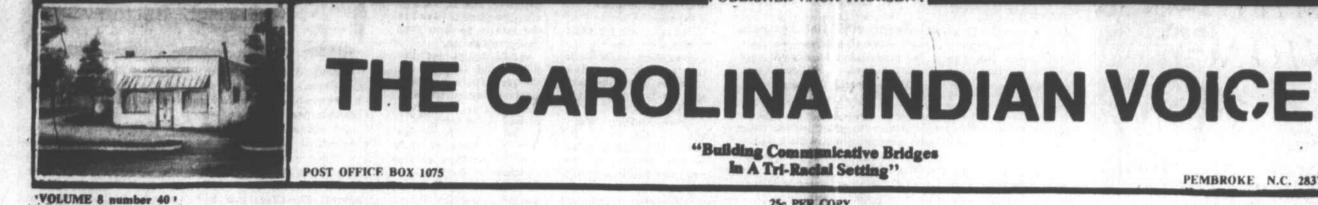
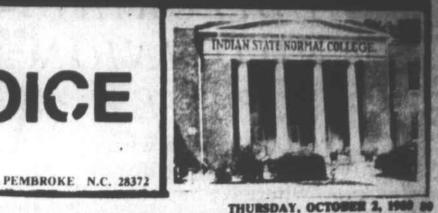
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PEOPLE

AND THINGS

OCT 1980

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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RED SPRINGS, ST. PAULS & FAIRMONT SCHOOLS SUE PARENTS

by Bruce Barton

Fairmont and St. Pauls Schools have for \$2 million in damages. The Red countersued the parents who are suing Springs, Fairmont, and St. Pauls school them and the Robeson County System officials have hired a Raleigh law firm and the Lumberton City School Unit. and joined together in taking the

An official familiar with the unique school situation in Robeson County Fairmont school officials are asking \$2 termed the legal action "a scare tactic" million in damages from the parent saying, "It's like if someone wants to group because they can't complete a sell you a rotten apple ... you don't have new elementary and middle school to buy it if you don't want to ... "He was without the bond money. School ofreferring to the contention of the school ficials are particularly concerned that officials that their present delimma is they had to stop construction of the due to the county's inability to sell elementary school before the roof could school bonds approved by county voters be completed. last March 13.

Officials of the 3 school districts are neither is the Robeson County School asking for damages from the parents System. because the parents' discrimination lawsuit is holding up construction of County commissioners have been un- has held up the start of construction of a been named defendants. able to sell the bonds because of the new school classroom building. The suit.

Springs school district filed a similar Following the lead of Red Springs, countersuit against the parents asking parents group to court.

Last Thursday, officials of the Red \$1.3 million school, but has a deadline that have existed for generations in the next month for letting them. Con- Robeson County school systems. Fur-

> the county school districts and the county commissioners have perpetuated

earlier this month. The suit is being handled by Raeford attorney, Phil Diehl.

The Parents' suit was filed against the fits to the children of the county. Red Springs Board of Education along with the Boards of Education of Lumberton is not a party to the suit; Robeson County, Lumberton, St. Pauls and Fairmont. Additionally, the County to enjoin the sale of any bonds on behalf Education and the Federal Government St. Pauls officials are asking for \$2.5 through the Department of Education

Internecine feuds within the Indian

camp have kept the full power of the

Indian recognition fight of the 30s from

coming to full fruition but the recog-

nition of the "22" as 1/2 or more Indian

Said one familiar with the situation,

"As soon as the Indians quit their

fighting and feuding they can have the

full benefits of federal recognition.

thanks to Joe Brooks and Jim Chavis

and men like that, the work has already

been done." Too, a federal law suit in

the early 70s brought by famous

attorney Tom Tureen demanded that

the federal government give federal

services to the surviving members of

The inability of the Indians in both the

Lumbee and Tuscarora camps to

the "Famous 22."

school buildings in the county. Robeson million in damages because the lawsuit and Health and Human Services have

struction has not begun on the school. ther, the suit alleges many of the inequities within the Robeson County The parents allege in their lawsuit that school system are based on the simple as we now know it. That is why

fact that there are five separate school everyone is so deadly about it." systems operating within the county. racially segregated schools, and charge each of which has its own administhat poor quality education exists in the tration and each of which causes the five systems. All five districts and the iduplication of many expenses to the commissioners denied the charges detriment of the county tax payers as well as the slicing of the county into small segments that has resulted in a pattern of small schools throughout the county that cannot provide adequate curriculum or proper educational bene-

According to an official familiar with the case, "The suit itself does not seek Commissioners, the State Board of of Robeson County. The Robeson County commissioners are free to sell the bonds at any time they so desire."

> According to one of the participants in the famous double vote law suit no suit has aroused the attention of those either Red Springs and St. Pauls although they for it or against it fike this one has. have asked that the bond monies

He notes, "everyone is playing for can renew their building program.

LISA CUMMINGS CROWNED

PLATE SALE PLANNED

keeps...this is not a game. It is serious The Burnt Swamp Baptist Church business ... it could, like the double vote of Route 4, Lumberton will have a plate suit, change the whole political and sale (chicken and barbecue) on Friday, social fabric of Robeson County society Oct. 3. All plates are \$2.50. The sale will be held in the fellowship hall of the church from 11 a.m. until 7 p.m. Proceeds will go into the church

building fund program.

LOCAL TO PERFORM IN COLLEGE PRODUCTION

David Oxendine, son of .Mr. and Mrs. Grady Oxendine of Pembroke, NC He also successfully sued the Lumbee will perform in the Catawba College production of "Godspell." The play River Electric Membership Corporation in behalf of Rev. Elias Rogers and won will run Sept. 24-28 and Oct. 3 and 4 on the college campus. in federal court a few years ago.

Said another attorney, "Diehl is com-David is a junior drama major at petent ... that scares a lot of people in Catawba. He has performed in a number of previous productions at Catawba, including "The Beggar's Robeson County School System is not a Opera," "The Crucible," "The Tempart of the legal maneuver by Fairmont, pest," and "Tartuffe."

Catawba College is a small liberal allotted to them be released so that they arts college in Salisbury, NC. The School is widely recognized for its strong program in the theatre.

Cherokee Methodist Church Homecoming Sunday

DISPUTE "BUDGET CUTS" AS REASONS FOR FIRING

FORMER LIBRARY EMPLOYEES

Two former employees of the **Robeson County Library appeared** before the board of trustees Wednesday afternoon to protest their dismissals for so-called "budget cuts."

Both Yvonne Hutchison, formerly an administrative secretary, and Jean Becker, until her dismissal coordinator of library volunteers, disputed claims of library administrators that they were "let go" because of a shortage of funds.

Ms. Becker explained to the trastees that her position would have only required an outlaw of \$1,000 because of a federal grant which fugded the position on a yearly basis up to three vears.

Ms Hutchison, in response to a query from a board member, said that she believed she was "fired" because of "a difference of opinion" with the librarian, Ms. Diana Tope.

The two women were "let go" along with five other employees in June and July because of a supposed lack of funds.

A "HUGE SUCCESS"

by Bruce Barton

J is for "Joy" ... I is for "Integrity" Robeson County. and M is for "Maturity." That seeme

district has already received bids for the The suit seeks to correct the abuses

AND PLACES

This is not the first time Phil Diehl, the

lawyer for the parents has taken on the

establishment. He recently caused a

policy to be written revising the policy

of school fees in Robeson County in

behalf of some Robeson County

parents.

Robeson County."

week of scheduled activities came to an end.

unveiling of the portrait of Brantley cuts through the campus. Blue were well received.

The historical marker was dedicated beloved Jim Chavis' family in at-

Organizer Carnell Locklear gave the For instance, they were responsible for dedicatory address in honor of "Mr. a spark of Indian activism that resulted

this way.



Coharle Indians from Clinton perform 'Maiden Dance' in Raleial

Officials of the North Carolina Com- to spell out Mr. Jim's life pretty well. mission of Indian Affairs termed Indian He was, indeed, a joyful and mature Heritage Week "a huge success" as the man with lots and lots of integrity.

INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK TERMED

The historical marker erected in his honor stands on Highway 711 almost blood by the Bureau of Indian Affairs is Locally, the memorial erected in honor directly in front of Old Main beside the their most lasting achievement. of James E. "Jim" Chavis and the parking lot fronting the railroad that

Mr. Jim passed away in 1979 at the age of 84; he left a mark for many of us last Friday morning with the late and to aspire to. He was associated with the great Indian leader, Joe Brooks, back in tendance. His widow, Mrs. Edna the 30s and 40s. They and their mighty Chavis, was the revered guest as well as "Siouan Council" put events into a number of the children and friends. motion that are still coming to pass.

Jim" and lauded his long life of service. in the "Lumbee" name change although they championed the name Locklear spelled out "Mr. Jim's" "Siouan" and then later "Cheraw."

achieve unity seems to have brunted the name with virtues and goodly attributes Too, they developed the old Red Banks impact of the federal suit brought and ... for instance, he spelled out "J-I-M Resettlement lands and championed won by a Tuscarora group in behalf of Indian recognition for the Indians of

the surviving 22. Friday was also a day to honor Brantley Blue, the famous and influential Lumbee barrister who passed away in 1979 also.

The portrait, painted by Lumbee artist Craig Locklear, will hang in Old Main, on the Pembroke State University campus. Brantley Blue was one of the warriors who saved Old Main by his efforts in behalf of the "Save Old Main" movement.

Brantley Blue was the first Indian to serve on the U.S. Indian Claims Commission. He constantly charged his friends and associates with the query: What have you done for your people today?"

Brantley Blue was an advocate for all Indian people, especially Indians living on the eastern seaboard of America.

Old friends Adolph Dial and Lew Barton gave remarks in his behalf (see Lew Barton's column "Anecdotes IIlustrative" elsewhere in this issue for additional comments),

Appropriately enough, the week was egun with a prayer breakfast at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut with Rev. Mike Cummings speaking. As he noted, religion is part and parcel of the Robeson County Indian heritage.

Miss Liss Camp was hold Friday and Saturday, Soptember 19 and 20, 1980 at the YMCA Retreat Contor, on Mill Point Road in Greensbore, N.C.

The new Miss GNAA is the daughter N.C. of Delores and David L. Commings of

MISS GNAA DURING

POW WOW



The Cherokee Methodist Church in the Wakulla community, will hold their Homecoming Sunday, October 5, 1980. All former members are invited to attend. Lunch will be served in the Fellowship Hall. There will be a singing in the afternoon. Singing groups are invited to come. Rev. Julian Ransom is Pastor

SENIOR

CITIZENS

OUTING

All senior citizens are invited to an outing on Saturday evening, October 4, 1980, fifty-five years of age and up. The event is sponsored by the Mt. Airy Jaycees and will be held at Tyner's Pond. If you are planning to attend, please come to Mt. Airy Baptist Church at 1:00 p.m.

County-wide Meeting Scheduled Oct. 3rd at Jaycee Fairgrounds

will be a county-wide meeting held Friday night at the Lumberton Jaycee Fairgrounds on Highway 41. The **Carolina Indian Voice** has reporting according to local news Board of Education by district. Most reports'

taring GNAA's fourth annual Mr. and Mrs. Brency Cummings of for Tax Reform" has called for the board or commission or elective office. My Day and Pow Wew which Robeson County. She won out over 6 meeting in a personal column he writes for the Robesonian, the county daily

> The meeting will begin, according to West, at 7:30 p.m. West has, in the Blacks. The Justice De past, called for electing the county ap manager by popular vote and electin

The dismissal of the employees have caused a furor in Robeson County political circles because the library recently approached the city and county asking \$80,000 to match a state grant. The monies would be used to refurbish the old fire station which was given to the library by the city of Lumberton.

Although the city agreed in principal to put up \$40,000 the county commissioners, tied their approval to a rehiring of the dismissed employees. Herman Dial, chairman of the board of commissioners, has been a critic of the abrupt firings, saying "I will always put people first when it comes to them or a building."

Ms. Hutchison especially blamed "personal reasons" for her dismissal saying, "It's been labeled budget cuts....I know and you all know that there have been no budget cuts." Ms. Hutchison said that she believed she was fired because of her involvment in the firing and later rehiring of a library employee, Mrs. Mattie Locklear, who was initially dismissed for refusing to work on Sundays due to her religious convictions. Ms. Hutchison recommended against firing Mrs. Locklear.

According to local news reports there county commissioners by a county wide vote. **Robeson County presently elects its**

been county commissioners and board mem-4 notified of the meeting and is also bers representing the Robeson County board members are elected by district to assure that all three races are repre-Carl West, spokesman for a group sented. Until district voting no Indian or billing itself "The Tri-Racial Committee Black ever served on a county wide

> Robeson County too is subject to the Voting Rights Acts of 1965 because of proved and systematic voter di nation against mostly Indian prove any act that reasily in ci

as was crowned High Point. She is also the granded Native American Asso- daughter of Hayworth Cummings and other contestants.

> The Pow-Wow was sponsored by the **Guilford Native American Indian** Center, 400 Prescott St., Greensboro,