

ASI SEE IT



by
**Bruce
Barton**

I REMEMBER CAROLYN...

The death notice was brief and to the point. "Pembroke, Florida--Mrs. Carolyn Sampson, 42, wife of Phil Johnson, the daughter of Mrs. Flowers Sampson of Pembroke died Monday at her home. Funeral services will be announced by Locklear and Son Funeral Home, Pembroke."

Details are sketchy. Carbon monoxide poisoning we've heard. We are not sure. But I mourn her passing. She was a beautiful lady and human being.

I remember her as Carolyn Sampson, beautiful, vivacious, smart, a leader, at the head of the class. The daughter of Mrs. Flowers and the late and esteemed Sanford Sampson. Her father taught history, her Uncle Benny plied us with chemistry, physics and the like.

When I think of Carolyn I think of the word 'effortless.' Success and adulation came easily to her, as if it were her rightful due. She and I were in the same grade, graduating in 1958 from Pembroke Senior High School. We were not to see each other again until a few years ago when her father died and she came home for the funeral. We reminisced, enjoyed talking again. And I told her how much I admired her father, his sense of integrity, his stick-to-it-iveness, his scholarly ways, his commitment to family, community and church. It was a nice visit and Carolyn was as beautiful as ever. I secretly had a crush on her all my life although I never told anyone until now.

And death has now claimed Carolyn as the Grim One will, in time, claim us all. We miss her, hold her in our mind's eye as the Perfect Woman, upon a pedestal and the one we called "maybe the most beautiful woman I ever knew..."

We offer sincere and heartfelt condolences to all her family and friends. Carolyn will be funeralized at Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke Friday at 3:30 p.m.

GO BY AND SEE MS. LUCY JANE IF...

You're interested in arts and crafts or if you simply want to meet a vivacious and positive human being. Mrs. Lucy Jane Oxendine fits either bill.

Always interested in arts and crafts and intimately involved when Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) operated an arts and crafts cooperative Mrs. Oxendine has opened her own shop next door to Bryant's Kwik Shop (formerly the Seaboard Grill) on the corner of Union Chapel and Railroad Streets in Pembroke.

Her business is named appropriately enough "Lumbee Indian Arts and Crafts" and carries a lot of offerings from our local Indian artists, as well as arts and crafts from other Indian reservations and organizations.

Retired as a school teacher "because of my arthritis" Mrs. Lucy Jane's favorite diversion now, apart from her family, business and church, is the Carovells, a singing group made up of herself and two sisters--Bessie Williamson and Joan Davis. They enjoy singing together at singings and church meetings and gatherings throughout the county.

Mrs. Oxendine is a member of Harper's Ferry Baptist Church and enjoys meeting people and "staying busy."

Her shop is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. daily "unless my ailments keep me away." Go by and see her. You'll enjoy the experience of

meeting her and you might find something of interest to buy too.

WE OFFER CONSOLES TO DR. PAUL FREIWIRTH

Dr. Paul Freiwirth taught history for a number of years at Pembroke State University before retiring to live among us on the Pates Road near Pembroke. You can see him most days walking to and from the post office in Pembroke.

He's a private but nice and friendly man, giving pleasant greetings to all who cross his path. We have come to like him and look forward to seeing him daily at the post office.

A tragedy recently came his way. His two mobile homes (joined by a breezeway) were burned and his safe taken off. His mobile homes burned but, according to law enforcement officials, his safe was recovered unopened.

We are thankful that he was not hurt and offer him our condolences. We believe a man's home is truly his castle and that one's property is a sanctified place, hopefully free from harm and danger.

No arrests have been made to date in the mishap. Dr. Freiwirth has purchased him another mobile home and is busily getting settled in again

with his prized books and writings on numerology and other interests. We wish him well.

LET'S STOP THE KILLING...

ATMORE, Ala.--A lawyer said John Louis Evans III was "tortured in the name of vengeance disguised as justice," but Alabama officials said Saturday the outcry would not stop such executions.

Equipment failures Friday night during Evans' execution led his lawyer, watching from the witness room with three reporters, to beg Gov. George Wallace for mercy.

It took three 30-second jolts of 1,900 volts of electricity over a 9-minute span to kill the man accused of murdering a Mobile, Ala., pawnbroker.

The drawn-out execution--caused when an electrode strap malfunctioned--drew immediate response.

"John Evans was burned alive by the state of Alabama," his lawyer, Russell Canan said. "Three times... John Evans was tortured in the name of vengeance disguised as justice."

Betty Dickson, Evans' mother, said the family's only regret "was the agony we felt caused by the method used to carry out the execution."

Letters Opposed to misguided Nuclear freeze

"...his foot in his mouth again"

Dear Editor:

I am a veteran of two wars, World War II, and Korea, and I am opposed to the misguided nuclear freeze, which would benefit our communist adversaries, and show a sign of weakness of U.S.

No-one wants to achieve a genuine reduction in nuclear arms than the President, but his proposals have fallen on deaf ears in the Kremlin. The Soviets seem to prefer the concept of premature freeze that locks them into a position of permanent military superiority. My Motto: Peace Thru Strength.

We have no assurance that the Soviets would not also violate a freeze agreement. I am a Pearl Harbor survivor, and I don't want to see another Pearl Harbor. Remember Pearl Harbor. "Keep America Alert."

T/Sgt. William P. Revels
U.S. Air Force, Ret.
St. Pauls, NC

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"The loss of John's life leaves a void," she said. Let's stop the killing. All of it. The state has no more right to kill than you and I, as I see it.

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MAYNOR'S EXXON

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

We Cannot Know Where We Are Going If We Don't Know Where We've Been...

So fittingly we honor our Pioneer Fathers

MEANDERING WITH GARRY L. BARTON

Remember - these views are mine, they are not necessarily anyone else's; they aren't even necessarily views.

I missed a great opportunity last week to tell another of my favorite jokes. If I had thought about it in time I would have told about the young man who was standing before the judge on a child support rap. The judge asked the man, "Is the child your's, son?" "Oh, yes!" replied the man proudly. "Then the court awards the mother \$25 per week to help support your child, son," said the judge. The fellow scratched his head and looked at the judge incredulously. "That's mighty white of you, Judge," the muddleheaded lad said. "And I'll even try and give her a few dollars myself."

But I didn't think about it in time so I won't tell it.

The popular movie, "Roots," has made people more aware of their ancestry tree. And this fascination with from whence we came is good, in my opinion. I like the adage that appears somewhere on this page. It says in essence that you will never know where you are going if you do not know where you have been. There's a lot of truth to that.

But what really blows my mind is the way some whites and Indians act when tracing their family tree and finding a Black perched on a limb. More times than not they will try to knock him off and hide him among the roots. It saddens me to see them acting as if the Black's blood will contaminate their pure (sic) family blood line. Such actions are dangerous, in my opinion. Indeed, such thinking is the product of the same type of warped mentality that gave us the Ku Klux Klan.

Shoot! I'm not afraid a Black will chop down my family tree. It wouldn't surprise me in the least -- and it certainly wouldn't unduly alarm me -- to find out I had a Black ancestor; afterall I didn't order this "bad" hair from Sears & Roebuck. Big deal! So what? Will a little (or a lot for that matter) Black blood cause a Family Tree to wilt and die. I dare say not.

If you stop and think about it, nothing is pure anymore. When was the last time you saw a virgin? Heck! The good ol' U.S. of A. is nothing but a melting pot anyway. We are simply an amalgamation of many peoples and nationalities. So where do we get off harping on pure blood lines, or pure anything for that matter. So, what is so horrendous about having a Black in your Family Tree?

Perhaps the reason I am not uptight about this issue is because I have an affinity with my Black brothers. (And don't start no rumors; I'm not talking about my brothers Bruce, Rodger and Ricky.)

I used to kid my mother; I'd tell her that I was thirteen before I found out I weren't a Black. Society taught me Blacks had dark skin. (Whenever I looked in a mirror a dark-skinned dude looked back at me). Society taught me that Blacks had "bad," "knotty," or let's call a spade a spade (no pun intended)...I'm talking about "kinky" hair. (That dude staring back at me in the mirror had "kinky" grass, too.) So, you see, I had (and still have for that matter) many of the traits and characteristics society branded Blacks with. So what? I had my first head-on collision

with racism when I was thirteen. I lived in Chapel Hill at that time (during the racially-rife '60s). When I went to a restaurant take out orders were not optional; it was the order of the day. In other words, the proprietors would accept my money but not my company. But, being an optimist, I could even see a little light at the end of this dark and dreary tunnel--at least, I thought to myself, whites aren't prejudiced when it comes to the color green.

I'm afraid society, in general, is kind of warped anyway. There are some of you reading this now whose jaws are warped because I dared broach such a touchy subject. We will look down our noses at our Black brothers. We'll shun our Black brothers as if they had the plague. Then we will spend gobs of money to mock every fad or fashion that comes from the Black race. People, that's wierd to me.

We need to remember that God made one race of people -- the human race. That's why, in my dealings with my fellow man, I try to look beyond the color of his skin.

It wouldn't surprise me in the least for God to get sick of all this racism crap and strike us all color blind. Maybe then we wouldn't be so color-conscious.

That would be mighty white of Him wouldn't it? Oops! Strike that last sentence!

EDITORIAL OPINIONS... The Carolina Indian Voice

LREMC ACTION GROUP'S LAWSUIT DROPPED

Confirming rampant rumors, the LREMC Action Group voluntarily dropped its lawsuit against the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC) board of directors Monday and Judge D.B. Herring signed an order dissolving a temporary restraining order and setting aside an interim settlement and consent order entered March 15.

It was complete vindication for the board of directors and the maligned cooperative. Although the LREMC Action Group, led by their spokesman Carl Branch, cited a lack of financial resources, the suit was dropped because their position was not defensible. They, in fact, abandoned the suit because the legal hand writing was on the wall. The dissidents would have lost in a court of law, and they knew it.

The cooperative and board of directors were brilliantly defended by their special counsel Barry Nabell of Chapel Hill and their corporate counsel Coleman, Bernholz, Dickerson, Bernholz, Gledhill and Hargrove, also of Chapel Hill. Said a fellow, "a good lawyer's worth his weight in gold."

But, instead of more recrimination and name calling it is time for the olive branch, the hand of friendship and cooperation. The board of directors should not, as we see it, abandon any of its rights as board members but they should, if possible, now be conciliatory and friendly.

The dissident action has cost the cooperative a lot of money and expense in bringing this, as we see it, baseless and needless lawsuit, but it is over now and we ought to look ahead instead of behind us. Those who deal in wild eyed rhetoric like Carl Branch, the spokesman for the dissidents, should never be rewarded. But we suspect that Branch's preoccupation with race does not rightly represent the views of most of the 20,000 members of the LREMC body: It's sad that the LREMC Action Group has not said so publicly.

EXPEDIENCY SEEMS TO BE FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS AS UNLIKELY COALITION PROMISES TO DENY DEMOCRATIC PARTY CHAIRMANSHIP TO BLACK

Expediency seems to be the first order of business at Saturday's upcoming gathering of Robeson County Democrats. An unlikely coalition of Whites and Indians (mostly from the Western end of the county) promises to deny a Black the chairmanship of the Robeson County Democratic Party as part of a gentlemen's agreement that has prevailed in recent years as the chairmanship has been rotated among the races. According to that agreement it is a Black's turn to be chairman of the Robeson County Democratic Party.

But it is more than mere race. It is part of an internecine feud between those Indians allied with Herman Dial, the recently deposed political power, and a new coalition of Indians (many of them progressive and interested in forging new alliances) who, in the main, supported Wyvis Oxendine, now firmly in place as the county commissioner from the Maxton (comprising the Maxton, Smiths and Pembroke Precincts) Commissioner District.

Said one of them in a recent interview, "the old alliances have not worked and we are interested in forging new friendships and coalitions that will offer something more than the traditional betrayals of the past."

Many Indians are seemingly still disillusioned because of a perceived lack of support for Gary Lynn Locklear from the Black community in his losing race for district judge. Others seem disenchanted with David Green, the Black chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education.

It will be interesting to see what happens Saturday at 1 p.m. as the Robeson County Democratic Party convention begins. It will be an interesting agenda although expediency seems to be the first order of business.