

"Building Community Bridges
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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SUPERINTENDENT PURNELL SWETT HONORED IN LOS ANGELES



Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools.

Mr. Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools, was the recipient of the Leo Reano Memorial Award, which was presented to him July 4, 1982 in Los Angeles, California. The award is presented by the National Education Association during its annual convention.

Mr. Swett was nominated by the Robeson County Association of Educators. The Robeson County Unit, presented him a scrapbook that was done about his various professional and civil activities, in recognition of his achievement at their annual retirement and awards banquet. The scrapbook served as his official nomination for the Leo Reano Memorial Award.

The North Carolina Association of Educators honored him as well as Mrs. Ruth Braswell Jones, the recipient of the H. Council Trenholm Memorial Award, with a breakfast and reception on the morning of July 4, 1982. During this time both Mr. Swett and Mrs. Jones were introduced and recognized by the North Carolina Delegation to the National Convention.

The 16th Annual NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards 1982 Dinner Program was held at the Bonaventure Hotel, July 4, 1982 at 7:00 p.m. It was during this program that Mr. Swett received the official award. Mrs. Agnes Chavis of Pembroke and Mr. John R. McIntyre of South Dakota presented Mr. Swett the award on behalf of Human and Civil Rights Division of NEA.

The award is given to an individual who has provided leadership in resolving social problems particularly as they relate to individuals of the American Indian/Alaska Native heritage. The individual must meet one or more of the following criteria: (1) promoted educational equality for American Indian/Alaska Native children; (2) assisted Indian and non Indian schools in becoming involved in programs which enable them to learn about federal legislation; (3) worked to eliminate the misuse of federal funds set aside to Indian Education; (4) promoted, designed, and coordinated training programs for Indians and non Indian counselors and teachers of Indian students. Mr. Swett was accompanied to Los Angeles by his wife, Mrs. Annette Swett. Others present representing the Robeson County Unit of NCAE were Agnes Chavis, Rose Marie Lowry, Vera D. Malcolm, Thayne Sanderson and Mabel Zeigler.

Mr. Swett is a native of Pembroke, North Carolina where he attended the local county schools and graduated from Pembroke State University. Having entered into a career of education, he further pursued graduate studies at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina. During his tenure as an educator in Robeson County, he taught in the public schools, received an

appointment as a school principal, served as Associate Superintendent, and in 1977 was appointed the first Indian Superintendent in Robeson County. Currently, he is the only Indian public school superintendent in the state of North Carolina or the East Coast of the United States.

As Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools he is responsible for the education of fourteen thousand eight hundred thirteen students. He is responsible for the supervision of one thousand eight hundred six staff people, both professional and non professional.

He is a staunch and persistent advocate of Indian people at the local, state and national levels. During the years 1971-1975, he was employed by the Office of Indian Education, U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C. While employed by this office he was Chief Program Operation for the Division of Education from 1971-1973. He was also a member of the Task Force on Indian Education, and helped to establish the rules and regulations for the organization of Title IV Indian Education. From 1973-1974 he was Program Manager for Parts B and C of Indian Education. Other responsibilities while working with the Office of Education included: Acting Deputy Commissioner from 1974-1975 and Chairman of the Indian Career Education Task Force.

Through these work experiences he has been afforded the opportunities to promote the educational equality of the American Indian/Alaska Native children at a national level. He has helped promote, design, and coordinate programs for educational equality of these children, establishing guidelines to insure the appropriate use of designated federal funds.

His involvement in community and civic affairs is as impressive as his educational pursuits. He was an appointed member of the Board of Trustees of Pembroke State University where he has been both a past chairman and a vice chairman; he is a past president of the Pembroke State University Alumni Association of Educators; a past member of the Board of Trustees of the N.C. Baptist Children's Homes; a past board member of the Robeson County Speech and hearing Satellite Clinic; a former member of the General Board of the N.C. Baptist State Convention; served as chairman of the Screening Committee of the Chancellor's Selection Committee for Pembroke State University; served as Moderator of the Joint Committee on Cooperative Ministries between the Baptist State Convention and the General Baptists.

He was appointed by the Governor to serve on the Interagency Council for Community Schools; has served as past chairman of the State Division of Superintendents' NCAE and Federal State Relations Committee is a current

member of the Southeast Regional Consortium on the Future of Education in the Southeastern United States, and is a current member of the N.C. State Department of Public Instruction Review Panel for Long-Range Local School Needs. He also maintains Membership in the American Association of School Administrators, the N.C. Association of School Administrators, the American Education Finance Association, and a charter member of Phi Delta Kappa of Pembroke State University.

His contribution to the community is significant for numerous reasons, the most outstanding one being that of a successful role model for Indian people. He has demonstrated success both in his personal and professional life, and is continuing to serve as a role model in his chosen profession through community service and professional affiliations.

He is frequently called upon to speak at many educational, religious, and civic functions. In 1974, he presented a paper on "Multi-cultural Dimensions of Education" at Harvard University, and delivered the major address at the Sixth Annual Meeting of the National Indian Education Association.

He has received numerous citations and recognition, however, his commitment to his community and to his career are depicted in his many levels of involvement in the multifaceted associations and roles which he plays an integral part. This commitment is demonstrated in his desire to provide leadership and to participate in those aspects which affect the betterment of the community and the advancement of its citizens by his many activities.

DeVane Rally

Come out and meet Daniel DeVane, of Hoke County. He is a candidate for the N.C. House of Representatives. DeVane will be in the Pembroke Park on Friday, July 23, 1982 from 12 noon until 3:00 p.m. Come and get acquainted. Free refreshments will be available. Sponsored by Pembroke Citizens to Elect DeVane to the House of Representatives.

Special Promotions planned for 'Strike at the Wind!'

by Carnell Locklear
Pembroke-Bruce Barton, the editor of the Carolina Indian Voice newspaper in Pembroke, is one of the most enthusiastic supporters of Strike at the Wind in the area. He freely admits "I love Strike at the Wind. The popular outdoor drama utilizes the talents of all of the peoples of Robeson County. It is truly a tri-racial production from beginning to end. And the drama deserves our support for involving ALL the people, not just a privileged few."

The musical outdoor drama showcases the people of Robeson County and Henry Berry Lowrie, a folk hero who has reached truly heroic heights in the hearts of the Indians whose cause he championed. Set in the turbulent Civil War era, the drama treats whites, Blacks and Indians with dignity, making the point that scoundrels and good guys were in all three camps.

Barton makes a special effort each year to do something "special" for Strike at the Wind. In years past he has organized cookouts, special entertainment and other fund raising activities.

SPECIAL PROMOTIONS: LORI ANN LOCKLEAR, MEDIA NIGHT CHURCH NIGHT

This year he has decided to take three nights during the drama's run and develop special promotions. August 6 is a night that will be devoted to a special pre-show concert, hopefully, to help fill up the audience, one of Barton's most ambitious undertakings. He is attempting to get Lori Ann Locklear to perform. Lori Ann is the upcoming local country music star who recently won the Wrangler Country Star Search competition in Greensboro and later participated in the nationals in Nashville, Tennessee.

A throng of friends, family and well wishers turned out Sunday afternoon to help Dr. Herman Chavis and Dr. Kenneth Locklear mark the opening of their medical facility, Robeson Family Practice Associates in Red Springs.

Robeson Family Practice Associates opened July 19 with office hours from 9:00 a.m. til 5:00 p.m. weekdays; 7:00



Shown, left to right are: Dr. and Mrs. Herman Chavis; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harlie Chavis of Lumberton; Mr. and Mrs. Baker Locklear of Pembroke, parents of Dr. Kenneth Locklear; and Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth E. Locklear.

The two young doctors have established their medical practice in Red Springs on Highway 211 South across from Red Springs Motors. [Bruce Barton photo]

Everyone who has ever heard her in concert goes away singing her praises. Barton swears "She's going to be a star."

Media Night is planned for August 14. Barton hopes to get all the local newspapers, radio stations and television stations to participate in a promotion to sell the entertainment value of Strike at the Wind. Barton says, "Strike at the Wind is good family entertainment and worthy of the media's attention." Strike at the Wind has never had a concerted effort from the local media. Barton hopes to change that with his promotion dubbed, appropriately enough, "Media Night." On this night the media outlets will give away a few subscriptions, record albums, and do special public relations in hopes of drawing a full house to that night's production of Strike at the Wind. Plans are still in the developmental stage but response from local media has been encouraging.

And, of course, Strike at the Wind, is good family entertainment, the reason why Barton believes churches will respond enthusiastically to church night. Said Barton, "On August 20, we are inviting all churches to come as a group, hopefully the parking lot will be filled up with church buses from throughout the area. The church that brings the largest crowd will receive a huge trophy denoting the fact that they had the largest group from their particular church in attendance. This is a night we are really looking forward to."

Barton notes, "I like to showcase and spotlight those things and folks in our community that are positive and uplifting in their endeavors. I count Strike at the Wind at the top of this category. They are worthy of our support. This

area is lucky to have a top flight outdoor drama in our midst. A night at Strike at the Wind is a night to remember. I recommend the drama to all our readers and friends and hope that they will help make these three nights in particular full houses. The drama deserves nothing less."

Of course, Barton might have a special reason for showcasing Strike at the Wind this year...he's in it. He was called in at the last minute, when the actor slated to play the part of Allen Lowrie backed out at the last minute. Barton said, "I play Allen Lowrie, Henry Berry's papa. I have seven lines and I get killed every Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. I must admit that I am enjoying the acting, especially getting to know the rest of the cast."

Strike at the Wind is now in its seventh season, still playing to enthusiastic audiences each Thursday, Friday and Saturday night through August 28.

Carnell Locklear, the comedic "Boss Strong" now in his second season as general manager says, "I never get tired of Strike at the Wind. I am proud to be a part of it. And I just want everyone to come out and see the show and support it. If Bruce Barton fills up the house on these three nights I'll be the happiest man in Robeson County. Besides, being the ham I am, I love playing to a packed audience."

Strike at the Wind is located at the Lakeside Amphitheatre on the grounds of Riverside Country Club in the Red Banks community, three miles west of Pembroke.

Tickets are \$4.00 for adults, \$3.00 for senior citizens over 65, and \$2.00 for children under twelve. More information is available by calling 521-3112.

DRS. HERMAN CHAVIS AND KENNETH LOCKLEAR OPEN MEDICAL PRACTICE IN RED SPRINGS

Voters go back to Polls July 27

INTERESTING RACES DOMINATE JULY 27 RUNOFF.

July 27 is the long anticipated day when voters go back to the polls to choose a county commissioner from the Pembroke-Maxton-Smiths District, elect two members of the Robeson County Board of Education, three members to the North Carolina House of Representatives, and choose two jurists to sit on the N.C. Court of Appeals Court. Those were the only races left undecided from the June 29 primary.

PEMBROKE-SMITHS-MAXTON COMMISSIONER SEAT

Long time incumbent Herman Dial goes against his youthful challenger, Wyvis Oxendine, for the 4th time in the last eight years, in his attempt to retain his seat as the commissioner from the Pembroke-Smiths-Maxton District. Dial outpolled Oxendine 1412 to 1170 in the June 29 primary.

ROBESON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

Two seats are still being contested for the Robeson County Board of Education. Incumbent Lillian Faye Locklear attempts to overcome the lead of William L. (Bill) Oxendine who outpolled her in the June 29 primary although he did not garner enough votes to avoid a runoff. The two are vying for one seat on the county board of education from District 4 which encompasses Raff Swamp, Union, Burnt Swamp and Pembroke. Dr. Dalton Brooks is assured of one of the two seats from District 4 by his strong showing in leading the field in the primary.

Incumbent Ronald Hammonds also finished behind Ronald Revels, his challenger, in the June 29 primary, but Revels did not get enough votes to avoid a runoff. They are vying for the one seat from District 2 which includes portions of South St. Pauls, West Howellsville, Lumberton #1 and all of Saddletree.

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Deep Branch celebrates Centennial

DEEP BRANCH--Deep Branch Baptist Church will celebrate its 100th year of existence with a special Centennial Service Sunday, July 25, 1982.

The public is cordially invited to attend this special historical occasion. Deep Branch was the third church to affiliate under the banner of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association.

Special activities Sunday include devotion by Rev. Harvey Brewington, the current pastor; comments by Rev. Lindberg Chavis, grandson of the late Rev. Zimms Chavis, a former pastor; a history of the church by Mr. Claude Sampson, a long time member of the church; and the message by Rev. T.M. Swett, a former pastor.

A special dinner will be served in the fellowship hall following church services with special singing at 7 p.m.