

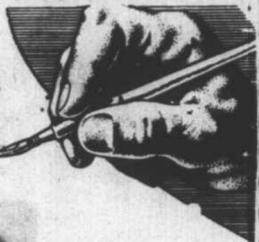
EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

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



So fittingly we honor our Pioneer Fathers

AS I SEE IT



by
Bruce Barton



DISTRICT JUDGE RACE OFFERS INTERESTING CHOICES

A number of political decisions are to be rendered in the upcoming June 5 runoff in Robeson.

Under electoral rules, a candidate in an election for a single position must win by 50% plus one.

Although winning by sizable margins, incumbent Commissioners Carl Britt (Fairmont District), J.W. Hunt (Rowland), and Jack Morgan (Red Springs) will have to face the voters again.

Britt will be faced by Percy E. Shaw, Sr. and Hunt will be opposed by Henry Douglass. Both Shaw and Douglass are Black candidates; Hunt is an Indian.

Two Indians--Jack Morgan, the incumbent and Bobby Dean Locklear, a former commissioner--will square off in the Red Springs District.

But it is the district judge race that offers all the voters of Robeson County interesting choices for the future. Front runner Henry Ward Oxendine (an Indian) is being challenged strongly by Adelaide Behan, a White. If you consider the fact that Lumberton #6, the fabled Black precinct, carried Behan over Oxendine by a sizable margin, then Behan would have to be the favorite although she finished behind Oxendine, 7,406 to 7,123 throughout the district in the May 8 balloting.

Will new coalitions have to be forged by Oxendine? Why would #6 vote against the "minority" candidate? What will happen in the future when Black jurist Herb Richardson faces a furious Indian electorate? Oxendine's best chance seems to be to confront the Black political masters and take his case to the young Black electorate, energize the Indian electorate and, of course, appeal to all right thinking people.

Yet, Behan has pluses too. She's a female and a member of the Lumberton legal fraternity, an influential body. She also showed herself to be a good campaigner. If she holds the Black votes she garnered in the May 8 Primary, and gets out the "white conservative vote, she could win.

Yes, no doubt about it, the district judge race offers interesting choices. The outcome will set the stage for political races down the road. Vote June 5, and exercise your right to vote. The right to vote is precious. Vote June 5. It will give the politicians a portent of things to come.

JOHNNY DIAL, DWIGHT LOWRY AND DEVEY BELL, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BEST OF LUMBEE YOUTH
Considering the fact that I had a troubled youth, and was late maturing, I find it amazing but wonderful that Dwight Lowry, Devy Bell and Johnny Dial all seem to do just fine when moving from

Laments waste by RTC, County School Systems

It is not out together by school persons from the local and state level educationally speaking what Robeson County needs is more funds. This means more taxes levied against an already heavily encumbered taxpaying public. As a county of about 104,000 people--men, women and children--and an estimated \$23 million debt for school repairs and construction of unneeded new buildings, the planning has been poor as well as the application of better education in Robeson County. Much was said about 97 dropouts per 1,000 students per year. Persons in the school system should be ashamed to admit that you have a program that cannot hold the interest of the student long enough to complete his or her mission. That is why vocational training is so important for the student from grade 7 through high school. With enrollment declining, now is the time to upgrade and expand the curricula in the school system to the fullest. All students deserve the best education that can be achieved no matter what the cost. With 60% of high school students graduating and failing to attend community or universities, vocational training is the only answer for high school students.

counselors to dilute and destroy some students' chances of a better education by luring them away from high school at age 16 for special training. These are the 30,000 uneducated adults that the President of RTC and the Chairman of Lumberton-Robeson County Math Science Education Committee keep talking about. This is the old double standard of which some factions practice, as I see it. When I talked to Mr. Ted Locklear of Pembroke, N.C. recently he informed me that he was a teacher in the Robeson County School System at the inception of RTI now RTC. Mr. Ted Locklear informed me he was called to Lumberton, N.C. where he met along with others in the office of Young Allen, Superintendent of Robeson County Schools and Craig Allen who was principal of RTI now RTC. Mr. Ted Locklear informed me that those who chose to work as recruiters were paid on a commission basis. Mr. Ted Locklear informed me that he

still works for RTC in adult education. I asked Mr. Ted Locklear how many of the 30,000 uneducated adults does he claim for his services. As I see it, any person who cannot show documented proof that he or she was denied or deprived of a high school education should not be considered before the 6-year-old who is anxious to learn and can learn. There is little or no need to place brick laying, carpentry, auto mechanics, first aid, CPR, cosmetology, or any of the adult training courses above the need to teach the 6-year-old the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. I do wish that the Robeson County Commissioners and the Robeson County Board of Education could see the need to look toward better education for the 6-year-old through high school, than to play into the wishes of politicians and special interest groups, as I see it. In my opinion there is enough waste in the present school systems of Robeson County today to support the very best type of education available.

John L. Godwin
Pembroke, N.C.

located on the Union Chapel Road. At this time the name of the business will be changed to Southern Interiors, and in addition to the carpet, vinyl, blinds and wall covering they now sell, they will also offer household accessories such as brass lamps, figurines, etc. Another special service the Maynors offer at no charge is consultation on any decorating problems. They do the complete job for you from selling to complete installation.

Charles and Sheila reside on Hwy. #72 outside Pembroke, and are the parents of two boys aged 11 and 14 and one girl age 15, and attend Bear Swamp Baptist Church in Pembroke.

We, too, offer congratulations to Charles and Sheila. More about their move in the next few issues of *The Indian Voice*.

AND CONGRATULATIONS TO "DOLLAR BILL" OXENDINE--NEW JAYCEES CHIEF

The Pembroke Jaycees and Jayceettes recently held their annual Installation and Awards Banquet.

Named as president was long time community activist "Dollar Bill" Oxendine.

"Dollar Bill" wanted to be president of the Pembroke Jaycees, and he will be a good one because he cares.

Congratulations, "Dollar Bill." Count me in your corner. You're a nice guy, and deserving of all the accolades coming your way.

"Be slow in choosing a friend, slower in changing."
--Benjamin Franklin

Reader asks why minorities will not support one another

As most people of the county knows, the primary elections are over. But some races have not been decided on. It's very clear in my mind that most of the minority candidates did not receive the support from other minorities as their white counterparts did.

As a minority, I have every reason to believe that we, as minorities, verbally express our feelings about the need to support one another. But, when it comes to giving that support, we fall short. I say this in regard to the minorities that ran for office locally. For example, it is a known fact that the average white citizen

may not know all of the candidate for office or their views on issues, but at the polling booth they always vote white. It is also clear that whites don't verbally express themselves, as much as minorities. But when election time comes you find few whites who openly support Blacks or Indians. But you can always find minorities giving full support to someone other than their own race during campaigning.

We say race is not the issue in most elections. But Robeson County makes this point invalid. Very few Whites support Blacks or Indians. I know that every American

has the right to vote for whom they choose. But I have to ask myself why should minorities not support minorities since whites seldom support minorities in their bids for a public office.

A minority, in most cases, has to be a better qualified candidate to get the support from minorities or from certain people. In Robeson County, I have searched for an answer as to why minorities will not support one another to the fullest, especially if there's no opposition from another minority.

As a former candidate, I do find that minorities want to know the qualifications of minorities, but are hesitant to ask Whites about their qualifications. So, if every minority would do a little research on whoever is running you will find that all have done something they wish they could undo or do over. I have said all of this to say that minorities should wake up and stop giving mouth support and give support where it counts, at the polls.

In regard to the June 5

Remember folk: These views are mine. They are not necessarily anyone else's. Heck! They ain't even necessarily views! Just my rantings and ravings, I guess!

RANTING & RAVING with Gary Barton

TO MAMA WITH LOVE!

Heck folk! As my brother Bruce might say, Last week's column in which I poked fun at spouse abuse received about the same negative kick back one might expect if he fired a double-barrel shotgun.

One nice young lady whom I admire and respect a great deal did not seem at all impressed with last week's rantings and ravings. "Why don't you write about how women are not paid the same as men although they perform the same work?" She wanted to know when I tried to escape by explaining to her that it was sorta hard to come up with a nifty article week after week. Another outspoken lady whom I also admire and respect much, let me know in no uncertain terms that she didn't feel that last week's column contained any insight whatsoever into anything whatsoever.

Now, the magnanimous thing for me to do at this point would be to tell 'y'all that I appreciate criticism--especially constructive criticism (Ain't that what most folk always say?). But, I ain't gonna tell you folk such a bold-face lie. Heck, like most right-thinking folk, I don't like criticism of any sort, be it constructive or destructive. So, truthfully speaking, I don't appreciate these ladies' criticisms, or anybody else's for that matter. But I am getting to the point where I can swallow criticism a lot better than I used to. I guess the reason for this is because I receive so much criticism.

But I do appreciate the fact that these ladies--or anybody else hearty enough to--read my rantings and ravings. Just bear in mind, folk. These are my personal rantings and ravings. Half the time I have nothing of note to say. Like the beginning of this week's column up to this point. I killed all this space up to this point when one sentence would suffice. That's right, folk. In a capsule, what I've said to this point is: "I don't like criticism."

Nevertheless, I'm gonna take the coward's way out this week and write about a subject not as controversial as spouse abuse. Yea! I'm gonna write about my mama.

Sunday, May 13th was observed throughout the land as Mother's Day. Now folk, as most of you know, I ain't got a whole lot of use for most holidays. I feel that most of them have become too commercialized and have a tendency to exploit people's emotions. But, Mother's Day is an exception. I think it is no more than right and proper that we honor our mothers. Because--as I'm sure yours is to you--my mama is special.

Yea, folk! I've done some pretty scary, stupid, idiotic things in my life, some of which defy sane reasoning. Heck! There have been times in my life when I was in such sad shape I didn't even like myself, much less love myself. But mama did. And it was that love, more than anything else, that brought me through the many rough spots in my life. And it was that love that was more influential than anything else in molding and shaping me into the man I am today.

But, don't get me wrong, folk. There have been times when I questioned whether or not some of her actions were indeed acts of love.

One particular incident that sticks out in my mind was when me, my brothers and sisters, used to always have to pick cotton every day when school turned out. But mama picked right alongside us. In fact, mama's health suffers to this day because she literally speaking worked like a slave, picking cotton, putting in tobacco, picking cucumbers, or some such mental work, to put us all through school.

But back then, folk, thinking as a child thinks, I could not see the logic in picking

runoff don't feel obligated to vote for or support someone who says, "I've done this or that for you and your people."

Some minority leaders have a tendency to mislead or persuade the uninformed; some are obligated to different politicians. But, that does not mean you're obligated to the leader. So, don't forget that your ancestors struggled and fought for you to have the right to vote for whomever you choose. So ask yourself a question: "Who do I know that supports a minority candidate other than a minority?" Sincerely,
Thomas Jones, Jr.

Heck! My danged cotton-pickin' all-time high was 93 pounds of cotton picked in one day. And at least ten pounds of that was one of the weights from the weigh horse I accidentally-on-purpose dropped in amongst my meager accumulation of cotton for the day. Mama taught me a lesson that day.

You see, as long as 83 pounds of cotton was my all-time honest peak performance, mama accepted the fact and did not overly goad me or chastise me. But just as soon as I cheated and reached the 93-pound mark, mama applied a little pressure, expecting me to pick 93 pounds every day. Well, heck folk. The closest I ever come to duplicating the 93-pound feat again was when I sorta spilled a couple of gallons of water on my sheet of cotton. So, finally, I was faced with the problem of explaining to mama how I could manage to pick 93 pounds one or two times, but most of the time 83 pounds was my best performance. I could either come clean and tell her I cheated, or I could resort to stealing other folks cotton like another chap who went to school with me had a habit of doing. I opted for telling her the truth. When I did, she sorta looked at me with this real disappointed look in her eyes, like I had let her down or something. Boy! Now that hurt worst than one of her legendary thrashings. And it taught me that honesty is the best policy, no matter what you're doing.

What really tested my love for mama was getting bitten by a pesky cotton worm. Gracious! How I hated for her to take the snuff out of her mouth and apply a paste of snuff and saliva to the area of my body that was bitten by the pesky pest. Now folk, admittedly, this old-time remedy always took the sting right out of the bite. But--and don't you dare tell her I said so--I believe I would rather have suffered the pain bareback. But, don't misunderstand me folk. If she wanted to cover my body from head to food with snuff/saliva tatoes, I suffered the indignation. You see, mama didn't cotton to being talked back to. She'd blister our hide if we even thought about sassing her. And I weren't like most young'uns. With most young'uns, their feet run and their nose smelled and sometimes run too. I was just the opposite. My feet smelled. And I was constantly running off at the mouth.

But mama had my number. Other folk can say what they wish about being against spanking and switching young'uns. All I know is mama could accomplish more with her keen switch than all the psychologists and psychiatrists in the world combined could with their head games.

I jest folk. But, seriously speaking, let the word go forth throughout the land--I desperately love and respect my mama, Berna Barton. Like mothers throughout the world, she is special. And all mothers are deserving of being treated like the special people they are. I strongly suggest that we all treat every precious day we are allowed to spend with our mothers as "Mother's Day."

I'm serious folk. Family life is the backbone of society. And mothers, as far as I'm concerned, are the backbone of the family. I therefore believe that if folk started treating the mothers of the world with the love and respect they are deserving, a lot of the ills of the world would vanish like a puff of smoke. So, say a kind word or do a kind deed for your mother today. Okay?

I'll talk at 'ya some more next week, folk. And if these columns excite, offend, turn you on, or off, however they affect you, write me at PO Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372 and let me know. And when and if you write, let me know if it's alright to print what you have to say in this column. Okay?

Robeson Election Protest

LUMBERTON -- The Robeson County Board of Elections will meet Monday night to hear the protests of a Robeson County Board of Education candidate defeated in the May 8 primary.

Larry Chavis Sr., who lost to incumbent Pete Clark for the District 6 seat, filed a written letter of protest which was presented to the elections board Tuesday by board Supervisor Elizabeth Morton.

According to Morton, the letter brings out alleged irregularities Chavis witnessed on the voting day.

Clark narrowly defeated Chavis in the primary by 18 votes, 511-493.

The hearing will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Elections Board office on West Elizabethtown Road.

Dr. Sherwood Hinson, Jr.

LUMBERTON CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

4904 Fayetteville Rd.
IN SALEM SQUARE
THE NEWEST PROFESSIONAL PARK.

HEADACHES!

Thousands of people suffer daily from headaches. These headache sufferers usually turn to aspirins for relief. Many times drugs alone will not reduce the pain or the reoccurrence of their daily headache suffering.

Chiropractic offers a better alternative than drugs. Its only side effect is

GOOD HEALTH!

LUMBERTON CHIROPRACTIC CENTER

4904 Fayetteville Rd. in Salem Square,
the Newest Professional Park

Office Visits By Appointment 738-3600

CHIROPRACTORS HEAL PAIN... NATURALLY

4904 Fayetteville Rd. SALEM SQUARE 738-3600

Waiting is costly

<p>1 Yr. - 2 1/2 Yr. MONEY MARKET CERTIFICATE</p> <p>10.626% 10.10% Rate Effective Thru May 21</p> <p>\$1,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT 1 to 2 1/2 YEARS MATURITY PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL</p>	<p>8 MONTH MONEY MARKET CERTIFICATE</p> <p>10.00% Rate Effective Thru May 21 \$2,500 MINIMUM DEPOSIT 6 MONTH MATURITY PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL</p>
<p>7 DAYS TO 6 MONTHS MONEY MARKET CERTIFICATE</p> <p>9.00% Rate Effective Thru May 21 \$1,000 MINIMUM DEPOSIT 7 DAYS TO 6 MO. MATURITY PENALTY FOR EARLY WITHDRAWAL</p>	

Deposits Insured Up To \$100,000 By FIAC

PROGRESSIVE SAVINGS & LOAN, LTD.

4408 Fayetteville Rd. Phone 738-1415 or 738-1478 111 N. Court Sq. Lumberton, N.C.