

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

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



by Bruce Barton

### WHAT'S FAIR FOR THE GOOSE IS FAIR FOR THE GANDER, INCLUDING ED JOHNSON

I am one of the many folks in Robeson County who has disagreed with Ed Johnson from time to time. Ed is chairman of the Robeson County Republican Party and cocky as all get out. He is closely allied with conservative Republican Senators Jesse Helm and John East and has, to say the least, been highly visible and vocal in offering "A conservative response" to a lot of Democratic party and liberal, as he sees it, carryings on.

But he and I agree on one thing: Robeson County would be better off with a viable, two-party system. Although registered as a democrat for the time being (because most of Robeson County is too) I put little store in the notion that the Democratic Party (especially in Robeson County) holds the answers to our ills and shortcomings.

It was the Democratic Party that fostered three bathrooms in Robeson County and decimated the ranks on the Lowry Band after Henry Berry Lowry and the Republican Party were removed from power following the traumatic days of the Civil War madness. And Democratic governors named (until the late 40's) the mayor and councilmen for Pembroke-always conservative, white Pembrokeans even though Pembroke, as it is now, predominately Indian. And double-voting and illegal annexations and more. Evils galore! So, the democratic party has little to crow about, as I see it.

And, as I recall it, Pembroke and Robeson County fared well under the administration of Republican Governor James E. Holshouser, Jr. Yet I am registered as a democrat. But I am not starry eyed about it. To me political parties are contrivances, vehicles to a desired end. Nothing more.

Ed Johnson, in the main, as I see it, is healthy for Robeson County, even when I do not agree with him. And that is more often than not. But it is the dialogue, the exchange of ideas that is important. Robeson County is stagnant and, in many instances, as I see it, repressive because one party-

the Democratic Party- has done all the talking and ruling over the last few years. You talk and let me talk! Give me the right to make up my own mind, even if I make it up wrong.

Which brings me to the point of contention- Ed Johnson's problems with the Robeson County Tax Collector's office. In recent editions of the Robesonian his good name has been held up to public ridicule because he seemingly owed a small amount for taxes for the last two or three years. The articles also noted that his checking account was being garnished for the past due taxes: a sum of less than \$500 with almost half that owed for 1980. It is a very common occurrence, I might add, for many of us.

So, whoa, I say. Something's wrong in Ol' Robeson. I dare say there are hundreds of Robeson County taxpayers who are more in arrears in taxes than Ed Johnson. Why single Ed Johnson out for public ridicule? Is it because he is a Republican and a spouter of highly quoted "conservative responses?" I disagree with about 70 percent of Ed Johnson's "Conservative responses" but I uphold 100 percent of his right to express them.

I say fight Ed Johnson in the political arena, and leave his taxes out of it, especially when he owes so little and there are hundreds of us who owe more.

Keep expressing yourself, Ed Johnson. I defend your right to state your position on political and other issues as much as I defend my right not to agree with them. America's strength and democracy is based on a free and open exchange of ideas.

As Henry Berry Lowry was reported to say once, "Boys, I got no fight with the Republican Party. I just know it's going to get tougher as soon as they leave..." And history has proven him right.

What's fair for the goose is fair for the gander, including Ed Johnson. Let every man be free to express himself without undue repercussions, including a public airing of his taxes and private life.

### Sentences Handed Down

Two Fairmont men were sentenced to three-year prison terms and \$2500 fines Thursday in a tobacco inspection ticket forgery scheme.

Horace C. Sutton, part-owner of the Growers-Mitchell Warehouse in Fairmont, and auctioneer Edwin W. Sparks were sentenced in U.S. District Court in Raleigh Thursday morning after a two-day trial. They were each convicted on 10 counts of making false and fictitious statements to a government agent.

Sutton and Sparks were accused of filling out the government sections of tobacco inspection tickets, indicating a higher price for the product than that given by the inspectors, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Wallace Dixon. The tobacco was then sold to the W.A. Adams tobacco company of Oxford, which originally filed the complaint.

Also sentenced was John D. Campbell, a tobacco farmer who pled guilty to the charges on Monday. Campbell was given a two-and-a-half year suspended sentence and ordered to pay a \$1,000 fine and a \$328 restitution to the tobacco company.

Sutton and Sparks will be required to serve 90 days of their sentences, with the remainder suspended, and will be on three years' probation. No restriction was made on future tobacco warehouse employment. — YVONNE TORSTENSSON

Then consider the case of Ralph Hunt and his associates in their celebrated case which has many corollaries to the one stated above.

Note that no restrictions were made on future tobacco warehouse activity. Hunt and his associates were barred from working with a tobacco warehouse and fined seemingly exorbitant fines of up to \$10,000.

As a reader noted, "Surely the District Attorney's lack of action in seeking an indictment against Sutton and Sparks deserves some attention and or written comments, particularly in view of the zeal with which he sought to prosecute Ralph Hunt and others even after the federal courts had entered judgement."

Ralph Hunt seemingly committed a cardinal sin in the eyes of the politicians in Robeson County, A democrat, he did not always follow the party line. That seemingly is the unpardonable sin for Robeson County politicians, no matter what their party affiliations.

As I see it, free expression should not have a price tag placed on it. Ralph Hunt, as a former Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education, and a power in Robeson County political circles, has laid his considerable reputation on the altar as a seeming expiation for sins others have charged him with.

Equal treatment under the law is a right we claim at birth as Americans; it is not earned for good behaviour as defined by others.

### AND I ATTEND MY FIRST LREMC BOARD MEETING

After being arrested for attempting to do so initially, I am pleased to report that I have attended my first board of directors meeting at Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation in Red Springs.

It was anti-climatic almost since the board of directors decreed at their last meeting that any member consumer can now attend meetings. I applaud them for having a change of heart on the matter.

We'll be reporting what is happening at the board meetings in the days and months ahead.



Painting the house? Coat door hinges, knobs, lock latches and other hardware with a coating of petroleum jelly to reduce scraping afterward.



The cream of tartar you use when beating egg whites comes from grapes. It is deposited on the sides of wine casks during the fermentation of grapes into wine.

## Season's Greetings and best wishes for a happy and safe 1982.

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### An Editorial Expression

### of the Carolina Indian Voice

### BEN FLOYD JR. WAS A PROGRESSIVE FORCE IN ROBESON COUNTY

Ben Floyd, Jr. long time clerk of court in Robeson County, and a political force to be reckoned with, died Monday afternoon at the Cancer Institute near Lumberton. He was 61.

He led a progressive movement in Robeson County in the late 50s and 60s that forged a strong alliance of Indians, Blacks and whites. The county is better for it. He was a beacon of hope to many Robesonians who had previously been denied political participation because of, as we see it, the color of their skins.

In later years we did not always agree with his mode of operations but we always respected him. He was instrumental in knocking down many of the political, sociological and psychological barriers that separated us as a people. That is his legacy, one that can be pointed to in years to come "as the way to go in the future."

## PHILOSOPHIZING with Lew Barton

### THE COOKING OF INDIAN WOMEN: THEY WHIP YOU UP A MESS OF LOVE

When I was a mere child, I used to think that the cooking of Grandma Elizabeth Dial was better than anyone else's because she was old and her hands were wrinkled. Later, I discovered that her baby daughter, my mother, had the same magic touch. When my wife finally replaced my mother and I had misgivings least the special taste of that kind of cooking was lost to me forever, I was joyously surprised. My wife had the magic knack of it, too! And so, in fact, do many Indian women!

Nobody can quite define it. And no one can quite explain why. But there is something very special about the taste of an Indian woman's cooking. And I can prove that by the avowed testimony of at least one-third of Robeson's population. And if the other two-thirds doesn't necessarily think so, it at least has the good manners and good sense not openly to say so.

An Indian woman can take nothing ingredients and make a something meal.

Except that the "nothing ingredients" are not really nothing. One of them is one of the most priceless ingredients in the world, something called love.

Now, I'm not denying that we have some excellent public eating establishments around here which serve excellent food. But none of it is prepared and served with love, and I guess that is what makes all the difference. When an Indian woman cooks

she puts her heart as well as her skill into the effort. And if you've got any taste buds at all, you can tell it.

Have you ever walked into a restaurant and ordered a plate of collards, boiled pork and corn bread? With some really fresh buttermilk on the side? You might as well be up North, ordering grits with your ham and eggs for breakfast. Or here in the South, ordering oatmeal at breakfast time. People simply look to you as if they think you're a refugee from Bellevue. Or Dorthea Dix.

Now, some of these public eating places advertise ham biscuits and other delicacies "just like grandma's," but they lie. None of 'em are served with love...unless somebody just happens to have a grandma who works at the joint.

Yep. That's what the mystery ingredient is, all right. Love. And the person who discovers a way to serve it with food in public eating establishments will become a millionaire overnight, and deservedly so. The nearest thing to it isn't found at a national chain of eating joints, but at the church socials where there is dinner on the grounds.

God always answers prayer. But sometime His answer is no. And we are the better off for His answer having been that.

If God gave us every thing we asked for, like a rich parent indulging a spoiled child, just think what would have happened to that poor hammer the last time you smashed your finger with it while putting up a wall photo!

## Christmas Cheer from the Pembroke Eye Clinic

To Fine Citizens of Pembroke Area:

Dr. Adams and I want to express our appreciation to the fine citizens of the Pembroke area. Seventeen months ago, we opened our Pembroke Eye Clinic and we promised to expand our days of practice as soon as your support justified more time. We are happy to announce that you have been very supportive and kind, and we plan to expand our time in Pembroke to include Thursdays beginning on January 7th.

So, we begin 1982 with grateful hearts to you. We are committed to your complete eye care on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each week; and of course, if you should need Dr. Adams or me, please call the Fairmont Optometric Clinic at any time. Dr. Adams joins me in wishing for your God's blessings during this glorious Christmas Season and throughout the New Year.

Gratefully yours,  
Harold C. Herring, O.D.

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### Pharmacist Howard Brooks

Pembroke Drug Center  
Colum and W. 3rd, Pembroke, NC



### Food-drug combination alert

Many foods adversely react with the drugs we take. Sometimes they speed up or slow down a drug's absorption into the bloodstream.

The most dangerous food-drug combination is the one between MAO inhibitors (for depression and high blood pressure) and foods such as aged cheeses, Chianti wines, chicken livers, salami, pepperoni, yogurt, sour cream, canned figs, bananas, soy sauce, beer, cola, coffee, chocolate and raisins.

That's a list. But it's your health we're trying to improve. Consult with me if you have a question.

Your Pharmacist