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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-racial Setting."

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PEMBROKE RAILROAD DEPOT GIVEN A NEW LEASE ON LIFE...

Thanks To Pates Supply Company, the railroad, town officials, etc., etc.

BY BRUCE BARTON
Pembroke-Good news...finally! The Pembroke Railroad Depot, long abandoned by the railroad, has been given a new lease on life. Bruce Barton, chairman of the Pembroke Historic Properties Commission, termed it "a good day for Pembroke and her citizens." Mayor Milton Hunt, a strong supporter of the effort to save and eventually restore the historic building to the good use of the citizenry, also expressed satisfaction with the effort to date.

Seaboard System Railroad (now CSX Corporation) gave the depot to the town and its Pembroke Historic Properties Commission on January 27, 1986 but with the proviso that the town "...at its own expense remove said building and clear the site thereof to the satisfaction of the donor's engineer prior to August 1, 1986." There in was the rub.

Because of insurance inhibitions, and safety reasons, the railroad company would not allow the building to be used on its present site. It created a very difficult problem, to say the least, according to Mayor Hunt and Barton.

That is when Pates Supply Company entered the picture. Responding to an appeal by Bruce Barton, chairman of the Pembroke Historic Properties Commission, "Rusty" Livermore, the

chief executive officer of Pates Supply Company, approached the board of directors with Barton's request that Pates Supply Company donate a piece of property (including five lots of various sizes) to the town and the commission as a site for the historic railroad depot.

After months of legal wrangling, and definition of land use, Pates Supply Company has graciously donated the property fronting the Sampson Rest Home. The site will be the home of the Pembroke Railroad Depot. Plans are to develop a branch library of the Robeson County Public Library and, possibly, quarters for the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce and offices for "Strike at the Wind!", the successful outdoor drama about Henry Berry Lowrie and the enterprising and creative Lumbee Indians. Other uses might include a teaching and art studio, and offices for the Pembroke Historic Properties Commission.

Barton said, "This is an important step in the right direction. We now have the depot, and a place to move it, to that will not lessen appreciably the historic significance of the building."

Tentative plans are to use the rest of the land for a public park. In recognition of Pates Supply's gift, and in honor of its late President R.H. Livermore, the park will be named "The R.H.

Livermore Memorial Park." Plans are already underway to develop a park that will include a flower garden, fish pond, and evergreen trees, and park benches for those who like to relax and repose in a park.

The Pembroke Historic Properties Commission will be responsible to the Pembroke Town Council for restoring and developing the historic building, built in 1888. (Pembroke was not incorporated until 1895). Bruce Barton chairs the commission that was given life by town ordinance. Other members are: Mrs. Mary H. Locklear, Mrs. Lucy Locklear, and Dr. Bob Hersch who serves as an ex-officio member. Also serving on the commission are Mayor Milton Hunt and Garth Locklear, chairman of Pembroke's Planning Board.

The Pembroke Historic Properties Commission will meet at 6 p.m. on July 7, 1986, prior to a meeting of the Pembroke Town Council at town hall. All interested citizens are encouraged to attend, and learn more about the exciting possibilities.

At this meeting, too, Pates Supply Company will, hopefully, present the official deed to the property where the restored railroad depot will sit in stately splendor.

Because of the problems in securing a site, fund raising efforts had to be halted until Pates Supply Company graciously donated the property adjoining the present location of the depot. That clears the way, now, for an extended fund raising effort. The North Carolina General Assembly, thanks to the efforts of legislators Danny DeVane, Pete Hasty, Sidney Locks and Senator David Parnell, donated \$10,000 to the restorative effort last year. The money will be used to move the building to the new site (estimated to cost \$8,000.00) and begin landscaping the park.

Your contributions are sorely needed, as the effort is expected to cost in excess of \$150,000. You may send your contributions to: Pembroke Historic Properties Commission, Post Office Box 1075, Pembroke, N.C. 28572 or you may call 521-2826 [Bruce Barton] for further details.

WILL FIVE GO INTO ONE? MERGER POSSIBILITIES IN ROBESON COUNTY

The Indians were happy, indeed! All those who sued the Robeson County officials in the matter expressed pleasure at the ruling of the appeals court. The Indians who sued for "appropriate" relief were: Janie Mavnor Locklear, James Earl Brooks, Marie Locklear, Curley Locklear, Kever Locklear, Brenda Brooks, the Eastern Carolina Indian Organization, and the Task Force to Break Double Voting. The principle attorney was Chapel Hill attorney, Barry Nakell, ably assisted by Adam Stein, another Chapel Hill barrister of note. The suit was sponsored by the North Carolina Civil Liberties Union. And the N.C. League of Women Voters filed a "friend of the court" brief in the case.

Barry Nakell remembered in a telephone conversation, "Above all else we ought to give credit to Dexter Brooks, a Lumbee Indian, who was then attending law school at Chapel Hill. He did outstanding work in the litigation and had the fortitude to see the suit through." Nakell added, "I think the decision opened up the exciting prospect of giving the Indians of Robeson County full opportunity to participate in the running of their school board and schools." Dexter Brooks later served a stint as county school board attorney, and is now a notable, Pembroke-

based attorney after he was disposed himself later in a political tiff among the Indians elected after the elimination of the "Double Vote."

Following news reports that local officials might challenge the outcome of the suit, one prominent Indian said: "I am sick and tired of paying the bills for kicking my own self in the rear end. The taxpayers have been taxed enough. It is time now to get on with the business of providing an education for all the children of Robeson County."

The county political hierarchy eventually decided against challenging the decision, and "double voting" is now only a painful memory in the educational history of Robeson County.

But trouble had been brewing even before "Double Voting" was outlawed. The county, with its geographical and racial criss-crossing lines, did hardly any thing to encourage pupil desegregation until the 1970-71 school year, fifteen years after the momentous Brown I desegregation suit. Several years of freedom of choice can only be termed an abysmal failure when gauged by the number of pupils then attending schools historically foreign to their own race. The county administration simply termed the situation unsolvable in light of the tri-racial uniqueness of the pupil population.

HEW (U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but now separate as the U.S. Department of Education) had never dealt with a situation exactly like Robeson's, and attempted Black-White remedies to none avail. They also were faced with rigid response on the part of local school officials. Perplexed, the U.S. Government acquiesced to a bunch of "good ole white boys" as a local political wag termed it at the time. The 1970 Plan that eventually surfaced changed little, as far as desegregation is concerned.

Under the agreed upon desegregation plan, several small schools were closed and a few were paired off. Said changes mostly effected Blacks and whites. For instance, "Oak Ridge (Black) was closed, and Proctorville (Black) was paired with Orrum (White)." The 1970 agreement essentially froze district lines of the far-flung school systems, and freedom-of-choice was abolished. Boundary lines were closed. The county school system lost more than two thousand Indian students in the process. Integration was seen as a Black-White issue by the Indians and even today, the Indians consider themselves losers in the federal embroidery of Robeson County's crazy-quilt educational blanket.

Continued Next Week

State Youth Bible Drill Champion



Congratulations to Ms. Krista Locklear, a member of the Youth Bible Drill Team at Mt. Airy Baptist Church, who was declared the state winner during the Youth Bible Drill Tournament held in Asheboro, May 24.

Krista was among 97 participants in the tournament representing Southern Baptist churches across the State of North Carolina. She was one of the winners in the Church Training Leadership Conference held at the Ridgecrest Baptist Assembly June 18-19. Krista is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Locklear of the Mt. Airy community. Her Bible Drill leader is Mr. James [Pete] Monroe Hunt.

LUMBEE HOMECOMING AWARDS BANQUET

One of the highlights of Lumbee Homecoming 1986 will be the Lumbee Awards Banquet. The banquet will be held at Pembroke Junior High School on July 3, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. The purpose of this affair is to present four prestigious awards to Lumbees who have dedicated their lives to the plight of the Lumbee People. The four awards are: 1) Lumbee Business Award; 2) Henry Berry Lowry Award; 3) Distinguished Service Award; and 4) Advancement of Education Award.

Mistress of Ceremonies for this affair will be Miss Vickie Ransom, a 1973 graduate of Pembroke State University. Vickie is currently employed with the North Carolina Department of Human Resources as Program Consultant with the Office of Volunteer Services. She serves on the Governor's Minority Executive Committee and represents Secretary Phil Kirk on the N.C. Indian Commission Board. Vickie has received many honors during her career including Outstanding Young Citizen of Robeson County, Outstanding Young Woman of America. She is a former Miss Lumbee, 1970, and participates in the judging of local and state beauty pageants.

The guest speaker for this occasion will be Dr. Dalton P. Brooks, Sr., the first recipient of the 'Advancement of Education Award' during Lumbee Homecoming 1980. As a past recipient of the Advancement of Education Award, LMDA is honored to have Dr. Brooks serve in the capacity of guest speaker for 1986. Dr. Brooks is employed by FSU as Director, Office of Grants and Institutional Research and promotes the spiritual life of man, serving as pastor of Dunderbush Baptist Church.

Lumbee Homecoming proudly announces this year's award winners in advance to allow those who wish to honor the recipients an opportunity to do so.

Henry Berry Lowry Award winner for 1986 is Dexter Brooks, Attorney at Law, with Locklear, Brooks, Jacobs & Sutton Firm located in Pembroke, NC.

He entered the University of N.C. School of Law in 1978 and was the first Indian to graduate from the UNC School of Law in 1978 with a Juris Doctorate Degree. Attorney Brooks is well known for litigation involving the justice of Lumbee Indian people. Dexter was very instrumental in the conduct of legal and factual research in the Janie Mavnor Locklear

Continued on Page 5

Princess Pale Moon To Be Special Guest Of Lumbee Homecoming

Princess Pale Moon, of the Cherokee and Ojibwa tribes, will be a special guest of Lumbee Homecoming 1986. Pale Moon serves her country and her native people as Ambassador of Friendship, performing artist, communicator and role model.

As Ambassador of Friendship, Pale Moon has served as Hostess for the U.S. Reception Center at the Montreal Olympics, International Goodwill Ambassador in Europe for USO Tours, and is President and Found-

der of the American Indian Heritage Foundation.

Princess Pale Moon's performances vary from her native music, to classical and contemporary music. She has performed at the Kennedy Center, Republican National and State Conventions and at numerous Billy Graham Crusades. In addition, Pale Moon has recorded

Pale Moon is dedicated to inspiring excellence in today's youth. She has served as both speaker and awards presenter at high schools throughout the country, and was the 1983 recipient of the American Indian Society's Distinguished Indian Leadership Award.

Lumbee Homecoming is honored to have such a varied and distinguished talent as Princess Pale Moon as a special guest at this year's celebration of our Native American heritage.



Grand Opening of GG's Car Wash located on Highway 72, West of Lumberton at Jamestown Shopping Center. It is one of the modern four bay car washes in Robeson County. The system is RYCO, if customers want the high pressure spray system. RYCO has it.

The customers have five options to choose from: foamy brush, wax, tire cleaner, rinse, gentle wash. Customers can also clean inside their automobiles with the RYCO economy vacuum system, the tops on the market. Customers are also encouraged to try the Magic

Mist car fresh auto fragrance, wild cherry or cinnamon to choose from. "We also have other vending machines by Armor-All to help you clean your car its brights. We are here to serve customers with service, courtesy and a smile," said Charles Gregory Cummings, owner. "We want all dirty cars."

LET'S SAVE

THE PEMBROKE RAILROAD DEPOT!

Artwork by Mr. Paul Van Zandt

"Indians For Broyhill" Committee To Meet June 27

A meeting will be held June 27, 1986 at 7:30 p.m. at the Pembroke Court Room. You are cordially invited to attend to discuss and plan ways to develop support for Broyhill in the upcoming election.

Mr. Leland Oxendine and Sylvia Bullard have been selected to spearhead the campaign. If further information is needed, please call Ms. Bullard at 521-2796 (home) or 843-3682 (office) or Mr. Oxendine at 521-4977 (home) or 521-4795 (office). Guest speaker will be Sylvester Williams, an employee of the Broyhill campaign.

BLUE FAMILY REUNION PLANNED JULY 5

The Blue Family Reunion will be held on July 5, 1986 at 2:00 P.M. For more information please call Adolf Blue at 521-4271.

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 Ervin and Alice Demery whose children were Lloyd, Frank, Willie, Bunk, Jovan, and Alonzo: you are cordially invited to attend this family reunion.

Submitted by Robert E. Dimery