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PEMBROKE, N.C.

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

ROBESON COUNTY

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## CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF EDUCATION SPEAKS TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS ABOUT MERGER

"We can have a county system of community schools," so Dr. Dalton Brooks said as he addressed parents and teachers at a gathering to observe National Education Week at South Robeson Tuesday evening, Nov. 17. Dr. Brooks is chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education. His guest on the program was Dr. Robert Reising from PSU.

Dr. Brooks was billed to talk about changes in education, but the thrust of his message to the some 12 parents and 20 teachers and principals was that Robeson County had to move to the best move was up and that move would have to be merger.

His education has been able to pierce many barriers. Education, the chairman said, does not solve all problems. He listed the problem of morality as one problem that was not solving. In his days, he reminisced, there was prayer in school and chapel programs where he admitted was challenged by viable speakers and he learned almost as much as he learned in the classrooms. Not so today.

Today education is straining against drugs and illiteracy. He said, "Our children do not read," and he went on to say that it was a major problem. Education, he said, is a tool. It helps solve economic problems and helps with cultural biases and helps bring success to the individual.

Our future may be made up more of numbers than of words," Dr. Brooks predicted. That is why our students need to know how to work computers. In his mention of computers seemed to be indicating to the parents and teachers that the school curriculum was changing.

Robeson County has problems and the chairman of the county school board did not hesitate to outline some of them. He said Robeson County, more so than any other county he had seen, was multi-clusters of cultures that make educating the children across the county difficult. He said the areas of the county are rich in comparison to other areas which are poor. Political problems across the county are hard to deal with. He said there exists a crisis in the northern part of the county; namely around Parkton and Magnolia schools.

He needs to update buildings in that area is acute according to the board chairman. But, he indicated, where is the money going to come from? Yet, despite the problems, the chairman said, students from Robeson County Schools are competing with students from other school systems and they will have to compete.

With a statement that education is socialization and we have a lot of problems, Dr. Brooks got around to pinpointing the gist of his message: Merger. He says he has talked with the board members and board chairmen of other school systems and all agree that moving toward a one-system county is

the most logical way to go. He added in comments after the speech that Raleigh may mandate such a move if the people of Robeson County do not take the move themselves.

He also pointed out that other counties who are moving so well along with our county wide system of schools are looking at Robeson County with wonder-five school systems in one county amazes some people. But, merger is the highway up and to better schools. Dr. Brooks said merger would make the school cost effective.

Yet, Dr. Brooks did not hesitate to point out that he was in favor of community schools. He did not specifically spell out the way a county system could be established, but he did say that in a county wide system, Red Springs, for example, would keep their schools, but might draw in some students from the Oxendine school area. He said Lumberton would still have their schools, so would Pembroke. He said some parents were asking where their children would go to school and some teachers were asking where they would be assigned to teach. He indicated children would not be drastically affected in a merger of the five school systems. But teachers, he remarked, should be able to teach anywhere.

Dr. Brooks' closing remark was perhaps more blunt than any he had made in the evening's message, and it put the cap on a speech that had been billed to be on the topic of changes in education, but turned out to be a pitch for merger of the five school systems in Robeson County. He said, "We have to be willing to give merger a chance."

Dr. Robert Reising from PSU followed Dr. Brooks. He sized up education as being essentially three "E's", namely, ecology, economics and education. As to ecology, he spoke strongly against GSX saying it was the biggest threat to the people of Robeson County. He stated that merger is in the best interest of Robeson County. He said, "Merger is a necessity if education is to become more than mediocre in (Robeson County) in the 21st century. All people stand to gain," he went on to point out. He concluded by saying that the three "E's" must add up to one "E"—Excellence.

Mr. Ardeen Hunt, administrative principal at South Robeson, served as moderator for the National Education Week presentation.

Vanessa Harrison, a student at South Robeson, read an essay on education and stated that man cannot live well without education and that education pays dividends. She challenged the audience of teachers and parents from South Robeson, Southside-Ashpole and Fairgrove Schools to hold fast to their dreams that education stimulates.

by Edmond Locklear, Jr.  
Public Relations News Director

## Spotlight on CARTER'S FLOWERS

### Local Business Persons



Rose L. Carter works on a design in her flower shop.

And making her own way has become a way of life for the daughter of a farmer. Born one of 10 children, she knows plenty about hard work. "My father put us to work on Monday and told us how much we had to do that week on the farm," she remembers. She recalls her early childhood years growing up in the Saddletree community of Robeson County. "There were two things we had to do. They were, work hard and go to school." Carter did both. She graduated from Cherokee Indian Normal School in 1927, and began teaching school. The creative Native American organized the first Indian grammar school music band in Robeson County, during her 11 year stay at Union Chapel School.

She retired from teaching in 1973, saying, "41 years is too long for anyone to teach school."

She now devotes her time to her business located behind her Pembroke home. The flower shop, originally located in downtown Pembroke, was relocated 12 years ago to its present location.

The constant flow of customers coming to the florist doesn't bother Carter. "You can't stay in business and get tired of people," she comments. She says she has customers day and night. "I don't try to make a mint out of this business," she adds. She says she just makes enough to pay for her time. "I don't overcharge people. This business is a life preserver for me. This is medicine for my living."

Carter pays close attention to the selection of flowers that go into her arrangements. Other than for a fresh flower distributor who delivers to the shop, she does all her buying, often times traveling as far as 100 miles to make sure she finds the right items for her designs. "I care only about how my customers feel about my work and service," she says.

Carter refers to the current holiday season as her "hardworking occasion." Her family worries that she works too hard, and that she should rest more. Referring to her heart surgery a few years ago, she says, "When I had my bypass, the doctors told me to work a little and take a daily nap. I told them I'd lived all these years without a daytime nap, and I'm not going to start now."

Since surgery she has acquired help in the shop. Her daughter, Marilyn Roberts assists in arranging flowers, and her husband, Marvin, cuts designs used in funeral wreaths.

Her commitment to business lends no time for leisure and travel. Those in the area recognize Carter's commitments go farther than to her business. She is often seen coming to the aid of some stranded motorist in front of her home, or offering a ride to a familiar pedestrian alongside the road.

"I can't imagine not giving service to others. People who don't have time for others are no good. If I can't help people, I don't need to be here on earth," she stresses.

Carter says as long as her customers need her in the flower shop, she'll be there. She further adds that people's advice to her on taking it easy is just no good. "I will always work. I'm going to wear out and not rust out."

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Carter's Flowers is located 1/2 mile east of Pembroke on Highway 711. Limited wire service is offered. Countywide delivery available.

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

### MARVIN CARTER

college and into matrimony when he married the former Rose Locklear.

In 1931, Carter embarked on a teaching career which was to last 41 years. Eighteen of those years were spent as principal and teacher simultaneously.

"Retired from the schoolhouse in 1973, but that's about all I retired from," the grandfather laughs as he speaks of other things that have consumed his time over the years. "I've had plenty to do."

The many certificates of accomplishments hidden upstairs in his Pembroke home attest he had plenty to do even before retirement. More than 20 years ago, drawing on a college major in Biology, Carter's interest turned to the study of emergency medical care. In the mist of a teaching profession, the Native American enrolled in the N.C. Rescue Institute at UNC/Chapel Hill to acquire special training in emergency medical care. For years following, he returned to the school for advanced study and licenses and always returned to his native Robeson County to lend his skills and knowledge to others without financial gain to himself.

"I served on week-ends as a volunteer in the emergency room at Southeastern General Hospital for five years," he quietly comments. "I did whatever was needed of me." And when licensed in Radioactive Material in 1968, Carter gave of his time in teaching procedures to local firemen.

Never one to spend idle time, Carter, among others, became a charter member of Pembroke Lions Club over 30 years ago. His involvement in the Pembroke Rescue Squad, where he became the second-oldest member, left no time for him to hold an officer's position in the Lions Club, did lend time during his busy days to help those with special physical problems.

For more years than the modest Carter admits, he has applied his medical training and skills to those individuals who suffer limited physical disabilities. In administering physical therapy to his clients, he draws on a Swedish massage technique he learned years ago. Carter neither advertises or charges for physical therapy given to the clients.

A 28-year member of Pembroke Rescue Squad, he no longer accompanies fellow members on emergency calls. "I think they've gone to respecting old age, and that's why they don't call me to go along on ambulance calls," he laughs. He says a hearing impairment influenced his decision to no longer joining them on calls.

His three decades of services to others and his community was publicly acknowledged in 1977, when Governor Jim Hunt named him North Carolina's "Volunteer of the Year." In being named, Carter became Robeson County's first recipient of the award. He was further honored when his hometown of Pembroke held "Marvin Carter Day" with a parade and honors.

His willingness to help others is carried over to family and church. Many hours are spent tutoring his grandchildren in school studies. Some days catch him in his wife's flower shop located behind the Carter residence. "I don't mess with, or want to learn how to arrange flowers. I have enough to do without that," he says of the shop. He does, however, assist in cutting out designs used in the many wreaths distributed from the shop.

He confirms he is a housekeeper and cooks most of the meals taken by him and his wife of 55 years. "I have no identity problems when it comes to housekeeping. I've been

Teaching school, for 41 years did little to slow the energetic grandmother, of her work habits she says, "I like to work. I don't like to be dependent on others. I like to make my own way, and I don't want to be a beggar."

## 60 Years of Bliss



Mr. and Mrs. Colonel Locklear celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary August 18, 1987 at 4:00 p.m. at St. Ann's Church.

The Rev. Dalton Brooks, Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education, gave a brief history about the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Locklear. They have both been Christians for 60 years or more.

In their circle they had nine children, eight boys and one girl: Yvonne, Reedy, Alfonse, James Charlie, Colonel Jr. and Burnell, all of Pembroke; Julius and Austin of Detroit, Mich.; and Otis, now deceased.

The couple received money and many lovely gifts from relatives and friends.

Merry Christmas

## HOLIDAY DEADLINE ANNOUNCED

The deadline for news and advertisement for the Carolina Indian Voice has been changed for the December 24, 1987 and the December 31, 1987 issues. These changes are made to accommodate our subscribers and advertisers during the Christmas holidays.

Deadline for news and advertisements for the December 24, 1987 issue will be at 5 p.m. Monday, December 21, 1987. The deadline for news and ads for the December 31st issue will be Monday, December 28 at 5 p.m. Thank you for your cooperation and have a merry Christmas and a prosperous



by Barbara Braybow-Locklear  
Special to the Carolina Indian Voice

The will to learn and help others has followed Marvin Carter the 79 years of his life. And for a man who does not like a "rush" of publicity, he has spent most of his adult life in quiet to others.

Born the only son to farmers, John and Rose Carter of Pembroke, he set his sails toward achievement at an early age, recognizing the potential of young Carter, the late Rev. D.F. Perry encouraged the high school student to enroll in Wesleyan School as a tenth grade transfer student.

During that time in my life it looked like a better opportunity to go away to school," Carter remembers. Having completed his high school students, he returned to Cherokee Normal School where he graduated valedictorian in the class of 1928.

With teaching certificate in hand, he went looking for a job. The job came first. At Jacobs Point, and formerly Wake School in Hoke County, he became the sole teacher grades 1-8 his first teaching year. During the summer months that followed, he pursued a degree at the University of