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THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

PEMBROKE, N.C.

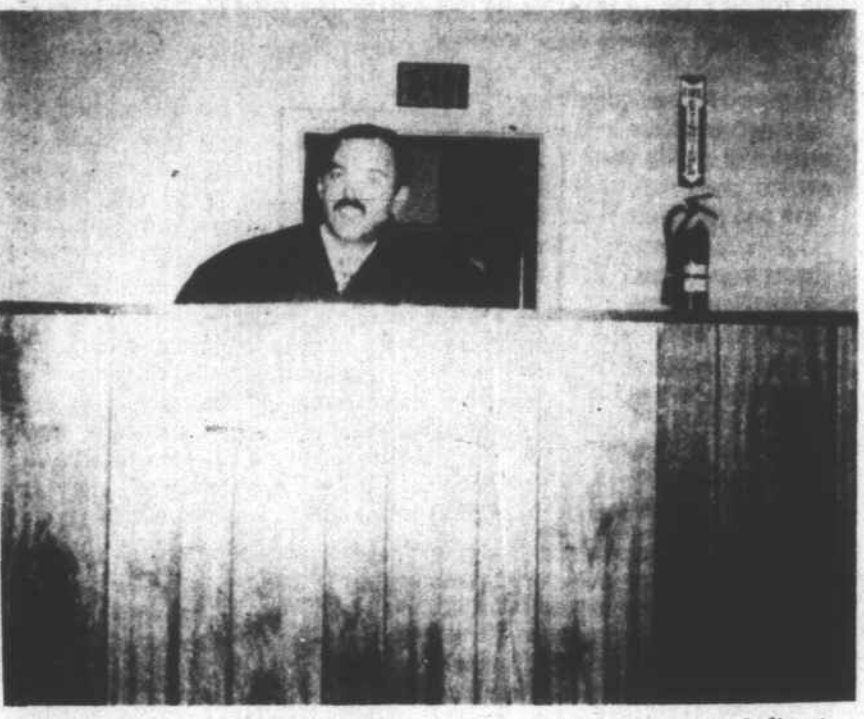
ROBESON COUNTY

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Judge Gary Lynn Locklear: History In The Making



JUDGE GARY LYNN LOCKLEAR is shown on the bench during lunch break at the Pembroke Court House.

Gary Lynn Locklear became the first Indian to serve as district judge in Robeson & Scotland counties following the General Election in November. Locklear was sworn in as judge two weeks ago. It has been twenty-two years, reportedly, since Judge Lacy Maynor served as a Recorder's Judge in the Pembroke, Smiths, Maxton District. The position of Recorder's Judge was first held by Earlie Bullard. Following the tenure of these two men, the Recorder's Judge's position was terminated. That means, Locklear is the first Indian to serve as district judge following a county-wide election.

Locklear was admitted to the Robeson County Bar in September, 1979. He worked as an assistant District Attorney for three years and was in the private practice of law for six years. He was a member of the law firm of Chavis, Locklear

Judge Locklear is the first Indian to win a county-wide election as district court judge.

and Ransom, Attorneys-at-Law, Lumberton.

Judge Locklear is a 1970 graduate of Pembroke State University with a B.S. degree in Business. He earned a M.A. in Business and Economics in 1972 from Appalachian State University. In 1979 he earned his law degree from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He taught in North Carolina's Community College and Technical System for five years prior to entering law school.

Judge Locklear is married to the former Molly Oxendine of Pembroke. She is a public school teacher. They have two sons, Brooks and Bradley. The Locklears reside in Pembroke and attend Berea Baptist Church.

Judge Locklear made the following statement concerning his judgeship: "I feel I will bring the proper mix of experience, integrity and temperament to the bench as District Court Judge."

THE OPTIMISTIC CYNICS BY KAREN CORONADO & WM. RICHARD MATHIS

HATCHER'S SEARCH CONTINUES

Onondaga Chief Oren, Lyons recently criticized the media for focusing on the flights of Jacobs and Hatcher instead of the drug problem in Robeson County which he considered the more important issue. Chief Lyons seems to be saying that it is important to separate issues from personalities.

Since the February 1 takeover of the Robesonian, people have tended to judge the merits of the incident largely on the merits of the personality of the main character, Eddie Hatcher. Immediately following the takeover, it seemed there was considerable support for the two. Several prominent "movement" leaders, while not condoning the means, stated their understanding and sympathy for the frustration and desperation which precipitated the event. At the two recent public meetings keynoting Hatcher, the same movement leaders were nowhere to be seen.

Judging by comments we've heard, it seems leaders are now afraid to be associated with Hatcher. The usual reason given is negative publicity from actions such as picketing the Governor's office or the courthouse in Lumberton, or aggressively going after Sheriff Stone and son. It is rather ironic that using shotguns to hold hostages could have produced more sympathy than have Hatcher's escapades afterwards.

Before February 1, Hatcher claims to have feared for his life. He was probably undergoing confusion and turmoil when he decided to takeover the Robesonian. However, amidst the crowd gathered in the streets outside the Robesonian, there was no confusion and turmoil among movement leaders as they adroitly flittered from microphone to microphone.

Nor did there appear to be much indecision to use the event as a cause celebre to spotlight the problems in Robeson County. Suddenly, here was a vehicle to gain national and international attention which would force the government to clean-up corrupt Robeson. All it required was a skillful handling of the players and the creative writing of the script.

However, leaders and lawyers quickly found out Hatcher likes to do his own script-writing. They also realized that they don't always like his writings. Several folks started their silent exits from the stage. Others like the lawyers from the Christie Institute stuck it out.

Now that Hatcher has fled to New York and broken his bond posted by the National Council of Churches, we wonder who will stick with him now? Even Jacobs is quoted as saying, "They (Council of Churches) had good faith and they trusted him on that and he turned his back

on them." He also added that he was going to try to convince Hatcher to return.

Hatcher also claimed to have taken sanctuary in New York on the Onondaga reservation. The Onondagas deny that he is there and also deny they have given him sanctuary. Indeed, as they failed to give him sanctuary this summer when he was on the run, we doubt that they will give it to him now.

Nor is he likely to find much support in Robeson County. Many people feel that he should have done like Jacobs and kept a low profile instead of returning to Robeson County. Some say that was like rubbing salt into a wound. Other folks, mainly movement types, say he is hurting the movement by all the attention he gets. Several months past the same folks acted as if he couldn't get enough attention.

Of course the media played its role in providing attention. Several months ago it seemed like Hatcher couldn't pass gas without it being on the six o'clock news. At the recent appreciation dinner for Jacobs and Hatcher, approximately 125 people showed up but outside of one of us, there was only one media person who stayed for maybe 20 minutes.

The media, leaders, and common folk seem to be in agreement that Hatcher doesn't really have evidence of rampant corruption or else he wouldn't have left. Maybe so. He says he left because of threats on his life and fear he wouldn't receive a fair trial. It sounds like he was confused and in turmoil. We're just glad he didn't pick up a shotgun and repeat the events of February 1. But then again, judging by past events, he might have gotten lot more sympathy.

As it is, when he is apprehended and returned to trial in Robeson County, he may face overt hostility from movement leaders miffed at seeing snubbed a significant source of cash like the National Council of Churches. Will the Council of Churches now be willing to fork up another \$25 thousand to hire the likes of former Attorney General Ramsey Clark to defend Sandy Chavis? Will the Council of Churches be ready for another cause celebre in Robeson County?

Indeed, will anybody in Robeson County ever be willing to pin their hopes on any one person or issue to solve all the problems in Robeson County? Will we ever build up anybody else like a hero of heroes and then dump him like a hot potato when we feel that he is an embarrassment? While we hope not, we are cynical that we will still use people and events to advance our own agenda, yet we remain optimistic that we can learn to choose the right people and events to advance our mutual agendas.

Contributions Sought For 3-Year-Old Who Needs 5-Organ Transplant

The United Methodist Church and the League of Separated Tribes will sponsor a fund raising dinner and mini craft sell for Roleandra Dodge, 3-year-old Indian child who needs a 5-organ transplant operation.

A traditional Indian dinner will be served consisting of Indian Chili, corn bread, pumpkin bread, sassafras tea (coffee also available). The event will be held December 23, 1988 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. at United Methodist Church, Rt. 31, Tarrs, Pa. A minimum donation of \$3 for adults and \$1.50 for children 12 and under will be accepted. The event is sponsored by Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church, Box A, Tarrs, PA 15688.

Louise Dimery Weaver is helping with this project. She states that the Dodge family of New Mexico are facing enormous financial problems. Money is needed for medical expenses and also for the family living expenses. Roleandra is the daughter of Brandon and Cyndy Dodge of New Mexico. They have two other children, one is fourteen months old and the other is four years old. Mr. Dodge has had to quit his job in order to assist with Roleandra's care. There is no income at this time for the family. An urgent plea is sent to help this family financially. Make donation checks payable to: Childrens Hospital for Roleandra Dodge and make it either for medical expenses of family living expenses. Donations should be sent to Mt. Lebanon Methodist Church, Box 1, Tarrs, PA 15688. Your help will be appreciated.

GRANTS FOR N.C. MEDIA ARTISTS AVAILABLE

Independent film and video makers living in North Carolina are eligible to apply to the 1989 Southeast Media Fellowship Program for Production Grants of up to \$8000 for new works or works-in-progress and for Equipment Access Grants. The application deadline is February 1, 1989. In March an independent three-member panel of film and video experts will evaluate the applications and award fellowships to those artists whose work shows exceptional creativity and a commitment to media as an art form. Application forms can be obtained by contacting SEMFP c/o Appalshop, Box 743, Whitesburg, KY 41858, (606)633-0108.

Media artists residing in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia are also eligible to apply to the Southeast Media Fellowship Program, which is coordinated by Appalshop, a media center located in eastern Kentucky. SEMFP is supported with funds from the National Endowment for the Arts with additional support from the North Carolina Arts Council, the Virginia Commission for the Arts, the Kentucky Arts Council, the Louisiana State Division of the Arts, the Mississippi Arts Commission, and the South Carolina Arts Commission. Equipment Access Grants are made available by the South Carolina Arts Commission Media Arts Center. SEMFP is one of seven regional fellowship programs established by the National Endowment for the Arts in an effort to recognize the geographic and artistic diversity of the media community and to encourage the growth of the media arts throughout the country. Nineteen grants totaling \$60,500 in federal and state funds were awarded in the 1987-88 round of the Southeast Media Fellowship Program.

Noel!

Warm thoughts for
a bright and happy
holiday season!

INDIAN WOMAN ATTORNEY: Bucking the Roadblocks



Arlinda Locklear, one of the attorneys of record in the New York Land Claims case for the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin.

"You can make a system work for you without becoming a part of that system. Once you learn it you can adjust it to Indian People so Indians don't have to adjust to that system."

That system is the court system and the woman trying to adjust that system to help her Indian people is Arlinda Locklear.

Locklear is an enrolled member of the Lumbee Tribe from North Carolina, and a notable Indian Attorney. The Lumbee are not a federally recognized tribe and have no land base to speak of, they, like many tribes, have suffered greatly at the hands of the land agents and the encroaching white settlers that diminished the lands of many Indian peoples. The centuries of injustice to Indians stemming from major atrocities such as massacres to the present day mistreatment of Indian people are the reasons Indians must work to adjust that system.

Locklear was determined at the age of 12 that she was going to do something about the way Indians were treated within the whitemans legal system. Common on Indian reservations and in communities with large Indian populations is the mistreatment of Indian men. Locklear says "Every reservation has a similar situation as mine, my uncle was frequently in altercations with the local police, they usually took him to jail and released him a day or two later, many times without charging him for anything."

Arlinda Locklear graduated from Duke Law School, North Carolina in 1976 and went to work for the Native American Rights Fund (NARF) in Boulder, Colorado. Locklear was assigned to the Oneida Land Claims case in 1977. Locklear's personal philosophy that, in order to function within the system you must learn that system and take advantage of it, has enabled her to act as an attorney in a land claims case that she feels is one of the strongest and most valuable in the country.

The supreme court is one of Locklear's most formidable challengers. The other challenge she faces continually is the prejudice against not only Indians, but Indian women. As a woman in what was traditionally a white mans occupation, she faces the task of not only proving herself as an Indian Attorney but as an Indian woman Attorney. Some of the most difficult people to deal with is Indian people who often question her legal opinion and even seek to further confirm it by another (male) attorney or similar source. This is not an isolated prejudice, Indian woman across the nation fight this same battle. An example cited by Locklear as typical in the "Good ole boys system" is a federal judge whom she has regular exchanges with still refers to her as Miss LockBAR, while he notably refers to other attorneys by their first names.

Buckling the roadblocks in these systems seems to be a battle that Locklear handles quite well. There's no doubt she's one of the top attorneys in this country, thanks to the "Good ole boys."

NEWS FROM INDIAN COUNTRY: THE JOURNAL

PEMBROKE JAYCEES PLAN NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY

The Pembroke Jaycees will sponsor a New Year's Eve party Saturday, December 31st at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut from 8 p.m. until 2 a.m. Tickets for the event are \$15 single and \$25 for couples. No tickets will be sold at the door. Advance tickets may be purchased from any Pembroke Jaycee. Co-chairmen for this event are Oceanus Lowry and Ted Brewington.



Shown above in one of the many floats presented in the recent Pembroke Jaycees Christmas Parade: Shown is Little Miss Royal Nut who is daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lowry. (Photo by Connie Brayboy)

Nominations Sought For Distinguished Women

Nomination deadline for the 1989 Distinguished Women of North Carolina Awards is nearing. All nominations for the prestigious award must be postmarked by Jan. 15, 1989.

The awards recognize individual women whose contributions to the state or to the nation have had a significant impact upon the lives of citizens or who have attained outstanding levels of personal achievement in a particular field, according to Administration Secretary James S. Lofton.

The awards are sponsored by the N.C. Council on the Status of Women in the N.C. Department of Administration.

"This is the sixth year that outstanding North Carolina women have been recognized by this award," Lofton said. "By singling out a

few, the council brings honor to all North Carolina women. To be nominated is, in itself, a distinct honor."

Awards will be presented March 29 at a banquet to be held at the Raleigh Marriott. March is Women's History Month.

Award winners will be selected by a committee of prominent North Carolinians appointed by the chairman of the Council on the Status of Women. All citizens of North Carolina are invited to nominate any individual woman who is a living, native-born North Carolinian, or who currently resides in the state.

For more information or nomination forms, write: Council on the Status of Women, 526 N. Wilmington St., Raleigh, N.C. 27604-1199.