



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting

P. O. Box 1075 Pembroke, N. C. 28372

Area Code 919 521-2826



VOLUME 10 NUMBER 50

25c PER COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1982

HINSON OUT, HUNT IN AS LREMC GENERAL MANAGER



Ronnie Hunt
by Bruce Barton

from the early 70s when Rev. Elias Rogers had to sue the cooperative for violating his civil rights. Since winning his settlement with LREMC the cooperative has been opened up to the membership in every area, including the electoral process for membership on the board of directors. Rogers, who is now serving as president of the cooperative board of directors, serves on a 12 member board comprised of 10 Indians, 1 Black and 1 white.

Said an observer, "LREMC is probably now the best integrated work force and board in America. We should take a great deal of pride in LREMC's civil rights program since those dark days in the late 60s and early 70s when Rev. Rogers opened the door of opportunity and equality for all of us-- Indian, Black and white."

Ronnie Hunt, who lives on the line on Highway 74 (approximately seven miles from Pembroke) graduated from Pembroke State University in 1973.

Before coming to LREMC he worked for Southern National Bank in Lumberton as Operations Officer. He joined LREMC in 1977 and was named assistant general manager in 1981 after a stint as Manager of Office and Staff Services.

He is married to the former Catherine Loretta Hunt and they are the proud parents of two sons, Corey and Chad.

Seven consumers appeared before the board of directors and questioned Hinson's imminent dismissal. They were James L. Bracey, Eric Prevatte, J. McN. Gillis, Claude Thomas, John Robertson, Carev J. Collins and Edwin Mercer.

Eric Prevatte asked for an explanation, recommended that channels of communication be opened up between the membership and the cooperative. Prevatte suggested district meetings by the directors and an accounting publicly of the general manager's salary and the per diem of board members.

McGillis, one of the original members of the cooperative board when it was formed 41 years ago, said succinctly "I hope you will reconsider this decision."

Claude Thomas, known locally for his Solas Home, questioned the termination of the general manager and severed relationships with the law firm of Crisp, Davis, Schwentker and Page, a Raleigh based law firm now serving the cooperative in favor of the Pembroke law firm of Locklear, Brooks and Jacobs.

Thomas said, "I do not think the local firm can do as well..."

John Robertson, a member of the Red

Spring Town Council where the cooperative is based, praised the relationship between the cooperative and the town. Bracey, Collins and Mercer all spoke forthrightly in favor of re-instating Hinson.

Hubert Prevatte, a former president of the board of directors, also requested permission to speak and asked for Hinson's re-instatement. Following Prevatte's presentation, Bruce Barton, editor of the Carolina Indian Voice, also spoke and reminded the assemblage that the cooperative had not always been "a

by Connee Brayboy

New board members Dr. Dalton Brooks, Bill Oxendine, Ronald Revels and Charles David Locklear received a few surprises on Tuesday night as they began their tenure on the Robeson County Board of Education.

David Green, chairman of the board, stated that many people had asked how the chairman voted on several issues. Until Tuesday night, the chairman only voted in case of a tie. Green announced "Effective tonight, I will exercise my right to vote and make motions on every issue that comes before this board."

Dr. Gerald Maynor attempted to have an item (re-districting) added to the agenda and was informed that to do so required a 2/3 majority vote. Green offered that information and cited the March 6, 1975 minutes as the reason. Many questions were raised by new board members relative to why the procedure was not listed in the procedure manual.

Much heated discussion followed, during which J.R. Musselwhite offered a substitute motion not to add the re-districting item to the agenda. Rufus Graham offered the second. Green ruled his motion out of order because they had not yet voted on Dr. Maynor's motion to add the item.

Finally they voted. Voting for the addition of the item to the agenda was: Dr. Gerald Maynor, Dr. Dalton Brooks, Charles D. Locklear, Ronald Revels and Bill Oxendine.

Opposing the motion were David Green, J.R. Musselwhite, Pete Clark, John A. Gibson and Rufus Graham. E.B. Morton was not present.

Dr. Maynor, Brooks, Oxendine and Revels questioned the need for the chairman to vote. Dr. Maynor said, "this

paragon of virtue," briefly noting that the cooperative had once been sued by a consumer (now a member of the board and its president--Rev. Elias Rogers) for a violation of his civil rights.

Barton also reminded those clamoring for "an answer on why Hinson was fired" that the meetings of the board of directors of the cooperative are now open to the membership because "I was arrested in October 1980 for attempting to attend the meetings." The policy, following that debacle, was changed so that members can now attend meetings. Barton's inference was that he had not seen those disputing the board's action at any meeting of the cooperative since the policy was changed.

Although the board was cautious in talking about Hinson's dismissal, it is known to those who attend meetings that Hinson did not have the support of the full board as many votes were taken that ended on 7-5 count recently. The main reason for the board's disenchantment with Hinson seemed to be incompatibility and, conversely, a poor working relationship between the board and the general manager.

Superintendent Swett survives Ouster Move

bothers me...not from a legal stand point, but from trends of the past. When was the last time a chairman voted on the board of education?" And Green replied, "That really has not concerned me."

Supt. Purnell Swett, in answer to the question, stated that the procedure had not existed during his years of service. "It has not existed in the past 15 or 20 years."

It appeared to be an obvious move on the part of Chairman Green to insure that none of his political power as chairman slipped. And the die was apparently cast for future voting patterns.

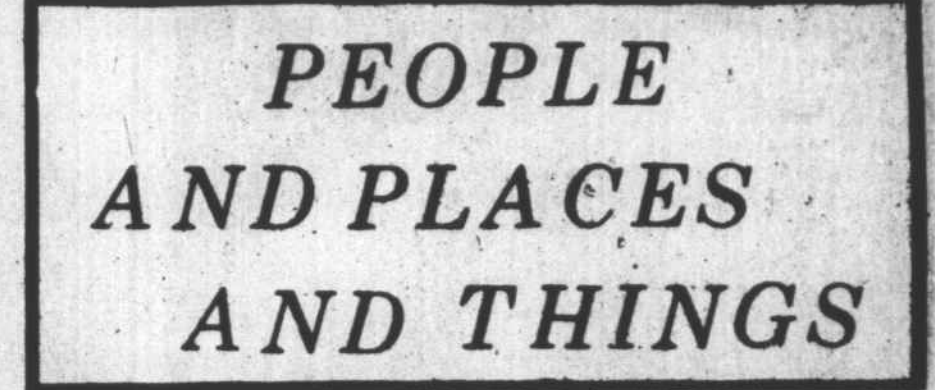
Bill Oxendine made a spirited attempt to have the meeting time changed from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. to accommodate working parents who might wish to attend. The motion for the time change also failed on the same 5-5 vote.

IN OTHER MATTERS

The board unanimously agreed, on recommendation of Supt. Purnell Swett, not to renovate the fire damaged building at Prospect School. They agreed to approach Prospect United Methodist Church for the continued use of its educational building and to offer compensation for heating, etc.

Walter Oxendine, director of alumni affairs at PSU, was hired as the new public relations person for the IEA program.

After a lengthy executive session to consider student re-assignment and personnel, the board again voted on a split decision on the matter of the superintendent's contract. New member Charles D. Locklear moved that Supt. Swett be given a four year contract effective July 1, 1983. John A. Gibson offered the second. Voting for were



LOCAL MAN RETURNS FROM MISSION IN ENGLAND

Ertle C. Jones of 532A Chavis Park, Pembroke, returned home Saturday night after spending 18 months in England on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons). Ertle is the son of Maude Jones.

Another local boy, Jackie Lucas, is serving a mission for the same church in Whittier, California. Jackie is the son of Geneva and James Lucas of Pembroke and the brother of Jeffery Lucas who

spent two years in Australia on a like mission.

AN INVITATION

The Future Business Leaders of America Club of the Robeson County Career Center cordially invites you to attend their Emblem Ceremony and Installation of officers and membership service on Thursday, Dec. 16, 1982 at 7:30 p.m. at the Robeson County School Bus Garage. Speaker will be Mr. Donald A. Bonner, Assistant Superintendent, Robeson County Board of Education. Installing officer will be Mrs. Elaine S. Lowry, First District IV Chairperson.

CHRISTMAS CONCERT PLANNED

The Magnolia High School Chorus and Sixth Grade Chorus will present a Christmas concert entitled "Spirit of Christmas Time" on Monday, Dec. 20, at 1 p.m. in the school gym. Director of the program is Mrs. Sarah Bell and director of the sixth grade chorus in Mrs. Deana Revels. Melody Allison will provide piano accompaniment.

The sixth grade will portray scenes from the manger, the Christmas tree, the Christmas fairies, Santa Claus, the Christmas stocking, and Christmas in foreign lands. Actors are Patricia Locklear, Mary; Dewayne Hardin as Joseph; Aaron Emanuel, Michael McNeill, and Timmy Blackburn as Wisemen; Antonio McMillian, Gerald Hardin and Timmy Hammonds as shepherds; and Shawn Bartley as Santa.

Guest soloists will be Maurice Lowry and Lora Chavis. The public is cordially invited to attend.

CHRISTMAS IS A MIRACLE TO BE PRESENTED

Riverside Independent Baptist Church will present a Christmas play on Sunday, December 19, 1982 at 5 p.m. The play is entitled "Christmas is a Miracle," written by Wilma Burton. The public is invited to attend. The church is located on Highway 74, west of Lumberton. Rev. Chelsey McNeill is the pastor.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Parents and friends are invited to attend the annual Christmas program at Pembroke Middle School on Friday, Dec. 17 at 1:30 p.m.

The play entitled "The Christmas Story" is directed by Vera L. Malcolm, IEA music instructor.

The band will also present musical selections directed by Joseph M. Locklear, IEA band instructor.

Mr. Barry Harding, principal, and staff extend a cordial welcome to attend this program.

Red Springs--It was anti-climatic almost. The Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors stayed in executive session a good part of the afternoon but finally announced late Tuesday afternoon that "effective December 14 at 5 p.m. Mr. Derl Hinson will be released from his duties and responsibilities as general manager of (LR) EMC. We find this action unfortunate but necessary. We believe, however this is in the best interest of the EMC membership and employees."

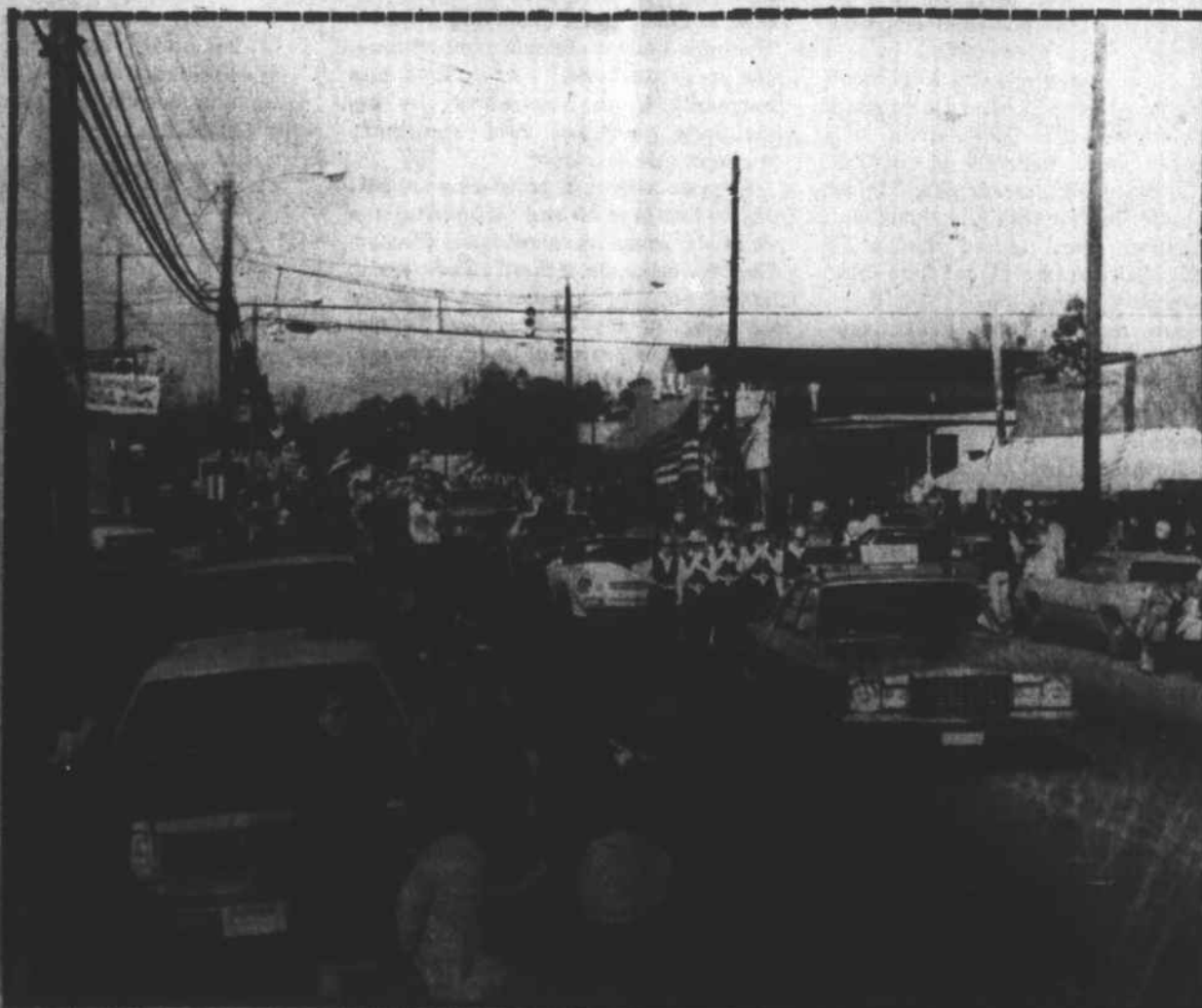
Rev. Elias Rogers, president of the board of directors, then announced that Ronnie Hunt, the assistant general manager, had been named interim general manager.

Hinson had been general manager since 1974. Hunt, 32 years old, is now, to our knowledge, the only minority heading an electric cooperative east of the Mississippi. Hunt will head a cooperative that serves in excess of 20,000 consumers and a 90 employee work force.

Hunt will head one of the largest businesses in the area with an estimated working budget of \$19 million. The membership's racial breakdown is 45% white, 35% Indian and 20% Black. 47% of the 90 employees at LREMC are now either Indian or Black, a far cry



William Lowry is shown left and Barry Omdena, Jr. is shown right. (Elias Hunt photo)



Scenes from the Pembroke Jaycees' 9th Annual Christmas Parade.

Pembroke Jaycees' 9th Annual Christmas Parade

by Gregory Cummings
 Christmas just would not be Christmas without a parade, without colorful floats, funny clowns running around, beautiful queens, marching units, bands and of course the main attraction, Santa Claus.

Friday, Dec. 10, was just that. The Pembroke Jaycees held their 9th Annual Christmas Parade with over 4,500 spectators in attendance. The streets were lined with spectators on both sides for over a mile from the PSU Performing Arts Center to the other side of town to Lumbee Regional Development Association. Of course, the small children were the ones with the biggest smiles on their faces. When Santa appeared with reindeers and sleigh, throwing candy to the crowd. One small child summed it up by saying, "WOW! Now that's Santa Claus."

There were a total of 86 units in the parade with a wide variety of different units. The following entries were

judged in these categories.

Non commercial float winners- first place- Fairmont High- Native American Organization; second place, LRDA; third place- New Prospect Church. Marching Bands- First place, Maxton High School; second place, Prospect School; third place, South Robeson High. Elementary Bands- First place, Pembroke Elementary School.

Marching Units- first place, Pembroke Senior High ROTC.

In behalf of the Pembroke Jaycees and the Town of Pembroke, we would like to thank everyone from Robeson, Scotland and Bladen Counties and the Pembroke community for their support in making the parade very successful. Also, a special thanks to the Pembroke Jaycees for their time in putting the parade together.

On behalf of the Pembroke Jaycees we would like to wish everyone a merry merry Christmas and a happy new year.