

CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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PEMBROKE ASKS FEDERAL JUDGE TO DISMISS COOK CASE

The Town of Pembroke has asked a federal judge to dismiss a lawsuit filed against the town by a resident who claims officials trespassed on his land in May of 1978.

A motion for summary judgment and dismissal was filed in U.S. District Court in Fayetteville by the town and three individuals named in the lawsuit. The three are town manager McDuffie

Cummings, Police Chief Vernon Oxendine and ex-police officer Harvey Bullard.

The lawsuit was filed last spring by Alfred W. Cook, who claimed his constitutional rights were violated when town officials prevented him from plowing up an alley on May 20, 1978 that Cook said he owned.

According to court records, the town claims the alley had been used as a public street for at least 20 years before the 1978 incident.

The federal lawsuit is identical to a lawsuit Cook filed in July, 1979, in Robeson County Superior Court. In both lawsuits he claimed the three defendants trespassed on his property, assaulted him by forcibly removing him from his tractor, and claimed that he was the victim of false arrest.

Superior Court Judge Henry A. McKinnon Jr. dismissed all but the trespassing claims in the Robeson County Superior Court lawsuit last spring.

None of the claims have been dismissed in the federal lawsuit.

W. Earl Britt, who represented Cook as co-counsel with W. Osborne Lee, Jr. while an attorney in Lumberton, is not expected to participate in the case at the federal level.

Britt is now a federal judge with the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District in Fayetteville.

The motion for dismissal is expected to be handled by Judge Franklin Dupress, a fellow judge who sits on the federal bench with Britt.

....A CLOSER LOOK

AT Noah Woods Principal of Oxendine School



NOAH WOODS

The Oxendine or Cherokee community is situated in a rural area and contains the K-8 school, Oxendine Elementary, and Cherokee Methodist Church. It's a lovely community setting. Things, however, are not exactly what they seem.

School District lines around that school are quite deceiving. You would think that those students who live nearest to those students who live nearest would attend Oxendine School. Not so! These students are assigned to the Red Springs Schools.

Noah Woods, principal of the school for 13 years, finds the school lines quite distressing. Said he, "The way these lines are drawn does away with the whole concept of a community school."

Woods went on to explain that Wakulla, within walking distance of the school, is not in the Oxendine School District. Historically speaking, the school lines were jerry-mandered in 1952. This was done to insure that Indians and Blacks did not attend, at that time, all white schools. Red Springs had been designated as a "special school" district. There was an agreement between the county and Red Springs systems which allowed Indian and Black students to attend district lines to attend their own respective segregated schools.

In the 1960s federal legislation stated that students have "freedom of choice." They could attend school wherever they desired. In 1970 the federal government decided to desegregate all the schools. With that in mind, Red Springs began to enforce their district lines. This left Oxendine School, seemingly, sitting in the middle of the Red Springs School District.

The entire situation distresses Woods as it does other educators. Woods is quite at home in the rural community sometimes referred to as Cherokee.

He was born in that community and lived there for 7 years. The family then moved to Shannon where he attended Magnolia School. When he was 14 years old, Woods moved into the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Locklear who then resided in the Union Chapel area. He is second cousin to Mrs. Locklear. He is a graduate of Union Chapel school 8th grade and in 1954 he graduated from Pembroke High School.

Woods is the son of Mrs. Mary Wynn and the late Curtis Woods who died in 1941. One

of thirteen children, he is the grandson of Mr. Russell Woods of Maxton.

In 1962 he earned his B.S. in elementary education and taught six years at Oxendine School.

In addition to his Master's Degree from East Carolina University, Woods is working towards his becoming a curriculum specialist which is a year of school after earning his Master's degree in school administration.

When asked if he was interested in working in an administrative position at the local board of education, Woods responded negatively. "The challenge for me," he said, "is the students. If I worked in the central office, I would miss the daily contact with the students and the people in the community."

He continued, "I can't articulate how much it means to me to see one of my students leave Oxendine School and do well at high school and college. The reward in elementary education comes later -- you have to wait on it, and I don't mind that."

Woods is very much at home in his native Cherokee community. Although he lives in Pembroke with his wife, the former Ruth Dial, she is the daughter of the late A.G. and Ruby Dial of Pembroke. Mr. and Mrs. Woods reside at home with their four children: Stephanie and Connie Roberts, Ollin and Rueben Woods. He is also the father of Perry and Carey Woods.

Woods' professional and civic organizations are almost too

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK
FEB. 8-14

Robeson County Fire Marshall Mutt McNeill is encouraging residents in Robeson County to honor Feb. 8-14 as Fire Educational Awareness Week as proclaimed by Governor Jim Hunt.

Fire Marshal McNeill asks the citizenry to conduct fire drills in their homes and determine the number of fire exits and share the information with all members of the family so that safe exits can be made in the advent of fire.

McNeill notes "The best way to combat fires in the house and else where is through preventive measures like education."

LRDA SUPPORTS ONE SCHOOL
ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Lumbee Regional Development Association's board of directors recently met and considered two proposed school merger bills from Rep. Horace Locklear.

One proposal is for two school units; the other calls for one administrative school unit.

It was the unanimous decision of the board to support the "One school administrative unit" for Robeson County.

numerous to list. They include the Pembroke Jaycees, Riverside Country Club, Prospect PTA, Robeson Historical Association, the Executive Committee of the State Democratic Party, the National Advisory Council of Indian Education, and others.

With all his credentials, Woods is very much a member of the Cherokee community. Whenever the community is meeting for various reasons, you'll find him there. During the school year, you can usually find him at his school, Oxendine Elementary, very concerned and very involved.

Oxendine Elementary School has approximately 300 students and 28 members of the faculty and staff. The school accommodates grades K-8. If the school district lines are ever straightened out, it will increase the population of the school. Said Woods, "It would increase my challenge... I am already involved community-wise with most of the families. It would serve to give us even closer ties... More important, our school would certainly be a closer-knit community school."

Sessions Benefit Odum Home Staff

For several years now, the Southeastern Mental Health Center in Lumberton has proved to be a valuable resource for Odum Home.

Twice each month, a staff member from the center travels to the Pembroke BCH campus, and it's all part of an effort to help the staff do their jobs better. The ultimate beneficiaries are the children.

"One Monday each month, someone from the center meets with our staff to do a staffing on two children," explained Melvin Brown, director of the Pembroke Area Family Services Center.

"We talk about the strengths and the needs of a child, and they share with us information and insights which may be helpful to us in working with the child."

Another day during the month is set aside for staff development. Personnel from the center deal with such issues as discipline, alternatives to discipline and communication--as it takes place with the children and among the staff.

An example was a recent staff development session conducted by Dr. Dennis O'Brien, the center's director of psychological services. The one and one-half hour meeting centered on parent effectiveness training, including such concepts as the WIN solution to problems, democratic discipline, assertiveness training and active listening.

"We work toward helping the whole staff in working with kids," O'Brien noted. The center also conducts psychological testing on the children when appropriate, and occasionally provides counseling for a child.

The two monthly sessions are usually conducted either by Dr. O'Brien or by Jerry Miller, a child psychologist with the center. And they've proven to be very beneficial to the staff.

"Our relationship with the mental health center has been quite valuable to us," Brown commented.

"They've helped us work through problems. Sometimes we work so closely with the children that we need another perspective."

FIRST AMERICAN SHOWCASE, INC. TO MEET FEBRUARY 20, 1981

Pembroke-Organizers today announced plans to hold the first annual meeting of First American Showcase, Inc. on February 20, 1981.

The organizational meeting will be held at Big Mo's Goal Post restaurant located on Highway 74 approximately 4 miles from Pembroke.

The first venture of the fledgling organization was to raise monies via a successful fund raising dinner to send

Sheriff's Deputy Lowry Dismissed

Marie Lowry, one of four women sheriff's deputies, has been dismissed from the Robeson County Sheriff's Department by Sheriff Hubert Stone.

Mrs. Lowry, who had logged more than two years with the sheriff's offices was the first woman hired as a sheriff's deputy.

Sheriff Stone said, when asked about the matter, "I would rather have no comment."

Carnell Locklear to Hollywood, California.

The venture was successful! Locklear returned from Hollywood after a two week stay and is now acting as general manager of "Strike at the Wind," the popular outdoor drama about Henry Berry Lowrie and his fellow Robesonians before, during and after the Civil War.

Locklear made many valuable contacts in Hollywood and hopes to pursue his career in the entertainment industry.

The first annual meeting will be devoted to electing permanent officers, adopting by laws and charting a direction for the organization in the years ahead.

Bruce Barton, editor of The Carolina Indian Voice, is presently serving as the temporary chairman of the organization.

All those who attended the fund raising dinner for Carnell Locklear and/or bought tickets are eligible to participate. The meeting is also open to anyone who is interested in artistic expression, especially in the Indian community.

PEMBROKE JAYCETTES HONORED

The Mayor of the Town of Pembroke, James A. Jacobs has proclaimed the week of Feb. 8-14 as National Jaycette Week in the Town of Pem-

broke. The week was designated because of the ideals of the organization and the accomplishments of its members and

for the town. The proclamation stated that the Pembroke Jaycettes are recognized in the Town of Pembroke as a positive influence in the community.



Shown watching Mayor James A. Jacobs sign the proclamation for National Jaycette Week are, left to right: Karen Dial, new member of the

organization, Patricia B. Locklear, President of the Pembroke Jaycettes, James A. Jacobs, Mayor of the Town of

Pembroke and Andrea Scott, Chairman of the Jaycette Week Project. (Bruce Barton photo)



Students of Magnolia High School are shown competing in the snow Friday, January 30th. An Honor Team photo.