

EDITORIAL PAGE

AN EDITORIAL POSITION

AS I SEE IT



by
**Bruce
Barton**

I AM NOT A PARTY TO PEMBROKE'S DECISION TO NOT FIGHT RAILROAD'S LAWSUIT

Even if it makes good sense, and I'm not sure it does, I want the public to know that I am not personally a party to the town of Pembroke's decision to not fight the threatened lawsuit filed recently by CSX. CSX wants to build a railroad track within the town's zoning jurisdiction, and is claiming eminent domain.

I have been busy the last few weeks finishing up my student teaching at Orrum High School. I have four weeks left. I leave about 7 a.m. every morning and get back in town late in the afternoon. What little bit of time I have left is divided between my family, church and business (the Carolina Indian Voice). It doesn't necessarily mean I am important, but God knows I have been busy lately. If everything goes according to plans, I will finish my studies at Pembroke State University in December. I will be a happy man. I am not sorry that I returned to school, but I am awfully tired. It's been a challenge, and I've had to lay down some things to get the job done. It's been tough. Honest.

Never-the-less, every once in a while, I have to stand flat-footed and let you know where I stand on certain matters. In the case of the railroad, I feel like Pembroke ought to sue them for disturbing the peace of our town and surrounding community. I feel like the town has a right to zone its one mile jurisdiction, including the part of it that this proposed railroad spur will traverse

through.

Too, I have never pretended that I am particularly practical. Sometimes I take a stand because my sense of honor demands it. As you know, I began a movement, a year or so ago, to save Pembroke's historic Railroad Depot. I have done that. The railroad belongs to the town and its Pembroke Historic Properties Commission; and Pates Supply Company has also graciously given us an adjoining tract of land to put the depot on where a restoration effort will take place soon...as soon as I finish school.

I notice that Pembroke officials have given up the fight against the railroad on grounds that it might be more expensive than they are able to bear. And, according to Ronnie Sutton, town attorney, the railroad has promised to give the town \$25,000 toward restoring the depot. If so, this is the first time I have heard anything about it...and I am the one who saved the depot. That's the truth. To date, I have not promised anyone anything for supporting the depot.

More next week. Time has run out on me. But I wanted you to know where I stand on this matter. I hope the railroad gives us the \$25,000 but I have not given anything in return...especially my honor and human dignity. Even though I am chairperson of the Pembroke Historic Properties Commission (the agency charged with saving and restoring the depot), I know nothing about this matter. As I see it, someone owes me an explanation...and apology. More next week.

Nepotism Is Bad Politics...As Well As Bad Public Policy In Robeson County

The November 13, 1986 *Coroner's Inquest* into the death of Jimmy Earl Cummings has left many questions in the minds of the public. Foremost among them is: why was the inquest held twelve days after the death of Cummings? Cummings was shot to death November 1 by Kevin Stone, Narcotics Agent for the Robeson County Sheriff's Department, and also son of Sheriff Hubert Stone. Many taxpayers seem to feel that an inquest would never have been held, if the public had not shown outrage at the seeming unnecessary shooting of Mr. Cummings. The public was outraged and planned to meet and discuss a method for changing things in the judicial process of Robeson County. Many people seemingly feel that they are no longer safe on Robeson's streets or in their own houses. There has long been questions about nepotism in the Robeson County Sheriff's Department where two sons of Sheriff Hubert Stone are employed as Deputies. The Sheriff's brother, Billy Stone, also is employed by the Sheriff's Department. Billy Stone, however, was employed by the Sheriff's Department prior to his brother being elected Sheriff.

It seemingly took the death of Jimmy Earl Cummings to force people to become determined to find out the answers to their questions. The laws of the State of North Carolina clearly state that it is permissible for the Sheriff of the "Great State of Robeson County" to hire family members, with the approval of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners. The question now remains: how many of our county commissioners sat complacently by and allowed the sheriff of the county to hire both of his sons? Although the killing of Jimmy Earl Cummings was only the latest allegation against Kevin Stone, where have our county commissioners been? Why have they not long ago demanded the removal of the Stones on ethical and moral grounds? Could they not see that it would be almost impossible for Sheriff Hubert Stone to reprimand his sons as deputies, no matter what the offence? Why would they not take the awesome responsibility away from the Sheriff? How many of them will admit publicly that they agreed to the practice of nepotism because they simply did not take time to consider the problems with nepotism when it came before them? Someone needs to accept responsibility for their actions...We suggest that the county commissioners begin at once to accept the responsibility for their part in the seemingly wrongful death of Jimmy Earl Cummings. We editorially recommend that the county commissioners dismiss both sons of the Sheriff, Kevin and Keith Stone, and open those positions to persons who have no political clout or relation to the Sheriff.

Other questions have been posed by the recent inquest. Why was the Cummings family not allowed to have an attorney? Why would the coroner, Chalmers Biggs, not delay the hearing, after the family requested time to obtain counsel? What was the great hurry? We suggest that the entire coroner's inquest was nothing more than a farce. The great farce was held, we believe, to clear Kevin Stone as soon as possible after the community at large became outraged. We suggest to you that the District Attorney, the Sheriff's Department and the Coroner of Robeson County are not interested in seeing justice done in this case...as we see it.

We have a very simple recommendation, editorially speaking, for Sheriff Hubert Stone, Coroner Chalmers Biggs and District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt: For the sake of the county, resign your positions immediately...Our recommendation to the public is this: stay in touch with the Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned. Fight for the human rights we are all entitled to...Demand that justice be done, even if it takes months...Don't give up the battle...Let's unite and demand as a county of concerned citizens that we have a recall election and dispose of Sheriff Hubert Stone, District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt and Coroner Chalmers Biggs. If we recall these elected officials, nepotism will be disallowed. We do have alternatives. United we can change things in the "Great State of Robeson."

Editorially, and in good conscience, we suggest an immediate recall effort against all those who would rob us of our human dignity...and our very lives.

And, while we're at it, citizens of Robeson County ought to insist that nepotism be disallowed...even in the case of the Sheriff. Nepotism is bad politics, as well as public policy. This case reminds us anew that justice does not, as yet, rest easy in Ol' Robeson.

EXTENSION SCENE

ROBESON TECHNICAL COLLEGE

By Bob DeWitt

In the latest newsletter from the North Carolina State Data Center there was a prediction that the state population would increase over 31 percent by the year 2010. North Carolina had a population of 5,880,415 on census day in 1980, and that population is expected to grow to 7,731,197 by the time the 2010 census is taken.

We have read many news articles relating to the migration from other states, especially of elderly and retired, into the "sunshine belt." North Carolina is included in this area because of our highly desirable climate and abundance of natural resources. This rapid increase in population is especially true for the mountains, seashore, and the piedmont metropolitan areas of our state, but yet we are not the leading state in in-migration. Florida and Arizona have this distinction.

Even if we consider ourselves on the high side in population increase over the next 30 years, what do you imagine the population of the entire United States will be by the year 2010? Will it increase by 25 percent? If so, the national population at that time will be close to 300 million people.

The reason I mention these numbers is a reflection of the recent surpluses of agricultural products that has caused many problems for agricultural producers in our state and the nation. Will this trend in overproduction continue or will the time come when there is not enough production to properly provide for the needs of our citizens? Surely, as our average income levels increase and the number of mouths to feed increases, there will be a proportional increase in demand for food products.

As I reviewed the recent release of the 1987 Agricultural Statistics, it was hard to imagine that with the number of acres of land that is devoted to corn and soybean production in North Carolina, we account for less than 2 percent of the total national production. Very simply, this

RTC Instructor Nominated By Peers For Excellence In Teaching Award

When the N.C. Department of Community Colleges decided earlier this year to implement a program that recognized the top instructors in the system's 58 institutions, it gave teachers like Linda MacLeod a chance to speak up for someone they felt was deserving of the honor.

At Robeson Technical College, that honor went to Law Enforcement Instructor George Emerick, a retired Army First Sergeant who spent 13 1/2 years in the Special Forces.

"He goes out of his way for the students and does more than meet his class and teach it well," said Ms. MacLeod, who was among the instructors at RTC who nominated Emerick for entry into the system's state-wide competition for the "Excellence in Teaching" award.

"What impresses me is that he works diligently with his students and he seems to take a fatherly interest in them. You'll see his students come back after they've found a job and spend an hour talking with him."

Emerick is somewhat surprised by all the complimentary remarks and accolades he has received since being honored during a board meeting earlier this month by Trustee Chairman A.D. Lewis and First Union's Steve Harrell, who presented Emerick a gold framed certificate that recognized his nomination for the DCC "Teaching in Excellence" award.

"I remember when I first heard about it, I thought maybe it was a local thing," Emerick said. "But then I found out it was more involved and how much people gave of their time in preparing my nomination."

"I'm flattered that my own peer group would think enough of me to put forth that kind of effort. It was more than jotting down a name; they had to justify it."

"These are people in the profession and they know what it takes and to have them select you is very satisfying."

Emerick's peers admire his zeal and energy. During Halloween, Emerick dressed up as The Great Pumpkin and roamed about campus giving candy away to the students. He annually takes his own students on an educational tour to Washington, D.C. And to further promote the idea of camaraderie, Emerick orders for his students specially designed jackets and caps bearing a distinctive police science logo.

"There's no doubt he goes the extra mile," Ms. MacLeod said.

Emerick has been teaching others since his military days. As a member of the Special Forces, Emerick spent much of his time teaching the

techniques of special warfare to the peoples of other nations and countries. But Emerick was also involved in helping others improve their way of life.

"One of the primary purposes of the Special Forces is not only to train indigenous people in the art of warfare, but also to help them improve their living conditions," he said. "We showed them how to sink wells, build bridges and improve sanitation."

Emerick went to Campbell College after the military and earned a bachelor's degree in business administration. He went on to Webster College in St. Louis, Mo. and finished work on his masters degree in criminal justice.

Studying law enforcement and criminal behavior was not altogether unusual for Emerick, who had spent some time as a military policeman with the Marine Corps and had seen some members of his family choose a career in police work in his native home of Cleveland, Ohio.

"I have a sister who has been a cop in Cleveland for 20 some years," Emerick said. "I also helped set up a foreign police department in Africa when I was with the Special Forces."

Emerick came to RTC five years ago from Fayetteville Technical Institute where he also taught classes in the police science program.

He loves the work. "I enjoy what I'm doing and I get paid to do it; it's too bad more people aren't in that position," Emerick said. "I tell my students, 'Education does not have to be a painful experience.' I think learning can be something enjoyed."

Hills food stores

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Sliced Bacon \$2.89 lb.

LOUIS RICH
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CHEF'S PANTRY
Turkey Nuggets \$2.99 lb.
fried Patties \$1.79 lb.

Exposure Blamed In Death

MAXTON — A Red Springs man found dead near here late Sunday afternoon apparently died from exposure, a Robeson County Sheriff's Department spokesman said Monday.

Bobby Daniel Hill, 40, of 107 W. McNeill Drive, Red Springs, was found by a Maxton area resident alongside a road about five miles north of Maxton, authorities said Monday.

Preliminary medical tests indicate that Hill died of exposure but the completion of other tests are still pending, said Al Parnell, chief of detectives for the Sheriff's Department.

Hill was last seen in the Maxton area late Saturday afternoon or early Saturday night, Parnell said.

LOWER BACK PAIN

(Slipped Disc)
(Pinched Nerve)

Low back pain is the number 1 cause of employee disability in the U.S. When lower back pain strikes, the pain is severe and often radiates to the legs. These are sure signs that a nerve is involved.



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OUR BUSINESS IS YOUR HEALTH AND PEACE OF MIND

Howard says:
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Howard Brooks, r.ph.

Fighting influenza...
Flu symptoms often mimic common colds. But, if an upper respiratory infection hits "like a truck!" with sudden fever, chills, aches, and weakness, it's the flu.
Overnight, flu attacks can become dangerous, leading to pneumonia which causes over 50,000 deaths each year. Chicken soup, aspirin, and bed rest may not be enough to fight back.
The single most important measure to take against flu is an annually modified vaccination of inactivated influenza vaccine.

STORIES FROM THE BOOK OF JOHN
14:7) If you had known me, ye should have known my Father also; and henceforth, ye know him and have seen him.

The first city to be illuminated by gas lights was Baltimore, in 1817.

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