

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

"We cannot know where we are going if we do not know where we have been."



As I See It

by Bruce Barton



MORE NOTES ON THE COOK-PEMBROKE CASE

Paranoia. I think he was kidding. One of the participants in the celebrated Cook-Pembroke case that has cost the taxpayers of Pembroke \$19,746.68 to date didn't like the story I did last week, claiming the revelation of costs in the case was misleading and in some parts derogatory.

The participant said, with a mischievous smirk, as repartee bounced back and forth: "I might get a hit man from Detroit to take care of you." I think I smiled back. But paranoia stalks the land. He was kidding, I think.

The legal debate over a piece of property priced on the market for maybe \$1500 has cost the town of Pembroke and officials \$19,746.68 to plead "not guilty" so far. That's what their attorneys have billed them for...so far. Who should pay the bill? The taxpayers? Alfred Cook? The town officials? Alfred Cook's attorneys? Etc. Etc. Etc.

Is the case frivolous? If so, some one other than the taxpayers should pay the legal freight.

Cook was stopped by police officers from plowing up a piece of property in Pembroke, including an alley way and "throughfare" that had been used by the town "As long as I can remember," according to townspeople.

Cook claimed the town officials were trespassing.

To date Cook has sued for more than \$2 million; the town has counter-sued for maybe \$200,000.

Etc. Etc. Depositions. Hearings. The legal fees continue to mount.

Where will it end? Some Pembroke townspeople are taking bets.

Which will come first? Vindication or poverty? Will the money hold out until the case is settled? If found not guilty will the taxpayers get their money back? And who will they get it back from?

PSU OUGHT TO STAKE OUT ITS PLACE IN THE EDUCATIONAL SUN

An education consultant says the gap between predominantly white and predominantly black campuses in the University of North Carolina system widened in the 1970s because the white schools received most of the choice programs.

Albert H. Berrian, president of the Institute for Services to Education, was scheduled to continue testifying during the third week of hearings into a proposed cutoff of federal funds to the 16-campus UNC system.

Berrian is considered a key witness in the federal government's attempt to halt \$89 million in federal aid to enforce federal desegregation guidelines.

He said Monday that while rapid expansion occurred at UNC-Charlotte, UNC-Wilmington, East Carolina University, and Appalachian State University, the five predominantly black schools fell further behind.

"The difference now is more pronounced than it was in the '60 and the '70s," Berrian said.

Berrian said the UNC Board of Governors planning report

last March proposed placing 15 new programs at black schools and 22 at white schools, and called the report "a break through."

But he said the report called for 16 masters degree programs at white schools and five for black campuses.

Berrian also testified that trends indicate UNC-Charlotte, ECU and Appalachian State are being converted into schools that will grant doctoral degrees, while the two largest black schools that will grant doctoral degrees, while the two largest black schools, North Carolina A & T and North Carolina Central University, will remain as campuses where the highest degree offered is a masters degree.

The decision to locate a medical school at ECU and a veterinary medicine school at N.C. State showed the state was unwilling to use new programs to help desegregate, he said.

PSU's storied link with the Lumbee Indian community has not been mentioned during the hearings. It seems, as I see it, that PSU administrators ought to stake out the school's place in the educational sun.

It seems that Pembroke labeled rather loosely as one of the traditional and predominant "white" institutions as opposed to the "black" ones. It is misleading, to say the least. The school was mostly begun for and by Indian people who yearned for an education for their children. It is a saga of fortrightness, determination, integrity and victory for the Indian people. Alas, integration has played ironic jokes upon their aspirations turning the school into a predominate "white" institution.

Interestingly enough, the office of civil rights in Washington, DC does not count PSU's Indian students as minorities dumping them with the "white" count. They only see a white-black confrontation, forgetting quickly the school's tie with the Indian community that surrounds it.

In the office of civil rights and other federal administrators and educators counted Lumbee Indian students as "minorities" PSU would probably have one of the best integration records in the state and most likely the nation. With the count of Lumbee Indian students PSU has 35 percent minority student enrollment (based on last year's figures). The count is 24 percent Indian students, 11 percent Black students, and 65 percent white or non minority. That's a fairly good record and a fair representation of the societal population. Without

the count of Indian students as minority, of course, the school suffers with a mere 11 percent minority enrollment.

The Indians ought to be counted. They are not white... that's for sure. PSU administrators ought to consider suing the government for their refusal to accept Indian students as minorities.

But then the government (that mindless creature that seems to dominate our lives) is not reasonable or sensible. That's probably why the entity is sued so often. And, more than that, it is why the government loses so many suits. It just seems that PSU administrators have to set the matter aright by suing their master. The record would take care of everything else. It's a crazy country we live in...but a wonderful one nevertheless.

Think about it. In the beginning they labeled us everything but what we are (Lumbee Indians). Now, after having acquiesced in naming us, the government turns around on the other hand and refuses to count us as "Indian." It's mind boggling.

But it is still a serious matter. The future of PSU might depend on how we are labeled in far away places like governmental agencies like the office of civil rights and before congressional and general assembly hearings. We ought to stake out our educational place in the sun so that we do not wind up being sacrificed to the politicians and special interest groups in the future. Count us! Some of us are Indians, and proud of it.

RUTH MUNDY AND ASSOCIATES WILL BE TEACHING AGAPE

If I ever take a class in "Agape" I would like Ruth Mundy to teach it. She's a marvelous lady and in rapture with life. She always signs her notes to me "Love, Joy and Peace." And she means it too.

Agape will be taught as a course this fall at Robeson Technical College. Agape is sort of a love feast. The dictionary defines it this way.

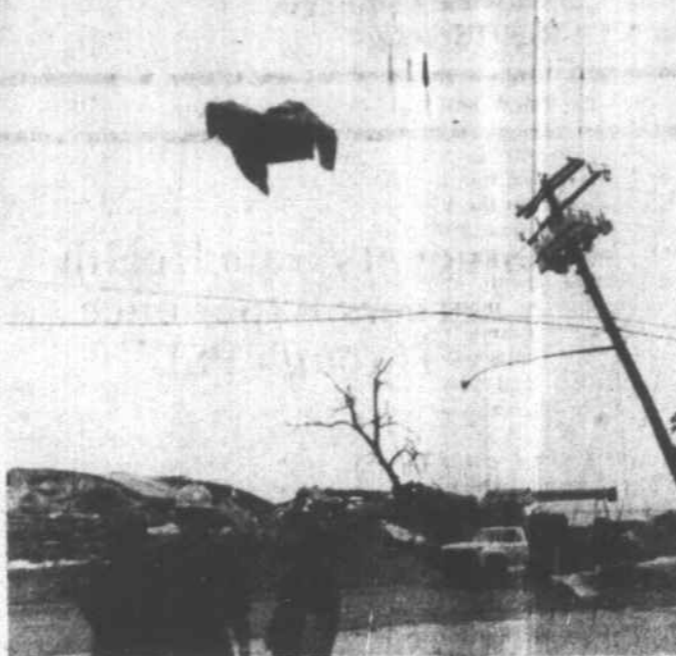
"Agape—Among the primitive Christians, a love feast or feast of charity, held before or after the communion, when contributions were made for the poor."

Ruth Mundy is the perfect person to organize the class. She loves and is loving. She really cares about people, as I see it.

She said in her note, "Our Christian social concerns committee at Chestnut United Methodist Church in Lumber-

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Locklears return from Texas trip



My wife and I just arrived back to the beautiful state of North Carolina, leaving behind us the great state of Texas and our loved ones and many friends which we were privileged to meet.

We enjoyed two weeks with my sister and brother-in-law, Matilda and Cornelius Hocker, Sr. and my nephew, Benny Locklear, Sr. and his lovely wife, Jo Ann and their son, Benny Jr.

Of all the places we went and the many things we did, my biggest thrill was catching 13 catfish and approximately 15 carp and the biggest one got away.

We were there during the

storm, Hurricane Allen. We went to San Antonio on Saturday and on Sunday, Austin was hit by a tornado. Several were sighted in the area of Regdale Air Port and approximately 100 planes were destroyed.

Between all the Mexican food and the good old southern cooking, we probably gained a pound or two. We thank God for a safe journey. His traveling mercy was with us. The Hockers send their love to all their Robeson County friends and relatives. Many of you were asked about.

Danny & Curlin Locklear
Union Chapel Area
Pembroke, NC 28372

The Prospect Fire Dept. Ladies' Auxiliary

To the Editor:

Out of an existing need for an organization to administer to those who are in need or distress, in an effort to be that extensive, the Prospect Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary was formed one year ago.

Many people are not aware of this organization. It is new in the community, but one of many in operation around the country. Its purpose is to willingly give of our time in rendering such services as are needed and this year has been one of human and various needs. Hopefully, life is just a little more meaningful and comfortable for our available services. The opportunity has been ours to aid six or more victims of burned dwellings, give relief care to those caring for bed patients in the community which has always included financial assistance as well.

Members have rotated on schedule each time the river search was in operation for the Clark child, working to have warm food and drink for those involved in the search. When the weather was so extremely cold, the Auxiliary was there until the search party retired for the day. This was true for the several days until it concluded. The most recent

ton is sponsoring a 30 hour enrichment class in personal relationships; parent-child, teacher-child, AGAPE.

"Classes begin September 11 from 7-10 p.m. at Chestnut Methodist Church. Mrs. Frances Brock is the instructor. "There is a \$5 registration fee to Robeson Technical College. That's the only expense. Persons 65 and older do not pay anything."

date of search, again, the Auxiliary was on the job. So, you-the community may know someone close by does care about our neighbors' well-being.

Because of our frequent involvement in the community happenings, this warm and most appreciated letter was prompted from Martha Wright of the Maxton Medical Services whom we got to know and warmly respect. Her letter follows:

"Dear Shirley (Moore)"

"On behalf of the Maxton Rescue Squad, I am writing to express our appreciation for the continued support that the Prospect Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary has shown during our last river search for the drowned Clark child.

"It's nice to know that one can count on people, such as your auxiliary, to make life more pleasant during a time of need.

"Again, thank you all for your thoughtfulness and consideration. Please feel free to call upon us anytime if you should need us."

Doris Locklear
President of the Prospect Fire Department Ladies' Auxiliary

She signs her note "Love, Joy and Peace" and reminds me to pray for the Christian film "Jon," coming to Cinema II in October."

If you are interested in learning about AGAPE I recommend Mrs. Ruth Mundy and her associates at Chestnut United Methodist Church and Robeson Technical College to you. She knows a lot about AGAPE.

Concerned about Existing Educational System

To the Editor:

As an American citizen, a parent and a taxpayer, I am more concerned than ever about the existing educational system of Robeson County. I find at every turn that the education of our children is being determined by people in the majority, who are tremendously political and who have racism uppermost in their minds, or so it would seem. They don't seem to have the best interest of children at heart. Why should a child be left out of a class or special activity because he or she is the wrong color? Why do we not have special classes in all our schools for special kids with special problems? Why should school boundaries be allowed to exist that exclude a certain race of people?

I realize this seems to have been the practice in Robeson County for years—but I for one am sick and tired of hearing it. What has been done for years is not necessarily the right way. This is now—our future lies in the children of this county. It is time NOW for a change. It is time the political element and the racial thinking be stopped, at least in our educational system.

Our children are suffering from a 5 school system county. The monies are spread so thin that there is no way some schools can offer a decent education above the basic courses. Some students are bussed 55 miles a day to get a course offering of their choice because it's not offered at their local school.

It is imperative that we have one non-discriminatory school system. We need to upgrade the quality of education and have equal education for all children. We can't afford to have the powers that be, in our school system, play political handball with our children's education.

Forget racial overtones! Forget politics!

We as parents, citizens and taxpayers must unite, whether we be Black, Indian or white and see to it that we obtain equal, quality education for all our children!

Alice M. Wilkins
St. Pauls, NC

The Pembroke Community Dance Center concludes season

The Pembroke Community Dance Center has completed its 1980 Summer season of Dance. Everyone concerned with the program believes it has been a huge and smashing success. The most incredible success story of the summer was the overwhelming participation in the Tuesday night adult classes. Old friends and new friends met once a week for two hours of exercise, dance, and loads of fun.

Mrs. Morris, administrator for the Dance Center, would like to thank everyone who was involved with getting the program going this summer, especially the children and their parents. A very special thanks goes to the staff of the Pembroke Community Workshop, the Board of Directors of the Dance Center, and to the teachers. All of these people worked hard and were very supportive of the program and each other. Special recognition and best of luck goes to the teachers. Ms. Clarissa Cummings - a student at Pembroke Senior High, Ms. Jennifer Jordan - a student at Lumberton Senior High, and Ms. Lisa Stover - a graduate of Pembroke Senior High and beginning freshman at East Carolina University. Without all of these wonderful people, the program would never have made it off the ground.

Plans for the fall season are in the making, but nothing definite will be decided until the teachers have settled into their school schedules. More information will be released within the next month. Anyone with suggestions or questions please contact Mrs.

Morris at 521-4900.



Brenda Mae Oxendine in Full Dress Uniform

Reprinted from the Laurinburg Exchange.

One Of The Guys

Scotland County Woman Is First To Become N.C. State Trooper

When Brenda Mae Oxendine graduated from Scotland High School in 1978, she wanted to go into law enforcement work.

That dream, and even more, came true for her Friday when she became North Carolina's first female Highway Patrolman.

Miss Oxendine, 21, who grew up in Johns, was one of only two women to graduate Friday along with 40 men from the State Highway Patrol and Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) basic school at the Highway Patrol Training Center in Raleigh.

The other, Roberta Anne Wolfe, who was Miss Oxendine's roommate during the 20-week course, became the first woman to finish the school under the auspices of the ALE. Several other women have become ALE agents after completing the former requirements of 240 hours of basic instruction.

"I feel pretty proud," Miss Oxendine said Sunday night. "I didn't plan on being the first woman. But I had planned on going into law enforcement."

She said she began considering the highway patrol after talking to a recruiter at Richmond Technical Institute, which she attended after graduating from Scotland. "I liked what he was talking about and decided to try it," she said.

She said she failed to get her degree from RTI because the offer to attend the basic school came while she was working on her last quarter.

The hardest part of the school, she said, were the long hours of classroom work and the military-like discipline. "They had certain ways you had to fix your bed and clean your room and march properly in military style."

She said she felt she received fair treatment from her instructors and fellow cadets. "The attention I've been getting has gone a little too far," she said. "All the male troopers went through the same things I did. I didn't do any more or less than they had to do."

Miss Oxendine, the daughter of John Coy and Geneva Oxendine, has three brothers and a twin sister. All, including her parents, she said, gave her complete support.

In fact, her twin, Linda Faye, has recently graduated from RTI and plans to become a probation officer after finishing courses at Pembroke State University.

Miss Oxendine will be stationed in Whiteville Wednesday. She will ride with an experienced trooper for her first six to eight weeks of duty as is normal procedure. "I'll probably have some problems," she said. "That's to be expected in any job."

Miss Oxendine and Ms Wolfe were the third and fourth women to enter the Highway Patrol and ALE basic school. The other two failed to complete the rigorous training that includes 819 hours of instruction in criminal mind, firearms, precision driving, human relations and other topics.

Burley Mitchell, secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, delivered the commencement address, telling the cadets, "As law enforcement officers, you are the only people in society who literally have the legal power to make on-the-spot decisions of life and death."

"I specifically want you to know that you are never to fail to enforce the law because the person breaking it is one you feel may be of high standing financially, socially, politically, or otherwise or because you feel that person may have friends in Raleigh or anywhere else." The graduation exercises were the 67th for the highway patrol and the second for the division of ALE.



Pharmacist Howard Brooks

Pembroke Drug Center
Olden and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC

Law requires immunizations

Child immunizations are sometimes taken for granted. But they are important. The law makes this clear. Before your child can enroll in school the State requires "proof of immunization" for polio, tetanus, whooping cough, red measles, rubella, diphtheria, and mumps. Have you complied? Your child may be suspended from school without them.

If you have a pre-schooler, however, don't wait. Vaccinations afford them optimum protection and should be initiated early in life. Finally, to avoid greater risks associated with oral polio vaccine, the injectable variety is recommended.

Your Pharmacy

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