

CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Promoting Communications Between Indians and Nations"

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A Front Page Editorial of The Carolina Indian Voice

Glenn Maynor's Election as Sheriff Good Medicine For What Ails Ol' Robeson

A Front Page Editorial of The Carolina Indian Voice
This is the second in a series of editorials exploring the state of things in Ol' Robeson. This week we're looking at what Glenn Maynor's election for Sheriff means for the three races in Robeson County.

In the editorial opinion of this newspaper, Ol' Robeson suffers from the three-sided sickness of racism. Racism has made all of us - Red, Black, and White - a wee bit crazy. Race dominates our collective lives, permeates every social scenario, in the middle of a conversation, the question will invariably be asked, at some point in time, "...but what race is he?" We all want to know. For instance, Whites are, in large part, continuing to exercise their political and constitutional rights by getting involved in politics and even, from time to time, getting elected to offices like the Clerk of Court. Remember the excitement when Jo Ann Locklear, an Indian, was recently sworn into that August position? Blacks, on the other hand, sometimes express the sentiment that "Indians are greedy and taking everything," as a prominent Black said to this editorialist recently. And, of course, Indians worry about political storms brewing in the white and black camps all the time. All three camps see race as the driving force for just about everything in Ol' Robeson, maybe even the production of buttered bread. If it weren't so serious, our racial machinations and maneuverings would be grist for a comedian gone mad.

Again, we ask our readers to consider the racial make up of Robeson County: 40% Indian, 25% Black, 35% White out of a population base of about 105,000. From these figures, it seems reasonable to expect 40% of our elected and appointed officials to be Indian. Right? And, conversely, Blacks deserve at least 25% and Whites 35%.

When you look at a political map of Robeson County, how are we doing? Well, we certainly are doing better than we were a few years ago when even a predominately Indian town like Pembroke was dominated by Whites. For instance, Pembroke did not have any control over its own affairs for many years and was treated like a colony by her White political and economic overlords. Rev. C. E. Locklear was the first Indian elected mayor of Pembroke in 1947, although the town was incorporated in 1895.

Change has been slow, but change is in the wind. Now Pembroke, dynamic and booming, is managed by an Indian town manager, city councilmen and mayor. The town, home for Pembroke State University, has not broken away from Ol' Robeson and slid off into the sea... yet!

Pembroke Housing Authority Makes Donation

The Pembroke Housing Authority donated \$400 to the Pembroke Recreation Commission. This contribution will go towards replacing football uniforms and equipment for the area youth.

"Our objective is simple: Make a quality impression early that our youth may remain drug-free. This contribution is only one of many steps that the Authority has taken to accomplish this objective," said Lemark Harris, Executive Director of Pembroke Housing Authority.

Except for Reconstruction times, when Big Jim Oxendine was appointed a county commissioner by 'Egads', then Radical Republicans, for a brief season before Democrats wrested control of Robeson back, Indians and Blacks were systematically denied access to the political arena until the late Tracy Sampson, an Indian from the Deep Branch Community, was elected a county commissioner in 1958. Now, Indians hold three county commissioner seats (37.12%) out of eight including Bobby Dean Locklear who is the county commission chairman, the Whites hold three seats (37.12%) and Blacks control two commissioner slots (25%). Pretty equitable, huh? Yes, but don't forget, it took the 1965 Voting Rights Act to equitably slice up the county into districts so that the county commissioners would reflect reasonably, the 40-35-25 mix, respectively, of Indians, Whites and Blacks. Also, Indian and Black political operatives made sure it was done right. The same thing was done relative to our house delegation: One Indian (Ron Sutton), one Black (Frances Cummings), and one White (Doug Yongue). The public schools of Robeson County, Board of Education, also subject to justice department oversight, reasonably reflects the 40-35-25 racial ratio. We have 4 Indians, 4 Whites, and 3 Blacks. Robeson County can do it right when they have to. Its when they don't have to is when the inequities are glaring and unfair.

We see hope in the political and racial realities reflected in our county commissioners, board of education, and state legislative delegation. Hope springs eternal! We can do things right! A pattern has been established. Things work well when all three races are respected and allowed to participate in the political process.

But there's trouble on the political horizon. Our racial maladies still haunt us and keep us from being the best we can be.

For instance, right now, there are two particularly galling and glaring racial eye sores in Robeson County. One of them is the racial mix of deputies in the Sheriff's department. Last time we checked there were 42 (67%) White deputies, 9 (14%) Black deputies, and 12 (19%) Indian deputies. Our 40-35-25 racial formula has taken a shelling in the sheriff's department. If it was done right and fairly, there should be at least 25 Indian deputies, 16 Black deputies, and 22 White deputies if the sheriff followed our 40-35-25 ratio in the selection of deputies. We believe Glenn Maynor's selection as the Democratic and Indian Sheriff of Robeson County would go a long way forward fixing what ails us in Ol' Robeson. Maynor's election as Sheriff on November 8 will be good medicine for our racial ills in Ol' Robeson.

Robeson
There's another racial eye sore in Robeson County and that is in the make up of the Board of Directors, and staff, of Southeastern Regional Medical Center (Formerly Southeastern General Hospital). Last time we checked there was only one Indian on the 12 member board. But that's another editorial. We'll say more about that in future editorials.

Right now, the overriding political issue in these parts is the Sheriff's race in Robeson County. There are problems of a very racial nature. Many whites are abandoning the Democratic Party and calling themselves Democrats for Sanderson. The Problem with that is James Sanderson is a Republican pure and simple. We hope political reason will prevail. The Democratic party needs to hold together like never before. If Glenn Maynor is defeated on November 8, it will be chaos and political madness in Ol' Robeson. Everybody will look for a political rock to hide under, political alliances and philosophies will be torn asunder and destroyed. Indian Democrats will scream bloody political murder, and rightly so. Our Democratic Political leaders of all three races must exert political courage and hold the party together.

Recently Joe B. Freeman the White register of deeds, and Frances Cummings, a local Black legislator refused to join Glenn Maynor and the other Democratic candidates in a Robeson County Democratic Party ad. Both have their own political reasons for refusing to support the Democratic ticket. We hope its not an epidemic of racial sickness that caused them to bolt the party. Still, dear readers, it is America. Citizens and candidates, have a right to vote or support whomever they choose. That is true for Joe B. Freeman and Frances Cummings. And it is true for me and you, dear readers. We also have the privilege to vote for and support the candidate(s) of our choosing.

We choose to support Glenn Maynor for Sheriff on November 8. We encourage our readers, whether Democrat or Republican, to go to the polls and vote for him. If 95% of the Indians, 60% of the Blacks, and 10% of the Whites vote for Maynor he'll win handily. The only hope Mr. Sanderson has is to split the Indian and Black ranks. It's not going to happen en masse. Indians, Blacks and Whites who care about the future of Robeson County are going to join hands on November 8 and elect Glenn Maynor, the Democrat, by a substantial margin. Those who want to return to an 1860's or even a 1950's Robeson County will be brought to their senses, hopefully, by a Maynor victory on November 8. Glenn Maynor is Indian, Democratic, Personable, Talented, and good Medicine for what ails us here in Ol' Robeson.



"This is not a small gift for a small housing authority like Pembroke," said Larry McNeill, Pembroke Town Councilman. "The Commission commends the Authority for their efforts." Lemark Harris shown left presents check to Larry McNeill, Commission member.



Lacy Cummings, President of EMC, Announces Re-election Bid

Lacy Cummings, President of the Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation announces his bid for re-election to the At-Large position. Mr. Cummings, a native of the Mt. Airy community, has served on the EMC board for the past 12 years. In making his announcement, Cummings released the following statement:

"During my tenure on the EMC board there has been much growth and improvement. I feel privileged to have been allowed to be a part of this expansion and the innovative programs that are benefitting our consumers.

"From 1982 until 1993 we have seen a growth in the operating revenue of the cooperative. We have experienced a growth in revenue from \$17 million to \$48.6 million. The cost of power has also grown during this period from \$11 million to \$33 million. During this same time frame we have grown from 944 new services in 1992 to 2,111 new services in 1993. Total numbers of consumers served has also grown from 26,065 to 38,493. The miles of line has increased from 2,917.7 to 3,605.6. The total utility plant has grown from a business of \$28.4 million to \$66.7 million.

"These figures indicate much growth and has resulted in more job opportunities and better service for our consumers. It has been a challenge, but the accomplishment of these goals has also been rewarding. Serving as

the president of the board has been a growing experience for me personally and I have sought answers from God while striving to make decisions that affect all of us on the EMC lines. I have felt humbled by the experience but also confident that I have performed well as your president and your at-large member of the EMC Board.

"My twelve years on the board has shown that the number of industrial accounts on our lines have more than doubled. We are proud that we have staff and board members with the innovation to obtain industrial accounts over our competitors. LREM was the first cooperative in North Carolina to utilize customer owned peak sharing to improve customer rates and financial standing of the coop. I am proud to have been a small part of this tremendous progress.

"During my tenure on the board of directors, we have also implemented innovative programs that offer assistance to the consumers. We have developed and implemented a program that we call "Help a Needy Friend." This program is designed to help members who are disadvantaged to pay their heating costs. The program provides funds for this need without costing the cooperative or the consumers any additional money.

"This period of time has also resulted in the doubling of the dollars utilized for weatherization

Tribal Council to meet Tuesday

The Lumbee Tribal Council will hold their first official meeting on Tuesday evening, October 11, in Room 233 in the Chavis Center on the PSU campus.

- The agenda includes the following:
 - Elect officers
 - Retain legal counsel
 - Chaplain
 - Suggestions from Arinda Locklear
 - Review Responsibilities
 - Goal Evaluation
 - Parliamentary Procedure
 - Federal Recognition
 - Election of Glenn Maynor
 - Tribal members are encouraged to attend.



Locklear Retires from Navy after 29 Years

Master Chief Yeoman David G. Locklear, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. "Davis" Locklear of Pembroke has retired from the U.S. Navy after an outstanding 29 year career. David enlisted in the Navy in June 1965 after graduation from Pembroke High School and continued his education in the Navy reaching the highest enlisted rank available. Locklear accomplished this goal by continually seeking and accepting positions of greater responsibility, authority and complexity.

During his lustrous career David has served on many ships and shore commands. His first duty assignment after recruit training was in the Philippines with Composite Squadron Five. The squadron mission included daily flights into Vietnam and providing tow target service for the fleet. He next was assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise and subsequently to Attack Squadron Fifty-Six where he again deployed to Vietnam.

Master Chief Locklear then transferred to his first of several North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) tours. Commander in Chief Southern

Command in Naples, Italy. After a successful staff NATO tour, he was assigned to independent duty on board the mine sweeper USS Exploit. He returned to a NATO staff Headquarters, Supreme Allied Command Atlantic, Norfolk, Va.

During this tour he was selected for chief petty officer and remained for an additional tour as flag writer and performed admirably on the personal staff of two four-star admirals. Continuing his NATO alliance, he went to sea with the staff of Commander Standing Naval Force Atlantic, as flag writer and administrative assistant for an arduous 13 month deployment, resulting in his selection for senior chief yeoman.

After this challenging tour he was ready for real excitement and volunteered for duty with the Joint Special Operations Command at Fort Bragg, NC. He as the Senior Navy Enlisted person and served as the administrative officer. Here he qualified as a Navy Parachutist and was selected for Master Chief Petty Officer. After just over four years absence, he returned to SACLANT where he did a superb job as the



Command Master Chief and Senior Enlisted Advisor to the four-star admiral.

The Master Chief was transferred to his final duty station, Navy Management Systems Support Office in February 1991, where he continued, to perform superbly serving as the Implementation Division Head for ship board computer programs installations.

Although the Master Chief has retired from active service, he still wears the uniform in his new position as Association Naval Science Instructor in the Navy Junior ROTC program at Norview High School in Norfolk, VA. His excellent leadership abilities are sure to enhance the formative years of tomorrow's Navy men and women.

During his career Master Chief Locklear has earned many awards, including the Defense Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards), Joint Service Commendation Medal (2 awards), Navy Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, Joint Meritorious Unit Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Good Conduct Medal (6 awards), National Defense Service Medal (2 awards), Vietnam Service Medal (3 awards), Sea Service Deployment Ribbon (3 awards), Enlisted Service Warfare Specialist and Navy Parachutist (gold wings).