

WHAT NEXT???

When we started this column a few years ago, the title was chosen to say that anything is possible in Robeson County, especially as it relates to Indian people. Each week we find that more and more the title is appropriate... We find ourselves so many times saying "What Next?" It seems that some move or strategy is always underway, most times by the powers that be (non-Indians) in Lumberton and sometimes they are assisted by Indian people.... Whether this is intentional or not on the part of Indian people, we will refrain from commenting on. But more and more we have noticed that the citizens, especially Indian citizens, are more and more aware of the methods used by our own and others to bring about goals that are most times to the economic advantage of non- Indians (and sometimes a limited number of Indians).

We will attempt to keep this column going because it has appeared helpful in the past in informing and alerting Indian people to issues and causes and we have seen Indian people begin to take control of their own destinies and say that "we have had enough meetings behind closed doors. We will no longer accept a few self appointed leaders making decisions for the masses."

With that thought in mind, we will highlight some issues that are really almost more than many of us are willing to accept or tolerate.

Our sources tell us that a move is underway openly with the Robeson Historical Drama Association Board (sponsors of Strike at the Wind) to move the drama to a site more economically feasible to Lumberton whites. More importantly, we hear that the deal has already been "settled" in the old way, behind closed doors, to make this move a reality. Not only that, but plans are being developed to also move the Cultural Center to Lumberton (there is a plan to bring the tourists to come by from I-95 by bus to the reservation to view the real Indians (and perhaps visit the State Park (another plan for the present Cultural Center site at Red Banks).

We hope that this strategy will fail. We have an aversion to non-Indians reaping the economic dividends from Indian people. We are saddened by the Indian people who have allowed themselves to be thrown "out front" to bring about these major changes...We would like to believe that some of the things we've heard about moving the drama to Lumberton is not so. But past experiences and common sense tell us that this is a strategy that will work....What next? Perhaps a 99 year lease to Lumberton whites on the "Reservation" itself. Maybe eventually we will see another "Cherokee Reservation right here in Robeson County?" You know

what that means, the Indians are on display and the whites are making the big bucks.

Of course, we have to remind you that we mentioned some time back that some of the members of the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce were busily strategizing and planning to move the Cultural Center....Now we remind you that moving the drama is not that far in the future.....Perhaps it all hinges on whether we get "federally recognized" as some folks see the possibility of making money off Indian people....

And apparently Bo Biggs' whining for his position on the Board of Elections worked. He is now re-appointed. It makes one wonder if there is a party one can join where you don't have to deal with the seeming idiocy of it all. Here are the choices: the Republican Party where you find yourself aligned with Bo Biggs, Ernest Brown, and Tom Gibson or the democratic Party where you are suffocated by the likes of Hubert Stone....Maybe we should begin our own party, separate and apart from either (sic). Our recommendation seriously is that both Democrats and Republicans begin to put people out front who have agendas that have some appearance of changing things.... The Democratic seems to have done that with their recent choice of Ron Sutton for Chairman of the Democratic Party...We are encouraged... We wait to be encouraged by the Republican Party in this county.

And Kevin Stone seems to have a silver spoon in his mouth. We notice that he has graduated from the U.S. Marshal Service and is now employed as a U.S. Marshal assigned to the Eastern District (which is our district). We have no congratulations to offer. We are discouraged and disappointed in the United States Government for their failure to do a proper background check on Kevin. Had they done so they would not have allowed him in. Afterall, he is guilty of the murder of Jimmy Earl Cummings....

Maybe that is one of the ways certain people are rewarded for killing an Indian.... We only wish whoever makes the decisions would stop playing politics and send Kevin Stone to another country where there is no law against taking a life....To do otherwise makes a mockery of the Constitution of these United States.

Indian Solidarity seems to be making progress. At least the organization has succeeded in bringing attention to the employment statistics at Southeastern General Hospital. We wait to hear from Don Hiscott and the board of trustees at the hospital about their intention to correct the inequities in employment at that institution.... That is only one of many places where changes need to be made in employment....

The Coach's Corner by Ken Johnson

BEER POISONING

"Legal, Lethal, and Lax," said this morning's Fayetteville Times writer Dr. Arnold Washton. The fatal part's latest victim Willie Shoemaker, the renowned jockey, the baseball players-Len Dykstra of the Phillies and Darren Daulton also the Phillies. They were all seriously injured while driving under the influence. Over drinking, not knowing when to say no, is the built in compulsion of drinking. The longer you sit, the more you drink and the intoxication sets in, especially beer

drinking. And of course the poisoning sets in. This deprives the victim of his ability to think straight. And when they get behind the wheel proper judgement as to speed and coordination is lost, so the beer poisoning effect sets in with tragedy the natural result. A 20-20 hind vision takes its victims again. Man kind is prone to mistakes; the desire for a good time, the commandery must be disciplined by retaining some semblance of normal behavior and not get poisoned. The main poisoner is beer as is attested by the beer cans all over the landscape.

The town of Pembroke has issued the following proclamation declaring May 7, as National Teachers Day.

Whereas, teachers personify America's belief that universal public education is a key to meeting the challenges of our changing world; and Whereas, teachers strive to make every classroom an exciting, productive place to live and grow; and Whereas, teachers reach out to foster the well-being of each student, regardless of ability, social or

economic background, race, ethnic origin, or religion; and Whereas, teachers motivate individual students to find new directions in life and to reach high levels of achievement; and Whereas, teachers influence our lives long after our school days are one memories.

Now, therefore, I Milton R. Hunt serving as Mayor of the Town of Pembroke, to hereby proclaim Tuesday, May 7, 1991 as National Teachers Day. I urge all citizens to

observe this day by taking time to remember and salute the teachers who shape the future of our children, our community, and the community of nations.

In witness whereof, I have here unto set my hand and caused the corporate seal of the Town of Pembroke to be affixed, this the 6th day of May, 1991.

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Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director of the SDCU
Native American Resource Center

A hundred and twenty years ago this week, on the 15th of May, 1871, Henry Berry Lowrie got a new brother. He already had nine brothers, but this one was different: this one was born full-grown. here is the surprising story of this new brother.

Albert Moody was a well-to-do Southern gentleman, originally from just over the border in South Carolina. Among other things, he had the seeming good fortune to marry the daughter of Reuben King, the High Sheriff here along the Robeson Trail and reportedly the richest man around. After Sheriff King was killed by the Lowrie Gang, Moody and his wife inherited half of King's estate. But Mrs. Moody apparently couldn't keep Mr. Moody at home, and a woman named Mary MacDaniels caught his eye.

Moody dreamed up a way to gain access to the much younger Miss MacDaniels, a way which he thought would keep him out of trouble. He decided he had to be kidnapped by the Lowries and forced as a cruel joke into the arms of young lady he secretly desired. After all, everyone knew the Lowrie Gang was a lawless crew, and might be up to any kind of "no good." But there was one problem. What if the Lowries wouldn't go along with the trick?

So Moody hired a young man to pose as one of the Lowries, and named him John, brother of Henry Berry (there was no real brother John). Moody then went to the MacDaniels' cabin near midnight on the 15th of May, pretending to be under guard of John Lowrie (whom he had given a pistol). They forced their way in, all the while pretending that one was the prisoner of the other, and

demanded to be fed.

While the elder Mrs. MacDaniels was cooking the one chicken she owned, Moody was left alone with young Mary. Apparently he tried to have his way with her, but was unable to do so. She would testify later that he "did nothing to me, but said things that are too bad to tell." When Mrs. MacDaniels and "John Lowrie" returned with the food, the worst of Mary's trial was over.

After eating Mrs. MacDaniels' chicken, "John Lowrie" poured water on the flame in the fireplace, leaving the cabin in darkness. He then proceeded to charge around waving Mr. Moody's pistol, shouting and threatening the family. He eventually went outside to search for Mary, who had mysteriously vanished. When Mr. Moody finally went to look for him, he found "John Lowrie" passed-out from too much liquor. But what was Moody to do? The desperado who supposedly help him captive was now unconscious, and could not be awakened.

Somehow Moody got "John Lowrie" into his wagon and rode away, but not before Mrs. MacDaniels figured out what was really going on. She later went before Justice of the Peace James Sinclair and charged Moody with assault. Moody was convicted, and soon after disappeared.

"John Lowrie" turned out to be a man named John Brown, who in Moody's eyes had looked enough like a Lowrie to pass for one. The record of what happened to this "tenth Lowrie brother" has been lost, but the real Lowries were cleared of at least this one adventurous raid.

For more information about Henry Berry Lowrie, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

SAY YOU READ IT IN THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

READERS' FORUM

Parents should get involved in education

To the Editor:

I would like to invite all concerned parents to voice their opinions in regard to the conditions in the Public Schools of Robeson County. Our school system is in such terrible shape that even the teachers and other staff members are sending their children to private schools. They know that our school system is "not up to par."

Children are being denied the right to even attend school. Several students have missed 50 plus days at school and they are still in school and receiving credit. But one young lady who missed 24 days, made the highest score of the PSAT and SAT and can attend any college in the country. But at Purnell Swett High School she has been expelled (or absences). Children who are not Indian are being attacked while using the bathroom and when they attempt to get away from the attacker, they are suspended for "fighting at school." Principals violate the rights of children when not notifying the parents when

they have the police question a child.

And the school board apparently thinks all parents are "ignorant." Anyone who has common sense saw this construction at the various schools long before there was any announcement of a "public meeting about closing the four schools." They do not seem to think that parents have enough sense to know that Pembroke Middle School (aka Pembroke High School) built in 1939 is the first Indian High School east of the Mississippi River, if not the entire nation. And that it is a historical landmark and cannot be torn down. But if they had "their way" you would not know any of this.

And really it is bad when even the teachers and staff members send their children to private schools because of our school system. It doesn't say much for the school system does it?

Vinita Clark
Pembroke, NC



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Drugs differ for seniors

Special concerns associated with drug use for the elderly are being recognized, and new drug labeling rules are expected to take effect this year.

For example, a partial loss of kidney function, which is common for those between 30 and 90, can cause drugs to stay in the body longer. A dose of muscle relaxant that might work fine in a young man or woman might so relax an older woman that she would fall and break a hip.

Watch for new guidelines on medicine labels, and be sure to ask us if there's ever a question about your medications. We're here for your health!

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