

# The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, NC

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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## Ronnie Sutton To Chair Democratic Party

Attorney Ronnie Sutton was elected as the Chairman of the Robeson County Democratic Party at the County Courthouse April 6, 1991 at the Robeson County Courthouse.

Other officers in the Robeson County Democratic Party are Jo Ann Locklear, Lumberton, First Vice Chairman; Wade Sealey, Fairmont, Second Vice Chairman; Jennifer G. Mickles, Lumberton, Third Vice Chairman; Francis M. Cummings, Lumberton, Secretary; Marion Thompson, Lumberton, Treasurer; Rose Marie Lowry, Pembroke, Assistant Treasurer; and Cliff Sampson, Jr., Pembroke, Chaplain.

Elected to the State Executive Committee were Thomas Jones, Jr., Chalmers Biggs, Johnny Hunt, Rev. Joy Johnson, Mrs. Janie Silvers and Cliff Sampson, Jr.

Chairman Sutton is a partner in the law firm of Locklear Jacobs and Sutton in Pembroke. His primary area of law practice is personal injury litigation. Sutton also the

town attorney for the Town of Pembroke.

Prior to returning to Robeson County, Sutton retired in 1982 from the U.S. Navy after completing his career as a naval aviator. Retiring as a commander, Sutton is a graduate of the UNC Chapel Hill School of Law, Central Michigan University, the Naval War College and the University of West Florida. In addition, he did undergraduate work at Pembroke State prior to joining Navy Flight Program in 1964.

Sutton resides with his wife and daughter, Fonda, in the Philadelphia precinct. His oldest daughter Ronette, a 1989 graduate of PSU, is in graduate school at UNC Chapel Hill.

Chairman Sutton indicates that he is looking forward to strengthening the Democratic Party in Robeson County and expects to have a good working relationship with all county citizens and voters.

## Whatever Happened to ... Eva Chavis Jones

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

Once upon a time 83 years ago a baby was born to a minister and his wife who lived in the St. Anna Community outside Pembroke. The female child was named Evalina by her grandparents. Two aunts of the newborn cast two sets of eyes upon the child and decided such a name was insufficient for such a beautiful Indian baby.

So it was, through collaboration of the aunts, the child was called Evalina Rosebud Tadpole Pollywad Toebiter Chavis.

"It became a mouthful of a name," laughs Mrs. Eva Chavis Jones as she recounts early childhood years answering the call of the name. She says though she loved her aunts dearly, the name they gave her was less endearing.

And now though she uses only the first of her given names, she can still troll the other four as though it were eight decades yonder.

Born one of 11 children to the Reverend George Chavis and Lucy Barton Chavis, Mrs. Jones spent her early childhood years moving from one farming community to another as her minister/sharecropper father took various farm assignments in Robeson County. Among schools she attended as a young child were Pembroke, Joe Branch, Green Grove and Harper's Ferry. Mrs. Jones says there were no school grade levels as such.

"I knew when I completed my seventh year Reader I was ready for Indian Normal High School."

After completing the Reader she enrolled in the high school where she made daily treks to study. By now her parents had moved to a 20-acre farm inherited from her maternal grandparents, near what is now U.S. Highway 74. It was at the farm a few miles southeast of Pembroke, in 1928, disaster struck.

"It was high water time that year in Robeson County when the Lumbree River reached crest and spilled over onto low-lying land surrounding it," Mrs. Jones comments of the flooding of area farm crops. The swelling of the river shattered any hope of crop recovery.

Packing up their belongings, the Chavis family moved to a farm in the Red Springs area. Like ashes in the wind, the inherited farm stood rain and debt-soaked.

"Mama, if you will help me get through school, I promise I will work to get the debt off your farm," Evalina says she cried to her mother.

"You reckon you'll stay single long enough to do that?" "I don't reckon anything," came the young daughter's response. "I know it."

So as to continue school Mrs. Jones remained behind with her grandmother when the family moved to Red Springs. And while she adored her, she sorely missed her mother. So it was that every two weeks the teenager would walk round trip from the farm on Highway 74 to Red Springs to visit her relocated family.

By 1932 Mrs. Jones had satisfied requirements for a high school diploma and earned her "B" teaching certificate from Indian Normal School in Pembroke.

The task before her became one of satisfying a promise she'd earlier made to her mother.

In 1933 the young graduate took her first teaching position at Cape Fear Indian School near Fayetteville. Teaching grades one through seven, she earned forty-five dollars per month. From that salary she paid her boarding costs plus monthly train fares to Red Springs to visit her family.

The teaching assignment ended a year later when Mrs. Jones went to teach Indian children in Little Philadelphia, a one-room school located near Red Springs.

A few years earlier while in college, Mrs. Jones attended a singing convention at St. Anna Church and "eyed" the most handsome young Indian man she'd ever seen. They were introduced the same day. A courtship developed between them and a few months later he picked up enough nerve to blurt out, "I love you." The confession was too much too soon for the daughter who had promised her mother she'd stay single and help pay off the family farm before marrying.

Mrs. Jones says she stood steadfast in her promise and let the handsome young man slide from her life. After a year's separation the couple resumed the courtship. Two years later, in 1935, after settling into a teaching profession, Evalina Chavis married Bickey Jones in a ceremony at the home of the Reverend Lawrence Maynor. The couple did not begin married life together because

she was committed to working on the family farm which she'd worked to save, and he was engaged in farming near Red Springs. Neither one owned an automobile at marriage and the groom would visit his bride on Sunday and Wednesday nights for an entire year before circumstance would allow the couple to begin living together on a rented farm in the Hopewell community. Later on the couple moved to the Union Chapel Community where they remained.

Mrs. Jones continued teaching school in assignments at McDonald, Green Grove, Rennert and Union Chapel. After 19 years in the classroom she chose to retire rather than return to college to upgrade her teaching certificate. "It would have meant going full time and my commitment to working on the farm with my husband would not allow it," she explains.

After leaving the classroom, Mrs. Jones supplemented the family income through direct sales of home products, cosmetics, and arts and crafts. Mr. Jones, in addition to being a farmer, was a part time barber.

Mrs. Jones says she had always wanted a large family. It was a desire unfulfilled when she and her husband suffered the loss of their first born child, a still born son. A second son died at age two months. They were to see their third and last biological child, a daughter grow into adulthood. Knowing there would be no more natural children born to them, the couple adopted a daughter in 1954. In 1960 the Joneses became foster parents; opening their home to 35 foster children for 12 years to follow.

In 1984, on the forty-ninth anniversary of the couple's wedding, Mr. Jones fell suddenly ill and died.



Mrs. Eva Chavis Jones

With an unflinching spiritual faith, his widow has pressed on, staying active in her beloved Union Chapel Methodist Church where she has held membership for more than 50 years. She belongs to her community's senior citizens club which meets weekly at her church. There on Thursdays they hand paint and sew commissioned quilts of exclusive Indian themes and designs.

The spunky great-grandmother, together with two of her sisters two years ago, returned as art students to their alma mater, now Pembroke State University. Mrs. Jones says of the experience, "It was an honor for us to return and take an art course in painting and jewelry making." An earlier art class sponsored by Robeson Community College had caused the art bug to bite her, she says. Returning to an art studio is not in the picture right now. "Too many other little things I'm doing prohibit it."

Her love for flowers has kept her busy of late. And this spring, for the first time in more than 55 years, she didn't plant a vegetable garden.

"I cannot keep up both a vegetable garden and attend to my yard. My flowers must have attention or they won't be pretty."

## County Area-Wide Crusade To Be Held May 5-9

American youth are in trouble and Rick Gage is determined to do something about it. Rick knows that the struggles young people face today are mind boggling. He is aware that in the next 60 minutes...58 young people ages 12-18 will attempt suicide; 28 teenage girls under 19 will have an abortion; 1,370 young people will take some form of a drug; 376 teenagers will drink an alcoholic beverage; 570 will become victims of broken homes; and 114 will run away from home.

The only way to meet this crisis is head-on, and this is what Rick Gage does best. He knows how to communicate with young people. His dynamic and direct style wins their confidence and keeps them listening. Rick doesn't deal in theory, but in fact. His message is practical, and rooted in reality.

As an educator, Rick Gage built his philosophy on the firm foundation of truth and integrity. It comes through clearly whenever he speaks.

As an athlete, Rick Gage learned the priority of discipline—physically, mentally, and spiritually.

As a college coach, Rick Gage infused his players with a drive for excellence, regardless of the game's outcome.

But Rick hasn't always been a glowing success. Like so many of this generation, he has experienced the trauma of drugs and alcohol. And he knows first hand the deep hurt of a troubled adolescent. That's why Rick is committed to

helping youth today to stay on track.

Through his On Track high school assembly program and other speaking engagements, Rick Gage has communicated to hundreds of thousands of teenagers—from Anchorage, Alaska to Miami, Florida. Whether speaking to an entire student body or to a group of athletes, Rick always gets his message across. He captivates young audiences with honest views on timely yet controversial subjects. Rick's primary concern is that American young people stay On Track by avoiding the pitfalls of drugs, alcohol, and teenage suicide. And when he talks, they do listen.

Rick Gage will be the guest speaker at the Robeson County Area-Wide Crusade to be held at the Lumberton High School Stadium May 5-9, 1991 beginning at 7:30 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

During his week in Robeson County, Rick Gage will also speak to most of the high school students in the county. This effort is being coordinated by the Community Schools Program of the Public Schools (Wyatt Johnson Director).

The County Wide Crusade is a non-denomination event that is being sponsored by local churches and church groups in the county.

## EARTH DAY CELEBRATION

An Earth Day Celebration and Clean Up program will be held at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center on Saturday, April 20, according to Bruce Swett, site manager for the Indian Cultural Center. The event will start with volunteer efforts to clean up selected areas and end with an afternoon program of entertainment and educational presentations about efforts to protect the environment.

"Volunteers are urged to join us in our efforts to clean up selected roadways near the Indian Cultural Center and to keep Robeson County clean and green," said Mr. Swett. He noted that volunteers who wish to assist with the clean up activities should come to the security office at the Cultural Center at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Mr. Swett said the Earth Day Celebration will include an afternoon of family entertainment and presentations on ways to protect the environment. The program will be held from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. in the picnic area at the Cultural Center. Other activities will include boating on

the lake, walking tours of the site, and children's games. Admission for the Earth Day Celebration is free. There will be sales of food and drinks.

Mr. Swett said, "We can make a big difference in appearance of our community by making small changes in the ways we handle trash." He said people should follow the Robeson County Clean Community Plan. People should quit littering, use a liter bag, and adopt a highway, he said.

Mr. Swett said we can reduce the amount of trash by recycling. "At least 25 percent of our trash is a valuable resource and can be recycled," he said. People should recycle paper, aluminum, plastic and glass, he said. There are recycling centers in the area that will accept these items and will pay you cash for them, he said.

For more information, contact the Indian Cultural Center at (919) 521-2433.



Groundbreaking ceremonies were held at the new site for the future Mount Olive Pentecostal Holiness Church of Pembroke on Easter Sunday, March 31st. Participating in the event were [l to r] Mr. Ashford Locklear, Elder; Rev. Johnnie Pollard, former Pastor; Mr. John Allen Smith, Elder, Deacon, and Building Committee Chairman; Larry Locklear, Deacon; Rev. John Parker, European Supervisor of P.H. Missions who was guest speaker for the day; Rev. Timothy G. Creel, Pastor of Mt. Olive Church; McDuffie Cummings, Pembroke Trum Manager; Hon. Milton Hunt, Mayor of Pembroke; David Lowry, Deacon;

Charlie Locklear, Deacon; Elisha Locklear, Deacon. [Not pictured: Randolph Ozendine, Elder; Earle Maynor, Elder; and Neal Graham, Elder, who could not attend because of sickness.] The new church and educational plant which is expected to cost over \$500,000 will hopefully be completed within 18 months. Special singing at the old Mt. Olive Church just prior to the groundbreaking was furnished by the "Born Believers" of Pembroke along with an Easter message by Rev. John Parker of Dum, NC. [Photo by Sgt. Wm. P. Revels]

The vegetarian's love for fresh green vegetables won't go unfed because her daughter and son-in-law's one-acre garden will yield ample supplies of collards, turnips and beans. And these will go just great along with the cornbread she has so much enjoyed since very early childhood meals.

Mrs. Jones says she enjoys good health and has

guarded it over the years with proper diet, exercise and rest.

All the credit for her good health and a long life she does not claim. "I've tried to work for the Master since I was 18 years old...to do His will is to try hard to take care of my body and serve Him," she says softly.

"I knew if I did that, He'd do the rest."

## PSU Retirees To Be Honored

A reception-and-dinner for all of those who have retired from the PSU faculty plus active faculty members with at least 25 years of service is being planned Friday, April 19. Their spouses are also invited. The reception will be at 6:30 p.m., followed by the dinner, in the Chancellor's Dining Room.

The idea for this event is that of PSU Chancellor Joseph Ozendine, using special funds allocated to PSU by

President C.D. Spangler, Jr., of the UNC system. Chairing the committee planning the event is James Ebert, retired PSU biology professor. Other committee members are Al Dunavan, Dr. Gibson Gray and Dr. Jesse Lamm.

Early reports say 41 faculty members have responded favorably.

SAY YOU READ IT IN  
THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE