

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Carl West Supports School Merger Efforts

To the Editor:

Several years ago when I was working for the Department of Agriculture I was driving down Old Highway 301 South from Lumberton. A few miles out I saw a large sign with very large letters which read as follows: "If it's inevitable, relax and enjoy it." This sign was placed there by the people from South of the Border. I am sure most of us have seen their signs all over the country beside our highways. This particular sign really impressed me because it made so much sense. I have thought about the message this sign conveyed many hundreds of times since.

recommended at least twice in the last year by our Dept. of Public Instruction in Raleigh that we merge our school system. It has also been repeatedly pointed out that the Lumberton School System is, and has been since 1975, in violation of federal law. I also would like to state publicly what I have stated to Mr. Bill Gay privately. Mr. Gay came to my house and we sat in my living room and talked for more than an hour. Our conversation was mainly concerning schools. Of course, that was before the election. At that time he was in full agreement with me that we only needed one school system. This was not only heard by me but also by others who were present. That was after he saw such a large crowd at the fairgrounds. He hasn't heard of such activity lately so I suppose he believes we don't have much support. Please be informed Mr. Gay that we have several thousand signatures which we will soon turn over to Horace Locklear.

These are registered voters of Robeson County. They are also voters who could be considered volunteers. Most of these people came by my house. Or some place where they knew there was a Book. We have never covered one fourth of Robeson County and we have never told anyone through the media where these Books could be found. If we really made an effort there really is no telling how many signatures we could have. I still get calls almost daily concerning the messy school situation we are in. It seems to me that our taxpayers are getting tired of spending their hard earned money to pay for a school system that is inferior to any system in surrounding counties.

What I am interested in, and all I am interested in, is a school system that serves the best interest of all our people and all races. We are presently not getting that. We are being short changed. And the sad thing about it is the fact that it is the children that suffer.

It is my sincere belief that the only way to stop this injustice is through a one county school system. I hope Mr. Gay will reconsider his commitments. The course he is taking now is the shortest, and surest route to a one-term representative. CARL WEST Lumberton, N.C.

The 1980 Annual Report of Prospect Volunteer Fire Department

During the year of 1980, Prospect Firemen responded to fifteen house fires, seven barn fires, twenty-two forest fires and one combine equipment fire. Total property value of the items listed above was estimated at \$607,772.00. It was estimated that of this amount, \$438,247.00 was saved, with a loss of \$169,525.00. The hours used in fighting these fires was a total of three-hundred and sixty-four man hours. They also responded to four false alarms.

During the year of 1980, the fire department received from fire tax \$5,810.85, Revenue sharing \$700.00, General fund \$1,000.00, gift from Prospect Ladies Aux. Club \$100, Guaranty Saving & Loan Co. \$25, Prospect Jaycees \$25, and a \$100 loan, for a total of \$7,760.86. Of this amount collected \$7,683.19 was paid out, leaving a balance of \$77.67.

Many of these fires were over in the early hours of the morning. The average number of firemen responding to the fires was 8. On one occasion as they fought a house fire, their clothing got wet and they had ice cycles hanging from their clothes.

On one occasion when the fire alarm sounded and the firemen reached the fire station, the air brakes on the truck had leaked down overnight. This

caused the truck to have no brakes. By the time it was repaired and the truck reached the home it was completely destroyed. Because of this one time that the truck was not in operating condition, some members of the community are complaining about it. But we feel that any person who owns a motor vehicle has at one time or another found that their vehicle was out of operating condition, regardless of how hard they tried to keep it up. These people should realize that no member of this department is paid for their services. Instead of complaining they should come out and take part in its operation. It takes a person who has great love for his community and its citizens to leave his warm bed in the middle of the night and get out in freezing weather and respond to the fire call. Some people don't realize how much it costs a person to be a member of a volunteer fire department. The members of the fire department would like to thank the citizens of the Prospect Community who have stood by them and for their help. They realize that most members of the fire department district support them and understand what the firemen go through in order to protect their community.

The firemen appreciate the support and good work that the Prospect Ladies Aux. Club is doing.

SCOUTING... THE BETTER LIFE

The Council Annual Banquet of the Cape Fear Council of Boy Scouts of America was held on Friday, January 23, at 7 p.m. at the Bladenboro School.

Many of the central district staff, chairmen and many adults are involved in the scouting program and we need more volunteer patrons. A special membership drive and awareness has been undertaken by Pembroke's Scout Committee for Troop 327. In attendance at the banquet were Mr. Theodore Maynor, Mr. Welton Lowry, Mr. Simon Oxendine, and Dr. David Brooks from the Pembroke Troop representation.

The highlight of the banquet was the presentation of the coveted Silver Beaver Awards. These awards are given to a select few volunteer adults each year based on dedication to the scouting program. Mr. Maynor and Mr. Oxendine have been recipients of the awards in 1967 and 1972

respectively. The late scout master of 327, Walter Pinchbeck was one of the first local recipients in 1947.

Brad Starr, a local scouter of the Cape Fear Council, which has recently been elected to the National Chief of Order of the Arrow and was featured on the Today Show as the guest speaker. He is only 18 years old and will be meeting with President Reagan. He also will be addressing Congress soon, we were told.

The first Cape Fear Council Eagle Scout Banquet is being conducted by the National Eagle Scout Association. It will be held at the Wilmington Hilton at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 21, 1981.

Please, if you are between the ages of 10 and a half, and 18 years of age, and would like to develop into better men of tomorrow, join the Boy Scouts of America.

Dr. D.E. Brooks

BIBLICAL MUSINGS

by Garry L. Barton

"For God so loved the world He gave His Only Begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

God's Word tells us "...that in the last days perilous times shall come." (II Timothy 3:1.) His Word also tells us that during the last days man will be "lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." (II Timothy 3:4.)

All one has to do to realize that we are living in the last days is to observe the attendance of his (or her) church. Everyone seems to be preoccupied with his own selfish needs and lusts; it seems to be extremely difficult for us to make time for God during these fast and turbulent days we are living in.

We are told as much in II Thessalonians 2:3. Concerning the "day of Christ" (last days) being at hand, we are told: "Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first..."

So, we see by this that there will be a mass incidence of man turning his back on God during the last days also. Notice your attendance record at your church. Is your attendance growing, or is this Biblical prophecy being fulfilled?

Let us search the scriptures and see what God's Word has to say concerning one's faithfulness to his church.

In I Timothy 3:14-15 Paul tells Timothy, "These things I write unto thee... that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God..."

Now, the way I see this, God's Word tells us that without faith it is impossible to please God. And, it goes without saying, we all want to please God, if we are His children; or at least I do!

So, the question is: how can we please God concerning the church, which we just read is God's house. I say that the answer, quite naturally, would be to be faithful in the attendance of your church.

"Know ye not that your bodies are the members of Christ?" Or, so declares I Corinthians 6:15.

Using this scripture let us see if we can arrive at a concrete conclusion concerning faithfulness to one's church.

The above scripture says we are all members, or parts of Christ's body.

Let's say, merely as an example that the minister is Christ's heart. I am His brain. You are His left hand. Someone else is His right hand. Someone else is His right. And so on. And so on.

Now, all of working together make up Christ's body, which is the church. And, if we don't work in a united effort of love, Christ's Will can not be done in the church.

Let's say, getting back to our example, that the minister (who is the heart) wakes up Sunday morning. He stretches, yawns and lays back down thinking to himself: "I stayed up late last night watching the idiot box (TV). I need my rest so I will be rested up for work Monday. So, I'm going to stay home from church today."

Now, we all know that the

heart pumps blood to all parts of the body. So, the minister's particular calling (as the heart) is to supply (or preach about) the Precious Blood to the rest of the body (or members of Christ). But, because of the minister's (heart's) selfishness in deciding to stay home, he has denied the Precious Blood to the rest of the parts, or members.

Do you get my drift?

Now, everyone in a church does not have as important a calling as the minister (or heart). But, in order for the church to be successful in its duty (which entails praising and edifying God, winning souls to Christ, fellowshiping, etc.), it is necessary for everyone from the biggest to the smallest to unite in an effort of love.

I heard somewhere once that in a Christian's alphabet there is no such thing as a big "I" or a little "u."

The service would be pretty dry and empty if no one was sitting out in the congregation to hear the minister's message; so, you see, even the pew-warmers are an important and necessary part of the church.

Sometimes we have to "study to show (ourselves) approved." Or, should I say, we need to study to get a particular message concerning a particular subject. My personal opinion is that the reason for this is that if everything was written out simple for us, considering man's lazy nature, it would be hard to get followers of Christ to study their Bible.

I derive such a message concerning faithfulness to one's church in the scripture that declares that faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Where else could you hear the Word of God, if not in a church? And, need I repeat: without faith it is impossible to please God.

We should all love the church as much as Christ did: "...Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it." So declares Ephesians 5:25.

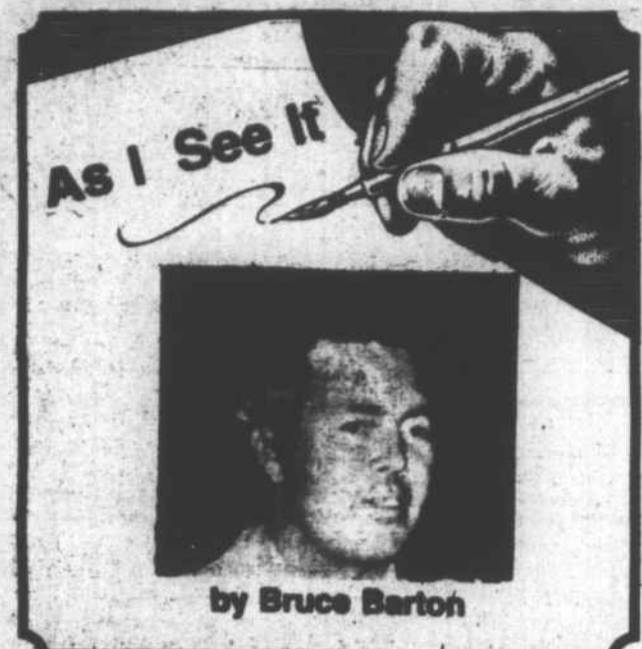
Ephesians 5:23 also declares that "...Christ is the head of the church..." Have you ever seen a body that only had a head? Of course not. Every body needs members to go along with the head or the body is incomplete. So, we, as members, and Christ, as the head, make up the body of the church. And, just like we emphasized in our example with the heart, if we don't all unite in love and support, and be faithful to our church, then we, as individual members of the church act as stumbling blocks to God's Will being carried out in the church. If the members are not faithful to their church, how could the church possibly grow and prosper?

So, what it boils down to is this: when we are unfaithful to our church, we are, in a sense, also being unfaithful to God. And, I repeat (for it is one of my favorite verses), without faith it is impossible to please God.

Continue to show love to one another, and to your church. Attend church Sunday and say a word for, and to God!

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

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



A GAME PLAN DEVELOPING TO SETTLE ROBESON SCHOOLS DEBACLE

As many of you know lawsuits are creating havoc in the schools situation in Robeson County; it takes a battery of lawyers to keep up with where all the players are at on the educational chess board.

In one lawsuit in federal court, a number of parents have sued the five school systems for what they consider the poor quality of education available to their children. They claim continued racial segregation, especially via the means of artificially contrived school boundary lines and "tokenism" in the place of true integration of school students and faculty populations. The parents also claim a waste of the educational dollars and faculty populations. The parents also claim a waste of the educational dollars because of the duplicity of effort by the five separate and distinct school systems.

Robeson County used to have six systems but Maxton wisely merged with the county system recently.

Another suit, mostly involving Robeson County and Lumberton residents, charges the Lumberton School System with being a law breaker, mostly because of the system's abridgement of the 1965 Voting Rights Act in wrongfully annexing the Barker Ten Mile, Lakewood Estates, Clyburn Pines and possibly other areas out of the county school system into the Lumberton School System.

The suits have put a number of the systems on hold, especially Fairmont and Red Springs. Both systems have had to hold up on building programs which were planned with their portions of the anticipated School Bonds which were approved by county voters in 1979.

All the school systems are hurting, but especially Red Springs and Fairmont. They are in dire financial straits. They hardly know which way to turn for operating monies since the school bond monies have been held up until the federal suits are settled.

Here's the game plan...

In spite of the financial hard times, the politicians are now trying to work things out for the benefit of the power brokers, including black, Indian, and especially white, king makers.

The developing game plan seems to be to create a favorable climate for two school systems, especially Robeson County and Lumberton. The other systems would be sacrificed as "the best we can get out of it," as one of the king makers noted recently.

That seems to be the scenario for the media attention given Horace Locklear lately. Every time one turns around he is in the news.

Wednesday's Fayetteville Times carried a news article entitled "Locklear seeks input on schools bill." Watch the development. This is the game plan, as I see it.

Locklear said, in the news article, that he had not submitted his anticipated schools bill yet, because he will seek more public input before submitting two proposals to the state house for consideration.

Locklear said he "decided to solicit the opinion and hopefully the support" of Robeson organizations, including the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and the five boards of education.

He said he was sending two legislative proposals to the groups. One proposal would establish one consolidated school district in the county. The other would establish two, a Lumberton school district and a Robeson County school district.

"The (boundary) lines for the Lumberton school district would have to be redrawn (under the second proposal)," Locklear said.

"Given our limited financial resources and already heavily burdened taxpayers, I am confident that the vast majority of our people will agree that some form of merger is not only desirable, but necessary," he said.

"I earnestly believe the enactment of either of my two proposals will go a long way towards resolving the many problems currently besetting the education process in Robeson County," Locklear said.

"The continued existence locally of more than two school systems cannot be justified fiscally, educationally, or morally," he said.

"By distributing this proposed school merger legislation throughout Robeson, I am soliciting the input and support of the good citizens and taxpayers," he said.

"The problem has been studied and restudied for the past 10 years," Locklear said. "The time to act constructively upon the results of such past studies is long overdue."

Locklear said he is sending copies of his proposals to the Robeson County Municipal Association, Greater Lumberton Area Chamber of Commerce, Robeson County Black Caucus, Lumbee Regional Development Association, North Robeson Concerned Parents and the Robeson County Tri-Racial Committee for Tax Relief, in addition to the county commissioners and school boards.

Other members of the Robeson legislative delegation reportedly oppose Locklear's merger proposals.

Locklear said early in the legislative session that he would introduce a bill calling for a referendum on the merger issue.

He later said he would submit the merger legislation because he had received enough support among Robeson voters.

As I see it two school systems are better than five as five systems are better than the six we had before Maxton merged with the county system.

Buy why not just have one school system? Feed every child out of the same educational pie. Why have two systems?

Why two school systems?

A Letter From Principal Roy Maynor, Jr.

Dear Parents and Friends:

Pembroke Senior High has been experiencing extreme difficulty transporting various school groups for educational purposes or to represent the school. Our total athletic program and other functions of the school in the arts and academics depend heavily on transportation almost on a daily basis. The condition of our present buses quite often do not allow groups to travel at all or will leave them stranded somewhere enroute.

A small group of concerned parents has been actively working to secure support and commitments toward purchasing a new activity bus. A number of solid pledges and some donations have already been made toward this goal.

A meeting is planned for Monday, February 2, 1981 in the Senior High School Cafeteria at 7 p.m. The purpose of this meeting is to assess where we are and make plans for completing the project. All persons interested in the welfare of our youth are invited and encouraged to attend. Your interest and support is vital to the success of the school.

I appreciate your active interest and believe that together this problem can be corrected in the near future.

Very sincerely yours, ROY MAYNOR, JR. Principal, P.S.H.S.

Essence of Democracy

ALL AMERICANS can take pride in the inauguration of Ronald Reagan as the 40th President of the United States, including the nearly 35 million who cast their ballots for Jimmy Carter last November.

The invariably moving ceremony at the Capitol symbolizes the essence of democracy—the peaceful transfer of power following a free election.

Some of the trappings of democracy have been borrowed by countries where political succession is handed down by a small clique and political changes come from the barrel of a gun. But the people in those countries know the difference. It is not just for its material prosperity that the United States has been a beacon for the oppressed people of the world.

A Closer Look... Cont'd from p-1

Maynor has many ideas for improving his school. He and his staff are working on improving the transportation for the school and taking a close look at the math curriculum. "Some of our students did really poor on the math portion of the competency test. We're trying to identify those weaknesses and make them strong points." there is a full time remediation teacher at work there. She is Mrs. Rita Locklear.

Maynor is a graduate of Pembroke State University and received his Master's degree from Appalachian State University. He is looking forward to the remainder of the school year. Said he, "My first love is teaching... Therefore, I am happy to be here where I can work relatively close to the teachers. I feel like I have a lot to offer and there is great potential among my staff."

The principal recognizes one of the problems at P.S.H.S. He stated, "School attendance is a real problem...I don't know how to change that attitude...Absence and tardiness and parents support it. It is a proven fact that those students who do well on standardized tests have good attendance records...I'm still working on that problem."

Maynor is kind and soft spoken. He is really sincere about accepting the challenge offered at P.S.H.S. and leaves one no room to doubt that he'll do remarkably well.

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Bruce Barton... Editor
Connee Brayboy... Associate Editor
Garry L. Barton... Associate Editor

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God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the different.

Pharmacist Howard Brooks Pembroke Drug Center

Questions of value Are you getting value for your money spent on drug services? Answer the following questions and see if you are receiving true value. Does your pharmacist maintain complete medication records on you? Does he offer emergency after-hours service? Does he offer charge account service in emergencies? Are his prices "on par" with other pharmacies? Does he readily consult with you on your medication? Does he help you maintain your personal tax and insurance forms? We do! Try us! Our services give you greater value for your dollar.