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

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## Robeson To Ask Assembly For Bill To Merge Schools

**LUMBERTON** — The Robeson County Board of Commissioners voted Monday to ask the General Assembly for state legislation to merge the county's five public school systems.

In a 4-2 vote, the commissioners adopted a resolution calling for the county's legislative delegation to introduce a bill seeking a consolidated school system.

The resolution also asks the legislation to provide for a voter referendum on the issue and asks that legislators specify "levels of funding."

The resolution did not specify whether the bill would be withdrawn if voters reject the idea of merger in the referendum.

The motion to adopt the resolution was introduced by Commissioner Wyvis Oxendine and seconded by Commissioner Henry Douglas. The two joined commissioners Jack Morgan and Gary Powers in voting for the resolution.

Commissioners H.T. Taylor and Carl Britt voted against the resolution.

For years, proposals have been made to merge the Robeson County school system with city school systems in Lumberton, St. Pauls, Red Springs and Fairmont. None have been successful.

Officials from the four city school systems have said they are opposed to merger, while officials in the county system support the idea.

Late last year, a grass-roots citizens group in the county asked the commissioners to meet with the county legislative delegation to seek a merger bill. The commissioners did not adopt the proposal but agreed to meet with the delegates.

But the legislative delegation

said it would not consider a merger bill until the commissioners gave them a written resolution in support of merger and agree to sufficiently fund a merger.

The resolution adopted Monday calls for General Assembly legislation that would "specify adequate appropriation and levels of funding to ensure educational programs and services, comparable to those currently being provided and to ensure district-wide equity ... of programs and services."

In another matter, the commissioners also approved an increase in water rates for residences and businesses.

The rates are tentatively scheduled to take effect March 1, according to Grady Chavis, administrative supervisor for the county water department.

Under the rate increases, residents will continue paying a \$7 minimum for up to 2,000 gallons of water use. But for the next 3,000 gals, the rate will be \$2 per 1,000 gallons.

For the next 5,000 gallons, rates will increase from \$1.25 to \$1.50 per 1,000 gallons. For 10,000 gallons of use, residents were paying \$17.75 and now will pay \$20.50. The average customer uses 6,500 gallons per month.

Commercial customers were paying \$11 for their first 2,000 gallons. That will increase to \$12. For the next 3,000 gallons, customers were paying \$1.25 per thousand, and they now will pay \$2. For the next 5,000 gallons, commercial customers were paying \$1 per thousand and now will pay \$1.50.

For 10,000 gallons of use, a customer paid \$19.75. That rate will increase to \$25.50.

## Book About Indians Now On Sale

The 80-page book, "Native Americans: The People and How They Live," is on sale for \$15.69 including tax at PSU's Native American Resource Center.

Beautifully bound, the 8 1/2 x 11 book was published by the North Carolina State Museum of Natural Sciences in honor of "The Year of the Native American." It was edited by Eloise F. Potter and John B. Funderburg, who is director of the State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh.

The book is dedicated to Betty Oxendine Mangum, a graduate of PSU who is director of the Division of Indian Education for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. The tribute to her says: "To Betty Oxendine Mangum whose pride in her heritage

and love for children inspired us to write this book."

The book contains a number of beautiful color paintings of Indians. Among those posing for art work were Mrs. Mangum, Tim Brayboy, Wanda Burns-Ramsey, Jane Locklear Smith, Lindsey Brooker, and Darlene Locklear Jacobs whose son Drake also posed and is pictured both on the cover and inside the book. Drake is the grandson of Steve Locklear. Brooker is the granddaughter of Frank and Grace Epps. Brayboy, Burns-Ramsey, Smith, Locklear and Jacobs are all graduates of PSU as was the last Mrs. Epps.

The art work was done by Keith Birdsong of the Western Band of Cherokees. He is based at Feree Studio in Raleigh.

## Smith to Address Robeson County Chapter of Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International

William E. (Billy) Smith, retired real estate broker from Wilmington whose background includes being a diver in underwater oil exploration, will be the speaker at the Saturday, Feb. 28, dinner meeting of the Robeson County Chapter of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International.

The meeting will be held at Holiday Inn on Interstate 95 North in Lumberton. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the program follows at 7:30 p.m. Reservations are not necessary for those wishing to attend the dinner.

Everyone is invited men and women, boys and girls. A

man does not have to be a member of the Full Gospel Business Men's Fellowship International to attend.

Special music will be provided.

Born in Wilmington, Smith has been a member of the FGBMFI since it started a chapter there in 1968. He graduated from New Hanover High School, then served six years in the U.S. Navy in World War II. He was discharged as a chief petty officer and first class Navy diver.

Smith accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Savior in August, 1953, and was baptized in the Holy Spirit in 1966.

He was affiliated with the International Longshoremen's Union as a chief clerk in the Wilmington and Sunny Point ports.

In 1968 Smith entered the real estate business as a broker and became vice president of sales with Suggs and Harrelson Construction and Realty. He retired in 1981 and is now involved with family businesses and real estate.

Smith, 67, is married to the former Mary Lou Raynor. They are parents of six children—three boys and three girls, including a set of triplets—and have seven grandchildren.

## SOPRANO CONSTANZA CUCCARO TO PERFORM AS PART OF THE CENTENNIAL SEASON AT PSU

Soprano Constanza Cuccaro will perform at the PSU Performing Arts Center on Sat., Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. as part of The Centennial Season 1986-87.

Ms. Cuccaro was born in Toledo, Ohio and began singing and studying the piano at an early age; she later studied violin and, upon graduation from high school, received a violin scholarship to Bowling Green State University. There she met a fellow student, pianist composer Edwin Penhorwood, who urged her to begin serious vocal studies. The couple married and transferred to the University of Iowa where Miss Cuccaro received a voice scholarship for study with Harold Stark.

While still a student, Miss Cuccaro won first prize in the Metropolitan Opera National Auditions; she chose to complete her college studies rather than stay in New York. She subsequently won a Fulbright grant for European study of operatic repertoire and went to Rome to coach with Luigi Ricci and to study at the Accademia di Santa Cecilia. Before her year of study was over, she joined the Zurich Opera, she sang a variety of leading roles there during the next three seasons in addition to appearing as a guest artist in many other European opera houses.

She was invited to join the Deutsche Oper Berlin and made

her debut there as Fiorilla in Rossini's "Il Turco in Italia" to critical acclaim.

She made her Metropolitan Opera debut as Rosina in "The Barber of Seville" eight years after winning the Met National Auditions. Other recent American appearances have included singing the role of Sophie in "Der Rosenkavalier" with the Dallas Opera, her third appearance at the Toronto Opera where she sang her first Pamina, and as soloist in "Messiah" with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. She has also sung with the orchestras of Chicago and Milwaukee, as well as the Berlin Philharmonic and other European orchestras.

Miss Cuccaro has appeared widely in recital with her husband as accompanist and she also gives enthusiastically received master classes on college campuses. Her most recent recording is a two-record set featuring Johann Gottlieb Graun's "Der Tod Jesu" with the R.I.A.S. Sinfonietta Berlin.

A Meet the Artist Reception will be held after the performance for audience members.

Tickets are \$4.50 and \$3.50 general admission and \$1.00 for PSU students. They can be purchased at the box office or at Crumplers in Lumberton, McNeills Jewelers in Lumberton and Red Springs, Quick Copy of Laurinburg and The Dancer in Fayetteville. Call 521-0778 for reservations or information.



Constanza Cuccaro

To subscribe.  
Call 521-2826

## UNITED METHODIST LAY RALLY PLANNED



Dr. Joseph H. Sahmaunt

The main district event for United Methodists in the Rockingham District (Richmond, Robeson and Scotland Counties) is the annual Lay Rally. The 1987 Rally will be held on Sunday, February 22 at Performing Arts Center on the campus of Pembroke State University. The event will begin at 5:45 p.m. with musical selections presented by Native American churches in the area, and the program will start sharply at 6 p.m.

Featured speaker will be Dr. Joseph H. Sahmaunt of Oklahoma City University where he holds the position of Athletic Director. He formerly served the University as the Associate Dean for the Division of Education, which included the duties of chairing the Department of Education, directing the Master of Arts in Teaching Program and directing the Teacher Certification. An athlete, educator, and researcher in the area of Indian Education, Dr. Sahmaunt is also an active United Methodist layman and is considered to be a dynamic speaker.

Other features will include special music by a massed choir composed of choir members from churches throughout Robeson County; the naming of a District Lay Person of the Year; and recognizing those selected as the Five Outstanding High School Seniors. Also acknowledged will be the three churches with the best attendance—namely, the largest membership church (500 members and above); the medium membership church (200 to 500 members); and the small membership church (under 200 members).

Host church for this year's gathering will be Prospect United Methodist Church, the largest Native American Church in the nation. It is located between Maxton and Pembroke. A nursery will be provided for the little ones at First United Methodist Church in Pembroke.

The public is cordially invited to join the district's United Methodists in this annual observance of the ministry of the laity, and United Methodists throughout the district are reminded of the significance of this gathering!

Submitted By Doty Reynolds,  
UMC District Lay Leader

## Indian Unity Conference Planned for March 12-14 in Charlotte

The 12th annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference will be held March 12-14 in the Sheraton Airport Plaza Hotel in Charlotte. The yearly gathering of North Carolina Indians is sponsored by United Tribes of North Carolina, a statewide Indian confederation.

1987 conference highlights include a powwow, banquet, workshops, art contest and Indian business trade fair. Dr. Dalton Brooks, director of institutional research at Pembroke State University, will be among the conference speakers.

With 65,000 Native Americans, North Carolina has the largest Indian population of any state east of the Mississippi River.

The unity conference provides a forum for statewide Native American concerns. The theme for this year's conference is "Preservation of the Indian Communities Through Economic Self-Sufficiency." Among the topics expected to be discussed are the present state of North Carolina Indians and issues dealing with the 1990 census.

The inter-tribal powwow will be held March 12 from 7 p.m. to 11 p.m. The event is being organized by Ray Littleturtle of Fayetteville. Modern dance will be featured March 13 at 9 p.m., following the awards banquet.

The Indian Business Trade Fair will be open from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on March 12. The fair will culminate in a luncheon featuring William Lynn Engles, commissioner of administration for Native Americans, Washington, DC.

Registration forms are available from Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc., P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372; telephone (919)521-8602. The public is invited to attend. Registration is \$30 paid in advance, or \$35 at the conference. Dance tickets are being sold separately for \$5 each.

Pre-registration forms must be postmarked no later than March 6.

## Robeson County 4-H'ers Attend State 4-H Conference

Fourteen Robeson County 4-H'ers attended State 4-H Council Conference held in Raleigh recently. The delegates participated in the weekend events held at the Brownstone Inn on February 7-8, 1987, according to Cathy M. Lowery, assistant Extension agent, 4-H.

The theme for the 1987 conference was "4-H... Citizenship. United We Serve." This is a time when 4-H'ers unite as a state to plan for the implementation of the State Council Project, and through this project stimulate growth and unity of the 4-H program statewide, says Lowery.

The conference offered a variety of workshops and seminars to strengthen leadership skills among the 4-H'ers. State Project Workshops were conducted on citizenship trips, self-esteem, working with nursing home residents, the farm crisis, organizing child identification programs, drug abuse, and crime prevention.

Other activities included district get-acquainted parties, a dance and VCR movie fest, business meetings, inspirational services, and a banquet. Several seminars were held on topics such as being a 4-H ambassador, how to be a better County Council officer, being a camp counselor or junior leader, recreational leadership training, how to prepare a cumulative record, planning a 4-H presentation or demonstration, how to prepare for a stage audition, and being a TRY (Teens Reaching Youth) member.

Members of the Robeson County delegation in attendance included: Angie Graham, Priscilla Ivey, Tammy McCollum, Cindy Ivey, Angela Floyd, Kim Lewis, Tina Carter, Lesa Gilchrist, Deidra Sutton, Robyn Barnhill, Paul Boggs, Doug Bernhardt, Billy Hunt, and Bert Bernhardt. The delegation was chaperoned by 4-H agent, Cathy Lowery.

## Committee Studying Indians and Criminal Justice plans Initial Meeting in Raleigh For Thursday, February 19

The newly appointed ad hoc committee to the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, created to review the relationship between North Carolina's criminal justice system and its Native American residents, will have its initial meeting Thursday, Feb. 19. The meeting is planned for 10 a.m. in the offices of the Commission of Indian Affairs, 227 E. Edenton St., Raleigh.

Henry McKoy, deputy secretary for programs, N.C. Department of Administration, and committee chairman, will

preside.

The 11-member committee is expected to report any recommendations it might have to the Commission of Indian Affairs in six to eight weeks.

The Commission of Indian Affairs is the only state government agency with the specific responsibility of addressing the needs of North Carolina Indians.

With over 65,000 Native Americans, North Carolina has the largest Indian population of any state east of the Mississippi.

## AS I SEE IT



by  
Bruce  
Barton

### GRANDMA...I'M GOING TO MISS YOU!

Mrs. Ada Locklear, 86 years old, and feisty and direct, died Sunday morning at 2:09 a.m. I remember asking someone what time it was as she breathed her last breath. She was surrounded by loved ones, including scads of grandchildren like me as she lay dying. I hope I will go like she did: surrounded by loved ones and fighting the Dark One with all my energies.

I loved her desperately, and she was another mother to me. Some say I was her favorite. I don't know about that. I suspect she just thought I was different from the rest, and unable to take care of myself. She said once that I was dropped on my head as a baby, or was sickly; I can't remember which. Anyway, she loved me a lot. And I loved her more than that.

May she rest in peace now. I thank you, in behalf of my mother, Mrs. Berna Barton, and the rest of the family, for your thoughtfulness and prayers.

I am still enjoying myself at West Robeson Senior High School. Students are refreshing, and challenging for me. They are renewing my spiritual batteries. In the meantime, I am keeping regular hours at the Carolina Indian Voice...from 4:30 p.m. until 6:30 p.m., daily if you would like to stop by and see me. I also am at the Indian Voice most Saturdays from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. You can also call me, and I'll return your call when I come in from school in the evening.

Hope to catch up in the next few days. Maybe I can write more about Grandma in the next few weeks. Right now I can only declare my fervent love for her and declare: "Grandma, we're going to miss you!" For sure.

May God bless you. And pray for Cardell Spaulding, my dear brother in Christ, who has been locked up a long time in Central Prison. If you want a blessing, write him. His address is: Mr. Cardell Spaulding, Central Prison, 1300 Western Blvd., Raleigh, NC 27606.