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PEMBROKE, N.C.

ROBESON COUNTY

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"Building Communicative Bridges  
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

## 'ROBCOR' FIZZLES OUT: HERMAN DIAL NOT GUILTY

by Bruce Barton

FAYETTEVILLE-1 looked at the clock. 3:44 p.m. Wednesday afternoon. And the jury trooped back into the jury room after deliberating some four hours and announced to a hushed courtroom of family and friends: "We find the defendant Herman Dial not guilty on both counts."

As one of the jurors said, after the formal proceedings, "they didn't have anything on Herman Dial--really!"

Dial, formerly the chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners, and a stalwart from the Prospect Community, and the owner of an insurance agency in Pembroke, as well as a farmer, was surrounded by his family and friends as the 'not guilty' verdict was announced by U.S. District Court Judge James Fox. Cheers resounded briefly before Fox gavelled the audience to silence again and intoned solemnly, "I can understand your joy...but this is still a court of law..."

Dial was on trial in U.S. District Court in Fayetteville for allegedly forcing the hiring of an ineligible applicant in 1980 in the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act program.

One of Dial's attorneys, Tony Rand rested the case for the defense late Tuesday afternoon after arguing that Callie Denise Locklear, who was 15 years old when she applied for a job in the Robeson County Summer Youth Program was eligible according to CETA guidelines. Dial was ably represented by Pembroke attorney Donald Bullard.

"If this family wasn't economically disadvantaged, I can't imagine a situation where it would be," Rand said.

Workers in the Robeson County Department of Human Resources had earlier testified that Locklear was ineligible because her father's reported income on an application was above CETA limits. However, no worker could recall recording an income figure on the application.

In testimony Tuesday, Locklear and her father, James Locklear, both said they did not report income when completing the application in 1980 because the father was unemployed.

If Dial had been found guilty, he could have received a maximum prison sentence of 22 years and a \$20,000 fine.

According to Monday's testimony, Dial, a former chairman of the county board of commissioners in his 16 years in office, forced Christ Antwi to hire Locklear.

Antwi, a government witness and the former director of the Department of Human Resources, pleaded guilty last summer to misapplication of \$190,000 in CETA funds and embezzlement. He testified Dial warned him that he could get the necessary votes for dismissal unless he hired Locklear.

Dial stated Tuesday that he "mattered" in the hiring of Locklear because he was sure she was eligible for the program. He said he lived less than a mile from the family and knew her father was unemployed.

But he said he never forced Antwi to hire the Prospect High School student. "I did not force or tell anyone to hire anyone. I suggested that he (Antwi) look into it to see what he could do."

The government contended that Dial forced Antwi to hire Locklear and did so by extortion.

As a prelude, and with only one friend, his wife and two children, and attorney Dickson McJean beside him the once powerful Antwi was sentenced Wednesday while the jury deliberated Dial's fate.

Antwi was placed on 5 years probation, instructed to repay \$259.60 he embezzled by mistating a travel voucher, and fined \$2,400, and allowed by Judge Fox to repay the fine "by at least \$50 a month..."

One of Dial's supporters said after the verdict, "Buddy, RobCor has fizzled. Now maybe people can get back to work. But who will pay back people like Herman Dial for dirtying their name?"

Of the original 12 indictments only three plea bargains for "lesser" charges, including Chris Antwi, resulted.

All the other charges were either dismissed outright by a judge or overturned by a jury.

## 1st Woman chairs PSU Trustees



Mrs. Geneva Parnell

PEMBROKE-She is the first woman ever elected to serve as chairman of the Pembroke State University Board of

Trustees...and only the third woman among UNC system schools to hold that distinction. Mrs. Geneva Parnell of Parkton, who previously served as vice chairman, said she is "pleased and honored to be elected" to that high post.

A member of the PSU trustees since 1977, she has missed only one meeting in that time. And that was unavoidable.

"One of my primary concerns as chairman is to push hard for money for our PSU student union," she said.

As for being the first woman so honored at PSU, Mrs. Parnell said, "I hope I have the qualities of leadership to go with the high office. We have a lot of work to do."

Married to Horace Parnell, she is the daughter of the late William Everett and Ethel Everett of Parkton. She graduated from Parkton High School and then from Campbell University with a B.S. in business administration.

## LREMC's Hunt not Leaving



Ronnie Hunt

After announcing his intentions last month to resign in December, Lumbee River EMC General Manager Ronnie Hunt has decided to stay with the co-op. The announcement came Tuesday after the regular monthly board meeting at the Red Springs headquarters.

Hunt had accepted a position with a Florida EMC to begin in January. In announcing his decision Hunt cited local and state support for his change of mind.

"The support expressed by the LREMC Board of Directors, my friends, the employees, and especially the membership helped me change my mind," said Hunt. "They helped me realize that this area is my home, and that Lumbee River EMC is where I want to be."

Gus Bullard, president of the Board of Directors, said that Hunt would stay at the same salary and benefits. Bullard expressed pleasure at Hunt's decision to remain with Lumbee River EMC.

"Ronnie received numerous calls from cooperative officials and friends on the state and national level encouraging him to stay on as general manager," said Bullard. "We're glad he changed his mind."

Hunt joined Lumbee River EMC in 1977 as office manager. He was assistant general manager before being appointed interim manager last December, and general manager last May.

### PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

#### KIWANIS ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER AND BREAKFAST

The 21st annual Fund-raising project will be held Friday, December 2nd, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., and Saturday, December 3rd, from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. Tickets are \$3. The benefit is for the Youth Programs and the supper and breakfast will be held at the new Pembroke Elementary School. Reggle Strickland is the chairman for this event. Tickets may be obtained from any Kiwanian.

#### PLATE SALE AT PROSPECT

Prospect School will be conducting a Fund Raising Plate Sale at the school, Friday, Nov. 18th, from 11 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. The plates will consist of fried chicken or home-cooked barbecue. Plates will sell for \$3 each.

#### BUILDING MATERIALS FOR SALE

The D.H. Griffin Wrecking Company is selling building materials at the old Pembroke Elementary School on the PSU campus. Call 855-7030 or 738-6401, ext. 147. After 5 p.m. ask for Kenny Bates.

#### VOLUNTEER FIREMAN AT PINEY GROVE SCHOOL

Mr. Martin Lamb, a volunteer fireman visited Piney Grove School and talked with the students about safety. He also showed a film on safety and made pictures with Mrs. Della Lamb's third graders.

#### SUPT. BONNER TEACHES CLASS AT PINEY GROVE SCHOOL

Mr. Donald Bonner, Assistant Superintendent of Robeson County Schools, enacted this year's theme for American Education Week, Nov. 13-19; "Local Leaders In The Classroom Day." On Monday, Nov. 14, he taught the chapter one fifth grade math class at Piney Grove School while the teacher, Lee Helen Thompson, observed him. Parents, local, state and district leaders will be in and out of the county schools this week either teaching or assisting the teachers in promoting the national theme. "Americans need strong public schools," said Lee Helen Thompson who is the county's president of the North Carolina Association of Educators. The state office of the NCAE endorsed this year's theme with hopes that the public sector will tell the good news of the educational system.

#### GOSPEL SINGING AT PEMBROKE JR. HIGH SCHOOL

What's happening? Gospel Sing sponsored by the Pembroke Rescue Squad for the Josh Brooks Liver Fund. Who is the attraction? The Sounds of Harmony and Apostles of Fayetteville, and Miss Carla Locklear. Where will it take place? Pembroke Junior High School (formerly Pembroke Senior High School), Pembroke, N.C. When and what time? Saturday, Nov. 19th, 7 p.m. There is no admission charge, but donations will be accepted.

#### FIRE PREVENTION WEEK AT GREEN GROVE SCHOOL

During Fire Prevention Week at Green Grove School students were visited by Smokey the Bear. He talked to them about fire prevention and left a picture for each student to color. Mr. Melton Britt, Mr. Jimmy Kirby, and Mr. E.H. Branch of the North Carolina Forestry Service visited and talked with the boys and girls also about fire prevention. In the media center Ms. Britt, the media specialist, read the story of Smokey the Bear to students. Afterwards, students discussed rules Smokey would want them to remember about safety near a fire at home, in fields, and in the woods. In the classrooms, the teachers had learning centers about Fire Prevention that included books and pictures.

#### N.C. SYMPHONY TO RETURN TO PSU

The North Carolina Symphony will return to Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center, Monday, December 12, 1983 at 8 p.m. as a special entertainment attraction.

Tickets are on sale now for \$6.00 each or \$4.00 each for The Season '83-'84 subscribers. For more information and ticket reservations contact the Performing Arts Center Box Office by calling 521-0778.

#### FIREMAN VISITED GREEN GROVE

Mr. J.C. Brooks, volunteer fireman of Raft Swamp Fire Department, visited Green Grove to discuss with the students the danger of playing with matches and safety measure precautions. Mr. Brooks also demonstrated the use of the equipment on the fire truck. The third grade classes demonstrated the use of the fire hose.

Mrs. Brooks passed out pamphlets, candies, and hats to the students. Everyone really enjoyed him. A bulletin board was displayed in the hall on Fire Prevention Week. The activities were coordinated by Mrs. Belva McDowell, third grade teacher at Green Grove School. Mr. Barry Harding is Principal.

#### PTA AT OXENDINE SCHOOL

Oxendine Elementary School will hold its second P.T.A. Meeting Tuesday, Nov. 22, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. A short business session will be followed by a musical program. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

#### BLOOD DRIVE AT S. ROBESON A SUCCESS

A blood drive held at South Robeson High School on October 24th was deemed a success. According to Mr. Daniel McKenzie, one of the two teacher sponsors, a total of 90 units of blood was secured. Last year, 75 units were secured.

The Science Club called the Challengers helped supervise the blood drive. The club members did most of the work of contacting students and marshaling them through the procedure. They also helped with registration. Mr. McKenzie, along with Mrs. Wilma Gdwin, are the two teacher sponsors of the Club.

McKenzie says students were most co-operative and with the additional help of members from the Pembroke Rescue Squad, the drive off without any problems.

McKenzie also noted that it was interesting that during the actual drive, the Red Cross blood unit from Wilmington was contacted and some units of blood were taken from the school and moved to another location. He says the blood was probably enroute to be readied for actual use at some hospital or emergency medical organization.

#### SEASON FILM SERIES

Sandy Grove Baptist Church Sunday School announces their annual Christian Film Series which will be at 7 p.m. each night. The church is located at 1600 Fairmont Road in Lumberton. Admission is free and the public is invited.

Dates and films shown are as follows: Friday, Nov. 4--"God Is Love." Friday, Nov. 11--"A King's Strange Dream." Friday, Nov. 26--"The Messiah of Israel." Friday, Dec. 2--"The Christ of Promise." Friday, Dec. 9--"God So Loved." Friday, Dec. 16--"Unto Us A Child Is Born."

#### JAYCETTES ATTEND NC. JAYCETTE MID-YEAR CONVENTION

The Pembroke Jayettes attended the N.C. Jaycette Mid-Year Convention in Winston-Salem, N.C. on Nov. 11-13. Those attending the state Jaycette meeting were: President Molly O. Locklear, Secretary Carolyn Oxendine, and member Doris Cummings.

Informative workshops were offered on Saturday. The Pembroke Jayettes received special certificates during the recognition hour. The programs the Pembroke Jayettes received certificates for were: N.C. Zoo, Ronald McDonald House, Governmental Affairs, Sister Chapter, Speak-up, and Leadership Dynamics. The Pembroke Jayettes were also recognized for placing second in the Parade of Chapters in their designated division.

These programs are only a few of the activities the Pembroke Jayettes are involved in. They are involved in their community as well as at the state level. The Pembroke Jayettes would like to invite any young lady, age 18 years or older, to join in their efforts to make the community and state a better place in which to live. Their meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesday nights of each month at the Pembroke Courthouse.



The Pembroke VFW Post 2843 Honor Guard led the annual Veterans Day Parade

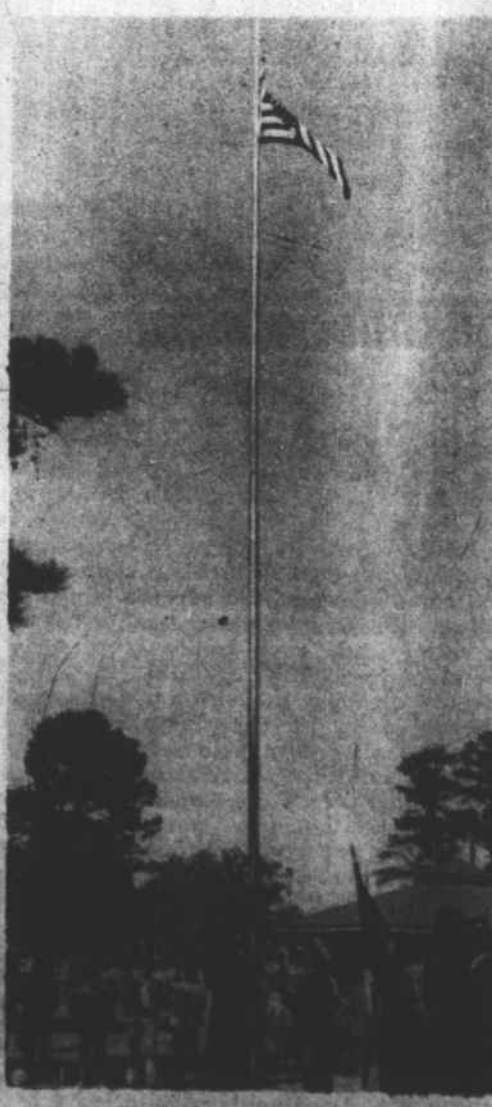
in Pembroke on Friday, Nov. 11, 1983. [Elmer W. Hunt photos]



The annual Veterans Day Parade in Pembroke included a group of local beauty queens.

This is Charlotte Chavis, Miss Homecoming, Pembroke Junior High.

## Veteran's Day Scenes



Flag raising ceremony held in the Pembroke Town Park immediately following the annual Veterans Day Parade in Pembroke. [Elmer W. Hunt photos]

## Little Josh Improving

MINNEAPOLIS-9 month old Josh Brooks of Laurinburg continues to recover from his liver transplant last week.

"Josh is still in critical condition," said Sandra Ballenberger, a volunteer with the Josh Brooks Liver Fund Organization. "But he's perking up a little and all signs are stable."

The boy has been on dialysis at the University of Minnesota Hospital since his eight-hour transplant Saturday. His parents, Rick and June Brooks, have spent several sleepless nights hoping Josh will pull through after the operation was complicated by an irregular heart rhythm and kidney failure.

Ballenberger said Josh is showing definite signs of improvement. "His color is pinker," she said after consulting with doctors. "His kidneys are better, but nowhere near the way doctors would like them to be. His weight is down, and they have removed some of the fluid."

The fluid buildup was caused by poorly functioning kidneys, she said.

The boy suffered from biliary atresia, an inability of the liver to eliminate bile. Doctors said he would have died within a month without the new organ donated by the family of a brain-dead child.

Ballenberger said Mrs. Brooks got five hours of sleep Monday night--"the most she's had since Josh was born." "She's just overall pleased with the way things are going," Ballenberger said. "She's still wanting prayers for Josh's liver."

Doctors said there have been only about 60 liver transplant operations in the United States.

Ballenberger said doctors still don't know when the boy will be able to return home, but that it "could be a month or six weeks."

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