



"Building Communicative Bridges
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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ELECTIONS BOARD HEARING: MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By Lew Barton

A large crowd of people turned out last Thursday night to hear a handful of disgruntled townspeople, dissatisfied with the recent outcome of the water improvement referendum for the Town of Pembroke, make much ado about nothing.

The Robeson County Board of Elections found nothing amiss in connection with the way the referendum was held. Newspeople who had been promised a big story by the complainers, went away without one of any significance. Most of the people present were those in support of the referendum. And even one of the complainers refused to complain under oath. "Much ado about nothing," a Fayetteville reporter commented dryly. And the general attitude of most people present, as well as that of the Elections Board, seemed to be that their time had been wasted. The apparent publicity scheme of the rejected town politician who had evidently hoped to improve his political lot with the wild charges, just didn't come off.

The only two people who complained were Robert Brewington, an ex-member of the Town Board, and Henry Smith, a teacher in the public schools. Rev. Dawley Maynor, also a member of the tiny group which calls itself "Pembroke Citizens for Better Government," refused to testify under oath. "I don't swear for nobody," Rev. Maynor was heard to say.

"What's here to write about?" I asked a

nearby reporter, stifling an impulse to yawn.

The reporter surveyed the large group of people present, and admitted there wasn't much of anything newsworthy to write about. "Except one thing," the reporter added. "The people of Pembroke sure care about what happens to their town."

They do. Many of those present were elderly people, residing in nearby housing facilities. Others were curiosity-seekers who had been promised a good show by the looks of things. Others were people who had to be there. And still others were there for still other reasons. The opposition of Brewington and a few others to Pembroke's housing development is well-known from previous political attacks, and many of the town's poor are resentful. "I appreciate my home," one very old lady stated firmly, explaining her presence.

One thing seems to be a foregone conclusion: Anyone opposing the poor of Pembroke isn't likely to be a very popular town politician, or a very successful one. There are simply too many of us, to be pushed around in the elective process. And we all know that the only valuable thing we possess, is our voting strength. Furthermore, foolish is any politician who expects us to vote against ourselves and our own best interests. After all, that's what the political process is all about. It is the power of the people to improve their lot by the way they vote.

Lumbee River Native American Center for The Arts "Spring Revue" well received

"A Spring Revue" was presented by Lumbee Regional Development Association's Lumbee River Native American Center for the Arts on May 7, 1981 at Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center at 7:30 p.m. in Pembroke, N.C. An enthusiastic crowd applauded each and every number.

Performances were given by Piano, Guitar, Band and Creative Writing students. In addition, the Lumbee River Singers offered a medley of songs that brought standing ovations during recent performances. The Lumbee River Players also presented a one act musical entitled "Who Am I?". The play is an original production by Darryl Locklear, the Center's Drama Instructor, and includes eight (8) original songs written by Willie French Lowery. The "Spring Revue" also included an art exhibit by visual art students that took place in the lobby.

Over one hundred students were involved in the production of "Spring Revue." The Lumbee River Native American Center for the Arts students attend 14 different Robeson County schools.

Lumbee River Native American Center for the Arts, a component of LRDA, is a program for gifted and talented Indian students in grades 7-12 and is funded through an Indian Education Title IV Part B grant. All students are admitted to the program by auditions.

The "Spring Revue" included four types of dance--Jazz, Tap, Ballet and modern by the Lumbee River Dancers.



ELECTIONS BOARD AFFIRMS PEMBROKE WATER, SEWER BOND VOTE

By Bruce Barton

LUMBERTON-Dexter McLean, chairman of the Robeson County Board of Elections, put it bluntly. "As a body we find the evidence to be insufficient... the board of elections has no evidence that there is any justification for a hearing...or another vote..."

The board's findings were announced after hearing complaints from Bob Brewington and Henry Smith, two opponents of the \$725,000 water, sewer bond referendum which passed resoundingly on April 27. The water phase passed by a margin of 327 for and 221 against; the sewer part passed by a vote of 343 in favor and 224 opposed.

Brewington and Smith alleged non-compliance of the Voting Rights Act of '65; an improper annexation (Presumably the recent West End annexation); conflict in voting materials; double standards for voters; a non resident being allowed to vote in the election; infringement on voter's rights and privileges; misuse of tax funds in the special election; an unauthorized person handling ballots; a conflict of interest by the contractor of voting materials, etc.

Joe Ward, county attorney, who chaired the hearing last Thursday night, shot down each argument presented saying, in regard to some of the allegations, "If you have evidence of wrong doing you can talk to Joe Freeman Britt about it (Britt is the district attorney)."

Dexter Brooks, Pembroke's attorney, insisted that Brewington and Smith be sworn in before presenting their allegation saying, "The town's integrity is at stake..." Rev. Dawley Maynor, who appeared with Brewington and Smith at the hearing, refused to be sworn in and remained silent throughout the hearing which was heard before some 50 Pembroke citizens and interested onlookers.

In rebuttal to a letter presented by Brewington and Smith questioning whether or not the measure had been submitted to the justice department, Brooks presented a letter which affirmed that the West End annexation and election had been submitted in compliance to the '65 Voting Rights Act.

Upon direct inquiry from Ward and Brooks aside that "I am dying of curiosity to know who this non resident who supposedly voted is" Brewington and Smith remained silent.

Extension Supported For Voting Rights Act

WASHINGTON (AP) — Organized labor and major civil rights groups on Wednesday threw their weight behind the proposed extension of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, but the battle looms as difficult against the conservative tide of the 97th Congress.

The heads of the NAACP, the National Urban League and the AFL-CIO all urged renewal of the law before a generally sympathetic House Judiciary subcommittee.

But heavy resistance is expected in the full House and in the Senate. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, has indicated he will fight any bill that would keep alive one of the major legal tools used by civil rights enforcers over the past 16 years.

Failure to extend important provisions of the law before expiration in August 1982 "would embolden those who want to return to the bad old days," said NAACP executive director Benjamin Hooks.

Hooks recalled pre-Voting Rights Act days in the South when voting registrars would ask prospective black voters, "How many bunnies are in a bar of soap?" or "How far can a little dog run in the woods?"

He said without renewing the parts of the law under which the election laws in six Southern and two Western states and parts of 11 others are monitored by the Justice Department, there will be a return to the "hostile, difficult conditions" of the past.

The states now required to demonstrate to the Justice Department that any changes in voting rules or jurisdictions do not deprive minorities of voting rights are South

Brewington and Smith also produced two different sample ballots which was explained by Elizabeth Morton, supervisor of election. According to Morton, the first set of ballots were contracted to Garry Lewis Barton, proprietor of Barton's Printing Center in Pembroke. He printed the official ballots on the same white paper that was used in the first election in January. Ms. Morton and McLean decided to contract for another printing of the official ballots which were produced by Robeson Office Supplies on a blue paper, conforming to the law which states that different colored paper should be used when a second election on the same issue is held.

Ward also noted, "What difference does it make?" when queried as to two seeming sets of sample ballots. Ward noted that there is no restriction on sample ballots. Ward noted that there is no restriction on sample ballots except that they be printed on a yellow colored paper and be clearly marked "Sample" across the face of them in red.

Expecting fire works from Brewington and Smith, most of the onlookers seemed satisfied that no irregularities were unearthed at the hearing.

Late breaking news...

As we neared press time it was brought to our attention that Brewington and Smith have appealed the decision of the Robeson County Board of Elections to the North Carolina Board of Elections.

A letter was received at the state board asking for a hearing on May 12, 1981. The letter was written by Warren L. Pale, an attorney with Moses, Diehl and Pate of Raeford, N.C. Phil Diehl represented Brewington and others in a dispute over water rates in Pembroke previously.

In a letter to Alex Brock, executive director of the North Carolina Board of Election, County Attorney Joe Ward termed Brewington and Smith's complaints before the county board of elections as "frivolous."

Jim Bullock, a native of Lumberton, and a senior assistant attorney general in the North Carolina attorney general's office in Raleigh has requested a transcript of the hearing before the county board which was held last Thursday (May 7, 1981). The attorney general represents the board of elections in disputes before that body.

Slander Suit in the Works

As press time neared, we were informed that a slander suit was in the works against Bob Brewington, a former Pembroke Town councilman, and an opponent of the recently approved water, sewer bond referendum in Pembroke.

The suit is being brought as a civil action in Robeson District Court by Millie Collins, a town resident.

Ms. Collins charges that Brewington wrongly accused her of coercing residents of public housing to vote in favor of the recent bond referendum.

Hosts 5th Annual Awards Banquet

The Board of Directors and Staff of Guilford Native American Association, Inc. request the honor of your presence at the Fifth Annual Awards Banquet Saturday, May 16, 1981 at 7 o'clock in the evening at The Blue Room, Coliseum Complex, 1921 West Lee Street, Greensboro, North Carolina. Tickets are \$10.

PUBLIC HEARING

The Town of Pembroke will hold a public hearing on May 25, 1981, at 7 p.m., at the Pembroke Town Hall for the purpose of discussing the proposed uses of General Revenue Sharing funds during fiscal year 1981-82.

The Town will receive approximately \$74,000 in General Revenue Sharing funds.

Citizens are invited to offer oral or written comments.

Baby N. Smith
Town Clerk

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

MISS LUMBEE PLATE SALE

A plate sale will be held Friday, May 29th, 1981 from 11 a.m. until 8 p.m., sponsored by Pembroke Jaycees and Lumbee Homecoming at the Pembroke Town Park.

Fried and Barbecued Chicken will be available for \$3 (drink is included).

This is an Annual event held for Miss Lumbee to assist in her wardrobe for the Miss North Carolina Pageant held June 24-27 in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Tickets may be purchased through any Jaycees or LRDA staff.

PLATE SALE

There will be a Barbecue and Chicken Plate Sale Saturday, May 16, 1981 at Prospect Volunteer Fire Station. The sale will begin at 11 a.m. and last until. Plates will be \$3.00 each. The Sale is sponsored by the Prospect Volunteer Fire Department and Ladies Auxiliary.

GRADUATION CEREMONY FOR LRDA'S ABE STUDENTS

Lumbee Regional Development Association's Adult Education Project will have a graduation ceremony for the General Equivalency Diploma (GED) graduates and for the Adult Basic Education (ABE) students. It will be held at the Pembroke Middle School gymnasium at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 31. The public is invited to attend. Guest speaker will be Mr. Grady Locklear, principal at Piney Grove School. Director of the Adult Education Project is Marilyn L. Locklear.

MAY DAY CELEBRATION AT DEEP BRANCH SCHOOL

Deep Branch Elementary School will hold May Day Celebration Friday, May 22nd, at 6 p.m., and hold a plate sale with home-cooked barbecue and chicken plates. Cost will be \$2.50 per plate and \$1 for sandwiches. The Plate Sale will be held at the school cafeteria from 11 a.m. until.

MAY DAY ACTIVITIES

Union Elementary School will present the annual May Day activities on Friday, May 22, beginning at 9:30 a.m. All classes, kindergarten through grade six, will participate in the program. All parents and school patrons are invited to be present.

In the event of inclement weather, Friday, May 29 will be the rain date.

ROBESON COUNTY BEE KEEPERS ASSOCIATION TO MEET

The Robeson County Bee Keepers Association will have their monthly meeting Tuesday, May 19, at 8 p.m. in the O.P. Owens Agriculture Building. The public is invited.

HONOR OUR CHILDREN POW WOW

The Third Annual Honor Our Children Pow-Wow is being sponsored by the Detroit Indian Education and Cultural Title IV-A Program. The Pow-Wow will be held at George Elementary, 4110 Russell Detroit, Michigan, on Saturday, May 30, 1981, from 12-4 p.m.

A souvenir booklet will be passed out at this event. Approximately five hundred people are expected to attend. Native

American students from across the state of Michigan and parts of Canada will participate. There will be no charge for the booklet. The public is invited to attend.

Your contribution is needed to help sponsor this event. For additional information call the Indian Education Office at 831-6440.

2nd Shooting Victim In Hoke County Dies

RAEFORD -- A 26-year-old Raeford man, shot in the head during a wild shootout Sunday at a Hoke County club, died in Cape Fear Valley Hospital Wednesday about 5 a.m., according to a hospital spokesman.

Hospital officials said earlier Ronnie Jacobs, of Route 2, Raeford, had been moved from the intensive care unit of the hospital to a single room.

Jacobs was one of six men wounded during a shootout at the Hour Glass Club that leaves two men dead.

Harold Gene Brooks, 25, of Shannon, has been charged with murder in the death of Charles Ray McNeill, 25, of Route 2, Shannon, who was stabbed in the neck and then shot to death as gunfire erupted at the club on rural paved road 1116 just after 3 a.m. Sunday.

Brooks, who was also hit during the shower of gunfire, was taken to Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton. Brooks was listed in satisfactory condition this morning.

The other men wounded in the shootout, all listed in good or satisfactory condition at regional hospitals, were: James Luther Hammonds, Junior Lee Jones, 21, of Shannon; Clayton Bullock, of Hoke Springs; and Anthony Ray Bryant of Robeson County.

Hoke County Det. Dave McNeill apparently fired the argument with Hammonds. The investigation, which is still being conducted by the Hoke County Sheriff's Department, indicates that McNeill shot Hammonds during their argument.

McNeill then went to his car and got a rifle, investigators reports indicate. McNeill apparently fired his rifle once before he was shot and killed.

Hoke County Sheriff Dave Barrington said most of the men wounded in the shooting were shot after it erupted between McNeill and Hammonds. At least one of the wounded, the sheriff added, was caught in the furious exchange but was not armed.

Barrington said all the men involved in the shooting will be charged with engaging in an exchange in which deadly weapons were used, using deadly weapons and assault with deadly weapons.

We want your news

The Carolina Indian Voice welcomes personal items and news stories for this newspaper. While personals and short stories may be phoned to 521-2826, longer stories should be mailed or brought to The Indian Voice. All contributions should be in hand by 5 p.m. Tuesday for the current week's issue, except for late-breaking news stories.

An exception is that information for wedding write-ups should be in the office not later than noon Monday for insertion in the current week's issue.