



PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, NC

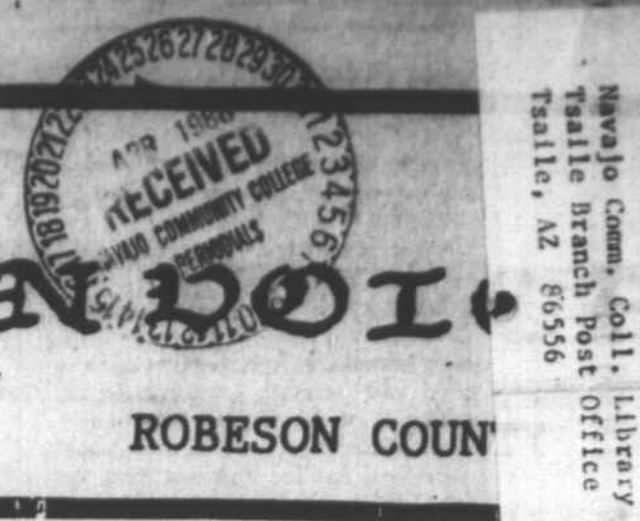
"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 15

25¢

THURSDAY, APRIL



Pembroke Town Council Endorses Brooks For Judgeship

by Sam Kerns

Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

The Pembroke Town Council met in chambers on April 11, 1988 at 7 p.m. considering a full agenda. A public hearing was held on the Community Development Block Grant application for 1988-1989. Consultant Dale Holland reported that the council could decide to apply for a total of \$600,000 as a community revitalization grant, \$600,000 economic development grant, and/or \$250,000 housing demonstration grant. The council can have one or a combination of all three of the above for a total grant of \$600,000. A second public hearing is scheduled for May 16, 1988 at 7 p.m. in the council chambers.

Holland also reported on the 1986 Community Development Grant progress indicating that contracts have been awarded on 40 dwellings with 28 having been completed for an average cost of \$10,679.33.

Under old business, Town Attorney Ronnie Sutton gave a report on research concerning an ordinance prohibiting the blocking of intersections by trains. He reported that a check with Laura Cranfield, Municipal League and with the Institute of Government, Chapel Hill reveals no law prohibiting such an ordinance. He indicated that there may be an enforcement problem and recommended to the council that they negotiate with the railroad and try to get them to agree to a policy not to block as many streets if they must stop the train in town. He suggested that the railroad may agree to modify its scheduling to allow the north-south line to clear before the east-west train arrives in town.

Councilman J.C. Thomas suggested that the railroad may agree to stop west of the Chicken Hut thereby not blocking as many streets.

Under new business, Mayor Milton Hunt stated that "There is problems over on Gordon Street with transfer trucks traveling on the road damaging the street and causing a disruption for the citizens in the area. We need to do something quick and enforce it." Councilman J.C. Thomas moved that no large trucks be allowed to travel the street or park there and that signs be put up to that effect. Councilman Henry Oxendine seconded the motion which carried.

Police Chief Larry T. Roberts asked the council to disallow

parking in front of the courthouse from West Third Street to Second Street, next to the railroad between the hours of 1 p.m. - 11 p.m. on weekends and holidays. He reported that there have been problems in the area with cars being left unattended, fights erupting, people drinking beer in public and trash being scattered in the area. Town Manager McDuffie Cummings informed the Board that the town rents that parking space from the railroad. Councilman Henry Oxendine moved the adoption of the above recommendation and Councilman J.C. Tomas seconded it. The motion carried without opposition.

In other items of interest, the Mayor, Milton Hunt, asked the council to approve a resolution supporting Pembroke Attorney Dexter Brooks for the proposed second Superior Court Judgeship for Robeson County and send it to appropriate persons. Councilman Henry W. Oxendine moved the adoption of such a resolution and Councilman Vernon Oxendine seconded the motion. It carried without opposition.

Councilman Vernon Oxendine informed the council that he has resigned from the Recreation Board and that Rudy Locklear representing the Union Chapel area had also verbally resigned. The council agreed to appoint Councilman Henry W. Oxendine and Wade Hunt, Principal of Union Chapel School as replacements.

In a last item considered, Mr. Molon Strickland, President of West Robeson High Booster Club, asked the council to pass a resolution authorizing and requesting that the State Department of Transportation erect signs entering Pembroke honoring and recognizing the world record in the 100 yard dash which West Robeson Great Lee McRae of the University of Pittsburg set. He indicated that the Department of Transportation will furnish the signs and erect them at the request and approval of the council. Mr. Strickland said, "We have come a long way in the past three years in developing our sports program and we need to give encouragement to these youngsters and recognition where it is due, especially on the magnitude of Lee McRae's accomplishments." Councilman Henry Oxendine moved the adoption of a resolution requesting that the signs be requested and erected. Councilman Vernon Oxendine seconded the motion which carried without opposition.

SPOTLIGHT ON Oxendine's Tire Center LOCAL BUSINESS PERSONS

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear

Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

The Birtir Oxendine family has taken its share of life's hardknocks. But with determination, the members always sprang back.

In 1968, Oxendine laid down his farm equipment. Mother Nature had caused one too many crop failures for the tenant farmer, his wife and five children. His wife took a job in a textile plant, and he rented a service station in Pembroke.

Things went rather well in the business until the gasoline shortage came in the early '70's. Independent gas station operators suffered most when it came time to receive fuel from suppliers. The hope of hanging on to his business began to fade during that time for Oxendine.

Oxendine's school-age sons helped at the station, and when things got real tight, he'd allow them to take stock items such as cigarettes, gum, crackers and soft drinks to sell outside the business. This enabled the businessman to move the items while giving his sons an opportunity to earn money.

One son, Billy Ray "Dollar Bill" drew on the opportunity and earned enough money to help support his high school education. He even paid for his senior class ring. "I'd take the items to school and hide them in my locker," says Dollar Bill. "Then during break, I'd sell them to my classmates."

The eleventh-grader fully understood he was breaking school rules, but he needed money. "I did it to take a financial burden off my parents who were trying to hold on to a failing business," he adds.

The smart enterprising practices and involvement in school activities caused his classmates to start calling the popular twelfth-grader "Dollar Bill." The name stuck.

Meanwhile, the father figured since he couldn't get enough gas to draw customers, he'd try selling something else customers needed - tires. Demand for them was strong. A keen business sense convinced him to re-invest his profits.

In 1975, the retired farmer gambled and planted an acre of cucumbers. Hoping for a good crop, he set sights on establishing a business in his own building on property he owned outside Pembroke. It was a bumper crop. From it was born Oxendine's Tire Center. Over the past decade, the family-owned and operated business has flourished.

The building, as was the business, was built from the ground

up by family members. "My daddy is a jack-of-all-trades," says Dollar Bill. The facility boasts six work bays and can accommodate 12 automobiles.

During the first couple of years the business offered only recapped tires and limited service. Today with four full-time employees, it offers a full line of tires, new, used and recapped. The operators can fit tires on industrial, passenger, truck and farm vehicles.

The business specializes in front end alignment and brake service. It also offers computer balancing and 24-hour road service. "We decided to offer those services because they go hand-in-hand with tires," says Dollar Bill who is office manager for the business.

He says his father, who founded the business, is the "top boss" and makes sure things are run right. And that customers' satisfaction is never to be compromised. "Industry surveys prove that consumers want quality and service at a competitive price and in that order," he comments. "They want to buy from an informed source they can trust."

Serving customers and other people comes easily for Dollar Bill. He loves people and they respond to him. The Lumbee Indian was born with deformed legs. Nine surgical operations and years of encouragement from his parents have enabled him to walk right alongside other people with a high self-esteem.

After eight hours on the job at Southeastern General Hospital as housekeeping supervisor, he returns to the family business to help out until closing time. He doesn't leave after everyone else does. Instead, he busies himself doing the bookkeeping in an adjoining office. Once that's finished, the bachelor usually has dinner at a local restaurant and returns to sleep overnight on a bed in the business office.

He is devoted to his beloved Mt. Airy Baptist Church and would be interested in marriage if the right Christian woman came along. Until she comes along, the 31-year-old will continue to take his meals away from home and donate his time to church, civic organizations, helping to cheer sick people, and to running the family business.

Oxendine's Tire Center is located in the Whispering Pines Subdivision off State Road 1616 in Pembroke. Business hours are Mon-Fri. 8 - 6 p.m. Saturday 8 - 3 p.m. Telephone: 521-3346 or 521-4590.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Clement Bullard

By Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

Last Easter Monday's warm afternoon caught Prospect Community sage, Clement Bullard sitting in a chair in the back yard of his childhood homeplace. His wife, Ziatta, raked and burned leaves as her husband, clad in stripe overalls, watched. After a few minutes the 78-year-old grandfather decided it better to leave the spot and move to the frontside of the house where he could watch the acres of green wheat growing on the land his father bought in 1906.

"This used to be part of Red Banks. My daddy paid five dollars an acre for this land," he remembers. "He cleared it and made it into farmland."

Bullard, the only child of Judge Early and Emma Jane Bullard, remembers working the land and walking to Prospect school back then. "There was no other way to get there," he comments.

In 1924, the Lumbee Indian became the school's first male seventh-grade graduate. Four years later, he graduated from the Indian Normal School in Pembroke. "Why, it was so long ago, I remember the only two brick buildings in Pembroke were the bank and jailhouse," he laughs.

Encouraged by his father, Bullard left home in 1928, and entered the University of Chattanooga to study "mostly science." After a year's study, his father suggested he apply for enrollment to Wake Forest University.

He was accepted by the school, but not by the 28 white students enrolled from Robeson County. Bullard remembers well three days later when the school's dean asked him to go for a stroll on the campus grounds.

"The dean told me he had no problem with my staying at the school, but that the white students had demanded that I leave or they would," he recalls. Rather than lose the students, the lone Indian was asked to withdraw.

Not to be outdone, Bullard immediately sent a telegram to Tenn., where he was welcomed back to the University of Chattanooga.

With another year of study completed and The Great Depression coming on, he returned to Robeson County to help work and save the family farm. In 1930, with a two-year, grammar-grade certificate, he accepted a teaching position at Prospect School. There he enjoyed "stretching the minds" of his fifth grade history students. He taught 11 years at the school before receiving notice that he'd been drafted into the U.S. Air Force.

After a brief stay in Wisconsin, the serviceman was shipped to Salt Lake City, Utah. Once there, he worked in classification.

Being hundreds of miles away from home and family made the bachelor lonely for loved ones left behind. In June 1943, during a troop train ride enroute to Atlanta, Bullard was granted a five-day furlough home.

He wasted no time in locating the young Lumbee school teacher he'd earlier met on a blind date and courted for a pretty good while. When a train left four days later, a married Bullard waved good-bye to his bride left behind.

She joined him in Salt Lake City, four months later. The couple was to spend three Christmases there before returning home with the first of their five children. Bullard returned to the classroom and taught at Oxendine School for 25 years "steady." His final year teaching was spent at Southside School. During his teaching career, he attended summer school and earned a full undergraduate degree.

In 1962, he retired and continued to work the earth he so much loved. Buying land became a pastime for the man who had "always tried to work hard." He no longer personally

tends his farms which consists of 800 acres. One thing he does attend to is the decision-making as to where his farm supplies are purchased.

He chooses to buy them in adjoining Scotland County, because of strained race relations in his native Robeson.

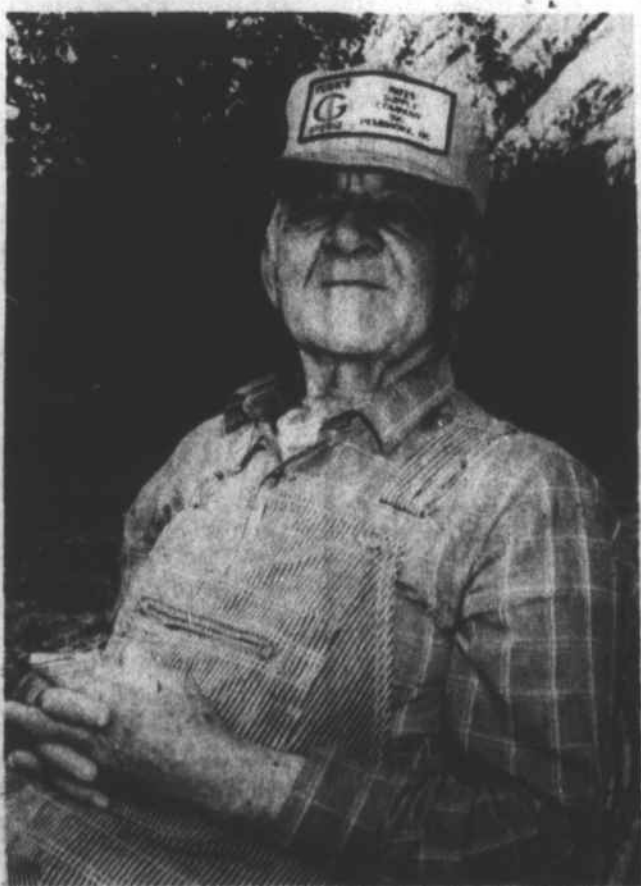
"What people ought to do is take their money out of this county," he laments. "I'll buy my fertilizer some place else." He says he only buys supplies and goods from Robeson's minority businesses. And that applies to grocery-buying too. He feels humanly different shopping in Laurinburg. "People in Robeson County have had animosity against Indian people since Henry Berry Lowry times. If it weren't for my roots here, I'd go back to Salt Lake City and spend the rest of my days."

Bullard has ties deep-rooted in his community. With excellent memory, he rolls off memories of his four great-grandparents and both sets of grandparents. Rather than remove the erie dead oak tree his late grandfather, W.L. Moore, once set out at the Bullard homeplace; he cut the tree and left its protruding trunk intact as a standing memorial to the man he so-much respected.

Always one interested in history, Bullard has kept a journal for more than 20 years. "I try never to let more than a week go by without making an entry," he says.

Bullard dislikes some things. Among them are insurance companies. He has nothing to do with them other than carry automobile insurance which is required by law.

He likes many things. Among them are Sunday afternoons spent with family, walks through green wheat fields and bananas. He loves bananas.



Clement Bullard enjoys a rest in the backyard of his childhood homeplace.

Godwin Memorial Fund

Established

In response to community interest, the First Baptist Church of Pembroke has established a John L. Godwin Memorial Fund to be used for the purchase of a piano as a tribute to his many years of music ministry throughout the community and state. Contributions may be mailed to P.O. Box 760, Pembroke, NC 28372. More information may be obtained by calling 521-4949.

Call 521-2826 and

subscribe to The

Carolina Indian Voice.

CHURCH NEWS

WASHINGTON FOR JESUS APRIL 29

Seven years ago, over 700,000 people from across the nation gathered together in Washington, DC to humble themselves, repent of their sins, and seek God's face to heal our land.

The next "Washington For Jesus" Prayer is planned on the Mall on April 29, 1988 in our nation's capital. It is conservatively estimated that over one million Christians will be coming in the greatest congregation of people this nation has ever known to pray.

Plans are being made to take people from this area to Washington. For further information (cost, departure time, etc) please contact Chief Young Bear, State Coordinator, at the Tuscarora Tribe off ice on 208 Main Street, Pembroke, or call (919) 521-3231.

COLLINS CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Collins Chapel United Methodist Church will host its week-end revival beginning April 15th thru 17th. Services will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Sunday night's service will begin at 7:00 p.m. Rev. Sidney Locks will bring the Friday and Sunday night services. Saturday night's guest speaker will be Rev. Dalton Brooks.

The pastor, Rev. Tryon Lowry, invites you to attend.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

Reynolds Aluminum Recycling Company has opened a new aluminum recycling center in Pembroke.

The new Reynolds recycling center in Pembroke is located at the intersection of Cherokee and 711 North, across from Hills Shopping Center. It is open Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

In addition to aluminum cans, Reynolds purchases used aluminum such as pie plates, foil, frozen food and dinner trays, and dip, pudding and meat containers. Reynolds also purchases items such as siding, gutters, storm door and window frames, and lawn furniture tubing. Such aluminum must be cut into manageable lengths. Aluminum castings including pots and pans, power lawn mower housings and barbecue grills also are purchased by the company.



Employees of Oxendine's Tire Center left to right: Jeffery Oxendine, Dollar Bill Oxendine, Birtir Oxendine and Jimmy Ray Oxendine.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

North Carolina residents denied Social Security disability benefits from mid 1981 through mid 1987 could get new hearings or reviews of their claims.

But to benefit, individuals must contact their local Social Security Office and ask for a review under the Hyatt v. Bowen class action lawsuit.

A recent Federal court ruling from Charlotte in the Hyatt v. Bowen case ordered the Social Security Administration to review the cases of North Carolina residents denied Social Security or Supplemental Security Income disability benefits. The ruling applies to denials made in most claims during the period from mid 1981 through mid 1987.

On March 10, 1988, Social Security mailed notices to thousands of persons who may be eligible to have their claims reconsidered. However, one need not receive a notice to be eligible.

Individuals who meet the requirements of the court order are entitled to have a new decision made in their cases under new ability evaluation criteria.

If you believe you may be eligible for a new hearing or review, immediately call or visit your local Social Security Office and ask for a new review under Hyatt v. Bowen.

For more information, contact the Disability HOTLINE at the North Carolina Disability Information Office (1-800-638-6810). Information may also be obtained from local offices of Legal Services.

SAY YOU READ IT IN THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

To subscribe to The Call 521-2826

Carolina Indian Voice