

"Building Communicative Bridges
in a Tri-Racial Setting"

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DEXTER BROOKS RESPONDS TO OBBIE LEE'S CHARGES ON THE LUMBERTON VOTING RIGHTS LITIGATION

My Dear Mr. Lee:

As the President or Chairman of the Board of Lumbee River Legal Services, as a Lumbee Indian, and as an American citizen, we must take issue with the caustic remarks attributed to yourself at the meeting of the Lumberton Middle School PTA on January 25, 1982; it is our considered opinion that the remarks were grossly inaccurate, slanderous, unprofessional, intemperate, inappropriate and misleading. It is incredible that an attorney would seemingly publicly impugn the motives of a person or a group of persons or their attorneys airing a grievance in the courts of this fair land. Is not the fundamental role of our system of justice the peaceful resolution of disputes and grievances rather than having them settled by the law of the jungle? In any case, it would seem to us that the proper inquiry is not as to the motives of the persons bringing a lawsuit, but rather as to whether their grievances have any merit. Did not a three-judge panel of the United States District Court, including a Native Robesonian, find the Lumberton City School System in violation of the Voting Rights Act of 1965? Did not the Supreme Court of these United States, which can hardly be characterized as a "dissident" element, likewise so find such a violation? Did not the United States Attorney General, in spite of vigorous and questionable importuning from various and sundry political figures, refuse to rescind an earlier objection lodged against certain annexations to the Lumberton School District which objection has been outstanding since 1975? My dear Mr. Lee, are you trying to say that you have not had your day in court? It is our understanding that you made several trips to Washington, with and without local politicians, in order to plead your case with the United States Department of Justice, and to submit voluminous documentary evidence on behalf of your clients. Surely, you would not have us to believe that all of those judges, justices and federal officials before whom you argued were biased

against the Lumberton City Schools and in favor of a bunch of Indians represented by a few legal services attorneys? Come now Obbie, we all know that movie scripts are written so that the Indians always lose, surely you would not have use to believe that the deck was stacked against you in this litigation? If fault or blame for Lumberton's woes must be assessed, then would not a logical starting point be an examination of the persuasiveness, quality, accuracy or completeness of the evidence submitted on behalf of your cause? We submit that such an examination would be more productive than to question the constitutionality of the federal statute itself since surely all attorneys know that the Act was upheld by the United States Supreme Court as a legitimate means of enforcing the guarantees of the Fifteenth Amendment to the Constitution of these United States in *South Carolina v. Katzenbach*, 383 U.S. 301 (1966); a decision that easily predates the annexations in question.

If one is really or sincerely interested in resolving the problems currently besetting Lumberton, then it would seem that he or she would want to talk to rather than about, the people responsible for the litigation. We submit that a knowledge of the viewpoint of the North Robeson Concerned Parents is essential to an understanding of the motives of the prime movers of the lawsuit. Drive over to Saddletree and talk to some Indian parents concerning the breadth of the curriculum at Magnolia as opposed to Lumberton, and perhaps that which now seems unfathomable will be revealed unto you; but do not, we say again, do not direct any further such unnecessary comments or remarks towards ourself or any of the personnel associated with our legal services program.

During the past ten years we have been associated with several groups that very possibly were termed "dissident" by at least some people. The building

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THEY GET THEIR EDUCATION AND
LIVELIHOOD HERE BUT A GOOD
MANY OF THEM STILL DON'T KNOW

THE CORRECT PRONUNCIATION FOR PEMBROKE

by Lew Barton

Old man Pembroke Jones, the railway employee for whom it was named, would probably turn over in his grave if he could hear the mess university students and even some university professors are making of his and the town's and the university's name today.

"Educated fools!" he'd probably snort each time one of 'em said PEMBROKE instead of PembROOK.

And he'd be justified, partly at least. Because even though some radio and TV announcers fall into the same trap of ignorance, Pembroke is properly pronounced Pem-brook.

My son, Bruce Barton, and I do stew over such matters occasionally. As well we ought. After all, somebody has to guard the true qualities of the town and the widely varying community it serves.

Pembroke is an English name. And you students and professors and professional

announcers should break out a good English dictionary, encyclopedia or some other reliable authority on the subject and set the matter straight.

But even if there were no standard reference books, such as the above, the true rule to follow is to accept the NATIVE pronunciation of a geographical location.

All the old Indians of my boyhood said PEMBROOK. But, some educated fool will doubtless object, all those people were illiterate.

Are the English who created the name in the first place illiterate?

If old man Pembroke Jones could speak today, he'd probably tell you that from the sound of things, "it's the other way around."

You learned professors... you enlightened radio and TV announcers... you brilliant university students and you teachers in the county and city school systems... let old man Pembroke rest in peace! Stop mutilating his name!

McDuffie Cummings challenges for Sheriff

McDuffie Cummings, Pembroke's Town Manager, surprised the political pundits Monday when he filed to run for sheriff. Earlier Cummings had indicated he might file for Clerk of Court. Cummings' entry into the crowded Sheriff's race promises that, like always, it will be an interesting race to watch. Cummings, an Indian, was the only minority to file in the crowded field. Hubert Stone, the incumbent, is running again. Other candidates in the Sheriff's race are Luther Sanderson, Jesse Britt and C.A. Brown, Jr. Monday, at noon, was the deadline for filing for local offices, except for state house, Senate and congressional offices. Also, Lib Morton, the County Supervisor of Elections, confirmed that the May 4 primary date has been called off due to the problem the general assembly is having in getting a redistricting plan approved by the Justice Department. No new primary date has been set.

In the Commissioner races...

Three incumbent commissioners up for reelection have all filed: Sammy Cox in District One, Herman Dial in District Three and Bill Hemdon in District Four.

Challenging Cox in the Lumberton area are democrats Ray Cox (no relation) and Sammie Love and republicans Norm Morton and Brigitte Rundus.

Challenging Dial in Pembroke are Larry Trent Brooks and Wyvis Oxendine. The winner will face Republican Robert "Bob" Brewington.

Hemdon is facing Thomas Jones, Jr. and Gurney S. Kinlaw in St. Pauls. All are democrats.

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SEE MORE FILINGS

Locklear for Chief District Court Judge



Gary Lynn Locklear

Gary Lynn Locklear has filed for election as Judge of the District Court of the 16th Judicial District, seeking the seat currently held by John S. Gardner. The 16th Judicial District is made up of both Robeson and Scotland Counties.

Locklear is presently employed as an Assistant District Attorney of the 16th Judicial District and has been so employed for two and one-half years. Prior to his present employment he taught in North Carolina's Technical and Community College system for five years.

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Lumbee Medical Center Officially Open for Business

Pembroke--A new medical facility has officially opened for business in the Pembroke community--Lumbee Medical Center.

The move to open the facility has been led by Carolyn Emanuel, formally the executive director of Pembroke Medical Services, Inc.

Staffing the center are Dr. Emma Balaquer, physician; Earl Cummings, physician's assistant; and Rose Clark, receptionist. All three were formerly on the staff at Pembroke Medical Services, Inc. until they were summarily ousted on December 29 with one day's notice.

Ms. Emanuel, Dr. Balaquer, Cummings and Ms. Clark are presently "donating their services" until funding can be acquired for the center.

The non-profit agency, already designated a rural health clinic, is located on North Jones St. in the former fellowship hall of Pembroke Presbyterian Church. The Pembroke Area Presbyterian Ministry is allowing them to use the quarters "for a very nominal fee," according to Ms. Emanuel. The Rev. Robinson (John A.), the executive director of the ministry and the ministry have been very helpful in helping us find a place to provide medical care to the greater Pembroke community.

The medical clinic has named a new board of directors consisting of Jim Hunt, chairman; Michelle Lowry, vice chairman; Ken Maynor, secretary; Jimmy Goins, treasurer; Norman Layne; and Babon Lowry. There is one vacancy still to be filled. An Advisory Council is also to be named.

Hunt is President of Lumbee Bank; Maynor is Executive Director of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. (LRDA). Goins is President of the Pembroke Jaycees; Lowry heads Pembroke Machine Company; and Layne is a sociology professor at Pembroke State University. Ms. Lowry, the Vice-chairman of the Board of Directors, had begun as a trainee at Pembroke Medical Services, Inc. the day the staff was ousted.

Also working at the Center is Ms. Mary Alice Beasley, who is funded by the Senior Citizens Program administered through the Lumber River Council of Government.

Ms. Emanuel expressed appreciation to a number of people in the medical professions, especially Bill Yarborough and Martha Wright associated with Maxton Medical Services and the Robeson County Civil Defense. Both agencies have contributed medical accoutrements to help the new medical facility get its doors open.

Pembroke Medical Services is presently staffed by Dr. Frank Worriax, physician; and Dr. Jeff Collins, a dentist.

Seemingly the Pembroke Medical Services Board of Directors made up of Hubert Oxendine, Chairman; Leslie Chavis; Jimmy Hedgpeh; Clayton Maynor; and Dr. Bobby Brayboy are continuing to operate as a non profit corporation although little information has been disseminated to the public. Oxendine has stated an emphatic "no comment" when queried by the press.

The action follows a suit which was filed against the Pembroke Medical Services existing board-of directors by Carolyn Emanuel, formerly the clinic's executive director, until forced to vacate premises Dec. 29. The lawsuit asks the board to rescind the sale of the facility to Dr. Frank Worriax, a private physician, rehire its seven employees and re-open the facility. The lawsuit was filed by Raeford Attorney Phil Diehl.

The original Pembroke Medical Services Clinic is located off Union Chapel Road and is now occupied by Dr. Frank Worriax and Dr. Jeff Collins, as noted earlier.

The private, non profit clinic was built with a loan from Farmers Home Administration and much of its equipment was secured with federal funds, according to Diehl. The clinic has been in operation two and one half years and was formed to provide reasonably priced medical care.

Ms. Emanuel also contends that the facility was not in dire financial trouble and had recently received a \$36,000 grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Foundation.

Ms. Emanuel's suit was filed in Robeson County Superior Court on January 11. According to Diehl, the clinic can be sold if federal guidelines are

followed. He said the procedures were not followed in the sale, which was performed under a lease-purchase agreement.

Ms. Emanuel said negotiations to sell the clinic had been underway for some time but that the employees were

assured in December that they would have their jobs until at least June.

The lawsuit also claims the clinic was improperly closed and that patient records were delivered to a person not authorized to receive them.



The new staff of Lumbee Medical Center, Inc. They are [l-r] Earl Cummings, physician's assistant; Dr. Emma Balaquer, physician; Rose Clark, receptionist; and Carolyn Emanuel. All were on the staff at Pembroke Medical Services, Inc. until they were "let go" on December 29, 1981.

Walter Oxendine files for Board of Education



Walter G. Oxendine

Because of his concern and dedication for young people--especially students and future students in the Robeson County Educational System and for his concerns and interests in the future and improving the educational society in which we live, Walter G. Oxendine has announced his plans to seek one of the two seats on the Robeson County Board of Education for District IV.

He attended schools in the county system for 12 years, having graduated from Pembroke High School in 1960. He has taught and coached in the county system for 6 years. Both his sons presently attend school in the system, and his mother has taught in the county for 42 years.

With his many experiences with the county system, he fully realizes the progress the Robeson County Schools have made and he feels there are always things that can be done for improvement because of various programs and methods that are changing in the educational system.

Oxendine has a concern to always keep the students first in the decision making progress and believes he can contribute greatly to decisions made that will affect our future: the students in our school system.

He has the following interests that the Board of Education should be concerned with: (1) the limited number of outstanding students entering the teacher education program. We have a large number of well-trained teachers at the present time who are doing a good job but what about the future? Development of plans in this area of concern are vital for the students' future.

(2) There is a need for organized

recreational programs at all schools in the system because not only should the minds be stimulated but the bodies as well. This could be accomplished with a part-time or voluntary program or with a cooperative program with recreational departments; (3) There is a need for at least one full-time social worker for every three schools in the county system to relieve school administrators of many of the student-school problems and allow them more time to concentrate on teachers needs and concerns; (4) Schools should not have to conduct fund-raising projects (unless they want to) for special learning materials and activities. Methods should be implemented to obtain additional funding to assist in meeting the needs of the schools; and (5) Board members should visit the schools in their district on a regular basis to gain knowledge to help them in making educational decisions pertaining to such items as student test scores, teacher supplements, etc.

Oxendine fully realizes that a board member has only one vote. But because of his Christian beliefs and serving as a deacon at Berea Baptist Church; the support of his wife, Connie, and their two sons, Kendall and Kelvin, and his entire family; he believes his other background of having received his B.S. degree from Pembroke State University and his M.A. degree from Appalachian State University and his present employment as

director of Resource Development and Alumni Affairs at Pembroke State University will enable him to represent the students, parents teachers and administrators with honor and dignity on the Robeson County Board of Education in making decisions that will be in the best interests for all concerned for our educational future.

Other experiences which will enable

him to serve with distinction as a board member are his involvements in local, state, and national organizations and activities such as NCAE and NEA; the Jaycees (serving in numerous positions and recognized as one of the five outstanding young men of N.C.); the N.C. Recreational Society and Placement Association; Boy Scouts of America (earning the Eagle Scout Award); and

having served on the Town of Pembroke Planning Board and now serving on the Board of Directors of Southern National Bank (Lumberton Office) and the Robeson County Housing Authority as chairman.

Oxendine states that he is seeking everyone's vote and support in District IV for an opportunity to serve them as a member on the Robeson County Board of Education.