont's high of 11.5 percent to Red Springs' low of 7.8

percent. These figures, among the worst in the State, are to be compared with the total per student expenditures by each of the school systems, say the parents.

"Our schools are reasonably well funded. There were only three systems in the State that received more federal money than the Robeson County administrative unit last year. Yet they continue to turn out students who are among the most poorly educated. We want to know why."

The plaintiffs point to at least one possible answer: local contributions to school funds. In the 1977-78 school year, while ranking fourth in federal funds, the Robeson County unit ranked near the bottom of the list (132nd) in local contributions.

"Local interest must be backed by local dollars," they say. "Perhaps no local dollars indicate little or no local interest."

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An Archaeological Dig in Sampson County

Sampson County Indians will assist in a unique archaeological survey of the area beginning this summer.

Partially funded through a matching grant from the Heritage, Conservation and Recreation Service of the U.S. Department of the Interior, the project is part of a statewide program of archaeological surveys administered by the N.C. Division of Archives and History. The one-year project is being directed by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs in the N.C. Department of Administration.

Principal investigator Mark Hackbarth will work directly with members of the Indian community in identifying areas of the county which may contain early historic and prehistoric Indian sites.

"The project represents a unique opportunity to combine archaeology with public interaction," according to Hackbarth. "The community has been very cooperative so far and I'm looking forward to working more closely with individuals within the community, especially in identifying site locations."

Anyone with information about old Indian sites, mounds or historic sites in Sampson County may contact Hackbarth through the Coharie Intra-tribal Council at 564-6901 or the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs field office at 592-8041.

Since Hackbarth will need access to the areas which are to be surveyed, permission from landowners will be requested.

During the survey, the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs plans to evaluate how archaeology, as a field of study, can contribute to the preservation and understanding of the cultural heritage of Native Americans in North Carolina. The commission hopes, more specifically, to expand the knowledge of the history of the Coharie Indians living in the county and to contribute to an increased awareness of the Coharie heritage.

The survey will be conducted by Hackbarth and his wife, Dale, an archaeologist. Hackbarth will receive a master's degree in anthropology from the University of Arkansas in August.

Saddletree Jaycettes hold Installation Banquet

On Saturday, May 24, 1980, the Saddletree Jaycettes held their Installation Banquet at the Saddletree Jaycee Clubhouse.

The guest speaker for the evening was Ms. Geraldine Bell of Saddletree who spoke on Jaycettes and the Community.

Installing the Jaycettes was Mr. Ronald Hammonds, Area Director, for the N.C. Jaycees in the place of Ms. Patsy Prevatte, past President of the N.C. Jaycettes. Ms. Prevatte was unable to attend because of illness. The new officers for the 1980-1981 year are: Shirlean C. Hunt, President; Wanda L. Hammonds, Vice President; Barbara B. Locklear, Secretary; Ruby Locklear, Treasurer; and Brenda Thomas, Member-at-Large who will also be Chairman of the Board.

Ms. Thomas presented awards of appreciation to several community persons and organizations, presidential awards of honor to the Jaycettes and several other awards.

The top awards of the evening went to Ms. Linda Hammonds for being Jaycette of the Year. Ms. Shirlean C. Hunt received the Outstanding Jaycette Award.

The banquet ended with the Jaycee Creed led by Mr. Jerry Hammonds, President of the Saddletree Jaycees. A disco followed the reading of the creed.



Shown above, left to right (standing) are: Ronald Hammonds, Linda Hammonds and Geraldine Bell. Seated: Shirlean C. Hunt, Wanda Hammonds, Barbara B. Locklear, Ruby Locklear and Brenda Thomas.

Judge McKinnon throws out malicious prosecution claim against Pembroke

...Only claim left is a trespassing charge

LUMBERTON—Judge Henry A. McKinnon, Jr. has thrown out another charge that had been lodged against the Town of Pembroke and officials, including McDuffie Cummings, Town Manager; Vernon Oxendine, Chief of Police; and Harvey Bullard, a former sergeant with the Pembroke Police Department. Bullard has retired since the charges were lodged by Alfred A. Cook, now a Pembroke land owner. The charges were filed by Osborne Lee, Jr. and W. Earl Britt, the same Britt who is to be sworn in as a federal district judge Friday in Robeson County Superior Court.

Britt has since been taken off the case at his own request.

Cook claimed, in his lawsuit asking some \$5 million originally, that he had been falsely arrested and imprisoned. He also asked the court to rule that the town and officials trespassed upon his property, assaulted him, caused criminal process to be pressed against him, and maliciously prosecuted him.

In his ruling on May 23 McKinnon threw out the charge of malicious prosecution, leaving only a charge of trespass to be debated in criminal proceedings.

The charge of trespass is the only charge left standing after the long and expensive legal proceeding which is expected to cost Pembroke and her taxpayers thousands of dollars in legal

defense. Pembroke is defended by Dexter Brooks, one of the town's attorneys. The officials are defended by Dickson McLean, a Lumberton attorney.

Some background...

The town, in a counter suit, has sued Alfred Cook for \$100,000 for causing so called libelous charges and statements to be printed in the Robesonian, the county's daily newspaper. Lee is the attorney of record for the newspaper, explaining to many how Cook's original complaint appeared in the Robesonian on the same day it was filed in court.

The complaint stemmed from a confrontation between Cook and certain town officials on May 20, 1978 when Cook was discovered plowing up a parcel of land found later to belong to his now deceased wife, Chief of Police Oxendine and Sergeant Bullard stopped Cook from plowing up the land in question and placed him under arrest. The land in question had been used as an alleyway "as long as I can remember," according to one long time Pembroke citizen.

Some fourteen months later Cook filed the lawsuit in question against the Town and officials.

The scenario now switches back to superior court where a court date must be set for Cook's lingering charge of trespass.

The town's counter suit has not been scheduled for trial as of this day either.

West End Annexation Proposal aired again

PEMBROKE—Another turn away crowd came to a public hearing at Pembroke's Town Hall Wednesday night to hear Mike Avery, a town planner employed by Pembroke through the auspices of the Lumber River Council of Government, explain the town's position on the proposed annexation of the west side of West End Area adjoining the town proper.

The sentiments expressed by those in the audience ran heavily against annexation of the proposed area.

Mayor James A. "Pete" Jacobs assured the large assemblage (estimated at 75 or more concerned citizens) that "nothing has been decided yet" and promised "more public hearings and continued public input in the future" as the town continues exploring the possibility of annexing the West End Area.

MATTIE LOCKLEAR REHIRED AT COUNTY LIBRARY

Mattie Locklear has been rehired at the Robeson County Public Library. She had previously been dismissed for refusing to work on Sundays because of her religious beliefs. Mrs. Diana Tope had fired her because of her refusal to work on Sundays, even though she had worked at the library for ten years without a complaint until the tempest over her stand on refusing to work on Sundays. Mrs. Tope, the Librarian, had insisted that she work "just like all the rest of the employees."

The story first appeared in the pages of The Carolina Indian Voice and was brought to the attention of Herman Dial, the chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and the other news media in the county.

Dial and others inquired into the matter and it was resolved through negotiations with Dial, Mrs. Tope, Tom Long, chairman of the board of directors of the library trustees, Dickson McLean, who acts as ad hoc attorney for the library although he is officially "Just a member of the board of trustees," according to McLean.

Previous alternatives offered by Mrs. Tope were rejected by Mrs. Mattie Locklear because she considered them punitive and unfair. For instance she would have been expected, via one alternative, to work each Thursday night from noon until 9 p.m. and extra Saturdays to make up for not working on Sunday.

After negotiations between Dial, Mrs. Tope, Long and McLean, Long announced that "the problem has been worked out...she (Mrs. Locklear) will not be penalized for not working on Sundays. Long said a fair compromise had been worked out.

Mrs. Locklear said that she was happy to be back at work. She went back to work Tuesday.

Long also indicated that Mrs. Locklear will return to the library with the same 40 hour work week schedule she was on when she was summarily fired by Mrs. Tope.

Mrs. Tope has not been available to The Carolina Indian Voice for comment although she was quoted extensively in other local media. She informed this reporter that "you should contact my attorney (Dickson McLean) period for anything..." For the record, I did so.

The library, since February, has opened on Sundays from 2-6 p.m. The library has 23 employees with two of them (counting Mrs. Locklear) being Indians. There are four Blacks employed; one of them is the janitor. Of the 12 member board, there is only one Black and one Indian.

The library is a joint venture of the City of Lumberton and Robeson County.

BAPTIST MEETINGS PLANNED

The Preachers and Deacons of Burnt Swamp Association will meet Monday, June 2, at the Baptist Building, 8:00 p.m. A discussion will be led by Rev. C. W. Maynor on The Role of a Deacon—A Scriptural and Traditional Perspective. Rev. Steve Jones will lead a discussion entitled The Role of a Deacon in Today's Church.

The Executive Board of the association will meet Friday, May 30, at the Baptist Building at 8 p.m. All ministers, committee chairmen and church representatives should attend.

RUNOFFS SCHEDULED

JUNE 3

LUMBERTON—Interpret is low as run offs are scheduled Tuesday, June 3, 1980 in 3 county commissioner races and the statewide auditor's race.

Commissioner seats are being contested in Red Springs, Fairmont and Lumberton.

Frontrunner Jack Morgan, an Indian, is being challenged by John Staton, a Black, in the Red Springs district. Both camps say a good turnout is necessary to win. Incumbent Bobby Dean Locklear was toppled in the primary balloting.

In Fairmont incumbent Tom Jones was eliminated during the primary. Vying for the seat are Carl Britt, a former commissioner, and Gilbert Lewis.

In Lumberton incumbent H.T. Taylor is challenged by O.D. Odum.

Polling places throughout the county will open at 6:30 a.m. and close at 7:30 p.m.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

MISS LUMBEE PLATE SALE

There will be a barbecue and chicken plate sale on June 6, 1980 at the Pembroke Town Park. The plate sale, jointly sponsored by the Lumbree Regional Development Association and the Pembroke Jaycees, will be to raise money to send the reigning Miss Lumbree, Veronica Bryant, to the North Carolina state beauty pageant.

Mr. Carnell Locklear of the Jaycees will supervise the plate sale which will be from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3.00 each and may be obtained from an LRDA staff or Jaycee member. The ticket price includes a drink with the plate.

The public is cordially invited to join in the support of Miss Lumbree and enjoy a good meal.

OXENDINE SCHOOL SETS DATE FOR ANNUAL PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE

Oxendine School plays host to parents on June 3rd in its annual parent-teacher testing conference, an all-day affair (9 a.m. - 6 p.m.) in which parents drop in for quick reviews of their children's progress. Teachers, equipped with latest results (just back from being scored), will be able to talk with parents in short sessions, and will be able to compare this year's progress with last. Busy parents may sign up for time slots by filling in slips brought home by the students, or they may telephone Oxendine School (843-4243) for a place on the schedule.

Parents, anxious to give support to their children's school work, have gleaned useful ideas and helpful hints in furthering work at home.

Noah Woods, Principal of Oxendine School, said of the all-day conference, "One of the most useful means we have in getting teachers and parents together to talk about a joint effort in building the child's educational skills. Education begins at home, actually, and unless the parents help encourage the child at home, the school can't really push very hard. This parent-teacher conference day is an excellent opportunity for members of the community to get into some valuable educational discussions. We're proud of what we are doing and we like to share our ideas with the parents."

The date again is June 3rd, the time from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. It is hoped that most interested parents will respond.

CANNING AND FREEZING DEMONSTRATIONS

Canning and freezing demonstrations will be conducted at the O.P. Owens Agriculture Center on Friday, June 6 at 10:30 a.m. If you have been interested in food conservation and wish to learn the details and the "how-to," register by calling 738-8111.

Those participants will receive a free guide for canning and freezing. There is no charge for the class, but participants must register in advance.

SEMINARY GRADUATE

Mac Legerton, a resident of Pembroke, N.C., is a recent graduate of Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He received a Master of Arts Degree in Education and Theological Studies in May, 1980. In June, Mac will also complete a two-year training program The Guild for Spiritual Guidance, a practical course in Christian spirituality and depth psychology.

Mac is married to Donna Chavis of Pembroke, N.C. They returned to Pembroke from New York in December 1979 and gave birth to Rhianon Chavis-Lagerton on Dec. 29, 1979. Mac and Donna are both working part-time with the N.C. Hunger Coalition in Robeson County. Also, they have recently received a small grant to coordinate and staff the first chapter of Clergy and Laity Concerned in N.C. "CALC" is a national network of inter-faith, community-based fellowships that work with churches, communities, and colleges in developing educational programs and activities in the concerns of hunger, human rights, and human security. Mac is also doing volunteer work in prisoner visitation

and military counseling at Camp Lejeune. This prison and counseling work is sponsored by Quaker House in Fayetteville, N.C.

Mac is a native of Atlanta, Ga. He graduated from St. Andrews College in Lenoir, NC in 1973. He moved to Pembroke in 1975 to do community and campus ministry work sponsored by Fayetteville Presbytery. In 1977, he enrolled in Union Theological Seminary in New York to continue a program of religious studies.

CONCERNED PARENT AND TEACHER ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Concerned Parent and Teacher Association of Pembroke Elementary School will meet on Thursday night, June 5, 1980 at 7:30 p.m. in the elementary school gym. This is the final meeting for the 1979-80 school year. All interested members of the community are invited to attend a very informative and worthwhile meeting. Be a part of a growing organization that has the interest and welfare of the children at heart. Refreshments will be served immediately following the meeting.

3 ROBESON COUNTY STUDENTS RECEIVE DEGREES AT UNC-CHARLOTTE

CHARLOTTE—Three Robeson County students received degrees during commencement exercises at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte May 10.

F.G. (Buck) Rodgers, marketing vice president for IBM, was the commencement speaker as more than 1,600 UNCC students were awarded graduate and undergraduate degrees.

Robeson students earning degrees are:

- Cornelia Cummings, Rt. 1, Box 446A, Pembroke; B.S.N. in nursing.
- Christopher D. Noble, 525 Norwood Ave., Lumberton; B.A. in business.
- Margaret A. Schloesser, Rt. 8, 33 Trinity, Lumberton; B.A. in business.

FAMILY REUNION

The family of Jas. W. (Big Bud) and Janie Oxendine wishes to invite all relatives and descendants of their family to a family reunion July 5, 1980 at 1 p.m. at the home of Clifton Oxendine.

For information please call Elizabeth O. Maynor at 919-521-4386. All relatives and descendants are encouraged to attend.

DEEP BRANCH SCHOOL'S TRADITIONAL MAY DAY SET FOR MAY 30

Deep Branch School's traditional May Day will be held Friday, May 30 at 6 p.m. Parents and friends of the school are encouraged to attend. Principal is John Norman Sampson.

RIDGECREST CONFERENCE

Twenty one youth from the Burnt Swamp Association will be attending Recreation Week at Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly May 31-June 6. Hosts for the group will be Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Locklear.

Recreation week is a time for training in youth leadership Bible Study, Worship, recreation and spiritual renewal.

CONGRATULATIONS: MUTUAL AWARENESS SCHOOL GRADUATES

Graduation will be held for the Mutual Awareness School Saturday, May 31, at 2 p.m. The commencement address will be given by Al Kahn.

Candidates for graduation are Justin Ann Lowry, Tisha Ann Hunt, Linda Onndine, Mary Gilchrist, Yolanda Currie, Mary Williams, Joyce Locklear, Joyce McCoy, James Terry, Cheryl Locklear, Geneva Langley, On M. Carter, Sarah McDaniell, Barbara White, Condie Green, Amanda Jordan, Paul McKinnon, Paula Locklear, and Jonathan, Polly Robinson, Susan...

The ceremony will be held at the Mutual Awareness School, Lumberton, N.C.