

THE CAROLINA INDIAN

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Cri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

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THURSDAY, OCTOB

LREMC MEMBERSHIP DEFEATS TWO INCUMBENTS



RONALD HAMMONDS Former Board Chairman Ward Clark, Jr. was ousted as

Cummings holds an at-large seat.

a director at the 48th annual membership meeting of

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation. Clark

was defeated by newcomer James H. Dial of Route 1,

Maxton. In District 6, incumbent Alton V. Dudley was

Raeford. Incumbants Ronald Hammonds of Route 8,

Lumberton and Lacy L. Cummings of Route 1, Pembroke

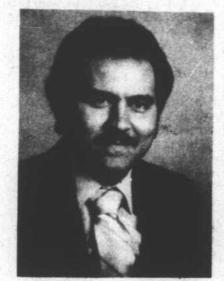
were re-elected. Hammonds represents District 5 and

Following the voting, Gus Bullard was re-elected as

chairman and Timothy Strickland was elected secretary.

During the business meeting the membership voted to

JAMES H. DIAL



LACY L. CUMMINGS

finance committee to track the board's expenses; a limit on out of town travel; and the elmination of medical insurance on former board members.

Distric 1 includes the townships of Maxton, Alfordsville, Thompson, Union and Rowland. James H. Dial received 731 votes and Ward Clark, Jr. received 572.

also ousted. He was replaced by John G. "Tim" Elebee of In the at-large district Lacy L. Cummings received 537 votes. Clifton Sampson, Jr. received 429. Etta B. Jones received 153. Stephen Strickland received 83. Barbara C Goins received 54. And Carl D. Stephens received 47.

District 6 includes all of Hoke County east of N.C. 211. In that district John G. Elebee received 507 votes. Johnny H. Boyles received 436. Incumbent Alton V. Dudley received 235. And Renate Dahlin received 125. District 5 includes Lumber Bridge, Parkton, St. Puals,

"bind the board to a list of cost-cutting measures." These East and West Howellsville and Saddletree. Incumbent measures include cutting directors' pay from \$75 to \$50 a Ronald Hammonds received 698 votes and James H. day for board meetins or conferences; the creation of a Hammonds received 605.

Jim Long Announces Local

J.W. Hunt will remain as vice chairman.

Campaign Comittee

Raleigh-Insurance Commissioner Jim Long has announced his Campaign Committee for Robeson County. In making his announcement, Long said he had been delinquent in making the formal announcement since many area individuals had been 'working hard for our re-election since last spring."

Long's Robeson County Reelection Committee is chariged by Vickie Cox Creech of Lumberton. Serving with Ms. Creech are Horace Locklear, Tom Jones and Charlie Jamin.

Long said he was pleased to have such outstanding individuals serve in his re-election efforts.

Long stated he "would be relying heavily on these individuals and other area supporters to get my name out to area voters." Long said he is trying to balance campaigning with the demands of an auto rate hearing, saying "if you're not out campaigning, people complain, and yet if I let an insurance rate increase that is not justified go into effect, everyone will complain."

Long, who is opposed in his race by Republican Pete Rednour, said while he is optimistic, "I've been in public life long enough to know that you take nothing for granted. I have had broad and bipartisan support, and I aim on keeping it that way.'

"I hope to continue the work we have begun on making N.C. insurance rates the lowest in the country, to expand out Senior Citizens insurance information program and to launch an educational program young people who will be facing their first insurnace purchase decision."

Long, an attorney, served three terms in the N.C. General Assembly and served as legislative counsel to the Speaker of the General Assembly. before being elected Commissioner in 1984.

WINS

ENDORSEMENT

The Merchants Political Action Committee today endorsed Representative J.C. "Pete" Hasty. PAC Treasurer, William C. Rustin, Jr., said, "Pete Hasty's endorsement is a result of his many years of support for the small businessman, especially retail merchants across the state."

"He understands the responsibilities of creating jobs and meeting a payroll. He has listened to our issues and has supported retail concerns on the floor of the House. We are proud to support his return to the General Assembly."

Indian

Solidarity

Meetings

Indian Solidarity is an organization being proposed to create a consitutional framework through which Indians can institutionalize decision making. Recent events have pointed to the dire need for such an organization.

Approximately three months ago a constitutional committee was formed to write a proposed constitution for the concept. That has been completed and an organizational committee has been elected to hold meetings in each precinct to obtain grassroots review and input into the final development of the constitution. Although the concept promotes non partisanship, the committee will be sharing the constitution beginning with Commissioner District #III and will rotate with commissioner districts until the program is completed. Meetings have been scheduled at the following times, places and precin-

South Pembroke, North Pembroke, Smiths, Maxton-October 20. Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. South and North Pembroke will meet in the Pembroke Courthouse. Smiths Precinct will meet in the Prospect Day Care Center Community Building. Maxton Precinct will meet in the Maxton Court Room.

All Indian persons 18 years or older or persons married to an Indian who is 18 years old or older are encouraged to attend these most important meetings.

BRIEFS

ALUMNI ASSOC. TO MEET The Pembroke Area Chapter of the Pembroke State University Alumni Association will meet on Thursday, October 20, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. in the James B. Chavis University Center at Pembroke State University.

All Alumni are invited to come. HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL

Bryan Memorial School will hold its Halloween Carnival on October 28. Chicken and barbecue plates will be sold between 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Carnival games will be between 6 p.m. and 8 p.m. Auction will be at 8 p.m.

For more information call 738-8566

Say You Read It In The Carolina Indian Voice

THE COACH'S CORNER

WILL THE DODGERS' LUCK HOLD UP?

What's up, comes down and what's down, comes up," that's the game. This phenomenon of regressi- ers: on, a psychological happening comes to go except down. Kirt Gibson's home run in the bottom of the ninth ranks way above any story-book ending in the history of sports. And what pitcher has ever done what Hershiser did with his three hits and six to nothing win on Sunday night? And a team like the Oakland "A"s are truly a championship team. I just can't see them losing again to the miracles the Dodgers have pulledoff. Tom Lasorda, a true showman of the highest order with his great smile with the best of pasta, his congeneality and his know-how of how to get the best out of his players really faces a tough task in winning over the strong Oakland "A's". And I don't think he can do it.

Ken Johnson

CHURCH NEWS

HOMECOMING PLANNED

Prospect United Methodist Church will have its Homecoming Sunday, October 23, 1988. Sunday School service will begin at 9:30 a.m. and Worship Service at 10:30 a.m. Speaker will be Rev. Johnnie Bullard, assistant pastor of Prospect United Methodist Church.

Rev. Robert Mangum is pastor. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

REVIVAL PLANNED

Prospect United Methodist Church will hold its annual fall revival starting Sunday, October 23rd thru October 28th. Services will begin at 7 p.m. on Sunday and 7:30 p.m. thereafter. Speakers will be Rev. Robert Mangum, pastor of the church, and Mr. Dell Harris, Liturgist at Prospect UM Church.

Special music nightly. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.



THE OPTIMISTIC CYNICS BY KAREN CORONADO & WM. RICHARD MATHIS

THE TRIAL OF HATCHER AND JACOBS: THE GOVERNMENT LOSES

Eddie Hatcher rises from the defense table where he has been sitting alone, and somewhat awkwardly picks-up a handful of papers and a cup of water.

"I've never done this before," he sheepishly mutters on his way to deliver his closing argument to the jury which will be deciding his destiny.

In short, unrushed steps, he approaches the lectern in front of the jury, only briefly stopping to place the cup of water on the prosecution table. As he places the cup, he appears neither anxious nor arrogant standing directly before the man who has earlier tried to convince the jury of his quilt.

Although some people have come to believe Hatcher to be somewhat of a grandstander, he approaches the jury almost meekly yet without timidity.

Dressed in a leather vest and Indian breechcloth with an eagle feather in the back of his shoulder length hair, Hatcher is as solemn as the hardwood panels of the courtroom and the black robe of the Judge.

Softly and calmly, he tells the jury that he would like to present a closing argument written by William Kunstler, the counselor of his choice.

Hatcher reads that Kunstler wrote the argument in a place several hours away from Raleigh and that Kunstler finds it difficult to write a closing argument for a jury he has never seen or spoken to. Kunstler continues that Hatcher had wanted to testify as to all he knew about Robeson County but that since he had no attorney present he hadn't been able to gain that privilege.

Kunstler says that he had been engaged in a trial in New York since April which has forced his client, Hatcher, to have to sit alone at the defense table.

Kunstler has been able to only make a limited contribution from afar, Hatcher reads, but he is going to try to create a closing argument for Hatcher even though he knows it can't be the type of summation Kunstler could have given if he had been present for the trial.

Yet Kunstler has written a thorough closing argument which reiterates many of the themes presented by Jacobs' defense team during its closing argument. The government has a high burden of proof; there was no criminal intent in the actions of Hatcher and Jacobs: their lives were endangered because of their knowledge of drug dealing and their attempts to do something about it; and they made no direct demands on the U.S. government.

Kunstler also writes that Hatcher had never before difficulty the Dodgers are facing used violence or a gun but that he had been a caring and tonight in their third world series concerned person who had attended to aged grandmoth-

Hatcher finishes the prepared statement and looks-up about when a team has reached such at the jury: "I never denied doing it (the takeover of the a high plateau that there is no place Robesonian). I never pointed my gun and never told people I wanted to hurt them...There's not any evidence to show I had a bad, malicious intent... I was trying to save with two outs and the count of 3-2 my life under exceptional circumstances: conditions of discrimination, injustice, corruption, violence, fear."

He mentions that the prosecutor said earlier in his closing argument that the constitution allowed for peaceful protest. Sounding tearful, Hatcher asks the jury, When you go to those sworn to uphold the constitution and they won't do anything, what do you do?"

The tears begin in the courtroom among the spectators. At the defense table of Jacobs, the lawyers of the Christic Institute seem to hang on every word, the emotion building. Timmy Jacobs is sitting straight, serious, listening to the words of his friend.

Hatcher says the Reverend Jesse Jackson has talked about the people who have been abandoned by the law. 'Can you imagine 60,000 frightened, hurt, rejected, abandoned people crying out?" He is on the verge of tears and at least one juror, a Black woman, also looks ready to weep.

"From 150 miles away, they're crying out. Some are faint, they're tired, they're wore out. Please don't abandon me and Timmy.'

He softly says thank you, with his head partially lowered and turns away, to walk back to his solitary seat. The one Black juror turns her head slightly to her left and the matronly White woman next to her responds by turning towards her until their eyes meet and they break into slight smiles, briefly touch hands, and nod in unison. The sudden gut feeling is that Hatcher has just won.

The prosecutor seems to realize the impact Hatcher has just had on the jury. In his rebuttal to the closing arguments of the defense, he implores them not to base their verdict on sympathy. But it is too late: the jury suddenly looks cold and impersonal, and they shift in their seats farther away from the prosecutor.

Even the Judge, who had been sitting up attentively during Hatcher's final moments, reclines in his leather chair until all you can see of him is his head. As he yawns, you get the sense he is tired and bored of the entire mess and wants to wash his hands of it as

expediently as possible. And the following day, October 14, 1988, the judge and jury washed their hands of the affair when the jury acquitted Hatcher and Jacobs of all charges.

From the quiet decorum of the courtroom, the not guilty verdict unleashed a torrent of emotions. Inside the courtroom, there was crying and rejoicing mingled with exclamations of thanks to the Almighty. Outside the courtroom the verdict surprised and shocked Robeson County like the killer toronado which hit in '84.

In Lumberton, the staff of the Robesonian expressed outrage and bitterness. They had experienced terror and

PLATE SALE PLANNED

Come out and enjoy lunch and dinner as well as the

Rev. Julian Ransom is pastor.

terror and for Hatcher and Jacobs to go free, not even convicted for sawing-off a shotgun?

In Pembroke, the mood was different. While many people were relieved at the verdict and thought it fair, there was a saddness that the trial had not produced the evidence of rampant corruption which had been hoped. There was also a fear of redneck reactionary rage.

Some people in Pembroke were outraged by the verdict and thought Hatcher and Jacobs should have at least done time for the sawed-off shotguns. "There's the evidence, right there on t.v.," the fellow said Friday night, "they're right there on t.v. with sawed-off shotguns. How could thejury possibly not convict them?"

Some news analyses and editorials have argued that it was sympathy in part because Hatcher's attorney was absent. One has argued it is because of a "Rambo" mentality in our soecity which tolerates and even encourages the taking-of-the-law-in-your-own- hands. While there may be some truth in those positions, we believe there is a greater sympathy which accounts for the verdicts.

The jury decided that there had been no criminal intent by Hatcher and Jacobs in taking-over the Robesonian. If there was no criminal intent, what kind of intent could there have been? The desire to gain publicity by violent means? No, the jury reasoned otherwise.

Even though the Judge had not allowed the Necessity of Defense argument to be used by defense lawyers, the jury believed Hatcher and Jacobs had experienced a terror greater than that experienced by the staff of the

The defense presented three witnesses who testified they had seen Deputy Sheriff Kevin Stone circling-Hatcher's apartment. There was testimony that Sheriff Stone had a warrant for Hatcher's arrest and that Hatcher feared for his safety in the Robeson County jail. Just days before, a local newspaper had reported a Black inmate, Billy McKellar, died in jail, begging for asthma medication.

Hatcher testified that he feared for the safety of John David Hunt, a former SBI informant who was in jail, and had given Hatcher maps and information purporting to link Sheriff Stone with major tope dealers.

Hatcher and Jacobs testified they feared for their lives because of this knowledge. But they also claimed they tried to pass along the information but were unable to find anyone to help them. Hatcher wrote a letter to Stone threatening to reveal the information to the media if Hunt was hurt. In court, Hatcher testified the response from Stone he received was, "So, Eddie Hatcher wants to play extortion?"

But the government did not call to the stand Sheriff Stone or his son, Kevin. The government did not present any rebuttal witnesses to disprove Hatcher and Jacobs' claims of danger and terror.

If you are a juror and hear testimony that two youngmen took-over a newspaper out of fear for losing their lives at the hands of an allegedly corrupt and violent Sheriff and then the government does not even present the testimony of the Sheriff to deny the allegations, what would you think? Would you think it was, or why else wouldn't the prosecution bother to deny the claims? Apparently that jury in Raleigh thought so.

And then you might start thinking that's the real reason the government doesn't want to give defense attorneys any information regarding drug trafficking and corruption in Robeson County. You start doubting the government's argument that the information is immaterial because Hatcher and Jacobs can never prove it was necessary to take hostages the staff of the Robesonian. What you start thinking, is that all the talk about Robeson County is true or else the government would be debunking it left-and-right. But the government is not contradicting the talk. Indeed, the prosecutor said during his closing argument, "...there are serious problems in Robeson County that need to be addressed..."

But the evidence presented by the defense is that no one, at least on the governmental level, has ever really seriously addressed the problems in Robeson County. The Community Relations Services of the U.S. Justice Department had been here for twenty years but what have they done but gather information and shared it with the

So, the jury concluded, Hatcher and Jacobs did not take-over the Robesonian as a violent protest. Instead, they apparently believed Hatcher and Jacobs acted to save their own lives in the face of a greater terror which had been allowed to flourish as the government

Unfortunately, the whole story wasn't told about corruption in Robeson County and its relationship to the hypocritical drug policies of the federal government which encourages people to "just say no" to drugs while cutting backroom deals with dictators like Noriega. But did the government really want that story told in a federal

Did the government want the public to know it has allowed drugs to enter this country when it was in the interests of "national security?" Did it want the public to know that most drugs end up in minority communities, destroying young brown and black lives while bankers and Contra leaders reap the profits? Did the government want Robeson County to be held up as an example of the rampant corruption produced by the government's policies? Of course not.

So we are left to believe that the government was willing to sacrifice its case against Hatcher and Jacobs in order to prevent sacrificing its knowledge of and its strongly renounced the verdict which freed those who had involvement in Robeson County. This, of course, leaves held them hostage with sawed-off shotguns on Feb. 1. us wondering as we were before Feb. 1: What is the truth Where is justice, they cried, for us to experience sheer in Robeson County and what are we going to do about it.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

YARD SALE

Cherokee Chapel Methodist Church, Wakulla, NC will hold its annual chicken and barbecue plate sale on A yard sale will be held at Moore's Chain Saw (Prospect community) on Saturday, October 22, from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Clothes and other miscellaneous items Saturday, October 22, beginning at 11 a.m. and lasting will be on sale.

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