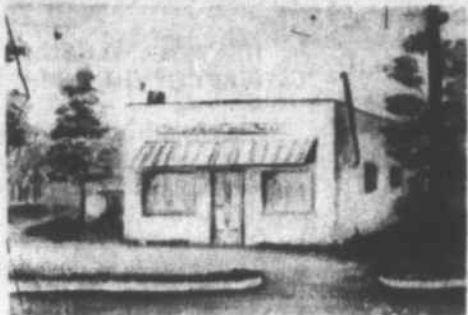




THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE



POST OFFICE BOX 1075

VOLUME 9, NUMBER 11

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

25c PER COPY

PEMBROKE, N.C. 28372

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1981



LAND PURCHASES DOMINATE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING

by Connie Brayboy

A new face was seen at the regular meeting of the Robeson County Board of Education on Tuesday. It was Pete Clark who has replaced Ralph Hunt on that Board.

To begin the meeting Supt. Purnell Swett introduced Bill Brown of the architectural firm which designed East Robeson Elementary. Brown presented an award to the superintendent and the board. He explained that the award was presented because East Robeson was designed to adequately do what it was intended to do.

The board agreed to pay all bus drivers \$3.50 an hour for the remainder of the school year. This was done in compliance with state board of education policy to set an index for bus drivers' salary. It was an attempt, according to Doug Yongue, assistant supt., to "buy time until an index can be established."

The board officially authorized the purchase of land for West Robeson High School and the purchase of land from Ruth McCormick for the Pembroke Elementary School campus. They also directed Supt. Purnell Swett to renew the option on land to be purchased for North Robeson High, near Rex Rennett.

The Board approved a contract for S. Preston Douglas Associates, the auditors for the county system. And in so doing they increased their salary to \$18.00 per hour.

According to David Green, Chairman of the Board, they agreed that "the picture taking situation remain as it."

Also they agreed to allow the students at Hilly Branch Vocational Center to add 31 feet to an existing building. The agreement was that it might take up to three years, according to the money available. They will also seek proper engineer advice for the extension. The

addition will be used as a lab for the students there.

The members of the board heard a brief presentation from Dr. Grayson Noley of Pennsylvania State University. He and two of his students are in the county school system to evaluate the Indian Education Project. He was introduced by Ruth D. Woods, director of the Indian Education Project. Dr. Noley reported that "The business of education is being conducted in the school system."

Chairman Green presented a plaque of appreciation to Ralph Hunt, former member and former chairman of the board. The plaque read: "Presented to Ralph Hunt in acknowledgement and appreciation of exemplary leadership and quality service to the Robeson County Board of Education, 1976-1981."

The April meeting of the board will be held April 27, 1981 at 4:30 p.m. This sets the meeting for the third Tuesday in April instead of the regular second Tuesday meeting date.



Cleveland Jacobs, local craftsman, was on hand at the 6th annual Indian Unity Conference held at the Quality Inn, Charlotte March 5-7. Jacobs demonstrated the fine art of basket weaving. (A Connie Brayboy photo)



GRADY LOCKLEAR

These "little things" mean a great deal to the principal of the K-8 school which has 408 students. Expressing a special concern that the school be a part of community, Locklear recalled his earlier life.

"I am a product of a discontinued community school," he said. "I attended school at Union Chapel School. At that time it was a high school. They discontinued the high school and we were subsequently bussed to Pembroke High." After one year there Locklear became a drop out. "I know how it is to feel like you don't belong. During the early transition to Pembroke High, we



One of the highlights of the 6th Annual Indian Unity Conference is the Pow Wow. Shown above are some of the many dancers in attendance. The conference was held March 5-7 at the Quality Inn, Charlotte. (Connie Brayboy photo)



Ron Andrade is shown presenting a workshop on federal recognition during the 6th Annual Indian Unity Conference held March 5-7 at the Quality Inn, Charlotte. Andrade is executive director of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) and also served as banquet speaker Friday evening. (A Connie Brayboy photo)

NEW VOTE ON WATER, SEWER BONDS APRIL 27

Public hearing on Water,
Sewer Referendum

PEMBROKE: Some forty Pembroke citizens, many of them from the newly annexed West End, attended the public hearing held Monday night in Pembroke's Town Hall on whether or not a new vote will be taken on a proposed water, sewer referendum. A number of citizens, including former Councilman, Bob Brewington, Henry Smith and Harry Oxendine, spoke against the measure which was defeated in a vote January 26 in a close election. But a number of citizens spoke in favor of the measure, including former Councilman Lee Neville and Garth Locklear, Chief Narcotics Officer with the Robeson County Sheriff's Department.

Brewington questioned "what direction the town is going ..." disputing the town's cost estimates for a new well. Brewington claimed a new well could be put down for \$32,500. Brewington queried, "Who is going to pay for this bond referendum? I don't want you to come to me asking me to go into debt for my grandchildren..."

Smith questioned the need for another referendum "after the people have already spoken." The measure was defeated on January 26 by some 20 votes. The two part referendum was for sewer and water. The water vote was 170 for and 144 against; the sewer vote was 166 for and 142 against.

But Pembroke officials hope that the measure will pass when put to another vote. They claim that the measure was not fully explained the last time.

Pembroke stands to lose \$1 million in matching funds if the bonds are not approved in the near future. Town officials contend that the present sewer system is not meeting Environmental Protection Agency standards.

The bonds would be for \$550,000 for new sewer lines and expansion; another \$175,000 would be for a new water well and plant.

Following the public hearing the town set April 27 for another vote on the measure. The special bond referendum will be held between 6:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.

In other matters...
The council gave some relief to the

Pembroke Rescue Squad increasing their appropriation from the town by an additional \$1,000; bringing the amount to \$3,000 this fiscal year.

The action was taken at the behest of the volunteer and civic minded organization which makes 40% of its calls within the city limits of Pembroke according to figures shared with the council.

The town also approved a lease of \$425.00 per month to Pates Supply Company for the use of the Pembroke District Court facility.

Lawsuits filed in Maxton death of 4

A number of lawsuits were filed February 26 in Robeson County Superior Court in regard to the watery death of 4 children last year near Maxton.

The lawsuits totaling \$500,000 were brought against Ann Thomas, mother of an injured child and one of the dead children, and against Tolbert Clark, father of three of the dead children.

The children drowned when the car they were riding in hit a utility pole, ran off a bridge six-tenths of a mile north of Maxton, and plunged into the icy Lumber River Feb. 8, 1980.

Mrs. Thomas had borrowed Clark's car to take the five children to a grocery store for ice cream and was returning to the Clark home at the time of the 7:20 p.m. accident.

The lawsuits claim Mrs. Thomas was negligent and operated the car "carelessly and needlessly" at a high rate of speed while under the influence of alcohol.

Rescue workers recovered the bodies of Tenya Lovelle Clark, 4, Tasha Lachelle Clark, 7, and Angela Kay Thomas, 11 soon after the accident. The skeletal remains of the fourth child, Tolla Michelle Clark, 9, were not recovered from the river until last August 14.

A fifth child, Tabetha Ann Thomas, 12,

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PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

Library Trustees Abandon Lumberton Fire Station

by Bruce Barton

Lumberton--The Robeson County Board of Trustees have abandoned plans to refurbish the Lumberton Fire Station which was given to the agency by the city of Lumberton a few years ago. The trustees blamed the economy, noting that it would cost too much to remodel and operate.

The trustees voted last week to give the building back to the City of Lumberton... if the city will take it back. Mayor Furman Briggs and others still wish to see the building refurbished and used by the library.

City officials, including Mayor Biggs, have grumbled recently that the building, now in a sad state of ill-repair, is becoming "an eye sore."

The trustees voted recently on a 6-2 count to return the building to the city. Voting against that plan of action were board members Bruce Barton and Mrs. Annie McEachern. Abstaining was Mrs. Shirley Osterneck who said plaintively, "I didn't come prepared to decide whether to give this building away or not..."

Renovation plans for the building triggered protests from the community in September after board members requested \$80,000 in local money for the refurbishing project.

Part of the angry community reaction was prompted because the library trustees had decided earlier in the year to fire seven employees because of financial problems.

The trustees originally sought \$40,000 from both the Lumberton City Council and the Robeson County Board of Commissioners to use for the renovation.

That money would have been matched by another \$80,000 from the state to repair the old building which is adjacent to the library in Lumberton.

The refurbished fire station would have been used for an expanded children's library.

The county commissioners voted against paying for their share of the renovations when the controversy erupted in September.

Just last week, state grants of \$28,100 were awarded to the county library system. The city council has now pledged to provide \$14,000 toward the project. The county commissioners, however, have yet to make a commitment on the project.

Board members said Tuesday they hope to keep the state grants even though plans to renovate the fire station have been abandoned.

Tom Long, chairman of the library trustees, said after the meeting that the library system plans to "reapportion that money and use that on the existing building, perhaps to reconstruct our present garage so we can build additional space or a storage area."

The decision to return the fire station to the city is subject to approval by both the city and county. County Manager Paul Graham, a member of the board of trustees, made the motion to return the building to the city.

GOOD TO BE AN INDIAN - PROUD AND FREE TO BE SHOWN

The Indian Information Program requests the honor of your presence at a first showing of *Good To Be An Indian-Proud and Free* (a glimpse into the past and present history of the Robeson County Indians; and *A Forgotten Tribe-Legacy of Nantucket Indians* (the origins of Nantucket Indians. The showing will be Friday, March 13, 1981 at 1513 Pennsylvania Ave., SE, Washington, D.C. at 6:30 p.m.

GOSPEL SING PLANNED

A gospel sing will be held at Prospect United Methodist Church, Route 3, Maxton on March 15th at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend and participate. Harold Jacobs is music director and Robert Mangum is pastor.

REVIVAL PLANNED AT CHEROKEE

The Cherokee Methodist Church of the Wakulla community will hold a revival beginning March 22-27. Sunday night services will begin at 7 p.m. Week night services will begin at 7:30 p.m. The pastor, Rev. Julian Ransom who will be assisted by Rev. Steve Jones, pastor of Harpers Ferry Baptist Church will conduct the services. There will be special singing each night. Everyone is invited to attend.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING FOR ADULT MENS SOFTBALL LEAGUE PLANNED MARCH 16

The organizational meeting for the adult mens softball league in Pembroke will be held Monday, March 16, 1981 at 7 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Pembroke Courthouse, Main Street, Pembroke. For further information contact Rudy Paul, Robeson County Recreation and Park Commission, 738-9061 or 738-9595.

LOCAL CONTRACTORS TO MEET

There will be a meeting to discuss the organization of a Contractors Builders Association Monday night, March 16, at 7:30 p.m. at the Town and County Restaurant in Pembroke.

Listen Milligan of Rockingham, board member of the N.C. Builders Association will be present for information and comment.

All contractors and sub contractors are urged to attend.

Benefit planned

The Community Supporters Organization is sponsoring an Entertainment Benefit for Ms. Miriam Oxendine, a Robeson County native and musician. Some featured guests will be: Ms. Hope St. Pierre-Sheppard as Mistress of Ceremonies, Miss Lumbee-Brigitte Brayboy, area high school queens, also Carnell Locklear, Willie Lowry and Miriam Oxendine with a selection of her originals, plus more.

It will be held Thursday evening, April 23, 1981 at 7 p.m. in the Pembroke Senior High School Cafeteria. Admission is \$3.00 per adult and \$1.00 per student, high school students and under.

All proceeds will help to promote Ms. Oxendine's career as a professional song writer. Come and enjoy the music. Tickets can be purchased at the door, or by contacting Ms. Debra Maynor at 521-2839, or Ms. Rosanne Maynor at 521-3271, or any of the Community Supporters Committee below: Dr. Dalton Brooks at 521-4214 ext. 295, Ms. Etha Harris at 521-4214 ext. 385, Mrs. Athene Maynor at 521-2091, Ms. Sherry Bridgewater at 521-4214 ext. 253, Mr. Pete Jacobs at 521-4108, Ms. Cindy Taylor at 521-3112, Mr. Iva Pete Lowry at 521-4164, Ms. Gail Hunt at 521-3112, Ms. Kay Thompson at 521-4214 ext. 228, or Ms. Hope St. Pierre-Sheppard at 521-3636.

A Closer Look... at Grady Locklear, principal of Piney Grove Elementary School

by Connie Brayboy

The community school is not obsolete. There are a few such schools which are situated in rural Robeson County. One of them is Piney Grove Elementary School. Although located in seemingly an isolated area, Piney Grove is the center of a lot of activity.

Principal of the school is Grady Locklear who believes that a school should definitely be a part of the community. He is very proud of the involvement of the community and Piney Grove School. He is quite pleased with the Piney Grove PTA and proudly displays contributions from that organization. He points out the recreational park which was the result of a community effort. He fondly shows those interested his office which was decorated by patrons of the school. Other contributions are the curtains in the cafeteria and gym. There is a project underway currently to pave the driveway of the school.

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