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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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FORMER EMPLOYEE ASKS \$200,000, RETURN OF HER JOB IN SUIT AGAINST COUNTY LIBRARY

by Bruce Barton

FAYETTEVILLE--A former employee of the Robeson County Public Library, who claims she was fired for supporting the religious convictions of another library employee, has sued the library, asking for \$200,000 in punitive and compensatory damages and return of her job and past wages and salary.

Yvonne Hutchison believes she was fired by Diana Tope, the former county librarian, for supporting the religious convictions of Mattie Locklear who was briefly fired herself by Tope for refusing to work on Sundays.

In February 1980, Diana Tope secured approval from the library's Board of Trustees to open the library on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m. The Sunday hours have since been curtailed.

At first, according to the lawsuit filed in Eastern District Federal Court in Fayetteville this week by Lumbee River Legal Service in behalf of Ms. Hutchison, Ms. Tope attempted to accommodate the religious convictions of Ms. Mattie Locklear, a long time library employee, who refused to work on Sunday because of her religious beliefs.

In March, 1980, according to the suit, Tope directed Hutchison to investigate the legality of compelling Mattie Locklear to work Sundays against her will or of terminating her in the event she refused to work Sundays, and specifically

directing to solicit ideas and views from other directors of public libraries in the state, from the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, and from other sources.

Hutchison, whose varied duties as administrative secretary to the librarian, included employee scheduling, did as directed. Her finding convinced her that Locklear's religious convictions should be respected, and she developed 4 possible options that attempted to resolve the matter. The options were: a. Excuse Mattie Locklear from Sunday work; b. Place the burden on Mattie Locklear to secure a substitute employee to work her Sunday rotation; c. Excuse Mattie Locklear from Sunday work but require her to work one Thursday night for each Sunday excused; d. Require Mattie Locklear to reimburse another employee to work her Sunday rotation.

None of the options satisfied Tope, according to the lawsuit, and she fired Mattie Locklear on May 2, 1980, against the vigorous objections of Ms. Hutchison.

Hutchison noted that she advised Locklear she should seek legal help, contact the local press and her county commissioner, at that time Herman Dial.

Immediately after an article appeared in *The Carolina Indian Voice* criticizing the firing of Mattie Locklear, on Thursday, May 15, 1980, Ms. Tope conferred with Tom Long, the Chairman of the Library Board of Trustees, and thereafter Tope ordered Hutchison not to talk with anyone concerning the firing of Mattie Locklear, and told her that if she did not agree with Tope's firing of Mattie Locklear Plaintiff should look for another job.

On or about May 18, 1980, Plaintiff met with Robeson County Commissioner Herman Dial and discussed the firing of Mattie Locklear, outlining for him the same four alternatives she had outlined to Tope.

On or about May 21, 1980, Commissioner Herman Dial met with Library Board of Trustees Chairman Tom Long and Board Member Dickson McLean, and Commissioner Dial explained to them the four options for retaining Mattie Locklear and Long and McLean indicated that what Commissioner Dial proposed was acceptable.

Shortly thereafter, Mattie Locklear was rehired where she continues to work today.

Diana Tope, shortly thereafter, began to curtail Yvonne Hutchison's duties, changed the locks on the library doors, became uncommunicative and, on or about July 16, 1980, the Library Board of Trustees accepted Tope's recommendation and eliminated Yvonne Hutchison's job. Hutchison was informed of her termination by Tope on or about July 22, 1980, effective immediately, and told by Tope that Plaintiff was being fired for "budget reasons."

Hutchison alleges too that Tope, at sometime on or about July 16, 1980, fabricated and back-dated memoranda concerning Plaintiff's work and placed them in her personnel file, such memoranda containing false, scurrilous, derogatory, and inaccurate information intentionally designed to prevent Plaintiff from obtaining satisfactory future employment.

Ms. Hutchison believes that she has remained unemployed since being fired because of the publicity that resulted and her persistence in pressing for the return of her job.

Diana Tope has since left the Robeson County Library and now works in Georgia in a similar capacity.

The present librarian is Bob Fisher.

Economic Development of the Congressional Black Caucus; and a member of the Joint Economic Committee.

He holds a total of seven Honorary Degrees, i.e., four Doctor of Humane Letters, two Doctor of Law, and one Doctor of Social Sciences.

Another amendment introduced by Congressman Mitchell aimed at assisting minority business participation in the multi-billion dollar gas tax/highway repair bill, was signed into law on January 6, 1983 by President Reagan.

The Mitchell Amendment will allow minority business to be eligible for a minimum of 10 percent of the money authorized to be appropriated under the new Public Law. Under the Mitchell Amendment, there is a potential for 7 billion dollars worth of contract opportunities for minority businesses through 1986.

Congressman Mitchell has received praise from across the country on his latest accomplishment. His friend and colleague, Congressman Joseph Addabbo of New York said, "Parren is highly respected in the halls of Congress and throughout the United States for his leadership and dedication to the cause of improving the economic conditions of the minority business community. I am proud to be a supporter of Parren in a cause that is good for the nation."

"I am deeply pleased that my colleagues of both parties in the House and Senate did not waiver in their support of my recently enacted amendment. A special word of appreciation must be given to Senator Allan Cranston (D-CA) who was a key Senate supporter of the Mitchell Amendment and to Chairman James Howard of the Committee on Public Works and Transportation of the U.S. House of Representatives," said Mitchell.

According to Mitchell, "These are desperate days for minority businesses. However, they have seen a glimmer of hope by the recent minority business announcements of the Administration. My amendment comes at an excellent time in the struggle to save minority businesses from economic starvation."

What it means to us... Congressman Parren Mitchell is a popular man in Baltimore's sizable (estimated to be more than 4,000) Lumbee Indian Community; many of them come to his office with their problems. And he is quick to help them.

On the Business Front.... News Affecting the Lumbee Business Community

By Bruce Barton

Editor's Note: This is a new column which will appear in the Carolina Indian Voice from time to time with news and information affecting the Lumbee business community.

Business and economic development seems to be one of the last unexplored frontiers as far as we as a people are concerned.

I hope this column will begin to change the way we feel and think and act about money and business and economic development.

Congressman Parren Mitchell, a hero to and champion of the Minority Business Community

It has been said of him, "Parren Mitchell obeys no paymaster-he is his own man and owes no allegiance to anyone except his people, not only those of his 7th Congressional District of Maryland but those across the nation."

The May 15, 1982 edition of the *Baltimore Afro American* newspaper said, "Parren J. Mitchell is more than a Congressman, he's a humanitarian... After a period of varied and distinguished public service, Parren J. Mitchell was elected Maryland's first Black Congressman in 1970."

In 1976, Mitchell attached to then President Carter's \$4 billion Public Works Bill an amendment that compelled state, county and municipal governments seeking federal grants to set aside ten percent of each grant to retain minority firms as contractors, subcontractors, or suppliers. Mitchell's single amendment resulted in more than \$625 million (15%) going to legitimate minority firms. Following numerous court challenges, "The Mitchell Amendment" was upheld as constitutional by U.S. Supreme Court in July, 1980.

He has also introduced legislation which, in 1978, became Public Law 95-507, requiring proposals from contractors to spell out goals for awarding contracts to minority subcontractors. This law potentially provides access to billions of dollars for minority businesses.

During his twelve years in Congress, Mitchell has served with distinction as: Member of the House Budget Committee Vice Chairman of the Joint Committee on Defense Production, and Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Presently he serves as: Chairman of the Small Business Committee; a Whip-At-Large; a senior Member of the House Banking, Finance and Urban Affairs Committee; Chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing, Minority Enterprise and

...More next week.

A People Profile....
Thomas Earl Locklear



Thomas Earl Locklear

by Connie Brayboy

The completion of West Robeson High School will bring many changes to the three school area (Pembroke, Prospect and Maxton). These changes can be challenging, progressive and rewarding. It all depends on how one views change.

For Thomas Earl Locklear, the change for him is an opportunity to expand and grow as a person. Locklear has begun his position as principal of Pembroke Middle School, effective July 1 after serving as principal of Pembroke Junior High for eight years.

He is enthusiastic about the coming school year and is busily preparing the facility for the seventh grade students who will attend. The present middle school plant, formerly Pembroke Graded School, will no longer be utilized by the Robeson County School System. Those students will attend the Pembroke Junior High Building which will become Pembroke Middle School. The present Pembroke Senior High will become Pembroke Junior High. The high school students will become a part of the new West Robeson High School which consolidates Pembroke Senior High, Prospect High and Maxton High.

The changes sound complicated, but they are educationally solid, according to Locklear. "Change is good for our system," he said. "I requested a change of principalships for my own educational advancement, among other reasons. I feel that it is advantageous for me, as a person, to change every few years. I will not only be going into a younger age bracket, but I will also be administering a small school in terms of students and faculty," he continued. Pembroke Junior High was composed of approximately 600 students and 31 faculty members, an assistant principal and a guidance counselor. Pembroke Middle School will house approximately 315 seventh graders. There will be 13 faculty members, no assistant principal and no guidance counselor.

Locklear places a great deal of emphasis on exposure to new ideas, new people, etc. "There is much more to the education of a student," he said, "than simply acquiring knowledge contained in books, although that is very important. It is also important for students to learn how to get along well with others, as well as how to apply acquired learning to every day situations."

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

CRISIS LINE

Contact Crisis Line at 738-8125, 8 PM-12PM, Friday thru Sunday. You Talk-We Listen.

MISSIONARY SPEAKS TO BURNT SWAMP BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Dr. Fran Greenway, a missionary from Africa (Ghana) will be speaking and showing slides at Harpers Ferry Baptist Church July 16, 1983 at 6:30 p.m.

Everyone is encouraged to attend, especially the pastors and mission workers from each church. This is a great opportunity for the youth of your church to hear the missionary and hear about her work in Africa (Ghana). There will be refreshments served after the meeting.

ROBESON COUNTY BEEKEEPERS TO MEET

The Robeson County Beekeepers Association will hold their regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, July 19 at 8 p.m. at O.P. Owens Agricultural Building in Lumberton. Slides and tapes on beekeeping will be presented. The public is invited to attend.

PSU BOOSTER CLUB TENNIS TOURNAMENT

The Pembroke State University booster club tennis tournament will be held August 1-7.

There will be men's and women's singles competition, mixed doubles, senior men's and women's singles (35, 45, 55, and 65 depending on entries).

There will also be junior events, singles and doubles in 10-year old and under, 12-under, 14-under, 16-under and 18-under.

To enter, contact tournament director Dr. Ken Johnson at 521-4694 or 1 Dogwood Lane, Pembroke. Entry is \$5 per event plus a can of balls.

PSU BRAVES CLUB MEMBERSHIPS NOW ON SALE

Memberships for the Pembroke State University Braves Club for 1983-84 are now on sale on the PSU campus.

Many benefits are given to members with costs being \$20 for a booster, \$35 for an individual, \$50 for a family, and \$100 for a business.

For more information or to be sent a free brochure call 521-3522 daily or write: Braves Club, Pembroke State University, Pembroke, NC 28372.

The Braves Club is the athletic booster club at Pembroke State University which supports the Athletic Scholarship Fund.

ATTENTION

The Lumberton Recreation and Parks Department is attempting to compile a resource file on area talent.

If you are 1. an individual performer 2. a member of a local entertainment group 3. or know of such people who would like to be included in this effort.

Please contact Mable Floyd, at the Bill Sapp Recreation Center Phone-738-1411 Help make it possible for our Department to promote its own area talent: Drama, Gymnastics, Magicians, Whistlers, Vocalists, Ventriloquists, Musicians, Majorettes, Comedy Acts, Dances (types of Dances) Bands-(type of music), ANY OTHER PERFORMERS.

CONTACT PERSON:
Mable Floyd
P.O. Box 758
Lumberton, NC 28358
Phone: 738-1411
Bill Sapp Recreation Center

THE APOSTLES QUARTET TO VISIT MT. AIRY

The Apostles Quartet from Lumberton will be the featured gospel group at Mt. Airy Baptist Church on Hwy. 72, West of Lumberton, on Sunday, July 17 at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited to come early for a good seat.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS AT MT. AIRY

Mt. Airy Baptist Church is having their Vacation Bible School August 1-5 from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m. daily at the church. Registration will be on Saturday, July 30 from 2 p.m. until 3 p.m. Ages 3 and up. Everyone is invited to attend. Refreshments will be served.

PEMBROKE FFA

Six members of the Pembroke FFA Chapter received the State Farmers Degree at the 55th State FFA Convention in Raleigh on Friday, June 17. The State Farmers Degree is the highest membership award presented on the state level. Those receiving degrees were Kent Cummings, Donald Oxendine, Jimmy Cummings, Kenneth Ray Hunt, Dwayne Locklear and Christopher Locklear. The local chapter was also presented plaques for chapter safety program and national chapter awards programs. The Pembroke Chapter rated superior in both categories.

SPECIAL SING

There will be a Special Gospel Sing Sunday, July 17, 1983, 7:30 p.m. at Sandy Plains United Methodist Church. A very special choir (The Native American Community Choir) which is composed of United Methodist from the local Native American Churches will render several songs. The choir is under the direction of Mr. Harold D. Jacobs.

Also the Gospel Spiritual Quartet and the Plainsmen will render special music. These three groups along with other Ethnic groups participated in the S&J Convocation at Lake Junaluska this week. It was an enlightening experience for them. The public is cordially invited to share in this special sing on Sunday at 7:30 p.m.

GOSPEL SING

The Burnt Swamp Association will hold a Gospel Sing at New Point Baptist Church on Highway 41 near the Lumberton Jaycees Fairground, between Lumberton and Fairmont, beginning at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday.

Everyone is invited to attend and participate, especially singing groups.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This serves as a legal notice that the Prospect Jaycees are re-organized as a not-profit organization to be known as the Prospect Native American League. By a vote of the majority of the members present at a meeting held May 23, 1983, a motion was passed to discontinue affiliation with the N.C. Jaycees and reorganize the club.

A meeting of the members will be held July 23rd, 1983 at 3 p.m. at the new clubhouse property of the organization to discuss the reorganization and other matters. Anyone having claims against the Prospect Jaycees, Inc. are urged to contact the former officers or appear at the meeting. All present and former members of the organization are urged to attend.

Millard Lowry, President
Sam Jacobs, Secretary, Treasurer

ASSISTANT PRINCIPALS OF WEST ROBESON NAMED

Purnell Swett, Supt. of Robeson County Schools, recently recommended the assistant principals of West Robeson High School. The two assistants are Dwight Pearson and Ernie Locklear. Members of the Robeson County Board of Education approved these selections

over the opposing vote of William L. "Bill" Oxendine of Pembroke. Colon Lane, Jr. was named principal of Parkton School. He replaces Jerry West who resigned that position. Numer Locklear was also named assistant principal of Littleton