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PEMBROKE COUNT WITHSTANDS SCRUTINY

undertakes Christmas Care Drive for Needy

Pembroke Jaycees Sponsor Christmas Drive

by Bruce Barton

...but election probe continues

LUMBERTON--An overflow crowd (estimated at 60) turned out Tuesday night at the Robeson County Board of Elections headquartered in Lumberton to observe an official handcount of the votes cast in the November 3 mayor's race in Pembroke.

Termed "a circus" by an observer who

Indian Caucus Meets

by Connee Brayboy

Lonnie Revels, Jr., vice chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, addressed the Robeson County Indian Caucus on Tuesday night. The meeting was held at the Pembroke Court House.

Revels cautioned the group about what a tough job it was to take on a state agency-namely Pembroke State University. Not discouraging them from attempting to bring about better community-university relations, he urged Caucus members to keep their goals in sight and to include long range goals. He stated that it was not impossible for the UNC System to discontinue PSU as a university because of the yearly declining student enrollment. Revels warned the group of pit falls they might encounter in their efforts. Among them was negative response from "our own people."

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Pleads Innocent

A former state official pleaded innocent recently to charges that he committed perjury before a federal grand jury investigating state handling of federal job training contracts, officials said.

R.D. Locklear of Lumberton entered the plea on a two-count federal indictment on charges of making false statements before a grand jury when he was arraigned recently, said David McCullough, assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of North Carolina.

Trial was set for Jan. 18 in U.S. District Court in Raleigh.

Locklear is a former official of the Department of Natural Resources and Community Development.

U.S. Magistrate Rich Leonard rejected Locklear's request that an attorney be appointed for him, McCullough said.

Locklear told the court he had asked one attorney to represent him but that he had been told it would cost \$10,000, which he could not afford. But Leonard ruled that Locklear had listed sufficient income and assets to hire an attorney himself and recommended that he choose one from a list of lawyers often appointed to federal court cases, McCullough said.

Charges against Locklear stemmed from an investigation that led to fraud charges against Wilbur Hobby, then president of the state AFL-CIO, and another union official involving \$27,900 in federal Comprehensive Employment and Training Act funds. A company operated by Hobby held CETA job-training contracts awarded by NRCD.

They charge involved Locklear's testimony before the grand jury in late 1980 about how a transportation pay figure of \$2.08 a mile was set in the CETA contract.

The indictment against Locklear said the figure meant that transportation payments "far exceeded" the actual cost.

The two charges against Locklear each carry a maximum sentence of five years in prison and \$10,000 fine.

was miffed at Harbert Moore, elections board chairman, for expanding the elections probe and authorizing the recount, the hand count Tuesday night hardly changed anything at all.

The handcount showed that incumbent Mayor James A. "Pete" Jacobs actually received 264 votes instead of the 263 he was credited with on election night. Sam Dial, whose request for a probe prompted the recount, remained with 253 votes, the same total he received the night of the election. Reggie Strickland, a former mayor who also ran, received a new total of 243 instead of the 240 he tallied on November 3.

The recount went ahead as scheduled in spite of protests by Dexter Brooks who in response to a question from elections board member Ray Revels, said he was representing the town of Pembroke and Councilman Larry T. Brooks, his brother. Brooks is the attorney of record for the town of Pembroke.

Brooks questioned the authority of the board to recount the votes on the evidence that had been presented to it by defeated candidate Sam Dial and Rev. Dawley Maynor, chairman of the Citizens For Better Government in Pembroke. Said Brooks, "I believe you are singling Pembroke out for special treatment... and opening a Pandora's Box by setting a precedent."

Moore, the chairman of the board of elections, and from nearby Prospect, was either a saint or a sinner, depending on who you talked to. The winning incumbents charged him generally with overstepping his authority as chairman of the Robeson County Board of Elections. According to elections law cited by Dexter Brooks Tuesday night, it is the responsibility of the candidate or citizens challenging an election to present allegations justifying a recount. Many Pembroke citizens do not think evidence warranted the recount or an expanded internal investigation ordered by Moore and the elections board.

On the other hand, Moore was applauded by the defeated candidates and their supporters generally.

The elections board had also authorized an internal investigation by the elections staff to ascertain why the tabulator showed 759 votes cast while the poll books only listed 742 as voting.

Ms. Pearlene Revels, assistant supervisor of elections, explained the difference by noting the Pembroke Precinct officials had failed to list 19 people in the poll books even though their names were listed in the registration book containing the names of registered voters on the night of the election.

Moore and the elections board authorized an internal investigation when "a sampling" showed that possibly certain voters had voted in Pembroke when they lived outside the town's limits.

The local elections board did not certify the election, simply deciding to send their findings on to the state elections board for their consideration.

No winner has yet been certified in Pembroke, even though no protest has

been received in the council races where incumbents Larry T. Brooks and Milton Hunt swamped challengers Harry Oxendine and Henry Smith by substantial margins.

Sam Dial had challenged the votes of Teddy Jacobs, James Lucas, Sarah Lucas, Merlin Bryant Oxendine and Belton Smith, Jr. Said Dial, in his letter of protest, "The above names have lived outside of Pembroke longer than the required time to be eligible to vote in the town election."

Maynor, among other allegations, charged that Ms. Evelyn Cummings was appointed to serve as an assistant at the Pembroke polls when in fact she was a resident of Raft Swamp Precinct. And that Mary Catherine Canady abridged a number of electoral laws by helping people vote, seemingly most of the incidents involved curbside voting.

All 3 candidates for mayor were present for the recount although Rev. Dawley Maynor did not appear to press his allegations.

Celebrates 100th Birthday



Daniel Edwin Lowry was visited October 3, 1981 by his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was visited at King Dale Manor Rest Home in Lumberton on the occasion of his 100th birthday. Mr. Lowry is the last surviving nephew of Henry Berry Lowry. He is shown in front of the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church.

Birthday congratulations were sent to Mr. Lowry from President Ronald Reagan, Governor Jim Hunt, Congressman Charlie Rose and Ken Maynor, executive director of Lumbee Regional Development Association of Pembroke.

Hunt Found Guilty, Appeals

LUMBERTON--District Court Judge John Gardner sentenced Ralph Hunt,

formerly the chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education, to a year in prison Tuesday for driving with a permanently revoked license.

But Hunt was released on a \$500 bond when he gave notice of appeal to the superior court. Gardner had said that Hunt would be allowed work release privileges.

Hunt's drivers license was revoked in October 1980 after a number of infractions, including a count of driving under the influence and of reckless driving after drinking.

The sentence Tuesday was the result of an arrest by state trooper H.L. Covington, Jr. who stopped Hunt in the driveway of his home after allegedly observing him under the wheel of his car.

Hunt contends that he was not driving, and testified that another man was driving the vehicle.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Bruce Barton
Connee Brayboy
Garry L. Barton
Ricky Barton
Angela Jacobs
Connie Gleave



Interior of "The House," the new Baptist Student Union at Pembroke State University which was dedicated last Saturday. Much of the furniture was sent from North

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Pembroke Man Killed In Wreck

PEMBROKE -- A handicapped Pembroke man died early Monday morning from injuries he received Sunday night during a car wreck and high-speed chase outside of Pembroke.

Timothy Oxendine, 26, who was a double amputee, wrecked his car at speeds in excess of 100 mph along the Union Chapel Road.

According to investigating state Highway Patrolman Al Williams, Oxendine was trying to elude Pembroke police officers when he lost control of his car about 7:20 p.m. Sunday in front of Union Chapel Elementary School.

Williams said Oxendine's car ran off the left shoulder into a culvert and the man was thrown from the car.

He died at 12:55 a.m. Monday following surgery at Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton. A hospital spokesman said he suffered internal and head injuries.