

Editorial and Opinion Page



Editorially Speaking

Mayor Milton R. Hunt is Right for Pembroke

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Every once in a while a politician actually delivers, and makes his bailiwick better than it was before he came upon the scene. That is the way it is with Mayor Milton R. Hunt and the town of Pembroke. Pembroke is better for having had Mayor Milton Hunt at the helm of its government. Mayor Hunt has announced for another term as mayor of Pembroke; the office he has held continuously since 1983. He has been Mayor longer than anyone else in the 100 years of history of the town. And the town has experienced a great burst of economic and cultural growth under his leadership. Mayor Hunt has been progressive and forward thinking since taking office.

Mayor Hunt is being challenged this year by Harry Oxendine, a retired educator, and now serving on the Pembroke town council. This newspaper's endorsement of Mayor Hunt for mayor simply pro Mayor Milton R. Hunt, and certainly not anti Harry Oxendine. It is just that one should be rewarded for doing a good job, and be recognized for providing continuity and experience at the helm of government. Our contention is that Mayor Hunt has added considerably to the well-being of the town, and should be returned to office for having done a good job. The other thing we like about Mayor Hunt is the fact that he is a businessman himself, thusly understanding the need for business acumen in town government.

Hunt, a dry wall contractor, understands the need to operate one's business in a conservative and fiscally-responsible way.

Mayor Hunt makes good business decisions. The town is in good shape

financially, and has just completed a major waste and water treatment plant on Deep Branch Road that will take the town comfortably into the 21st century. A lot of the success of the project is due to the business savvy and political acumen of Mayor Hunt. He was able to help the town find the federal monies needed to complete the \$3.7 million undertaking. When you add the sewer improvements in town, the figures swell to \$4 and 1/2 million. When you add the expansions at Fleetwood Mobile Homes, Daniel's Bakery, Pemberton Nursing Center, and more, it is easy to see the wisdom of continuing Mayor Hunt in office because he was instrumental in all of the improvements made in Pembroke over the last few years. One can also add a new fire station, Progressive Saving and Loan, Colony Plaza, the new Hardee's, Burger King, Pizza Hut, Subway, Linda's Restaurant, Revel's Barbecue as some of the additions to the business community in Pembroke since Mayor Hunt took office in 1983. Lumbee Bank has also announced plans to build its corporate headquarters in Pembroke.

The hallmark of Mayor Hunt's stint in office has been progressive growth, and the future looks promising. There are rumors of a new shopping center on the horizon, as well as another major food store. The town's \$65 per \$100 valuation is reasonable, and the town has been able to avoid major increases since Mayor Hunt took office. The town has received a number of housing rehabilitation grants, and water and sewer grants over the last few years. The majority of the grants have been received since Mayor Hunt was first elected to office in 1983.

The Pembroke Housing Authority

has undergone major changes recently, and just received two grants to improve the presence of the police department in the housing units, and combat drugs. Mayor Hunt was instrumental in re-organizing the housing authority and much improvement can now be seen as one rides through the 241 units of public housing in Pembroke.

Pembroke's town and gown relations have improved considerably under the leadership of Chancellor Joe Oxendine and Mayor Milton Hunt. The university and town just completed its sixth successful Pembroke days of the delight of the citizenry and the university family. It took place in 1995, the 100th birthday of the town of Pembroke. Many festive centennial activities have taken place throughout the fun-filled and historic year.

One final note. Mayor Hunt is a close political ally of Governor Jim Hunt, having served as one of the tri-chairmen for his Robeson County campaign along with Lumberton Mayor Ray Pennington and Major David Green of Parkton. The relationship has been good for everyone, especially the town of Pembroke.

For the reasons listed above, and more, we commend Mayor Milton R. Hunt to the fine citizens of Pembroke. Ultimately, it is their decision to choose a mayor on November 7. We editorially endorse Mayor Milton R. Hunt as mayor of Pembroke, and encourage the citizens to exercise their right to vote. We believe Mayor Hunt is a proven leader and will, if re-elected, continue to provide the business and political savvy and acumen needed to take Pembroke into her second 100 years of unparalleled growth.

For Sale

Three-bedroom house for sale. Located three miles west of Pembroke. Call 521-2529

Parkton School

Parkton Elementary School was the site of a workshop and luncheon for grandparents on October 18, 1995. The school's population of grandparents were invited out for a megaskills workshop and lunch with their grandchildren afterwards. The grandparents came with other grandchildren and a desire to learn techniques to work with the students at home. The principal, Ms. Elizabeth Robinson, considered the activity a chance to reach a part of the school community we seldom get a chance to interact with. The workshop and luncheon was planned and implemented by Ms. Barbara Thompson, parent trainer.

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director
PSU Native American Resource Center

We regularly receive letters from people all over the world who are looking for information about Native Americans. Sometimes they are written in broken English by a student in France, or in Spanish by a lawyer in Argentina. But the most frequent type of letter is from someone who is searching for his or her Native American ancestry.

Recently I received a letter from a Marine stationed overseas who wrote that he had just found out that one of his great-grandmothers was, as he put it, a Blackfoot Sioux. I sent back some information which I hope will help him, but it set me to thinking that perhaps other people might need to learn more about the Blackfoot or Blackfeet. Several times the name Blackfoot (or Blackfeet) has been heard in movies and on television, generally without any further explanation of precisely what group of people is meant.

To begin with, there is confusion in the minds of many Americans concerning the name Blackfoot or Blackfeet. The problem is that there is more than one group by that name (those names), and sometimes "Blackfeet" and "Blackfoot" get used interchangeably as though there were only one group. I have heard people use "Blackfeet" as the plural form (i.e., "we saw ten Blackfeet Indians"), and "Blackfoot" as the singular form (i.e., "only one Blackfoot came to the

powwow"). The Blackfeet are a nation of people who are members of the Algonkian-language-family. Their nation is made up of three closely-related tribes, known as: the Pikuni or Piegan (pronounced pay-gán), the Kainah or Blood, and the Siksika (Siska) or Blackfoot proper. Sometimes the Siksika are referred to as the "Northern Blackfoot" as a way to separate them from the other two tribes. The home territory of the three tribes was originally the northwestern plains of northern Montana and on up into southern Alberta and Saskatchewan in Canada. Their mailing address these days is at their reservation (Browning, Montana).

The three Blackfoot tribes were in many ways independent, especially politically, but because they have always spoken the same Algonkian language and have shared many of the same cultural customs, they have most often been considered as one nation of people. The English word "Blackfoot" is probably a more literal translation of their native name *Siksikauw*, which means "blackfooted-people." Debate continues to this day about whether their name originated from an ancient custom of intentionally dyeing their moccasins black or from the fact that their moccasins were merely blackened by dark soil or ashes from prairie fires. Even well-researched,

scholarly books use both "Blackfoot" and "Blackfeet" in describing this Native nation (for example, see *The Blackfeet*, by J.C. Ewers).

There is also a Blackfoot (or Blackfeet) sub-group of people belonging to a larger nation commonly called Sioux (probably more properly called Lakota). This large nation of people can be separated into three linguistic subdivisions, the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota. The Lakota subdivision (also called Teton) can be further divided into seven groups or tribes: Oglala; Brulé or Sicangu; Oohenanpas or Two Kettles; Sans Arc or Itazipco; Hunkpapa; Miniconjou; and the group known as the Blackfeet or Sisasapas (see *The Sioux People*, by J.H. Cash). All of these Siouan-language-family people migrated out of their original woodland homelands in what is now Minnesota, and over into the plains of what is now South Dakota, probably during the very earliest Euro-colonial times.

So, when you speak of the Blackfoot or Blackfeet, make sure you know whether you are talking about the Siouan Blackfoot or the Algonkian Blackfoot. Whether you use "Blackfoot" or "Blackfeet" seems to be a matter of personal preference.

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

Hunt-Epps to wed



Dena Hunt, daughter of Louis Hunt and Brenda Hunt, will wed Kevin E. Epps, son of Varsie Epps and Carolyn Epps on January 6, 1996 at West End Baptist Church, Lumberton.

Dena is a 1991 graduate of South Robeson High School. She is a student at Pembroke State University.

Kevin is a 1990 graduate of Hoke High School and a 1995 graduate of Pembroke State University. He is in the United States Army.

No invitations will be sent, family and friends are invited.

Carolina Indian Voice



RE-ELECT
LARRY McNEILL
to
PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL
NOVEMBER 7, 1995

HE LISTENS, HE CARES, HE ACTS
FOR THE
CITIZENS OF PEMBROKE

FOR A POSITIVE CHANGE
VOTE



HARRY OXENDINE
for
MAYOR

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