



Navajo Comm. Coll. Libr.  
Tulsa Branch Post Off  
Tulsa, AZ 86556

ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOLS MERGE

The end of a hard-fought battle came Tuesday night when Robeson County voters said Yes to the merger of the county's five school systems. According to the Bill that allowed the voters to decide on merger, the consolidation of the five school systems now becomes the Public Schools of Robeson County. Unofficial totals say that 11,236 voters voted for and 10,969 votes were cast against. It was a narrow victory vote wise, but a major victory for the students of Robeson County.

The Bill calling for the referendum also appointed an interim board. Those members appointed with their terms expiring June 30, 1990 are: L. Gilbert Carroll; Shirley Locklear; Mary B. Carroll, McDuffie Cummings; Millard Singletary; Burlester Campbell; Aileen Holmes; Raymond

Ammonds. Those appointees whose term will expire June 30, 1992 are: John Baker; Angus Thompson; Abner Harrington; Dalton Brooks; Pete Ivey; David Green; Ray Lowry.

The interim board will become effective April 1, 1988. They will appoint an interim superintendent. David Green will serve as secretary of the board; John Baker will be chairman; and Dalton Brooks will serve as vice chairman.

The fifteen member board reflects the racial breakdown of the students of the Public Schools of Robeson County. There are approximately one-third Indian students; one-third Blacks; and one-third whites. The board is comprised of five Indians; five Blacks; and five whites.

New Pembroke Police Chief Introduced At Town Council Meeting

by Sam Sutton

The Pembroke Town Council met in regular session on March 7, 1988 at 7 p.m. in Council of Chambers with the introduction of Pembroke's new Chief of Police, Mr. Larry T. Roberts.

In making the introduction, Town Manager McDuffie Cummings stated that Mr. Roberts came to the town from 15 years experience with the Pembroke State University Campus Police, having attained the rank of Lieutenant. He was in charge of the training program there for new officers and continuing education and training for regular officers. "Mr. Roberts holds one of the few advanced Training Certificates in Robeson County," stated Mr. Cummings.

In response, Chief Roberts said, "I am excited about the new job and am looking forward to this new challenge."

A number of items of new business were discussed, the first was the consideration of an Ordinance prohibiting trains from blocking crossings with the town for more than a specified period of time. Mr. Cummings stated that he had received a number of complaints from citizens, as well as from PSU, about trains blocking the flow of traffic for periods of more than a half hour at a time.

The Town Attorney, Mr. Ronnie Sutton, informed the board that all seemed to believe that the town already had an ordinance, but he has not been able to find one.

State General Statutes have been researched and nothing has been found either granting or prohibiting the town the power to regulate train traffic. An old law does grant the state the power to regulate train traffic. The State Utilities Commission regulates railroads. The town would be in order to pass an ordinance, but could be challenged. If the town lost the challenge, then the town would pay the expense of the challenge. If the town won, then the railroad would pay the expense.

If the Public Utilities Commission had a public hearing on the ordinance, the hearing would be held in Pembroke, according to Sutton.

Councilman Henry Oxendine stated, "I would like to follow through by asking our attorney to research it further before passing an ordinance." It was the consensus of the council to direct the attorney to do the research and report at a later date.

The next item of business was an address to the council by Mr. Henry Smith acting as spokesman for a concerned citizens group. The group posed seven questions of concern and asked for a response from the council.

The first item of concern was the traffic problem in town on the weekends. The mayor, Mr. Milton Hunt, responded by stating that the problem was one that had been recognized in

Continued on Page 4

Spring Interdenominational Crusade Planned

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear

"Rekindling the Fires of Faith" has been selected as the theme of a county-wide spiritual Interdenominational Crusade scheduled for spring.

Forty ministers throughout the area met last Monday night at the Baptist Building in Pembroke to discuss preparation plans for the event which is expected to draw participation from nearly 100 churches throughout the area.

In earlier meetings seven committees were selected to steer the ten-night event which is to be held at the Church of God Campground on U.S. Highway 74.

In explaining the purpose of the Crusade, the Rev. Johnny Chavis told the group that he had a vision for a Crusade that would touch all of "our" churches for revival.

"The fires of faith are dying in all our lives. We feel the Crusade will help rekindle the fire of spirit and restore faith in God to many," said the Rev. Montana Locklear.

The Crusade is open to Interdenominational fellowship, and plans call for a different guest minister speaker each evening of worship. Plans also call for a 40-day prayer vigil preceding the event.

A revival of prayer is scheduled for May 21, at Lumberton High School.

During the two-hour meeting, consensus among the ministers attending was that the church today is getting lazy in addressing most social issues affecting its communities.

Saying the church has lost its power, the group expressed optimism that the upcoming spiritual crusade would aid in recapturing church power within the area.

"We enter this crusade believing there's going to be integrity revived in Christ," the Rev. Robert Mangum said. He further stated "The church doesn't have the total answer to social problems, but a spiritual revival will solve some of the problems."

One social issue brought before the group by the Revs. Simeon Cummings and James H. Woods was education.

"People need equal education. Education is a right," Cummings said as they introduced a Resolution calling on support for school merger in Robeson County.

Crusade Committeemen and ministers passed the Resolution favoring school merger.



Ministers throughout the area meet to discuss plans for a Interdenominational spiritual crusade.

Park Helms Says Lottery Won't Help Schools

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear

In a meeting with campaign supporters last Tuesday night, Democratic lieutenant governor candidate Parks Helms dismissed a proposal to create a state lottery as a political "gimmick" that will not produce the financial bonanza promised supporters.

"The lottery is a gimmick that is not going to solve the economic problems of this state, and, as a matter of fact, will distract us from dealing with the real problems facing our economy," Helms said after meeting with about 30 supporters at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton.

Helms said the most important issues in his campaign center around education, the economy and the environment. "It is imperative that we understand every candidate's perspective on these issues," the former House member said.

Sen. Harold Hardison, D-Lenoir, has made his plan for a state lottery a major theme of his campaign for lieutenant governor. Hardison proposes using lottery proceeds for education. Sen. Tony Rand, D-Cumberland, also seeking the Democratic nomination for the post, supports putting the issue to a statewide vote.

But Helms, who served in the state House for 10 years, said there is no assurance that a lottery would boost funds for school needs.

"Studies in other states show that where you have a lottery going into education that over a period of time the legislature tends to withhold from the education budget the same amount that the lottery puts in," said Helms, who is from Charlotte. "So, in the long run, you're really not doing anything for education."

According to estimates, a lottery could raise as much as \$200 million a year, but Helms said most of the money players spend on tickets would go to supporting and operating a lottery and paying winners.

"In order to create \$200 million, you're going to take \$600 million out of the people's pockets," he said.

Helms said the real solution to the state's financial problems was a stable, growing economy. He pledged to provide "innovative and courageous leadership" to ensure that the prosperity of areas such as the Research Triangle, Charlotte and Greensboro is spread to other parts of the state.

He called for incentives for major state companies to expand to economically troubled areas such as Robeson County and proposed using the state community college system to retain residents who have lost jobs because of the decline of traditional industries.

In further commenting on concerns of the economy, Helms called for continued devotion to bettering the state's roads and highways, support for the state's traditional industries and seeking to improve the plight of the family farmer. "We need to continue research to finding alternative crops for family farmers," he said. "We also should develop an attitude where rural and urban areas can work together to help preserve the family farm."

He said the state must adopt tough regulations concerning toxic waste disposal, "even if that means developing regulations that are tougher than federal regulations."

That statement was a pointed reference to the so-called Hardison Amendments, which prevent the state from adopting environmental regulations any stricter than those of the federal government.

It was also an opportunity for Helms to contrast himself with an opponent-Hardison- who has been criticized by pro-environment groups.

"We need to begin dealing with this state's environment by repealing the Hardison amendment, which does make it very difficult for this state to adopt the kinds of rules and regulations that are necessary to preserve a safe and secure environment," Helms said.

Helms acknowledged that his polls show that most residents favor a lottery, and promised, if elected, to ensure a fair hearing for any lottery bills in the state Senate. The lieutenant governor presides over that body.

"I would use the committee process to educate the public to all the fiscal irresponsibility of a lottery, and I believe one the public understood the facts, understood what had happened in other states, they would change their mind," Helms said.

Helms said his polls also show that he is leading the race, but he declined to release specific results. He added that the polls also showed that most voters, "50 to 60 percent," are still undecided.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

ROBERT & LUCY OXENDINE

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear

Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Robert and Lucy Oxendine's marriage has lasted longer than most people expect to live. And Mrs. Oxendine doesn't quite remember all the details of her wedding day, but she remembers the date - July 20, 1914.

The twenty-one year old Lumbee Indian had known her future husband for "some time" before she said "I do" 73 years ago in Hoke County. Mrs. Oxendine, the only surviving child of the late Sarah and Daniel Tyler grew up in and around rural Red Springs. Her husband, son of Bethenie and Daniel Wesley Oxendine grew up in the Union Chapel community.

After marrying, the couple lived a brief time with his parents, then moved to "The Forks", a community outside Red Springs.

"The area was so-called because two swamps came together at a point," Mrs. Oxendine remembers. There they lived for about six years before moving to the Cherokee Chapel area on a farm assignment.

With their eight children, in 1938, they settled into their home, built under the U.S. Government Resettlement Project in The Evans Crossroad Community. The last of their nine children was born after the move. It is there they continue to live. The couple extended their home and love to three other children who grew up alongside their own five daughters and four sons.

Drawing on a lifetime of hard work gained from growing up on farms in Robeson County, the couple worked decades in toiling the earth in order to support their family.

The Oxendines worked equally as hard in their beloved Beulah Baptist Church located about a mile from their home. Mrs. Oxendine's commitment to teaching young children biblical stories extended into the Sunday School class where she worked tirelessly with primaries-the "Card Class."

"It was called the Card Class because we used over-sized pictorial cards to illustrate the stories," Mrs. Oxendine explains. She later taught adult Sunday School for decades before retiring from the classroom a few years ago.

The 94-year-old great, great grandmother carried her Bible teachings from church to home where daily readings were held through three generations of child-rearing.

Singing is a longtime love of Mrs. Oxendine who sang in her church choir for over forty years. "I took up singing as a child. We use to gather back home and sing gospel songs for hours," she says. Years back when she was entrusted with caring for grandchildren, a singing session took place daily at Grandma's house. Requests still come from her church members to sing solos during Sunday worship services. In a soprano voice, she obliges the church congregation.

Nine decades have done little to slow the Oxendines. Mr. Oxendine idles his time away doing yardwork. A recent sun-filled day caught him in his backyard raking pine straw around giant-sized white pine trees he set out years ago, while a half dozen guineas sang from a pen behind an old smokehouse. The Oxendines make it pretty clear, the fowls are kept for their singing and not for consumption.

"I like the outdoors and stay outside on pretty days when I feel like it," Mr. Oxendine grins while sporting a red bowtie.

The neckwear has become a trademark of the 96-year-old Lumbee Indian who wears one daily.

"Oh yes, I like him in bow ties. I'd like him wearing anything," Mrs. Oxendine shyly admits when talking of her husband's necktie-wearing.

Mrs. Oxendine is the oldest active member of her senior citizens club which meets weekly in her community. She readily admits to a love for travel. "Anybody who comes along and asks 'Do you want to go for a ride?' I say, yes," she comments. She says all she needs upon receiving an invitation to go shopping or visiting are a few minutes to get ready.

Just three years ago, she accompanied a group on a tour of Canada. And both the Oxendines enjoy a love for camping in the N.C. mountains and at the coast. "We don't fish at the beach, but oh yes, we enjoy the sights," she adds.

The Oxendines' secret to dealing with the job of raising 12 children on the family farm and staying married so very long is simple.

"We drew on a strong religious faith to help us through the channels of stress," she comments. "I always served the Lord, and He made a way." She says the couple's secret to staying together is, "getting along." "He's a man who never would quarrel."

With a broad smile and a twinkle in his eye, Mr. Oxendine says, "Yes, I'd marry her again if she was young enough."



Parks Helms, Democratic lieutenant governor candidate, right, talks with supporters of his campaign.