

Yours Truly

by Lew Barton
Knight of Mark Twain

It's kind of funny to look about you and see the many changes that have taken place since you began your trek through the world in 1937. People have entered the scene-and departed. Some have failed, some have succeeded. Some have lived and others have died. The grave yard looks much different today than it did just a few years ago.

You have changed too. You are not the same man who walked the streets just a few years ago.

Contrary to what some lawyers think, each business changed a lot.

I have changed a lot. And one day before long, each will have to give an account of what he has done in life. Amassing a quick fortune at

any cost, is going to cost too much in the end. The same is true of everything else.

I don't know why I got off on such a subject, but however it came, it is serious to consider. NOW-every man has to satisfy his own conscience as before a just God which is easier said than done, believe me. I hope everything I have done will come out right somehow.

Still Waiting for Common Sense from O.H. Lewis

As one who has read all of the letters to the editor that The Robesonian was willing to publish on the subject of the Morgan marijuana possession cases, I am compelled to respond to the letter of O.H. Lewis, Jr. (who apparently signed an earlier such letter as H.Lewis) which appeared in the 2 July 1992 edition of that newspaper. As I read the letter of the Robeson County Bar Association if Warren Junior Morgan had had a prior criminal record that would have been an aggravating factor which could have been used to impose a maximum sentence. In his case, however, not only were there

that would depend, as always, upon the facts. If Lewis were a Baptist Deacon who shot an armed intruder into his home (who was wearing prison clothing) while protecting his family, I would say that he has a pretty good chance. Especially since he would have the benefit of the presumption of innocence to protect him against jurors who decide cases based upon what they read in the newspapers. Since Robeson County has the highest rate of not guilty verdicts in the state it would appear that being charged with a crime is not the same as being guilty. There is the small matter of the trial.

In closing, while I ponder the smoke and the substance, I am reminded of the old adage: "It is better to remain silent and be thought a fool than to speak up and remove all doubt." This is why so many of us, including the writer, should be a member of the "silent majority." Case dismissed.

Yours Very Truly,
Janie Maynor Locklear
Pembroke

Where's the golf course-cultural center controversy?

To the Editor:
After a recent trip to Oklahoma with my family to visit Dr. J.T. Bell, I am compelled to write regarding the so-called golf course controversy. Dr. Bell gave me an inspirational look at the way Native American tribes can work together for the good of the entire Native American community. Each tribe continually tries to improve their lot in life, economically, educational and spiritually. The needs of the tribe, the people, are considered to be important! Unfortunately, this is not and has not been the case in Robeson County for a long time.

What is going on in the hearts and minds of the supporters of the golf course? How can they justify stopping or even holding up a project that will bring jobs and much needed economic growth to Robeson County? How can playing 18 holes of golf on a course locally known as the "cow pasture" compare with the educational opportunity the NC Indian Cultural Center offers?

At a recent luncheon with a member of the Chamber of Commerce from the Lumberton area, I was informed that the Lumberton area businesses would do whatever they could to help keep the golf course controversy alive in the hopes that the Cultural Center would be moved to the Lumberton area. It was his opinion that the Cultural Center as well as

Strike at the Wind and PSU would thrive better along the area around Interstate 95. He felt that the Lumberton area could offer more support and being on the interstate would draw a larger crowd. He further stated the local Native American population would never be able to pull

It would seem the golf course supporters have aligned themselves with the greater Lumberton economic bloc to move the NC Cultural Center to Lumberton and keep the golf course at its present site. The golfers do not want to drive to the new course in Lumberton or to the other courses in the area. The Lumberton economic bloc wants the financial benefits of the cultural center in Lumberton. They can see the dollar signs this project can bring. For them, the center would be another South of the Border. A place for tourists to stop and spend money. They would reap the financial rewards while local Native Americans would be allowed to sell fry bread, tickets and clean up after the tourists. I do not think so!

They say the present site is just too far from I-95. No one will drive 12 miles to go to the center. This is another example of pure propaganda designed to further split the Native American community. Look at other tourist attractions across America. The outdoor drama "Unto These Hills" as well as "The Trail of Tears" are

LIFE

The following poem was written and read at the funeral services for Mr. LeRoy Kerns, July 7, 1992, at Deep Branch Baptist Church. It was written and read by his granddaughter, Radella Locklear.

Choosing life begins with death for only through death does one experience life.

An eternal life that's never demanding but comforting and relieving of the world below.

For Papa loved his lifetime through with children, grands, and greats his family grew.

Many faces forgotten and misunderstood but he strived to remember as best he could.

As a grandchild, I watched the changes from the beginning to the end.

One knew the chances to recover and live life again would never happen, but to pray for it could ease the pain.

I've seen what matters most, lost the ability to communicate and live, but even though your memory of us is gone

You'll have someone waiting for you on your return home: Glenn and June to reunite.

And never again will you forget but everything that was taken away will be returned many times greater and life again will begin once more.

Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knieh, Director PSU Native American Resource Center

When Europeans came to the Americas, they were looking for a "New World." Their "Old World" had proved to be a place with limited opportunities: for religious and political freedom; for economic development; for life without devastating plagues; and for land on which to live. Thus the idea of sailing away to a "New World" of unlimited opportunities seemed to be the perfect way out for many ordinary European people.

The "New World" also offered the kings and queens of Europe new and greater power. The country which could control trade with the vast resources of the "New World" would have an immense advantage over countries which were left out of the trade arrangement. Spain and England wanted power over each other. France wanted power over both. Portugal and The Netherlands each wanted their piece of the new trade pie.

In the colonial view, the Indians would just have to get out of the way. Never mind that there was really nothing new about this "New World"; that people had been living here for many thousands of years with their own governments, languages and customs. European dis-

ease, warfare, assimilation, termination, compensation and relocation would do the work. The Indians would just have to get out of the way of "progress."

In the process, virtually all the land in the Americas was taken over by the outsiders. Indians were forced either to live on reservations (land that the Europeans thought was worthless) or to isolate themselves in remote areas in order to survive. The Indians wound up, in many cases, living where no one else would.

So why is there still, 500 years after Columbus, a desire to take what is left of Indian land? Why, for example, would the American Farm Bureau Federation resolve at its 1983 convention to "support legislation to establish the rule that all people have equal rights and responsibilities under the law?" This sounds harmless enough, doesn't it? Why would the Farm Bureau Federation be interested in "equal rights and responsibilities under the law?"

The Farm Bureau Federation's resolution goes on to clarify: "The 'nation unto a nation' treatment of Native Americans should be abolished. We favor abolition of the

Bureau of Indian Affairs and termination of special treaty rights to purchase or negotiate for fair com-

penation. These steps will end special treatment of Native Americans and bring everyone to full equality under the law." Despite the subtle wording, it is clear that the Federation is interested in easy access to Indian lands for the purpose of its own economic development.

What is there to be "developed" on Indian land? Reservations in eight western states have huge amounts of coal, oil, natural gas, timber and uranium (according to Olson and Wilson, in NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE 20TH CENTURY). More than 40 percent of our country's easily-accessible low-sulfur coal reserves are under Indian land! Approximately 80 percent of America's uranium is under Indian land! According to NATIVE AMERICANS IN THE 20TH CENTURY, the Navajo (Dineh) Reservation alone contains "100 million barrels of oil, 25 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, 80 million pounds of uranium, and 50 billion tons of coal." The 500-year-old search for resources and power in the lands of the "New World" is apparently not quite finished yet.

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

READERS' FORUM

In defense of my friend, Dr. Joy J. Johnson

Dear Editor:
After reading the 18 June 1992 editorial of Scott Bigelow and the 22 June 1992 column of Bo Biggs, I feel that I must defend my good friend, Dr. Joy J. Johnson, who I have known for at least 22 years. Although he is the leader of the Black Caucus I have never found him to be "single-minded" or concerned only with the problems of Black people. I have always found him to be a fearless and tireless champion of his God and his fellow man. Because of his unselfish efforts, Robeson County is a better place to live for all of us-white, Indian, or Black; and rich or poor.

Lest we forget, it was Dr. Johnson who, as a fairly new legislator, introduced the original bill to eliminate the double-voting system for electing the former county school board even through the other members of the local legislative delegation were strongly opposed. Although powerful people contested his actions, the courageous and forthright stand by this Christian gentleman set in motion a chain of events that eventually led to the merger of our local school systems with resulting benefits for all of our citizens.

When Jimmy Earl Cummings, an Indian, was killed by Deputy Sheriff Kevin Stone, early on Dr. Johnson

went to the aid of the Cummings family in their quest for justice. No, Mr. Bigelow, my friend is concerned about the problems of all of God's children.

As a member of the Board of Education of the Public Schools of Robeson County, and its first elected chairman, I did not find Dr. Johnson's remarks to be "inflammatory" nor his demands "absurd" or "ludicrous." He was simply exercising his constitutional right to petition a public body for redress of what appeared to be legitimate grievances. Rather than "support (ing) unqualified candidates for critical jobs" he was complaining that qualified Blacks were seemingly being discriminated against. Any objective person who examines the facts, including hirings and the racial makeup of the work force, could reasonably arrive at such a conclusion. As an educator it is my considered professional opinion that lesser qualified whites have been hired even though more qualified Blacks or Indians were available for the same positions. Although the board is seeing to "shrink its overweight staff"

surely this would not be justification for retaining whites at the expense of more qualified minorities.

I did not hear Dr. Johnson call Superintendent William Johnson a "racist" as stated by Mr. Biggs, how-

ever, in my opinion, one could reasonably draw that conclusion based upon the factual evidence. The Superintendent's record was "not defended" by myself because one cannot defend that which is, in my opinion, indefensible. Unfortunately, most of our local people do not have the wealth of Mr. Biggs so they cannot simply flee to a "private school." We must, like Dr. Johnson, seek to improve the public schools.

I do not understand Mr. Bigelow's concern about the Black Caucus going "public with their demands." Is he trying to say that the county should not wash its dirty laundry in public? If such be the case, then how does he explain the attacks emanating from the front page of his newspaper against esteemed public figures such as Commission Chairman Bobby Dean Locklear, Commissioner Noah Woods, and Resident Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks? Why would

be allow Sheriff Hubert Stone and his minions to make "inflammatory" charges, which no one believes to be true, while seemingly bemoaning Dr. Johnson having simply protested the treatment of Black people by the administration and board of the school system?

In closing, I must say that I support the principle of equal opportunity for all, special treatment for none. This was the message that I received from Dr. Johnson's presentation. Although it appears that Mr. Bigelow and Mr. Biggs missed the point, the vast majority of Robesonians understood exactly what Dr. Johnson was talking about and where he was coming from. The victory is near Brother J.J. Soldier on old friend. Soldier on.

Sincerely,
Dalton P. Brooks, Ph.D.
Route 2
Pembroke, NC 28372

Miss Lumbee Pageant was disappointment to guest

This past weekend's Lumbee Homecoming Celebration was the result of many months of planning and effort. It is a shame that all the effort was a waste of time.

The parade and celebration in the park were much less attractive than in previous years. Even the crowds seemed smaller. The pageant, which should have been a showcase of Lumbee talent, was a big disappointment. The music, performed by a non-Lumbee band, fell far short of what people have come to expect at the pageant. The vulgarity of the person imitating Michael Jackson belonged in a nightclub, not in a pageant to select a representative of the Lumbee tribe to carry our banner for the coming year.

I don't know who was responsible for selecting the musical group or the imitator for the pageant. I would like to ask the person(s) who made the selection why Lumbee talent was not used. This celebration is to show the world what, and who, the Lumbee people are. Why, in that case, was the talent of our own people ignored?

I was left feeling that there is no longer pride in our ethnic background and that the Lumbee celebra-

tion has become a half-hearted effort by people who are forgetting who we are and what we stand for.

We are in the process of trying to become federally recognized as an Indian tribe. If we stop recognizing our own peoples ability and talents and turn to those of other races we are not helping our own cause.

There are many other opportunities for us to utilize the talents of other races, but during Lumbee Homecoming we should use the God given talent our own people have. I would ask the people who decided on the talent to be used this year to rethink their concept of what the celebration is. If the emphasis is not on us as a people, and if our peoples talents are not used, the celebration stands to lose even more people than it has already.

Let us take pride in ourselves and celebrate our ethnic differences, showing the world that we are a people who hold their heads high and are on an equal footing with everyone else in this world.

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Don't douse the fainter

Splashing water in the face of a lady who has fainted may add color to an old movie, but in real life the victim may inhale the water and choke on it.

Instead, place the patient on the floor face up with her feet slightly elevated, to aid circulation to the brain. Then, gently bathe her face with cool water. This will help comfort her and relieve any nausea she might have from fainting. But if she doesn't regain consciousness and appear awake and alert within a few minutes, seek medical attention.

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