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"Building Communicative Bridges
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Pembroke Loses Seat as County School Board Redraws District Lines

-A NEWS ANALYSIS-

by Bruce Barton

Irony. Irony. Irony. There were a lot of ironies expressed Tuesday night as the Robeson County Schools Board of Education adopted a redistricting scheme that essentially guts Pembroke, and assures the whites of Clyburn Pines-Country Club area representation "as long as the river runs and the grass stays green" punned an onlooker.

Robeson County Schools is made up of a pupil enrollment (as counted at the end of last year's school year and not adding Clyburn Pines-Country Club area) of 8,922 Indians, 3,225 Blacks and 2,390 Whites. That is 61% Indian, 22% Black and 17% White. Going even further, the faculty (including principals and excluding the Central staff) is made up of 375 Indians, 151 Blacks and 229 Whites and that percentages out at 50% Indian, 20% Black and 30% White.

The school board is made up of 6 Indians, 3 Blacks and 2 Whites. One would think the minorities (especially the Indians) would carry the day on any given situation. Right? Wrong!

Consider the redistricting plan which was presented Tuesday night. It was presented via motion by E.B. Morton, Jr. (White) and seconded by J.R. Musslewhite (White). And the motion carried 8 in favor (including Indians Charles David Locklear, Ronald Revels and Blacks Rufus Graham, John A. Gibson and David Green) and three against (including Indians Bill Oxendine, Dr. Gerald Maynor and Dr. Dalton Maynor), all

from the Pembroke area.

Anyway, the redistricting plan is reproduced on page 7 of this issue, subject to review by the Justice Dept. following a public hearing set for August 19 in O.P. Owens Auditorium in Lumberton.

An irony is that the committee that came up with the plan is chaired by a white (E.B. Morton, Jr.) and also includes the other white on the board, J.R. Musslewhite. Others on the committee include Dr. Gerald Maynor, Ronald Revels and Pete Clark.

Another irony is that no one on the committee would accept authorship for the scheme. Dr. Gerald Maynor did not attend the Monday night meeting of the committee at which time Musslewhite presented the plan (different from the one presented in November, 1982, this one guts Pembroke.) Musslewhite would not say where he got the plan and did not deny assertions made by this reporter that he most likely did not draw it up himself. Morton, the chairman, affirmed that he did not know where the plan came from although he did note that he agreed with it. Revels, Clark and Maynor all denied knowledge of where the plan came from and who drew it up.

Bill Oxendine asked each member directly but not one admitted that they knew anything about it. But it is ironic that the two whites (Morton and Musslewhite) served on the committee and presented the plan.

Another irony is that two Indians--

Dr. Gerald Maynor, who is chairman of the education department at Pembroke State University, and Dr. Dalton Brooks, who heads PSU's Institutional Research, did not serve on the committee or have any input in developing a redistricting scheme. It is interesting and ironic that neither of the two educators on the board had anything to do with the plan.

Pembroke seems to lose most from the scheme. Oxendine, under the new plan, will lose two years of his elected term and Maynor and Brooks will have to fight over the same seat.

The plan, of course, accomodates Clyburn Pines, Country Club areas which were annexed into the county system last year.

The new plan creates 11 single member districts with the present District IV (which now includes Burnt Swamp, Pembroke, Raft Swamp and Union Precincts) changing to add Burnt Swamp and Raft Swamp into a new district with Clyburn Pines, Country Club area.

Pembroke would be divided into two districts, one known as District IV which includes all of the newly created North Pembroke Precinct with Union Precinct and another encompassing the new South Pembroke Precinct.

Dr. Gerald Maynor, one of those who voted against the plan, said plainly that "the plan stinks." And Oxendine charged that the plan was authored by someone not on the board or serving on the committee that presented the

scheme. The inference cast by Oxendine and others is that the scheme is political, rather than educational, in nature, and no one seemed to dispute the claim.

IN OTHER MATTERS

The board decided to change the opening of school from August 29 back to September 6 in order to accomodate the late tobacco crop and attorney Earl Homer Strickland noted that Eric Prevatte and others from the Clyburn Pines area were still contesting the Clyburn Pines-Country Club area annexations and that they were scheduled to appear in Robeson County Superior Court Monday to challenge the constitutionality of the annexation.

The board also announced four new assistant principals, three women and a male. They are: Virginia Emanuel at Magnolia; Vicky Jones at Townsend; Lou Hedrick at R.B. Dean; and Verdita Deese at Pembroke Elementary.

The board also approved 12 new teaching contracts, and added back 12 teachers who had not been rehired until last night.

The board also approved fund raising activities at the schools, received a progress report on West Robeson (seems to be on schedule and will be ready for opening of school on September 6), other items including pupil assignment, selling of land, and removing modular buildings from Maxton High campus.

The board also heard from Broughton Oxendine who complained that the Rex-Rennert School area was not represented by the advisory council that serves the Magnolia, Parkton and Rex Rennert areas. The board took Oxendine's complaint under advisement and promised an answer at the next meeting.

"Strike at the Wind!"

"Places in 15 minutes!" yells the stage manager. At that moment the actors rush to finish their make-up and putting on their costumes. They also prepare mentally to go onstage. The tech people make sure communications with the light booth is clear. They also make sure 'props are set. The stage manager yells, "Places!" Then there are announcements. The actors are set. The music starts, lights up. The actors appear now as people of the past. And once again the magic of 'Strike at the Wind!' comes to

life. To watch it seems simple. Most people would be amazed at the work that goes behind putting on a production of this size. In a production like this money is a big factor. This money being raised by the General Manager, be it from donations, grants or loans, this money has to be raised. This buys programs, pays for publicity, pays actors and tech people, staff people and maintenance for the theatre and for production materials. Then there's the work directly involved with the

production. The director, assistant director and stage manager are responsible for some 60 plus cast members for a period of 4 weeks to put the show together. These 60 plus people sacrifice a lot of time and energy away from family and friends to make this show work. Most of these people work a full time job then rush home, grab a bite to eat and spend four hours 6 nights a week during rehearsals to bring to you the best outdoor drama in America. This year 'Strike at the

Wind!' is better and more exciting than ever. These improvements are credited to the many people involved with the show who have given their time and energy to make it the best. So come on out and support our people and show your appreciation for all the hard work involved and see 'Strike at the Wind!' 'Strike at the Wind!' is performed every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night through August 27 at 8:30 p.m. at the Lakeside Amphitheatre at the Riverside Country Club.

See New
Plan on
Page 7



Henry's capture at his wedding. Left to right: Bill Ray, Melton Lowry, David Oxendine, Hope Sheppard,

Bobby Oxendine, Jenny Henson, Tara Locklear, Dale Graham, Robert Bryant.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

LRDA RECEIVES GRANT

Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) announces the receipt of \$201,260 from the U.S. Office of Education, Department of Indian Education to operate three (3) Lumbee Longhouse Learning Centers. The objectives of the program is to provide culturally oriented early childhood education for 120 3-5 year-old Indian children.

The Lumbee Longhouse Learning Centers will be located at Pembroke, Magnolia, and Fairgrove. The Pembroke center will be located behind Mr. Zeb Lowry's, across from Pembroke State University; the Magnolia center will be behind Saddletree Church of God and the Fairgrove center will be located at Fairgrove School. Applications are now being accepted from each area. You may apply at each location or at LRDA's Annex building in Pembroke. Spaces are limited so apply now.

For more information please call Lumbee Indian Education at 521-2401.

OUTDOOR WORSHIP SERVICE

An Outdoor Worship Service, sponsored by the N.C. Indian Christian Ministry Association, will be held at 4 p.m., Sunday evening, in the Pembroke Town Park. Rev. Mike Cummings is scheduled to speak every Sunday evening.

PUBLIC MEETING OF
LUMBER RIVER STUDY

Would you like to know more about Lumber River? If so, consider attending the public input meeting conducted by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission on August 17 at 8 p.m. in the Owens Agriculture Center in Lumberton.

The purpose of this meeting is to provide the sportsmen and citizens with an opportunity to hear from the Commission's fishery, biologists studies made of the Lumber River.

HOMECOMING TO BE OBSERVED
AT BURNT SWAMP BAPTIST

Burnt Swamp Baptist Church will observe their homecoming on Sunday, August 21. Sunday School at 9:45 a.m. Worship service at 11 a.m.. Dr. Dalton Brooks will be the guest speaker. Afternoon singing will begin at 2 p.m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend. Tilford Locklear is pastor.

Church

NIGHT
AT "STRIKE AT THE WIND!"
IS AUGUST 25TH

August 25, 1983 has been designated as "Church Night" at 'Strike at the Wind!' The Amphitheatre located at Riverside Country Club will accomodate 1351 persons.

A mammoth trophy will be awarded to the church who has the largest number in attendance. Berea Baptist Church was the winner of the trophy last year.

'Strike at the Wind!' is the outdoor drama which depicts the history of Henry Berry Lowry and the Indians of Robeson County during the Civil War era. It is clean, wholesome family entertainment.

Make your plans now to attend Church Night.

Call the box office early and make your reservations for Church Night. 521-3112 is the number to call for reservations! There are special discount prices for groups of ten or more. Call today. Be a part of the annual Church Night at 'Strike at the Wind!' August 25th.

KENNETH COPELAND CONVENTION

The Kenneth Copeland Southwest Believers Convention will be broadcast live from Dallas, Texas via satellite August 11, 12 and 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the Word of Faith Church at 1212 West 5th Street, Lumberton.

PEMBROKE ATTORNEY RENAMED
TO INDIAN COMMISSION

Donald W. Bullard, a Pembroke attorney, has been reappointed to the Commission of Indian Affairs.

Lieutenant Governor Jimmy Green announced Aug. 1 that Bullard will be reappointed to the commission for a two-year term expiring June 30, 1985. Bullard had previously served an eight-month term that expired in June.

The Commission of Indian Affairs was established in 1971 to represent the needs of North Carolina's 50,000 Indian citizens.

ART EXHIBIT TO BE HELD

Robert Locklear of Maxton is holding an exhibit of his works entitled "Nature's Mirror." Paintings will be on display at 'Strike at the Wind!' on stage Thursday, Aug. 18th from 6 to 8 p.m. Locklear's work will also be shown at the Lumbee Bank in Pembroke on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons Aug. 16, 17 and 18th. Paintings and art works will be on sale at this exhibit.

7TH ANNUAL POW WOW

The Guilford Native American Association, Inc. in Greensboro, N.C. invites all traders, crafts persons, artists, dancers and interested spectators to their 7th Annual Pow Wow to be held September 23-24, 1983 at the Uwharrie Campgrounds, Jamestown, N.C. Activities will include a Little Miss GNAA Pageant, a Junior Miss GNAA Pageant and social dancing on Friday evening. Saturday's agenda (September 24) will include competition dancing, crafts judging and a gospel sing. Refreshments will be available at the Pow Wow site on both days. Hundreds of dollars in prize money will be awarded.

A special invitation is extended to all Indian Princesses and Queens, tribal chiefs and chairmen, tribal board members, organizational chairpersons and members, and Title IV Parent Committee Chairpersons and Staff. If you need additional information, please contact GNAA at (919) 273-8666.

AUCTION SALE

There will be an Auction Sale Friday, August 12, beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Deep Branch Volunteer Fire Dept. No consignments. All items will be sold to the highest bidder. There will be a wide assortment of items including beds, motors, bikes, mowers, tools, lumps, clothes, jewelry, household items and many other items too numerous to mention. Seals and refreshments will be available.

If you have any items you would like to donate please deliver them to the Deep Branch Volunteer Fire Dept. between 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday thru Friday or call 739-2221 and someone will pick them up.