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ROBESON COUNTY

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Thursday, Nov. 3, 1983

## MORE CHARGES DISMISSED IN 'ROBCOR' [SIC] PROBE TRIALS

by Bruce Barton

FAYETTEVILLE-Federal charges against Robeson County Manager W. Paul Graham have been dismissed by a judge, and prosecutors have dropped charges against another defendant in an investigation of federal employment funds.

U.S. District Judge James C. Fox dismissed charges Monday that Graham hired an ineligible applicant under the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act and aided and abetted the illegal hiring.

Graham, 60, and other county officials were arrested in June in an investigation of the CETA program dubbed Robcor, for Robeson County Corruption.

"I'm pleased, very pleased," Graham said Tuesday. "I have not felt I was guilty the whole time."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Tom Swain

dropped charges against Theresa Boudreaux, 30, a former employee of Gencom Software Systems Inc. She was charged with two counts of misapplying more than \$100 in CETA funds and theft of government property, computer time and a computer program.

Eleven people were charged in the Robcor investigation following the arrest of Chris Antwi, the former director of the Robeson County Department of Human Resources.

Antwi, a native of Ghana, pleaded guilty in June to misapplying about \$190,000 and embezzling \$259 in federal funds. As part of a plea bargain arrangement, Antwi, who was present Monday for the court proceedings, agreed to testify for the government.

Of the nine people who have come to trial so far, three have had charges

against them dismissed and one was found not guilty.

Facing trial this week are Joe "Pete" Ward, Robeson County's attorney; Herman Dial, former chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners; and Fayetteville resident Lonnie Coggins, former president of Gencom Software Systems Inc., a Fayetteville computer firm.

The charges have been generally scoffed at by local politicians and the press as much ado about hardly anything. For instance, in an editorial Wednesday morning the Fayetteville Times said, "The criminal aspect is so shadowy as to be virtually nonexistent, however. Five of nine people brought to trial have either had charges dropped or have been acquitted."

"On sober reflection, it may be that

others who pleaded guilty, including the former head of the county social services agency, should be given another opportunity to assess the criminality of their behavior.

"The CETA program was a large one involving millions of dollars. It was put together very quickly at the local level and encompassed several thousand people in Robeson County alone.

"Despite the scope of the program, however, these criminal charges and other charges of failing to meet bureaucratic standards have involved only one-tenth of one percent of the total appropriated in the county during the life of CETA.

"That is relatively peanuts, and in view of the record so far, the criminal charges were a mistake in nearly every case."

## PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

### HOMECOMING DINNER

The West Robeson Senior High Athletic Booster Club will sponsor a Homecoming Dinner Friday, Nov. 4, from 10 a.m. until 7 p.m. There will be a choice of barbecue or chicken. Plates will cost \$3 each.

The school is located in the Red Banks Community.

### MT. OLIVE REVIVAL PLANNED

Mt. Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church in Pembroke will be holding revival Nov. 7th through Nov. 13th with the Rev. Timothy Creel. Everyone is invited to attend. The services will begin at 7:30 p.m. nightly.

### PEMBROKE VFW TO HOLD ANNUAL VETERANS DAY PARADE

The Pembroke VFW will hold its annual Veterans Day Parade on Friday, November 11, 1983. Parade participants will begin their parade line up in front of PSU at 9 a.m. The parade will begin at 10 a.m. Following the parade will be a flag raising ceremony and an appropriate address in the Pembroke Town Park at approximately 11 a.m.

The speaker for the Veterans Day ceremonies will be Major James H. Allen, Major, Corps of Engineers (Active Guard/ Reserve). Major Allen is presently Assistant Professor of Military Science at US Army First ROTC Region, Campbell University at Bules Creek, NC. His commissioned service has been for 14 years and 4 months.

### PLATE SALE PLANNED FOR JOSH BROOKS FUND

On Saturday, Nov. 19 Pembroke Rescue Squad will host a fish fry in behalf of the Josh Brooks Fund.

Fish plates will be on sale at the Pembroke Rescue Squad Building in Pembroke from 11 a.m. until. The price of the plate is \$3 each. Either eat in or take out.

### WEST ROBESON PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCE NIGHT

Monday, November 7, 1983 West Robeson Senior High School is inviting all parents of West Robeson students to come visit the school and talk with teachers. This is an excellent opportunity to meet teachers and discuss student performance in classes.

There will be a short general meeting with refreshments in the cafeteria beginning at 6 p.m. Parents will then visit classrooms and talk with teachers from 6:30-8 p.m.

Parents are urged to show support and concern for the school, its effort, and student progress. The administration needs and wants your participation.

### ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING OF KAPPA ALPHA PSI FRATERNITY

Sunday, Nov. 20, members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity will hold an organizational meeting. The meeting will be at Mr. Pete Cunningham's residence beginning at 3:30 p.m. Interested members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity are encouraged to attend. For additional information you may contact Mr. Cunningham at 843-4083; Elliott Leman at 739-7053 or Mr. Vernon E. McHam at 738-9932.

## Piggly Wiggly marks Ten Years in Pembroke



Three of the Droses are shown in a recent photograph taken at the new Maxton store. They are: [l-r] Perry, 33, manager of the Maxton store; Patriarch John

Pembroke-Pembroke's Piggly Wiggly Food Store recently completed a decade of service in the Pembroke area. Pembroke's spacious and modern store, including 11,500 square feet of floor space, opened for business in August, 1973.

The Pembroke store is managed by John Drose, Jr., one of a number of family members involved in the operation of Piggly Wiggly stores in Maxton, St. Pauls and Pembroke, and the Brass Lantern Restaurant in St. Pauls.

The Patriarch of the family is John Drose, Sr., who heads the administrative offices in Fayetteville and works "where ever I am needed."

A son, Perry, 33, heads the new Maxton store; oldest son, John, Jr., as noted earlier, heads the Pembroke store. Another son, David, 24, manages the St. Pauls store. Daughters Marsha and Arlene also work in the Fayetteville-based administrative offices.

The Droses are independent operators in the Piggly Wiggly chain and they put great emphasis on using local tradesmen and contractors when they build a new store like Maxton, or expand like they did recently in the Pembroke store.

Drose said, "Whatever you write... well give the people credit. We know that our customers are what have made our stores successful."

John Drose, Sr., said in a recent interview, "I'm in this with my children. That is the joy I get from all this. I enjoy the association and sharing with my children."

Drose has been in the business more than 40 years. His idea is to "pass it (the business) on..." and to give something to the people in the area who have patronized Piggly Wiggly.

Talking about the local tradesmen like Ted's Electric, who worked on the new Maxton store, for instance, Drose said, "We wanted to put the money back in the community. Our customers patronize us; it's just good business to do business with the people who do business with us..."

It is easy to understand the success of the Drose family. They epitomize an old saying: The best way to have good neighbors is to be a good neighbor. And the Drose family, whether in Pembroke, Maxton or St. Pauls, continue to be good neighbors.

Drose, Sr.; and John Drose, Jr., 37, manager of the Pembroke store. (Bruce Barton photo)

good a landlord as we could ever want.... We have never asked for additions, or any thing we need, that he has not provided..." [Bruce Barton photo]



Pembroke Piggly Wiggly. The Drose family speaks highly of Adolph Dial, the landlord and builder of the 11,500 square foot store, modern in every respect. Said John Drose, Jr., "Mr. Dial has been as

## RETIRING POLICE CHIEF

## VERNON OXENDINE HONORED...



Retired Pembroke Police Chief and Mrs. Vernon Oxendine are shown above. The family was recently honored at a Retirement Dinner held at the Pembroke Junior High Cafeteria. Tributes were paid to Mr. Oxendine by Robeson County Sheriff, Hubert Stone; SBIDistrict Supervisor, Frank Johnson; N.C. Highway Patrol Sgt. A.H. Campbell; and District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt.

The welcome was by James F. Maynor who served as Master of

Ceremonies. Invocation was given by Rev. Willie Scott, Jr. Dinner music was provided by Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Strickland. Pembroke Mayor James A. Jacobs, introduced special guests.

Vernon Oxendine has announced his candidacy for the Pembroke Town Council and commented that since his retirement he would have time to continue to serve the people of Pembroke. [Elmer W. Hunt photo]

## A Ribbon Cutting!

A ribbon cutting ceremony was held at Oxendine's Jewelry and Gifts at their new location on Friday, October 28, at 9 a.m. The ribbon cutting was part of the grand opening. Shown left to right are: Hubert Oxendine, owner and operator; Mayor James A. Jacobs; Mrs. Mable Oxendine, owner and operator; and Darla Oxendine, their niece. [Photo by Elmer W. Hunt]

## Tuesday, Nov. 8 is Election Day

Pembroke-Pembroke is one of a number of municipalities who will be choosing elected officials on Tuesday, November 8.

There is a two-man race for Mayor in the quietest election in Pembroke in recent years.

Squaring off are Milton Hunt and Sam Dial, both presently serving as councilmen.

Mayor "Pete" Jacobs is not seeking re-election and has endorsed Hunt, who presently serves as Mayor Pro-tem.

Vying for two council seats up for grabs are former councilmen J.C. Thomas, Lee Neville, recently retired Police Chief Vernon Oxendine and newcomer Henry W. Oxendine.

## Rams face Pinecrest at home

Pembroke-The West Robeson Rams will play Pinecrest at home tomorrow night on their temporary home field at Pembroke Junior High.

The Rams fell before the onslaught of Reid Ross of Cumberland County 46-6 last week.

## Lewis Seafood Restaurant Grandopening Friday

Pembroke-Pembroke's Mayor James A. "Pete" Jacobs and Maxton Commissioner Wyvis Oxendine are expected to lead the list of notables who are expected to join Mr. and Ms. Franklin (Annie Rene) Lewis as they "officially" hold the grand opening for Lewis' Seafood Restaurant Friday at 5 p.m.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis, and their children--Penny, 18; Franklin, Jr., 16; and Worth Lee, 15--all share the travails and joy of running the restaurant as well as a seafood market and sandwich shop in downtown Pembroke. The restaurant features

"the best seafood around" according to Franklin Lewis who "does all the cooking." Capable of seating 220 customers, and private dining facilities for 130, the modern restaurant is located on Eureka Road, one mile from Pembroke between New Hope and St. Anna churches.

The Lewises invite all their many friends to join them Friday at 5 p.m. as they celebrate their grand opening with music by Lumbee Pride, and registering for a television and other items.

Lewis, too, reminded us anew, that "all our seafood is fresh."

## WE'RE MOVING AGAIN!

The Carolina Indian Voice is re-locating once again. Effective November 1, 1983 the offices of the Carolina Indian Voice will be located at College Plaza, Pembroke- next door to the Pantry and across from Pembroke State University.

