

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

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



To The Editor:

It is with deep humility that I write to address a grave concern of mine...

My father and mother migrated to Pembroke in the early years of their marriage...

While in the general vicinity we stopped and visited with Rod Jones, the son of Mr. Wiley Jones...

Joins Staff



They were men and women of vision. Men and women of insight and dignity.

To illustrate my point: I haven't forgotten where I came from. I haven't forgotten outside facilities and a lack of electricity...

And it all brings me to the upcoming election for the water and sewer bond issue in Pembroke...

The passage of the bond issue would, in addition, extend water and sewer to those surrounding the city limits of Pembroke...

Most importantly, a yes vote on the bond issue would say to the founders of our town: "Yes, we appreciate your sacrifices and we're moving forward..."

J. Garth Locklear, Pembroke, NC 28372

HIDEAWAY VALLEY a handbook to Lumbee History

BY LEW BARTON Knight of Mark Twain

SPIRITS GOOD, SPIRITS BAD

Shortly before 1709, John Lawson, North Carolina's first historian, learned that the spiritual beliefs of the Indians of southeastern North Carolina bore a startling resemblance to those of the Christian world...

"They all believe," wrote Lawson, "that the world is round and that there are two Spirits: the one good and the other bad: The good one they reckon to be the Author and Maker of everything..."

However, Lawson reported that these North Carolina Indians did "not believe that God punishes any man, either in this life or that to come; but that he delights in doing good, and in giving the Fruits of the earth, and instructing us in making several useful and ornamental things."

Lawson described the North Carolina Indian's ideas of heaven and hell, as discerned by him during his attendance at one of their funeral services...

of the earth, and instructing us in making several useful and ornamental things."

The southeastern North Carolina Indian's conception of the Devil was as follows, according to Lawson:

"They (the Indians) say it is the Bad Spirit (who lives separate from the good one) that torments us with Sickness, Disappointments, Losses, Hunger, Travel (travail?), and all other Misfortunes that Humane Life is incident to. How they are treated in the next world, I have already mentioned."

Said Lawson, also, "They are very resolute in dying." In other words, to the North Carolina Indians, death was for a very worthwhile purpose, and not something to be feared or shunned...

Lawson described the North Carolina Indian's ideas of heaven and hell, as discerned by him during his attendance at one of their funeral services...

"The burial of their dead is performed with a great deal of ceremony...When an Indian is dead, the greater person he was, the more expensive is his Funeral. The first thing which is done, is to place the nearest relations (relatives) near the corpse, who mourn and weep very much...in a very forlorn manner. After the dead person has lain a day and a night," Lawson relates, the funeral service begins, "at

which all are very silent. Then he (the officiating person) begins to give an account, who the dead person was, and how stout a man...a great hunter and a lover of his country..."

"Thus this Orator runs on, highly extolling the dead man for his valor, conduct, strength, riches, ...and a most everything he was possessed of."

HEAVEN AND HELL CONCEPT OF THE INDIANS

"After which he (the Orator) addresses himself to the people ... and bids them supply the dead man's place by following his steps, who, he assures them, is gone into the Country of Souls..."

This is the "Happy Hunting Ground" alluded to so often by Europeans and European-Americans, where there will be, in the words of Lawson, "(a) great store of deer to hunt, never meet with hunger, cold, or fatigue but everything to answer his expectations and desire."

"This is the Heaven they proposed to themselves," wrote Lawson, "but on the contrary, for those Indians that are lazy, thievish amongst themselves, bad hunters and no warriors, nor of much use to the (Indian) nation, to such they allot in the next world, hunger, cold, troubles, old ugly women, for their companions, with snakes and all sorts of nasty victuals to feed on. This is marked out their heaven and hell..."

a Poem

The following poem was written by Anthony W. Locklear. He is a student at the Lumbee River Native American Center for the Arts, a component of LRDA.

LOVE

Love is being together sharing your feelings... Being loved by the one you love. Love is having someone to hold close to the god-given body. Love is finding one another in each other's arms. Love is giving to each other unselfishly.

LAWSUITS FILED IN MAXTON DEATH OF 4

survived the accident, but a lawsuit filed by her guardian "ad litem," J.C. Thomas, seeks \$100,000. The lawsuit claims the Thomas child suffered "great physical and psychological injury, received serious, painful disfigurement, permanent bodily injury, and psychological injuries causing medical and other expenses."

Thomas was also listed as the administrator of the estate of Angelia Kay Thomas. That lawsuit also seeks \$100,000 for "wrongful death."

The other three lawsuits for Tenya, Tasha, and Tolla Clark were filed by Paul

T. Canady, named as administrator of the estates. Each of the three lawsuits seeks \$100,000.

All five lawsuits seek to prohibit either Clark or Mrs. Thomas from becoming beneficiaries of the damages.

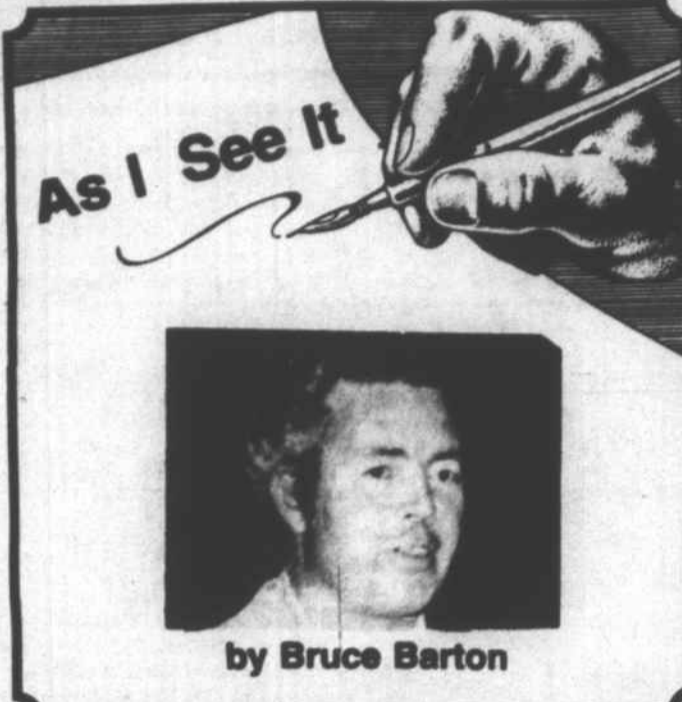
Mrs. Thomas was convicted in Maxton District Court on June 4, 1980 on four counts of death by vehicle and of careless and reckless driving.

She received a suspended sentence in proceedings before Judge Herb Richardson.

Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned has selected the Rev. John Campbell as a new, part-time staff person. Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned is a county-wide, inter-religious organization seeking to respond to the concerns of hunger and poverty, human rights and world peace on local, national, and international levels. Among his duties, the Rev. Campbell will be doing specific work within the Black communities of the county.

Rev. Campbell is an Associate Minister in the Mt. Olive United Methodist Parish which consists of Mt. Olive of Lumberton, Millers Chapel of St. Pauls, and Pleasant Grove of Fairmont.

Rev. Campbell received his educational training at Rowland Southside, Saginaw Valley State College, and Robeson Technical College. He is the son of Mrs. Carthenia Campbell of Pembroke. He is married to the former Ms. Garnett Stephens of Newsome, Virginia. They live in Pembroke.



As I See It

Allenton citizens take on Seaboard Coastline Railroad action, with all three races participating in a spirit of brotherhood.

The Allenton Community has come together -- Indian, black and white -- in the last few years and taken on the Seaboard Coastline railroad, demanding that SCL do its duty as a corporate member of their community.

But SCL has resisted correcting the situation. The railroad company contends that it can maintain its railroad bed anyway it so chooses, even if it disrupts the community it is located in.

The Allenton citizens have taken the matter before the North Carolina Utilities Commission claiming, in part, "Because of SCL's failure to prudently construct and maintain its roadbed and its failure to prudently construct and maintain its drainage ditches, water gathers and backs up onto surrounding land, more particularly onto Robeson Memorial Park and certain properties on rural paved roads 2129, 2100 and 2118 in Robeson County, North Carolina and also backs onto the land of the Complainants herein. This backed-up water causes injury and damage to the Complainants in that it invades their lands, interferes with their crops, inundates the burial places of their families and friends, and remains in deep stagnant ponds for weeks as a hazard to children and a breeding ground for mosquitoes."

Most recently, a public hearing was held in the chambers of the Lumberton Municipal Building. A number of Allenton citizens appeared (the meeting was held February 18) before the commission charging that they have been hurt unduly by the giant corporation. The commission's public staff has been helpful in helping resolve the matter. Lumbee River Legal Services in Pembroke has also been monitoring the situation.

But there the matter rests. But the Indian, black and white neighbors of the Allenton Community continue to press for corrective action. They are now standing on their last base of power, their land (even though they are up to their knees in water).

We wish them well in their fight, believing their cause to be a just and right one. It is good to see democracy in

Coker College is a Charming and Nice Experience

As we all know, everyone seems curious about America's Original Ones (the Native Americans) but few understand what has happened to them.

I participated in a forum at Coker College, in Hartsville, S.C., which attempted to explore this muddled region of history Monday entitled "Pathfinders in the Modern World: The Carolina Indians Confront the Present."

Before the forum took place we were guests of President and Mrs. James D. Daniels. They live in a stately home in a charming place--Hartsville, S.C. The school's main benefactors have been the Coker family (long identified with Coker Seed and other business interests). They left the lovely dwelling to Coker College for the use of the president of the school. We had a lovely meal but, most of all, we had a wonderful exchange of ideas and conversation. The rustic and charming home seemed to inspire all of us as we talked of lofty themes like Reaganomics and the like. It was fun, indeed. I love conversation that is free flowing and spirited.

The program consisted of six individuals introduced by the moderator, David K. Eliades, history and Indian studies professor, Pembroke State University. Pamela Kennedy, Coker College sociology professor and Pee Dee Heritage Center Co-Director discussed America's cultural and political traditions regarding minorities, emphasizing the marginality of the Indian role. Next, Professor Adolph Dial, Chairman of the American Indian Studies Department at Pembroke State University discussed Carolina Indian culture analyzing how events such as the American Black movement affected Carolina Indians. Bruce Barton, editor of the Carolina Indian Voice, explained how the Lumbees are coping with the problem of modernity and James E. "Butch" Sanders, Chief of Social Services, 99-9 DuBois...

We wish the stranger well. And hope he arrives at his destination. And that success and happiness smiles upon him.

Subscription rates: In State 1 Year \$9.36, 2 Years \$15.00; Out of state 1 Year \$12.00, 2 Years \$16.00

Health Service Hospital, Cherokee, N.C. served as the Cherokee Indian's spokesman. Also, Roxanne Flanagan of the Indian Education Division of the Department of Education explained how the federal government has traditionally dealt with the Carolina Indians and what the government is doing today.

This program, the second in a series sponsored by the Pee Dee Heritage Center, during the current academic year, was open to the general public without charge.

I rode up to Hartsville with Adolph Dial. We were accompanied by Reggie Strickland, former mayor of Pembroke. It was nice to just get away for a few hours and unwind.

While in the general vicinity we stopped and visited with Rod Jones, the son of Mr. Wiley Jones of the Union Elementary School area. He is a big farmer in the Darlington, S.C. area.

He showed us his farming operation. We enjoyed visiting with him and hope to go back and do a story on him. It was obvious that he enjoyed what he was doing for a living.

Later Rod and his wife and daughter joined us at the conference on the Coker College campus, a mere five miles from his home.

All the participants agreed that our trip to Coker College was a charming and nice experience.

Folks read the Fayetteville Times...

The Carolina Indian Voice and I were featured in an article in the Fayetteville Times Monday morning, March 9. I was interviewed by Carol Niederhauser, a staff writer. I thought she captured our essence fairly well. I have no complaints. Besides we can use the publicity.

Folks do read the Fayetteville Times. I have had a number of favorable calls and letters. It is nice to know that nice expressions are still given.

A guy hitchhiking to Atlanta, Georgia also came by Pembroke Monday night after reading the article while on a stop in Fayetteville.

He came by looking for me; he even attended the Pembroke Council meeting. While at the meeting, during a recess, those Pembroke citizens attending the meeting took up a collection for the wayfaring traveler. He received "close to forty dollars."

We wish the stranger well. And hope he arrives at his destination. And that success and happiness smiles upon him.

Pharmacist Howard Brooks, Pembroke Drug Center. Put this data "on ice" in emergency, would a rescue squad be able to locate life-or-death health information for members of your family? If not, here's a tip: Put it "on ice," in a jar, brightly labeled, in your refrigerator, marked by another bright label on the refrigerator door to direct attention to the jar inside.

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