

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE



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

EDITOR'S NOTE: This column space will be shared with Ol' Reasonable Locklear beginning next week. Bruce Barton's "As I See It" has appeared weekly since the first issue of the

CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE beginning with Ol' Reasonable January 18, 1973. That's a long time. And Barton claims temporary battle fatigue. Ol' Reasonable's back. And he's fresh as a daisy. Look for them next week,

beginning with Ol' Reasonable. For the time being, Ol' Reasonable one week and "As I See It" the next on a rotating basis. Look for it in the CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE.

OPPOSE PUBLIC HOUSING

LUMBERTON--About 35 residents of the Raft Swamp community appeared before the Robeson County Board of Commissioners Monday night to protest plans for 110 units of public housing in their area.

The commissioners tentatively scheduled a joint meeting for Aug. 26 with themselves, the Robeson County Housing Authority and the residents.

Commissioners Chairman Herman Dial first suggested that residents take their protest before the housing authority.

"We feel this is not the type of unit we

want in our community," the group's spokesman, Ertle Todd, told the board. Dial replied that "this thing is pretty far gone."

Dial said the commissioners would be "out of order" if they acted on the group's complaint without contact with the housing authority.

The 110 units of housing have been conditionally approved by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development for a site off N.C. 72 west of Lumberton.

Forty other units are planned in St. Pauls.



Shown left to right are Governor Barnes, Pembroke Lions Club Secretary and Zone 2 Chairman; D.G. Charles Register, District Governor, 31-F of North Fayetteville; Furman Brewer, Pembroke

Lions Club President; and Donald E. Lundy, District 31-F Cabinet Secretary of Hope Mills. [Elmer W. Hunt photo and text]

The Pembroke Lions regular dinner and business meeting was held Monday night at the Town and Country Restaurant in Pembroke and was attended by Cabinet Secretary, District 31-F, Donald E. Lundy of Hope Mills, and District Governor, 31-F, D.G. Charles Register of Fayetteville. Gov. Register was the keynote speaker. He noted that Lions Clubs all over the world are service organizations and that the Pembroke Club should be service-oriented. He urged the club to get involved in community service providing for those who need help.

Plans were made for the Lions Annual "Community Birthday Calendar" sale which will get underway this week. "White Cane" Chairman Richard Seavie Lowry, Jr. selected a committee to work with him in implementing the "White Cane Candy Day" fund raising campaign which is upcoming in October.

The Lions will be taking orders for community birthday calendars until mid-September. Anyone interested in one of these calendars that lists birthdays and anniversaries may contact any Lions Club member.

Lumberton Redistricting Pursued

LUMBERTON--Two political action groups called Monday for the Lumberton City Council to redistrict the city in a manner that would be fairer to voting groups in the election of city councilmen.

The plea was made by the Robeson County branch of the NAACP and the county's League of Women Voters. Spokesmen for both groups said they were concerned that the city's eight precincts do not allow fair representation for voters.

Eight councilmen are elected from the eight city districts. Mayor Furman K. Biggs told the groups that the council had already made plans to redistrict the city, but was waiting for reliable 1980 census figures.

Charlotte Smith, president of the League of Women Voters, said the city council should have accomplished the

redistricting in time for the next election. She said that population in the districts ranges from 1,640 in Precinct 7 to 3,841 in Precinct 6.

"There is great inequality in representation," Mrs. Smith said.

Angus B. Thompson, Sr., president of the Robeson County branch of the NAACP, read an Aug. 7 resolution of the organization that cited "critical disproportion" in the city's precincts.

The resolution stated that voters in Precinct 6, the largest precinct, suffer from a "diluted" vote. The district has a large number of minority voters.

The county NAACP and League of Women Voters are calling for the city to appoint a commission or committee to recommend alternative redistricting plans to the city.

Costumes A Major Part of 'SATW!'

Costumes, their design and upkeep play a major role in any drama production and Robeson County's outdoor drama, "Strike At The Wind!" is no exception.

Two young ladies, Debbie Morris and Barbara Counts, have taken the job of costume co-ordinators for the show this summer, designing, making and keeping up the costumes for 70 actors. "Strike At The Wind!" is not an easy play to dress, according to Debbie, since it is tri-racial and takes place following the Civil War in Robeson County. The true story of the Lumbee Indians and their folk hero, Henry Berry Lowrie, "Strike At The Wind!" is in its sixth season this summer.

Debbie, a senior at Pembroke State University, is a newcomer to "Strike At The Wind!". Even though this is her first season, she has had a wide range of experience working with other plays. Some of her past experience include: Costumer and Wardrobe Mistress for "The Promise," performed at Pembroke State University; Costumer, Wardrobe Mistress and Designer for "Lion in Winter," performed at PSU; and Costumer, Wardrobe Mistress and Designer for "Cat On A Hot Tin Roof," also performed at PSU. "Strike At The Wind!" needed a costume designer, and I have a number one qualification--I can and do like to sew," exclaimed Debbie. "I have to learn the character and what he wears. Because of the very nature of the drama, the distance between the audience and action on stage, the costume has to reinforce the character's role in the play."

Color and style are more important than most people realize. The choice of dress and color combination has to reflect the actor's role, but at the same time, it has to suit its importance in the play. A minor part would never be dressed flashier than a lead part.

According to Barbara, "this type of work, since it is a grass root organization, is a learning experience and much past experience is not really necessary. But to work in professional costuming, an apprenticeship period with a known fashion designer or theatrical designer is required. You have to build a resume and port folio of your work, and basically you have to know the right people. Once accepted, you have to prove to these people you have talent and will do what you say you will do."

Historians are trying to prove that the Lumbee Indians are part of the tribe that absorbed the "Lost Colony." This idea is introduced into "Strike At The Wind!" in the prologue, the first scene of the show. "Strike at the Wind!" is fine family entertainment and can be enjoyed by everyone in the family. "Strike At The Wind!" plays every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night through August 29th. Preshow is at 8 p.m. and showtime at 8:30 p.m. Follow the signs to the Lakeside Amphitheatre at the Riverside Country Club, 3 miles west of Pembroke on Highway 74.

North Carolina Theatre Arts and the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources recognizes "Strike At The Wind!" as a professional theatre and provides grant assistance to this theatre from funds appropriated by the North Carolina General Assembly. For more information contact the office of "Strike At The Wind!"

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"WHO WE ARE"

by Lew Barton

THE PEOPLE WHO DEFIED HEW ALSO LED THE INDIAN WORLD

Who are we?

We are the people who defied HEW in 1970 because of a bogus desegregation plan.

But we are also the people who led the Indian world in educational achievement at the time. We deserved to be heard, we insisted upon it, and we were.

I am happy to say that I was one of the people who did some of the insisting. I am glad now that I declared, "This is America. I will speak. I will be heard."

It is, I did, and I was. But even more wonderful than this is the fact that fellow Indians of Robeson took up the hue and cry by the hundred, in effect. And some of those cries ultimately brought about some rather far-sweeping changes, nearly if not all of them in our favor.

Who are we?

More people remember us as the Indians who defied HEW in 1970 than those who remember that we also led the Indian world in the field of education at the time.

I refer you to a newspaper article which appeared in the Charlotte Observer during those critical days which begins like this:

ROBESON'S LUMBEEES LEAD INDIAN TRIBES

by Paul Jablow

Raleigh-Robeson County's Lumbee Indians far exceed any other group in a recently completed national study of Indian educational achievement.

As a result, says the North Carolina State University lecturer who studied them, they could have a significant influence on Congressional policy toward Indian cultures from Alaska to the Atlantic coast.

John Gregory Peck, a 41-year-old anthropology instructor, says that the difference between Lumbee professional success and that of some 35 other Indian groups studied is phenomenal.

Of some 964 American Indians in the group attending college, he said, 377 are Lumbees. So are about one-half the Indian public school teachers despite the fact that the Lumbees constitute just 7.5% of the Indian population surveyed.

The 3-year national study of American Indian education was sponsored by the research division of the U.S. Office of Education, largely at the urging of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy (D-NY).

Except for the about 40,000 Lumbees in Robeson County, all the groups studied were "reservation tribes" west of the Mississippi River.

Peck said this is because the Lumbees were the only non-reservation group cohesive enough to be called a culture. They were also the only group not receiving Federal funds from the Bureau of Indian Affairs...

END OF EXCERPT.

Our people, or some of them, defied attempts of colonists to confiscate their lands in 1754, tyranny and the threat of enslavement during the years 1864-74, the Ku Klux Klan in 1958 and HEW

in 1970. In 1972 they again defied authority when the State planned to demolish Old Main on the campus of Pembroke State University, formerly Pembroke State College for Indians, thus destroying the last "Indian building" on campus. And though Old Main was burned by arsonists in 1973, the brick walls remained. And today the building is fully rebuilt and functional.

In defense of the 1970 stand of our people, it should be stated here and elsewhere that they did not oppose integration per se, however. What they did oppose was an unfair desegregation plan which threatened to split our people like the infamous Berlin Wall split the people of that German city.

Who are we? We are the people who contributed Pembroke State University to all the people of the area. While other institutions of higher learning have long become non-existent, the one chartered by Indians continues to flourish.

Who are we? We are the people who for the past 100 years have been preaching and practicing the gospel of education. And because we did it so well, the words of Dr. Peck proved to be prophetic.

So many Lumbees hold positions of trust in governmental agencies today that accusations of favoritism are frequently made against our people by other Indian groups. Jealousy also rears its ugly head and is sometimes at the bottom of efforts to discredit us as Indians.

My suggestion to any such opposing groups is that they should follow our educational example and better-prepared students should have opportunities may present themselves.

Armed Services

AUBREY D. SWETT

Marine Cpl. Aubrey D. Swett, son of Otha C. Swett of Route 6, Lumberton, has reported for duty with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC.

TERRY L. CHAVIS

Terry L. Chavis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lynnwood N. Chavis of Route 1, Pembroke has been promoted in the U.S. Army to the rank of captain. Chavis is an intelligence officer at Fort Bragg, N.C. with the 82nd Airborne Division.

His wife Janet is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Millard Oxendine of Pembroke. The captain is a 1977 graduate of North Carolina State University, Raleigh.

Grady L. Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gurney Hunt of Route 2, Pembroke has been promoted in the U.S. Air Force to the rank of senior airman.

Hunt is an aircraft maintenance specialist at MacDill Air Force Base, Fla. with the 62nd Aircraft Generation Squadron.

Pharmacist
Howard Brooks
Pembroke Drug Center
Olson and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC

New drug scam dupes teens
A deadly drug abuse fraud may be operating right under your very own nose. Imitations of potent prescription diet pills known "on the street" as dexedrine and black beauties are being sold across the counter by some wholesale drug outlets. Pushers describe their "product" as "weak" and advise taking 4 or 5 to get a "buzz." The threat, however, occurs as the user overdoses by mistakenly taking the "real thing," thus precipitating a stroke. Drug abuse is a poor gamble. So, alert yourself to this particularly insidious, fraudulent and dangerous drug scam.

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