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WILL FIVE GO INTO ONE?

MERGER POSSIBILITIES IN ROBESON COUNTY

EDITOR'S NOTE

This is the third in a series of articles about school merger possibilities in Robeson County. Will five go into one? History shouts "No!" We hope history will be proven wrong. The series of articles was written by Bruce Barton, editor of this newspaper.

Until 1975 the whites in Robeson County basically controlled educational matters in Robeson County. Until 1975, Robeson County was hampered, unduly, by a political device labeled "double voting" by its detractors.

"Double voting" was the practice in Robeson County whereby the residents of Robeson County's then five city school units (Maxton merged into the county system in 1979) voted for the make up of their own respective boards of education as well as for the makeup of the Robeson County Board of Education. City residents had a "double vote." Conversely, until the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, sitting in Richmond, Virginia ruled the political device unconstitutional, residents within the confines of the Robeson County system (mostly Indian) could not vote on the makeup of the city school boards. The "double vote" effectively rendered the Indians and

Blacks impotent politically in Robeson County; whites controlled all six school systems politically and administratively.

In 1975 (and the figures have not changed appreciably in 1985) the county system's pupil enrollment was approximately 60 percent Indian, 20 percent Black and 20 percent white. In spite of the 80 percent minority enrollment, the make up of the county school board was invariably white because of the "double vote" of city residents.

The court of appeals ruled April 23, 1975, in a unanimous vote, that "double voting" was unconstitutional because it essentially diluted the vote of the county residents within the county school system.

Because of the ban on "double voting" and in spite of a politically-inspired district system of election, the county school board is made up in 1985 of 7 Indians, 2 Blacks and 2 whites.... a more proportionate representation of the electorate at large. The school superintendent, Purnell Swett, is an Indian; as is Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, the chairman. The Indians now have a vested interest in the Robeson County School System. (emphasis added by author).

The Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper noted, as part of

a 1975 editorial: "The Robeson County Board of Education has never had an Indian chairman of the board of education and/or an Indian superintendent of the county school system. Until the N.C. General Assembly passed a law in 1973 declaring that four members of the county board of education would be elected by county residents... Indians or Blacks could not be elected to the board of education. To our knowledge, until the general assembly ruled on the matter... only two Indians (and no Blacks) had been elected to the school board in the history of the county."

Judge Algernon Butler, in the Eastern District Federal Court in Fayetteville, where the "double vote" suit was originally filed, had declared in a ruling that "...a compelling state interest justified participation of city board residents in the election of certain board members..." That ruling, as noted earlier, was overturned when the court of appeals ruled emphatically that "WE DISAGREE." And further said: "We reverse the district court and remand the case for the entry of declaratory judgment and the fashioning of other appropriate relief."

MORE NEXT WEEK...

Strike At The Wind's New Director Instills New Spirit In The Popular Outdoor Drama ...drama opens July 5 and runs through September 6



Clint Vaught

Red Banks-Clint Vaught, the director of "Strike at the Wind," the popular outdoor drama showcasing Henry Berry Lowrie, and his tri-racial circle of friends and foes, is hard at work instilling new life in the outdoor epic. Rehearsals are underway at the Lakeside Amphitheatre on the grounds of Riverside Country Club, located in storied Red Banks, a traditional Indian community approximately 3 miles west of Pembroke.

Vaught applauds the cast for their attentiveness, and their enthusiasm. Vaught has been impressed by the commitment of the cast, and is enthusiastic about the upcoming season. Vaught has instilled a new spirit in the cast. It promises a credible, action-packed drama. Vaught, ever the optimist, believes the show will have the audiences coming back for a second helping before the season ends.

Vaught hopes to tighten up the show, and wants to showcase the powerful love story of Henry Berry Lowrie and his beloved Rhoda who was known as "the prettiest girl in Scuffletown." Vaught also wants to strengthen the story line so that the audience will be able to understand it more fully.

The new director is struck by the potential of the show, both from a financial and dramatic point of view. He envisions the development of the proposed tourism center for the site, and believes arts and crafts, and historic showcases like simulated Indian

villages will help draw crowds in the years to come.

Vaught is a native Louisvillian (KY), and has directed at theatres and outdoor productions in Colorado (The Great Western Playhouse), Ohio (Sugarloaf Mountain Amphitheatre), Alabama (Celebrity Dinner Playhouse), Virginia (Barn Dinner Playhouse), and Kentucky (Belknap Playhouse, Durrett Players). Selected directing assignments include "ROUGHING IT", "GENERATION", "LITTLE MARY SUNSHINE", "IMAGINARY INVALID", "THE HOME-COMING" and "THE SECRET LIFE OF WALTER MITTY".

A certified member of The Society of American Fight Directors (1983), he has served as Fightmaster/Fight director for "BLACKBEARD: KNIGHT OF THE BLACK FLAG", "THE LEGEND OF TOM DOOLEY", "THE NATURE OF VIOLENCE", "OKLAHOMA", "COMING ATTRACTIONS", "WEST SIDE STORY", and portrayed the beloved patriarch Tevye in "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF." A professional actor since 1971, his title and/or lead roles include Cymbeline for Shakespeare in Central Park, Blackbeard, Tom Dooley, Tsali in "UNTO THESE HILLS" and Mark Twain in "ROUGHING IT."

Currently represented by FACES LTD. MODEL AND TALENT agency, he has been a frequent face and voice on broadcast commercials (latest TV for Storer cable, Radio for Byerly Nissan, both current), and is an instructor for TV ACTOR'S WORKSHOP studio classes (4 years) and LOUISVILLE PRESBYTERIAN SEMINARY'S Speech Clearance (3 years).

Vaught holds degrees in Theatre Arts and Speech from Transylvania University (B.A.) and the University of Louisville (M.A.). He and his wife Phyllis has three children, and they have a home near Churchhill Downs, in Louisville's South End neighborhood. Clint enjoys fishing, sports and playwriting.

Vaught invites everyone to come see "Strike at the Wind!" this season. The season opens July 5, and continues each Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights until September 6. The drama begins at 8:30 p.m. nightly, and promises to be an integral and exciting part of 1986-The Year of the Native American in North Carolina.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

ROBESON COUNTY BLACK CAUCUS SPONSORS DEBATE

The public is invited to a public debate on the Pro's and Con's of the Merger of Robeson County Public School Systems. The debate will be held Saturday, June 21, 1986 at 10 a.m. at the O.P. Owens Auditorium (near the Cancer Institute) on Old Maxton Road in Lumberton, N.C.

Legislators, educators, board members, parents, students and citizens are urged to attend and participate. The debate will be sponsored by the Robeson County Black Caucus.

MISS LUMBEE APPEARS IN MISS N.C. PAGEANT

The annual Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant will be held on June 28, 1986 at Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh, N.C. Our lovely Miss Lumbee, 1986 Brenda Lowry, will be representing the Lumbee community at this year's event.

The pageant preliminaries will begin on June 25. Brenda will participate in the swimsuit preliminary on June 25, talent preliminary on June 26, and evening gown competition on June 27. Miss Lumbee, along with the other Miss North Carolina contestants, will reside on the Peace College campus during pageant week. Fallon's Florist of Raleigh is in charge of flowers for the pageant. A coronation ball will be held at the Raleigh Civic Center following the pageant.

Please check your local TV listings for the TV stations that will air the pageant on Saturday, June 28, 1986 at 9:00 p.m. Tune in and give Miss Lumbee, 1986 Brenda Lowry, your support. Miss Lumbee's business manager, Mrs. Florence Ransom, will accompany Brenda to Raleigh for the pageant.

BROOKS APPOINTED TO NATIONAL WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON SMALL BUSINESS

Mr. Paul Brooks, owner of H & B Tree Company, received notification in May of his appointment to the National White House Conference on Small Business from Mr. Peter J. Wallison, assistant to the President.

Mr. Brooks has been a business owner for many years in Robeson County. He also serves as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Lumbee Regional Development Association in Pembroke.

FOUR MAN SUPER BALL GOLF TOURNAMENT

A Four-Man Super Ball Golf Tournament will be held on Saturday, June 21 at the Riverside Golf Course. Tee off time is 9 a.m. The price is \$20 per player. The event is being sponsored by the Pembroke American Legion Post 205. Proceeds will be applied to the base ball program.

Interested persons should contact one of the following by 5 p.m. Friday: Bobby Dean Locklear, 521-2353 or 521-2502; Ronnie Chavis, 521-2388; Riverside Golf Course, 521-8433.

MEMBERSHIP RECRUITMENT NIGHT

On Thursday night, June 26, the Board of Directors of Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned is sponsoring a membership recruitment night at 6 p.m. at the RC/CALC office at 116

W. 4th Street in Lumberton. All churches and community organizations are invited to send at least two representatives to the special monthly meeting. Also, any individuals who are interested in finding out more about RC/CALC are invited to attend.

"Upward Bound" Program At PSU Begins Its 14th Summer

BYGENE WARREN

Pembroke-One of North Carolina's finest "Upward Bound" programs was renewed Sunday with many new faces when some 75 students arrived on the Pembroke State University campus for six weeks of living and studying in a college environment.

This will be the 14th straight summer that PSU has been funded for this program by the U.S. Department of Education's Title IV program.

High school students meeting certain federal guidelines are admitted regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, handicap, or ethnic background. They make a 2 1/2 year commitment to the program.

This means they attend the "Upward Bound" program at PSU each summer for three summers and also attend two classes on the PSU campus each Monday from 6:30-9 p.m. during two school years. The classes which they attend are in subjects where they need help.

Tommy Swett, director of special programs at Pembroke State, inaugurated this program at PSU in 1973. "I'm in charge of special services, health careers, etc., but the 'Upward Bound' program occupies a special place in my heart. I've seen so many kids helped by it," said Swett.

Swett estimates that some 500 young people have gone through the program since it was launched. They have continued on to undergraduate and graduate schools and have been very successful in the professions. Plans are to have a reunion of all "Upward Bound" graduates to coincide with PSU's Centennial celebration in 1987. Students who have been in the program include: Beverly Lassane of Lumberton, an '84 graduate of UNC-Chapel

Hill who is in medical school there; Jeff Moore, a graduate of the law school at UNC-Chapel Hill; James Dockery, a North Carolina A&T graduate now employed by the Lumberton Board of Education; Belinda Harris, a PSU graduate now directing the "Talent Search" program for LRDA; William Ghee, an '85 graduate now at UNC-Chapel Hill and planning to attend graduate school or medical school; and Terry Clark, who is attending veterinary school in Tuskegee, Ala., said Swett.

When Swett first started the program, a main purpose was to help prepare the high school students for college. "We have since broadened that concept. We want them to plan for graduate school as well so to have careers in medicine, engineering, etc., particularly careers where minorities are not adequately represented," said Swett. The students in PSU's summer "Upward Bound" program have a full schedule of activities on campus. They have morning classes from 8 a.m. until noon, then take electives from 1-4 p.m. In the evenings, they participate in athletics such as swimming, basketball, volleyball, softball, and tennis.

At the end of the six weeks, the students who have earned the required

points are taken on a trip July 28-30.

Among the classes to be taught are: an Introduction to Computer Science, chemistry, advanced mathematics, composition, and critical thinking.

Electives include: photography, physical education, art, drama, and music. Guest speakers also enhance the summer studies.

On the last day of regular classes, the students and parents are guests at an awards dinner in the PSU cafeteria.

Instructors for this summer include: mathematics-Ernie Locklear, teacher at West Robeson; communication skills-Yvonne Dial, teacher at West Robeson; computer science-Cathy Lowe, a PSU student in computer science from Pembroke, and Daniel McKenzie, teacher at South Robeson; critical thinking-Bruce Barton, student at PSU and editor of the Carolina Indian Voice; and Barbara Powell, teacher at West Robeson High.

Coordinating the "Upward Bound" program as assistant to Swett is Larry McCallum.

Supervising the students will be Terry Clark of Fairmont and Sharon Oxendine of Pembroke, assisted by 12 college upperclassmen who will live in the dormitories with the students.

DEMERY (DIMERY) FAMILY REUNION PLANNED

The Demery (Dimery) Family Reunion is being planned for Saturday, July 5, 1986 at the Deep Branch School Cafeteria at 4:00 P.M.

To all of the descendants

of the late Erven and Alice Demery whose children were Lloyd, Frank, Willie Bunk, Jason, and Alonso: you are cordially invited to attend this family reunion. Submitted by Robert E. Dimery

Say you read it in... THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Cherokee Join N.C. Commission Of Indian Affairs

For the first time in its 15-year history, the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs will include representatives from the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians. John Standingdeer of the Big Cove community and Richard Welch of the Yellow Hill community, both near Cherokee, will be sworn in at the commission meeting June 19. Secretary of State Thad Eure will officiate at the swearing in, which is scheduled for 1:15 p.m. in the conference room of the Heart of Raleigh Motel building, 227 E. Edenton St., Raleigh.

"We see this as an important step," said N.C. Department of Administration Deputy Secretary Henry E. McKoy. "Now all the recognized tribes and organizations in North Carolina will sit on the commission to handle the business of Indian affairs in North Carolina." The Cherokee were offered seats on the commission

in 1971 when it was established, but declined. On April 8 the Cherokee Tribal Council passed a resolution to accept full participation on the commission, saying the move would be "advantageous for both." With 65,000 Native Americans, North Carolina has the largest Indian population of any state east of the Mississippi. The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs is the only state government agency whose specific responsibility is to meet the needs of the state's Indians.

The Cherokees join four other tribes represented on the commission, as well as representatives from the three Indian urban organizations in Fayetteville, Greensboro and Charlotte. The tribes are Lumbee in Robeson and surrounding counties, Coharie in Sampson and Harnett counties, Haliwa-Sapona in Halifax and Warren counties and Waccamaw-Siouan in Columbus and Bladen counties.