

AS I SEE IT

by
**Bruce
Barton**

Here is an article by Governor Jim Hunt concerning the plight of young Joshua Brooks of Laurinburg, who needs liver transplant surgery. This article was prepared especially for non-dailies.

I am proud to present Gov. Hunt as my guest columnist this week.

By Governor Jim Hunt

I hope I will have the opportunity to meet Joshua Brooks someday. I might not get that chance, because time is Josh's enemy.

He is nine months old and lives in Laurinburg with his parents, Rick and June Brooks. If he is to live beyond the next few months, he has to have a new liver.

Josh has a liver disorder that can only be corrected with liver transplant surgery. To live past his first birthday, he must overcome a series of difficult obstacles. The child is on the waiting list for a transplant at the University of Minnesota Hospital, but that operation can be performed only if the hospital can find a liver from a donor roughly the same size and age as Josh. If a liver is found, the surgery must be performed within a few hours.

Josh's plight has touched the hearts of people throughout America. More than \$60,000 has been raised by the Josh Brooks Liver Fund, and a lot of people in government and the private sector are working hard to arrange stand by air transportation to Minnesota for Josh and his parents in the event a compatible liver is found.

Rick Brooks is a school teacher and he and his family have state health insurance coverage. When the state health insurance plan was set up last year by the General Assembly, the law did not specify whether it would pay

for liver transplant surgery. That put the issue in the hands of the board of trustees which governs the insurance plan.

I strongly recommended to the board that such surgery should be covered. A series of discussions with medical authorities convinced me that a liver transplant is moving out of the realm of "experimental" surgery. Medical advances and the development of new anti-rejection drugs have significantly improved the life expectancy of liver recipients.

Last week, the trustees for the insurance plan ruled that the kind of surgery Josh needs will be covered. The trustees are to be commended for having the courage to do the right thing.

But donations to the Josh Brooks Liver Fund are still urgently needed. The Brooks family will continue to incur expenses not directly related to the surgery, and the fund will benefit other children with this liver disorder. Contributions can be mailed to: The Josh Brooks Liver Fund, P.O. Box 2018, Laurinburg, NC 28352.

Another way you can help is to pass on any information you might have about possible air transportation to get Josh to the University of Minnesota Hospital in time to receive a liver. If you know of an individual or a business firm that might be able to help, contact the Brooks family at (919) 276-7171, or my office at (919) 733-5612.

Rick and June Brooks are saddened by the idea that the death of someone else's child is part of the possibility of saving their son. They only hope that someone who suffered that kind of terrible loss would have the courage and presence of mind to help little Josh live.

An Editorial Expression

LREMC ELECTION RAISES SPECTER OF RACE AS AN ISSUE

Carl Branch, spokesman for a group calling itself the LREMC Action Group, has never gotten far away from the premise he began with and that is "that there is an imbalance of races" on the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation Board of Directors, as he sees it.

Branch missed the point then and he misses it today as he aligns himself with four whites vying for the four seats presently held by three Indians and a white. It doesn't make any difference what "race" a person is unless it makes a difference. It seems to make a difference to Branch, and others, as we see it.

Until 1967 no Indian or Black had ever served on the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp. Never! Rev. Elias Rogers, an Indian, was the first one, and he paid dearly for it. Following a federal court case that unearthed a sordid tale of illegal proxy votes and rank and racist racism, Rogers was seated on the Board of Directors of LREMC.

He was seated by a federal court order. The others on the Board treated him terribly, going approximately two years without even recognizing him at board meetings. They mocked him and slandered his name. They hurt him spiritually like few men have ever been hurt. He persevered. Throughout his years on the Board, he has survived many traumas, including concerted efforts to unseat him every three years when he comes up for election. He never falters. He never gives up. He is not up for election this year but they'll be waiting for him in 1984 if he

decides to run again. Democracy should be blind, but the players aren't. Race should not be the way we choose candidates but many of us do. It's a bad habit, bringing out the worst in all of us.

If you're an LREMC member we encourage you to come out to the PSU gym on Oct. 18 and vote for the four members you wish to represent you for the next 3 years.

We recommend incumbents Gus Bullard, Timothy Strickland, J.W. Hunt, and new comer James Hardin.

Letters To Editor

Supports LREMC board and administration

Dear LREMC Members:

I know that we owe the present Board of Directors a vote of thanks and gratitude for since the dismissal of Derl Hinson as General Manager in December of 1982, the overall operational cost of the cooperative in 1982 rose 13.34 percent. Through September of 1983, the operational costs of the cooperative has risen just 4.98 percent. This reflects the honesty and business like way the present Board of Directors is handling your LREMC Cooperative. I am sure we should support our present Board of Directors.

Your LREMC Board of Directors changed legal advisors early this year. This change and operating strictly by the bylaws of your LREMC is why the service of your LREMC Cooperative is first class and the cost of operations (overall) is lower. On a seven day, 24 hours per day, basis, your LREMC Board of Directors are earning .78 cents per hour, a pack of cigarettes or a soft drink and a "nab" per hour. Would you deny them this for serving as efficiently as they do?

Cost incurred to the cooperative, due to LREMC Action Group, January, February, 1983 are as follows:

Labor expenses \$7,233.10
Legal Fees \$13,515.00
Board Fees \$3,994.50
Transportation \$121.50

Total Expenses \$21,768.10

This should inspire all LREMC Members to come to PSU Gym on October 18, 1983 at 6 p.m., registration begins. Voting for the present Board of Directors is the surest way of keeping these expenses as aforementioned down.

Let us continue with the experienced Directors and competent directors we now have. It would seem foolish to make any changes at this point in time. Our present LREMC Cooperative is operating without an Assistant Manager. The Board of Directors agreed with present Manager Ronnie Hunt when he suggested this move. Add this savings plus another employee who is no longer with the Cooperative and a five-hundred thousand dollar savings when this year's budget was approved. Lends merit to the savings LREMC members are enjoying.

These Board of Directors withstood two attempts to unseat them earlier this year. In my opinion, there was no merit in either of the two attempts to unseat the present Board of Directors. These Board of Directors defeated their adversaries because they depended on the legality written into the bylaws of the LREMC Cooperative, and legal advisors who would not sell out to the opposition. Support your present Board of Directors and enjoy savings every month.

John L. Godwin
Pembroke

wants changes at LREMC annual meeting

To the Editor:

If you are a member to LREMC and one of the majority of the whole membership who is not satisfied with the spending policies of the present members of the board of directors, this annual meeting of the Members has grave importance to you.

At this annual members meeting to be held at PSU gym Oct. 18 7:00 p.m. (registration to begin 6:00 p.m.) along with usual reports and proceedings, four directors will come up for re-election. There will also be several new candidates for directors.

I am sure you have observed, over a period of years that a vast majority of the cooperative members do not attend their annual meeting. There are four directors that are elected each year are elected by a very small percentage of the membership. In many cases this results in the same directors repeatedly being re-elected over and over again regardless of performance or qualifications and in some cases without any opposition. There is always in this kind of situation, the danger of giving that director and/or directors a feeling of monopoly.

It is the sole responsibility of the twelve members who serve you on the board of directors to make the policies, set the budget, and control the expenditures of (themselves) as well as the full and complete operation of the cooperative, and of course to represent the best interest of all the members. Lumbee River EMC belongs to the members and not just to the directors.

Whether you attend the annual meeting and exercise your privilege to vote for the candidate of your choice or not, who ever is elected will speak and act for you, and whatever they say and do will control your cooperative. Why not let them know how you feel?

I am sure everyone remembers the strong effort made earlier in the year by the required number of members by petition, as set out in the bylaws of our cooperative to ask for and to hold a special members meeting to remove all twelve of the directors because of their policies and actions in their personal expense accounts.

Documented proof was obtained by legal process from the cooperative office records for the past three years to justify such effort by the members. That effort was blocked not just once but twice by the directors themselves, which was in direct conflict with the cooperative bylaws.

If you are a member of LREMC and satisfied with the meeting policies and expenditures of your present directors, then you certainly have that right, but then you don't have any right to complain.

If you are one of the many members as I am who is not satisfied with the present policies and operations of your cooperative you have a chance now to help do something about it. You can be denied now. You can help replace four of your present directors.

I strongly recommend that you, by all means, go to your annual LREMC meeting at the above mentioned time and place. Remember that it is next Tuesday night October 18, 6 p.m. registration, PSU Gym. Vote for four directors of your choice from the several new candidates who are offering to serve you.

I am confident if elected they will help to bring about a change for the better. Remember-the foundations upon which our cooperative was organized was "to serve all the members with dependable electric service at the lowest possible cost."

Respectfully,
Hubert R. Prevatte
Pembroke

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

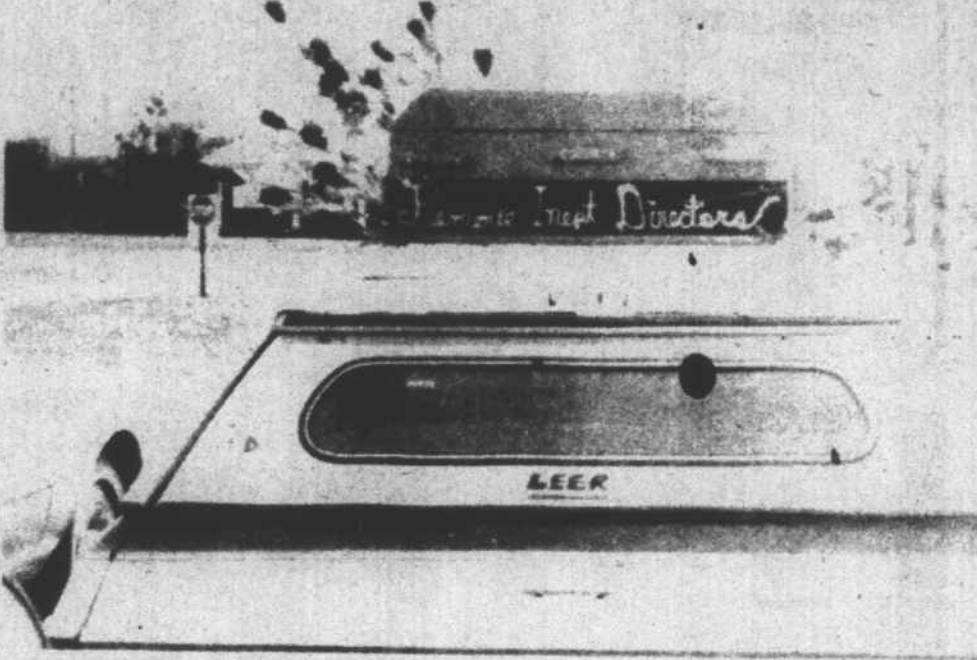
We Cannot Know Where We Are Going If We Don't Know Where We've Been...

So fittingly we honor our Pioneer Fathers

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

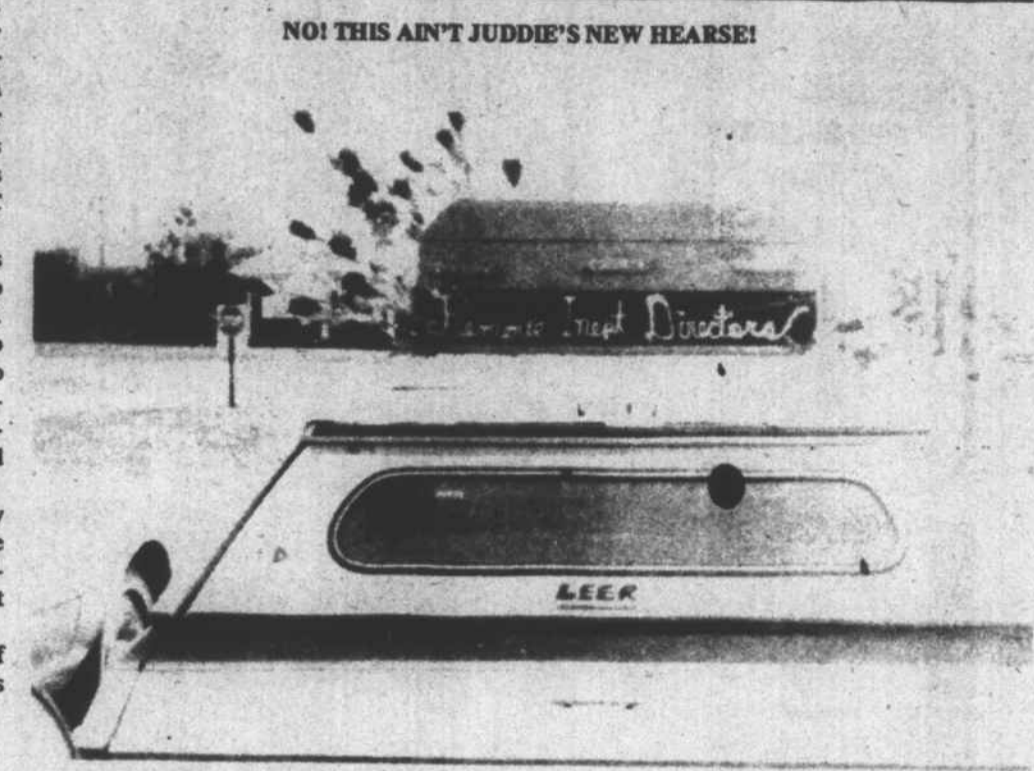
MEANDERING WITH GARRY L. BARTON

NO! THIS AIN'T JUDDIE'S NEW HEARSE!



MEANDERING WITH GARRY L. BARTON

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The owner of the car shown above, reportedly, is Carl Branch. It was parked outside the LREMC office in Red Springs while the owner was unable conducting a press conference. That is a coffin (or casket) on top of his car. The casket reads: "Remove Inept Directors."

Well, I'm not all that into politics. But I am into being Indian. And since ten of the twelve directors of the LREMC Board are Indians I take this display of bad taste as a personal slap in my face.

What Branch's alleged coffin should read is this, as far as I am concerned: "Bury the warped and twisted white supremacy mentality that is responsible for this casket being on this car."

I won't dignify Branch's actions by discussing the matter further. Suffice it to say, vote for the candidate of your choice. As for me, I couldn't vote for any candidate I felt was remotely associated with such actions that I find highly offensive and in bad taste.

Speaking of upcoming elections, about two months ago I was walking across West Third Street here in Pembroke. I was standing in front of a parked car waiting to cross over to the other side. All of a sudden the quiet was shattered by a loud and ear-shattering blast of a car horn. It scared the bejibbers out of me, to say the least. I jumped back between two parked cars 'cause the driver of the car had one of the most hateful looks on his face I had ever seen. I really believe the bird would have run me down if I hadn't responded as quickly as I did. Really. I couldn't believe anyone could be so rude. And to add salt to the wound, he was supposed to be representing me locally in town government. Too, he had his window up so I couldn't hear the words he mouthed. But from reading his lips it seemed he said something to the effect that my mother was a farmer...or something. Anyway, I just shook my head sadly, and dismissed the incident from my mind.

Until the day before yesterday, I was again attempting to cross the street at about the same location as the last time. I saw this same bird coming in his fancy car. I instinctively jumped back between two parked cars before he even got anywhere near me. Suddenly, without warning, the tranquility was disrupted once again by a loud blast of his car horn. This time, if he could have heard my voice, he might have heard some choice remarks about his family tree.

Then, I looked closely. I couldn't believe it. He was actually smiling and waving and acting like a human being. I kept mulling over the incidents after he passed. I asked myself: "Self, wonder what you did differently to cause that bird's attitude to change so drastically...from an attitude of open hostility the first time, to an attitude of friendliness the second time?"

Then it dawned on me. Election time is drawing near. And he is coming up for re-election. He courted me pretty closely when he wanted my vote the first time. And I

"I like the dreams of the future better than the history of the past."
Thomas Jefferson

SUCCESS isn't how far you got, but the distance you traveled from where you started.

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The biggest mistake you can make is to believe that you are working for someone else.

MONDAY is a hard way to spend one-seventh of your life.



Josh brings out the best in everyone. Recently he [in the arms of LRDA executive director Ken Maynor] and his mother, Mrs. June Clark Brooks (third from right), were guests of honor at a staff meeting of the agency in Pembroke at which time they were presented a check for \$1,150.00 as a contribution from the organization as well as checks from the Carolina Indian Voice and the Pembroke Junior High.

Mr. Maynor said it best when he said, "In a way Josh belongs to all of us..."

Others shown in the photo are [l-r] Ben Jacobs, Wilma Bowen, Bill Brewington, principal of Pembroke Junior High; and Shelby Dial, Jacobs, Bowen and Dial [along with Bobbie Ann Oxendine, not shown] were the LRDA

LUMBEE MEDICAL CLINIC VICTIM OF FIRE BOMB
Pembroke-According to Kirby Ammons, Pembroke's acting Police Chief, someone threw a "military type smoke bomb" into the Lumbee Medical Clinic on Highway 711 some time Tuesday morning.

No fire resulted although the building suffered extensive smoke damage.

No arrests had been made at press time although Pembroke officials noted that the State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) had been called upon to investigate the matter too.

WEST ROBESON HOSTS TERRY SANFORD
Pembroke-The Pembroke Junior High Football Field (formerly Pembroke Senior High) will be the site Friday night as the West Robeson Rams host Terry Sanford High in a 4-A tiff.

The Rams are rebounding from a shellacking by arch rival Lumberton High last Friday night 40-6.

West Robeson's record now stands at 1-2 in the tough Southeastern Conference and 2-3-1 overall.

RE-ELECT

GUS BULLARD

EMC BOARD OF DIRECTORS
(At Large)

October 18, 1983

"Vote For Experience And Continued Honesty, Integrity And Dedicated Leadership"