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"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Robeson County

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Memorial Service for Godwin and Pierce Uplifting



JOHN L. GODWIN

by Connee Brayboy

During the Easter Weekend, as the Klu Klux Klan was staging marches in surrounding counties, the Concerned Citizens of Robeson County sponsored a memorial service. The service was for John L. Godwin and Julian Pierce and the victims of violent death in Robeson County, NC. The event was held at

Prospect United Methodist Church on Monday night, March 27.

Special music was rendered by the J.J. Johnson Choir of First Baptist Church, Fairmont. Invocation was by the Rev. Bob Mangum, pastor of the host church. The purpose of the service was stated by Dr. Joy Johnson, pastor of First Baptist Church in Fairmont and Chairperson of the Concerned Citizens for Better

Government. Dr. Johnson began the service in an uplifting manner. He reminded those in attendance that all is not well in Robeson County and that the Klu Klux Klan was apparently testing the waters around Robeson County. Yet, at the same time there was much hope for the county's citizens. He urged those in attendance to do their part to speak out against injustices and work toward non-violent change.

The scripture reading was by Henry Smith who is a member of the board of directors of the Center for Community Action. He took his text from Micah 6:8 stating that he felt the scripture was a testament to the lives of Godwin and Pierce. "He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?"

Micah 6:8

The Rev. Mac Legerton played a song recorded by John L. Godwin in 1974, "In Times Like These." Afterwards, Rev. Legerton delivered the tribute to John L. Godwin. He reminded the audience that Mr. Godwin had become known in the county for his sharp and critical letters to the editor. On November 1, 1986 Jimmy Earl Cummings, an Indian, was shot and killed by Deputy Sheriff Kevin Stope. Stone was found to have acted in self-defense and/or by accident. It was at this time that Godwin became more outspoken, organizing mass meetings and stating categorically that the action was "unacceptable." He organized the Concerned Citizens for Better Government following the coroner's inquest that cleared Stone

of any wrongdoing in the death of Cummings. Until his death, Godwin was outspoken and forceful in his fight for non-violent change in Robeson County.

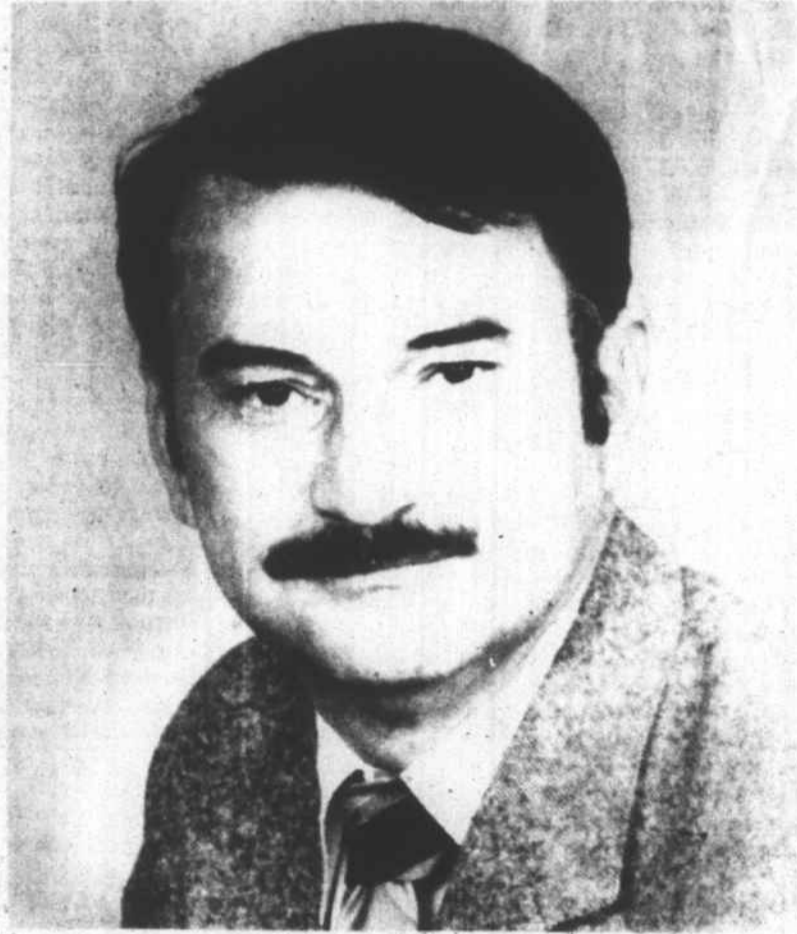
Rev. Legerton is pastor of All People's United Church of Christ in Pembroke and also director of the Center for Community Action, Inc.

A musical tribute to Julian Pierce was next on the agenda. The Pierce Family (comprised of his brothers and sisters) sang "Thinking Bout Home. Following this Christine Griffin, Administrator of Lumbee River Legal Services offered the tribute to Julian Pierce. She reminded those in attendance that Julian Pierce would not have anyone say much about him. He would have wished, she said, for her to remind the people of Robeson County that there was still much work to do. There is still too many drugs flowing freely in the county and far too much violence.

She reminded everyone of how effective a united voice is. That united voice was shown in the primary election when Julian Pierce

was elected Superior Court Judge over live candidate Joe Freeman Britt.

Griffin called on the church to take its rightful place in a leadership position for the sake of the children of Robeson County. Failure to do so, she said, would result in the loss of a generation of young people, further violence, and the total destruction of Robeson County. She pleaded with people to wake up and realize that



JULIAN T. PIERCE

there had to be some positive change in Robeson County and that change would only come through the awakening of citizens to their responsibilities to speak out against violence, injustice, and drug dealing.

Dr. Johnson officiated over the candlelight service where each person in attendance lit a candle as a symbol of hope. The benediction was given by Rev. Bob Mangum.

Afterwards the comment from

those in attendance was that the service was uplifting, inspirational and encouraging. Many people stated that they had renewed hope that things were going to be better in Robeson County for all citizens.

The memorial service was attended by a tri-racial audience and conducted by a tri-racial group, a symbol of the positive changes slowly but surely coming to Robeson County.

The Bookstore with a bonus

By Kimberly Roach

For about \$50, Andrew Wyeth's popular coffee table book, *The Helga Pictures*, can be purchased at most bookstores across the country.

However, at the L.R.D.A.'s Book Distribution and Conference Center, the same book costs a mere 50 cents!

Believe it or not, it is true. The Lumbee Regional Development Association (L.R.D.A.) has sponsored the bookstore since its opening in 1981.

Originally, all paper and hardback were given out free of charge. Today, however, a small handling fee is required for adults 18 years old and over.

The paperback and educational books sell for 25 cents and the hardback books and novels for 50 cents.

The L.R.D.A. implemented the handling charge to help pay for the bookstore's rent and utilities.

The bookstore is a non-profit organization open to all the races and residents of Robeson County.

For tax and public relations purposes, several major publishing houses hired a large consulting firm to select a county

to receive the free books. According to Marilyn L. Locklear, supervisor of the bookstore, the firm targets the books to areas with high rates of poverty and to the educationally disadvantaged.

"We want to get the people of Robeson County in the habit of reading," says Locklear. "We really need more community involvement."

The bookstore has many different kinds of books with a wide range of topics.

Often the books are even current best sellers, or have been popular in the recent past.

"Unfortunately," says Locklear, "we can't request specific books from the firm, but we can pick general areas. We just get what's available."

Locklear supervises a staff of four, who all urge the public to take advantage of this unique organization.

The bookstore is located on E. 3rd Street, Pembroke. Hours of operation are: Monday through Friday, 9:00 - 4:30.

Special hours are available upon request. Contact the bookstore at 521-2915 for more information.

GROWING UP IN ROBESON COUNTY



by Ronald H. Lowry

I received this picture of Henry H. Lowry's house, located in the Hopewell community, in the mail from my cousin, Jane Farrell who resides in Knoxville, Tennessee. She and her daughter attended the Lowry-Smith families reunion held in Pembroke the third weekend in July of 1988. Jane and her brother, Bill Armstrong, are the children of the late Frank and Viola Lowry Armstrong, who reared their family on the side of a hill just outside the main city of Knoxville. I visited this place for the first time in the summer of 1984 when the Lowrys got together over in Sweetwater, Tennessee for a weekend of family interactions. Plans are in the works to go to Tennessee again during the summer of 1990 with cousin Jane as our sponsor. Jane's mother was a daughter of Henry H. and Julia Revels Lowry, and grew up in the Hopewell community, along with my mama, another sister, and several brothers.

The picture is a copy of the original which my Aunt Viola had in her possession, and appears to have been taken soon after the construction of the house in the year 1900. The Henry H. Lowry family continued "The Lowry Lineage" in 1890 with the birth of a son along with the arrival of several other children during the last 10 years of the 19th century in their original house. They completed their family in 1911 in their new house with the birth of their youngest child, a son. I didn't realize it until I received the picture of Grandpa's house, that it was constructed in the form of a cross with a wing extending to the back. The wrought iron-chain linked fence surrounding the house was seldom seen around houses in rural Robeson County during the early 20th century. Grass lawns were not seen around country homes, but small yards adjacent to the homes were maintained by

raking and sweeping methods to provide a vegetation free area except for trees, shrubs, and flowers. Necessary farm crops would take priority over large yards, because ones livelihood was dependent on produce from the family farm. The successful family farmer put every square foot of land to productive usage to provide for the welfare of the family.

Henry H. Lowry was born one year after Theodore Roosevelt in 1859. Theodore Roosevelt became president in 1901 after William McKinley was assassinated, and led our nation into the 20th century. Henry H. Lowry was active in Robeson County, going into the 20th century, attempting to get some autonomy for Indians living along the banks of Lumber River. He spear-headed a crusade in Methodism, which resulted in the formation of an independent Methodist conference for Robeson County Indians. This organization is still active today and will be celebrating that education and Christian development were the means by which the Native Americans living in Robeson County could work their way out of the oppressive conditions he observed around his native land. My Grandpa exhibited the independent nature typical of descendants from the Allen Lowry lineage. He was a Calvin Lowry family member, and most of them resisted violence in favor of reasoning through difficult situations. One of the most positive aspects of growing up in rural area, such as Robeson County before the shift to large urban areas surrounding our large cities, was the strong family values passed down from generation to generation. This family stability was practiced throughout Robeson County, where family members could interact with close kin from both the maternal and paternal sides of ones

PEMBROKE KIWANIS REPORT

Program Chairman Frank Daughtry presented Mayor Milton Hunt who spoke on the Community Development Block Grants program. There has been a 75 percent cut in the programs. So far Pembroke has received 2.2 million dollars in four different grants and is now applying for its fifth grant. Hope is for the third week in April to be approved for the grant. The first grant came in 1979, North Pine Street is totally built up with the monies from the grants. Pembroke now has only three or four dirt roads due to the grants. The 89 grant covers one of these roads. Recertification programs have been great for Pembroke and we are applying for a very big grant for 1991. We must meet state criteria as regulations change.

Economic development is enhanced with grants to industry who in turn pay to the city. We have plans for annexation in the 1990's. New studies for revenue sources and zoning plans are going on. Zoning is a part of orderly growth with public hearings on zoning necessary as 20,000 people live within 4 miles of Pembroke and this is good territory for the professions and businesses. We are looking at plans for a 58,000 square foot municipal building as we don't have half the space we need. A referendum is planned for this. The police department will be in this building as will administrative offices. The location is still to be decided.

Questions and answers followed Mayor Hunt's speech.

Presiding-Pres. Jeff Maynor; Invocation-Garth Locklear; Song leader-Henry Ward Oxendine; Program-Frank Daughtry; Reporter-Ken Johnson.



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United Way Accepting Applications

SCHOOL NEWS

MISS MAGNOLIA PAGEANT PLANNED

Magnolia School will present the 1989 Miss Magnolia Pageant on Thursday, April 13, at 7 in the evening in the gym. Admission will be \$3.00. The public is invited to attend.

PRESCHOOL CLINIC PLANNED AT MAGNOLIA SCHOOL

Preschool Clinic will be held at Magnolia High School on April 6 from 8 a.m. until 12 noon. Parents are asked to bring the child's shot record, birth certificate, Social Security Number and Indian Card.

United Way of Robeson County is now accepting applications for 1990 funding. Forms may be picked up from the United Way office, 108 West 8th Street, Lumberton, NC. In order to qualify for United Way funding, an organization must have a 501(c)(3) Tax Exempt status, a non-paid volunteer board of directors, and be a non-discriminating agency. Applications must be returned to the United Way Office by May 1, 1989.