

"Building Communicative Bridges  
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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## DR. FRANK WORLAX TAKES OVER PEMBROKE MEDICAL SERVICES, INC. FACILITY

### Ousted Staff Shops for new Quarters

by Bruce Barton

Pembroke—Although rumors had swept the community, it was still a shock to Carolyn Emanuel, executive director; Dr. Emma Balaquer, the staff physician; and the rest of the staff of Pembroke Medical Services, Inc. when they were given termination notices on December 29, 1981 demanding they vacate the premises by 5 p.m. the next day. The reason given... "the facility is being taken over by a private physician." The letter was signed by Hubert Oxendine, chairman of

the board of directors of the non-profit facility. The only response from Oxendine has been an emphatic "no comment." The notice gave them two weeks severance pay.

Pembroke Medical Services was established as a community based medical center to meet the health care needs of Pembroke and the surrounding area. The modern and spacious facility, located off Union Chapel Road, has been in operation since August of 1979.

The facility recently received a \$35,854 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust located in Winston-Salem.

Dr. Frank Worlax began his practice in the facility Monday morning. Dr. Worlax initially had been expected to be the staff physician when the center opened but backed out at the time because of differences in how the facility was to be operated.

Continued Page 9

## Larry Brooks Announces Candidacy for Maxton County Commissioner Seat



Larry T. Brooks

For the past six years, he has been employed as a counselor with Pembroke State University. Prior to accepting his present position, Brooks taught mathematics for four years at Townsend Middle School with the Maxton City School System. While there, he served as vice president of their local chapter of the North Carolina Association of Educators and is currently a member of various professional organizations affiliated with education. He is also a veteran of the U.S. Army.

Brooks is also a past president of the Pembroke Jaycees and has further served on the Executive Committee of the North Carolina State Jaycees. Other civic involvement includes being a member of the Robeson Historical Drama Association and a charter member of the PSU Braves Club.

The candidate's business related activities include being a member of the Board of Directors of Lumber Bank and Quick Finance. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are also the owners and operators of Lela Anne's Learning Center, a child care facility in Pembroke.

In making his announcement, he made the following statement: "I'm committed in my desire to serve the people of our commissioner district. With the experience and knowledge I've gained these past four years working in municipal government, coupled with my educational background, I feel I can be effective as a county commissioner."

"I believe that our citizens want and deserve honesty and credibility in their elected officials. I've dealt in 'politics' for more than five years and have

learned through experience that you can be effective and get things done without compromising your integrity.

"Robeson County is next to the bottom among the state's counties as far as the percentage of local monies currently being budgeted for public education. The physical facilities at many of our county schools are sadly outmoded while the use of mobile classroom units is far too widespread. Our children are our most precious resource and our only hope for tomorrow; they deserve a much higher funding priority from our county commissioners than they are currently getting. Are not the lagging test scores in our local schools a necessary result of such funding policies? If elected, I pledge to work towards better educational opportunities for all our youth; we simply cannot afford to continue the policies of the past. The vote and support of each citizen of our district will be sincerely appreciated."

Brooks is the son of Lela H. Brooks of Cherokee Street and the late John J. Brooks, long-time educator of Robeson County. He and his wife, Elizabeth, are members of Harpers Ferry Baptist Church. They are the proud parents of four children: Devy, 17; Lela Anne, 8; and John Avery and Larry Trent II, 6 (twins).

## OXENDINE CONSIDERING A RUN FOR BOARD OF EDUCATION



William L. Oxendine

Raft Swamp, Pembroke and Union Precincts.

Oxendine owns and operates TBS Services Co., Inc. which operates food services contracts and custodial contracts on military installations. After a career in the military service, U.S. Army, he has operated TBS Service Co., Inc. for six years.

He has been a resident of Pembroke for 25 years. He is married to the former Lou Henry Lowry. They have two children: Barbara Cummings and William L., Jr.

Never having ran for election before, Oxendine has been interested in the educational process for many years. He has always been a supporter of the local schools. His wife is a teacher at Southside/Ashpole School and has taught in the county system for more than 20 years.

Oxendine was charter president of the PTA at Pembroke Senior High in 1969. He has served as president of the PSHS Booster Club for two different terms. He has also served as a member of the Title IV, Part A Indian Education Project for the county school system. He served on the site selection committee for West Robeson High School.

Said Oxendine, "If I decide to seek a seat on the local board of education, I will serve the citizens to the best of my ability. I will make decisions which will be educationally sound, not politically expedient."

## Laymon Poe Locklear bids for Term on County Board of Education



Laymon Poe Locklear

Laymon P. Locklear announces his candidacy for re-election to the Robeson County Board of Education. He has represented District IV composed of Pembroke, Raft Swamp, Burnt Swamp and Union Precincts for the past six years.

Locklear is employed by Acme Electric where he serves as a production foreman. He has been employed there since March, 1969.

He is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High School. After four years in the Air Force which included extensive travel in the United States and six tours overseas, he returned to his native Robeson County and attended Pembroke State University.

Lumberton—Harold Pittman and Patricia Ann Chavis, both in their early 30s, were understandably excited about the new home they decided to build in 1977. They made plans and eventually chose Sam R. Noble, now the State Senator from this area, as the builder.

But the excitement soon changed to dismay and despair as they found themselves in bureaucratic quagmire between themselves, Noble, Farmers Home Administration and the county health department.

According to the Chavis couple, Frank Benton, a former Lumberton City Councilman, actually built the home although Noble was listed as the contractor of record.

In June of 1977 the Chavis family moved into their new home in the Deep Branch Community, approximately 5 miles west of Lumberton.

The couple, and their four small children, had barely moved into their three bedroom brick home when their troubles began. Sewage seepage fouled the air, and began backing up in their front yard and trailing into their carport. The Chavis family, since that time, have had to haul drinking water from neighbors. The septic tank actually is built in the front yard.

Here the snafu begins. Who's to blame? The Chavises contend that if a

percolation test (a test to see if a site is suitable for building a septic tank) had been done by the health department the site would never have been approved as a site for a home. According to an independent test the Chavises had done, the land the home was built on was not able to absorb the waste from the septic tank.

Records show that the improvements and septic tank permit for the home site was issued July 16, 1976 by the Robeson County Health Department, Environmental Health Section. The permit was signed by Vernon McKenzie, sanitation technician. According to the Chavises, no percolation (perk) test has ever been done officially by any of the parties involved.

### THE BUREAUCRATIC QUAGMIRE THICKENS...

On January 1, 1978 Mrs. Chavis wrote Noble, the Farmers Home Administration from whom the Chavises had acquired a \$24,000 loan to build their dream home, and the county health department. Mrs. Chavis noted in her letter, "We are having trouble with our septic tank running over. The septic tank is in the front of our house at the door. It is very embarrassing; we want something done about it, and the sooner the better." Mrs. Chavis continued, "We also want the inspector to come out and check our well. It is too close to our neighbor's septic tank drain line on the right side of our home..."

Mrs. Chavis wrote the same parties again on March 8, 1978 "...you sent us a

## COUPLE THREATENED WITH EVICTION FROM HOME



THE CHAVISES STAND NEAR SEPTIC TANK IN FRONT YARD WHERE SEWAGE FREELY RUNS.

by Bruce Barton

letter saying you would be out in a few days to correct our problem...it is running over (the septic tank) so bad that it is running under our carport right at our kitchen door..."

The Chavis couple continued to press for the problem with the septic tank to be corrected. They agree that their relationship with Noble had soured by this time. Noble was assessed a penalty of \$500 because the home was not completed within the prescribed time. Too, Noble did install a 50' drain line to the sewage system.

On May 1, 1979 Hugh Cole, Sanitation Supervisor from the Health Department, admitted in a letter to Darlene E. Buckman, a staffer from the N.C. Attorney General's Consumer Protection Section, that "This lot was approved on July 14, 76. This was done in a summer month when the water table is considerably lower and we felt if the tank was put in the front on high land, then it would work properly..." It didn't.

Cole then seemingly passed the buck back to Noble, "...Before the installation of the tank, construction crews had scooped 12-18" of top soil off the lot, thereby leaving a very high water table and no high land in the front..." But continued Cole, "...Through the efforts and expenses of the contractor, Mr. Sam Noble on May 3, 1978 another 50' drain line was added to the system."

And Cole ended his letter by saying, "As you can see by the enclosed letter we have recommended a mound type septic tank system for the Chavis lot..."

Said Mrs. Chavis, "And that (the mound type system) was to be at our expense..."

Mr. Chavis recalls, "They (FHA) offered to loan us more money to correct the problem but it would have had to be a new loan at higher interest."

### WHO'S TO BLAME... AND WHO WILL PAY?

As noted earlier, the Chavises by this time had contacted the attorney general for help. The health department admitted, in a letter to Billy Batchelor, then head of the county farmers home administration that "Several homes in Robeson County financed through your agency... (have) had a history of septic tank problems..."

And the health department confirmed that the Chavis site was one of the homes with a "septic tank problem." The letter (secured from the files of the attorney general's consumer protection section) noted "...These homes are located in the John's soil type and...have a high water table. During construction, 12 to 18

Continued Page 10

## A Statement from Jesse Britt, Candidate for Sheriff

As sheriff of Robeson County, I feel that my first duty and allegiance is to the citizens of Robeson. I relinquished my job to seek this important office because total dedication is needed to create a sheriff's department that is more closely in-tune with the citizens of this great county.

My wife, the former Anne Gore of Lumberton, my two daughters Gina and Jill, and my son Kevin have all encouraged me to run for sheriff. I am proud to announce to the public that they are the first on my list of supporters for the race for sheriff.

Our family attends Beulah Baptist Church, here in Robeson. I have enjoyed a life-long relationship with the people of Robeson County, as a farmer and also working with Johnson Cotton Company.

There are a number of very serious law enforcement problems in Robeson of which I will mention only two: the illegal drug traffic and trade in this county is on the ramp. I think we should send a uniform officer, who has professional knowledge of the subject in the schools with the literature and films to let our children know the dangers

of illegal drugs. It is our responsibility to teach our children these irreparable dangers. After all, they are the future citizens of our county.

Approximately 1500 fires occurred in 1981 in Robeson County and well over half of these are considered to be arson. We must get our law enforcement personnel well trained in arson investigation.

I would like to express a deep personal feeling as to the future of law enforcement in Robeson County.

"I feel that a law enforcement officer's first duty is to serve mankind, to protect lives and property, to protect the innocent against deception, to protect the weak from the oppression, the peaceful from violence and to respect the constitutional rights of all citizens. I also feel that a law enforcement officer's private life should be modeled as an example to all."

"Let us bring law enforcement into the 1980's." We must take advantage of all schools being opened by the North Carolina Native Academy, therefore increasing the effectiveness of the law enforcement of the