

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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Front Page Editorial of the Carolina Indian Voice

Racial Games People Play in Ol' Robeson

Part of a continuing series on the front page of the Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper. The first article last week was entitled "The world according to the Robesonian's Bill and O.H. Lewis and other items of interest." This week we look at the racial games the Lewis boys and others of like ilk play here in Ol' Robeson. The editorial staff.

Last week we introduced you to the Robesonian's Bill and O.H. Lewis. Bill Lewis is the general manager of the Robesonian Newspaper. O.H. Lewis writes a mean-spirited column, as we see it, on a regular basis entitled "Reality Check." Bill Lewis also contributes a column from time to time entitled "Bits and Pieces." We have found both editorialists to be suspect, as far as their expressions of racial good will go. In our editorial opinion, they mean darkly-hued people little good. They are interested in fostering their political beliefs upon the unsuspecting public, especially the Black and Indian readers of the Robesonian. According to election officials, O.H. Lewis is a Republican. Officials could not confirm the political affiliation of Bill Lewis, but he often writes like a conservative Republican; if he isn't registered as a Republican, he ought to, in our opinion. Brant Clifton, another racial mischief maker, as we see it, at the Robesonian, is also a Republican, according to election officials. Brant Clifton is a Robesonian reporter, and has shown particular bias against Indians and Blacks in the past, as we see it. One's political affiliation is a matter of public record, so we are not broaching some state secret when we disclose Clifton and Lewis' political affiliation. And one's political affiliation is one's own business, unless that person (or persons) politics intrudes upon their neighbor's political domain. We certainly feel like the Lewis boys and company are not telling the whole truth and nothing but the truth. We believe that the Robesonian is not representing the majority political and social view here in Robeson County, with a racial mix of 40% Indian, 25% Black and 35% White. Robeson County also has a political mix of something like 10% Republicans, and 90% Democrats. Most Indians and Blacks are, for better or worse, registered as Democrats. The Robesonian, as it is presently constituted, with Brant Clifton, Bill Lewis, John Culbreth, and O.H. Lewis carrying the political ball, doesn't come close to reflecting the racial or political mix of the county they pretend to represent. Culbreth is the editor of the Robesonian, and is the son-in-law of Bill Lewis, according to reputable sources. What we have at the Robesonian, as we see it, is a minority (the Republican Lewis boys, son-

in-law John Culbreth, Brant Clifton, and the rest of the editorial staff, and all White) attempting to represent the political and social aspirations of a majority population that is 40% Indian, 25% Black and 35% White, and close to 90% Democrat. In our editorial opinion, we hope people in Robeson County are not making decisions based on the Republican and White conservative mindset of the Robesonian. If they are making decisions on what they read in the Robesonian, the readers are getting a skewed view, even cockeyed, of life in Ol' Robeson.

Does the Robesonian have the right to express political views that are contrary to the majority of the public? Of course. What they don't have is a right to express their political views without a disclaimer. In other words, the Lewis boys and company should say something like "this is how we feel about things here in Ol' Robeson but you ought to know that we don't have any editorial Black or Indian writers, and many of us (the Robesonian editorial staff) speak with Republican and conservative tongues. The Robesonian, as we see it, should also stop putting itself forward as the county's daily newspaper. The newspaper (sic) represents a very narrow segment of the county population."

WHAT WE CAN DO

Is there anything Indian and Black and White readers can do about the Robesonian, and the ill will it fosters? Yes!!! The county government, with five of the county commissioners being either Indian and Black, can quit advertising in the Robesonian immediately. According to county finance officials, the county of Robeson spent in excess of \$35,000 with the Robesonian in advertisements of one kind or another (display, legal and classified) in 1995. If one counts what the county attorney spends, the figure might more accurately reflect \$50,000. Indians and Blacks can call their county commissioners and ask them to quit spending our tax money in the Robesonian while it continues to foster bad racial relations among us. The county newspaper seems, most of the time, to try to cause ill will among us. Whites, Black and Indians. The so-called newspaper is, in our opinion, self-serving and petty. And it is not a very good newspaper either, if you judge it for quality and representation. The truth of the matter is, we do not believe a lot of what we read in the Robesonian, because it is so patently biased, as we see it. In our opinion, county politics will never go back to the way it used to be when Indians and Blacks were denied the right to participate in Robeson County politics. The Robesonian seems to want to return to

those "good old days", as they see them. This is the impression we get when we read the conservative rhetoric of Clifton, Culbreth, and the Lewis Boys. We have eight county commissioners, three Whites (Marion Rice, Bill Herndon and Gary Powers), three Indians (Noah Woods, Bobby Dean Locklear and the chairman, Johnny Hunt), and two Blacks (Dr. E.B. Turner and Berlester Campbell). If the three Indians and two blacks, decide that the county should not advertise in the pages of the Robesonian, it can be done immediately. We say NO MORE ADVERTISING IN THE PAGES OF THE ROBESONIAN!!!! GREEN is a color all of us can agree on, and if we quit spending our money with those who speak ill of us, they will re-think their editorial and political position.

STOP SUBSCRIBING TO THE ROBESONIAN

And could we be presumptuous enough to encourage Robesonians of all colors and persuasions to stop subscribing to the Robesonian? If 2500 people cancelled their subscriptions, the out of towners who own the newspaper (sic) would pay more attention to the right wing rhetoric emanating from their editorial pages. One big problem is the right wing rhetoric continue to creep into their news articles too, as we monitor their journalistic and editorial intentions. We'll say more about this in the weeks ahead.

Again, we call on the county commissioners to stop using the Robesonian for advertising, and maybe even encourage their attorney (Hal Kinlaw) to quit using it as a forum that is creating more problems than it is solving. The county has too many people speaking in its behalf. Maybe the Black county manager (Willie Best) and the Indian county chairman (Johnny Hunt) ought to speak for the county, and let Kinlaw and others be quiet for a season. We also encourage Robesonians of every ilk and color to cancel their subscription to the Robesonian. Now that's a color they will listen to—GREEN!!!

More next week on the world according to the Robesonian's Bill and O.H. Lewis and other items of interest. Next week we want to look into why Mr. O.H. Lewis is suddenly an expert on Indian business, especially as it relates to LRDA (Lumbee Regional Development Association) and the Lumbee Tribal Council. It will amuse you, we suspect.

A Redman's Journal

By Bruce Barton and Friends of the Carolina Indian Voice

Spiritually I feel up to it, so me and some of the friends of the Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper have begun a non-profit organization named, appropriately enough, FRIENDS OF THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE, INC. Our only purpose is to support the efforts of Ms. Connie Brayboy, Rik Barton and the Carolina Indian Voice Newspaper. We want to help in any way we can.

One way we are going to help is to begin this column, probably twice a month until we work all the kinks out. We'll write about things of interest to our readership, and begin to plan our efforts for the TWENTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE NEWSPAPER NEXT JANUARY OF 1997. We are planning a big extravaganza heralding the fact that the Indian Voice is still in business, in spite of sometimes overwhelming odds. My sister, Connie Brayboy, over the years, has managed, at one time or another, to make just about everybody mad about one thing or another, including me. In other words, she has done a pretty good job of aggravating, informing, and forcing us to face up to life around us in this crazy, tri-racial county we live in. But would we want to live anywhere else? Of course not. This is the only land we know!

Another question I get from time to time is this: "Bruce, I see you hanging around the Indian Voice from time to time. Are you coming out of spiritual retirement?" The answer is, of course, "No!" Connie is the editor, and will be for as long as she wants to be. She now owns the newspaper, and I operate only with her blessing. After all, she's a Barton. Connie Barton Brayboy, Lew Barton, our father, taught me; and I taught the rest of the brood, including Connie, Rik and Garry, who lives in South Carolina and continues to work in the newspaper business over there. We hope to get him back in circulation. He used to write

a funny column named "Ranting and Raving!", and boy did he ever! We would like for him to start up his column again. I think people miss him a lot more than they do me, to tell you the truth, based on some of the responses I get from readers. They ask, "What ever happened to your brother, Garry?" a lot more often than they ask whether or not I am coming back to the newspaper business.

For those of you who don't know, I was the founder and first editor of this newspaper before I returned to college and eventually became a high school history teacher. I left because I was burned out spiritually, not because I was mad with anyone. As stated elsewhere, my sister, Connie Brayboy, took my place. I used to write a column named "As I See It." I was very opinionated, according to those who remember the column and the fuses it stirred up from time to time. I teach United States History at nearby Purnell Swett High School now, and have been doing so for nine years. I like the classroom, and am satisfied and fulfilled there. I am also quite active in my church—Deep Branch Baptist Church. I have been busy since I left the Carolina Indian Voice, although I never really left it if one considers the domain of the heart.

I am going to write some for this column, "A Redman's Journal," but I hope some of the others will share this byline with me, including brothers Garry and Rik.

Next week, we'll begin to introduce you to the members of the Friends of the Carolina Indian Voice, Inc., and tell you how you can become a member. Look for it. In the meantime, if you want to write me with a story idea, or just to say, "Hi!", you can do so by writing me in care of the Carolina Indian Voice, Post Office Box 1075, Pembroke, North Carolina 28372. Or you can write me directly at this address: Bruce Barton, Post Office Box 362, Pembroke, North Carolina 28372. More next week!



Celebrates 90th birthday

Mr. David Lowry of Lumbeerton celebrated his 90th birthday Saturday, March 9, 1996 at Mt. Olive Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. The event was hosted by CSM Roscoe and Mrs. Burnette. Mr. and Mrs. David Lowry are the parents of 8 living children: Mrs. Marcie Carter, Charlotte; Mrs. Mary Lois Burnette, Referred; David Lowry, Jr., Lumbeerton; Mrs. Catherine J. Locklear, Durham; Bobby Lowry, Shannon; Ms. Sandra L. Lowry, Pembroke. There are 24 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren, and 2 great-grandchildren. The music was provided by the Oxendine Quartet, who sang beautifully. The Rev. Charles W. Maynor gave the invocation and remarks. A delicious dinner was served and enjoyed by many guests. The HONOREE had a money-tree and was given \$150.00. He was also given an appreciation award by his church for his loyal and long time service. The Honoree was given a large, beautiful birthday cake by his granddaughter, Mary Lois Burnette.

His grandchildren sang "Happy Birthday." There were approximately 100 guests in attendance. (Text and photo by Tech. Sgt. W.P. Revels).

Dr. Sam Wynn appointed District Superintendent with United Methodist Conference

Raleigh, NC--Bishop C.P. Minnick, Jr., bishop of the Raleigh area of the United Methodist Church has announced the appointment of three clergy as district superintendents.

Rodney G. Hamm, pastor at Wesley Memorial United Methodist Church in Wilmington has been named Burlington district superintendent. H. Sidney Higgins III, pastor at Jarvis Memorial United Methodist Church in Greenville has been named Greenville district superintendent. Samuel Wynn, pastor at Grave United Methodist Church in Fayetteville, has been appointed New Bern district superintendent. The appointments are effective June 25, the same day pastors receiving new appointments move to their new place of ministry.

District superintendents are church elders assigned to supervise the ministries in a specific geographic area. They meet with the bishop as a cabinet. A major duty of the bishop and the cabinet is the appointment of local church pastors. There are 12 districts in the North Carolina Conference.

Rev. Hamm is a graduate of East Carolina University in Greenville and Duke Divinity School in Durham. He has served pastorates at Walnut Grove in the

Burlington district. East Rockingham, Wendell, Raleigh Millbrook, and Southern Pines, as well as associate pastor at Queen Street in Kinston. He has served as pastor of Wesley Memorial since 1990. The Burlington District includes Alamance, Caswell and Orange counties. The current district superintendent, George W. Johnson will receive a new appointment at the June Annual Conference session.

Dr. Huggins graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke Divinity School. He received an honorary doctorate from Methodist College in Fayetteville. He has served as pastor of Asbury in the Fayetteville District, Goshen-Keener, North Raleigh and Hay Street in Fayetteville. He has served at Jarvis Memorial since 1988. The Greenville District encompasses Beaufort, Green, Hyde, Lenoir, Martin and Pitt counties. E.M. Thompson, Jr., the current district superintendent will be retiring in June.

Dr. Wynn is a graduate of Pembroke State University in Pembroke and Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky. He received a Doctor of Divinity from Drew Theological Seminary in new

Jersey. He has served as pastor of Four Corners Native American Ministries, Rowland, Pleasant Grove-Fairview, Navajo Methodist Mission School, Clarkston and Hope Mills; Native American. Dr. Wynn has been pastor at Grace UMC since 1989. The New Bern District includes Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow and Pamlico counties. Dr. Wynn, a native of Robeson County, is the son of Mrs. Mary Wynn of Rowland and the late Dock Wynn. He is married to the former Rose Mary Todd of Bladen County. Dr. Wynn, a Lumbee, is the first Native American in the North Carolina Conference to be appointed a district superintendent. He is also the first Native American in the Southeastern Jurisdiction to be appointed a district superintendent. The Southeastern Jurisdiction is comprised of 1.2 million United Methodists. The present district superintendent, Thomas G. Holtsclaw, will be receiving a new appointment in June.

The North Carolina Conference consists of 56 counties from Burlington to the coast. There are approximately 221,000 United Methodists attending 824 churches in the conference.

Miss Lumbee Applications Now Available

The Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) is currently accepting applications for the 1995 Miss Lumbee Pageant.

To qualify as a pageant contestant, the applicant must be a Lumbee female, between 17 and 26 years of age, a high school graduate and be single, never married or cohabitated and accessible to Pembroke as a homebase.

If you meet the criteria and are interested in competing as a contestant, please contact James Monroe Chavis at (910)521-2462. The deadline is May 6, 1996.

Insurance Program

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corp. is sponsoring a Seniors Health Insurance Information Program Thursday, March 21, at 10:00 am.

The Program will be held in the auditorium at the LREMC's Red Springs office, and will be conducted by Ira Perry, a specialist trained by the NC Department of Insurance to help retired persons with their health insurance problems. The public is invited.

"Our Rivers of Life" gathering planned

Cherokee, NC-- "Our Rivers of Life" is the theme of the seventh annual gathering sponsored by the indigenous Environmental Network (IEN) and hosted by the Eastern Cherokee defense League (ECDL). The gathering is slated for June 13-16, 1996 within the Cherokee Indian reservation and will have delegates from indigenous communities throughout North America and other countries. "We are planning a gathering that will be important to the future of our people," said Missy Crowe, a member of ECDL, a local Native Rights organization.

During the past six years, IEN gatherings have been hosted by various regions of the country. "This summer's gathering, in the Great Smoky Mountains, is appropriate because this region is a vast biosphere that provides oxygen to North America and plays

a vital part in the web of life," said Tom Goldtooth, National Coordinator of IEN, a national Native environmental organization.

The site of the gathering is the traditional home of over 5,000 Cherokees that live on the reservation. The conference will offer educational workshops in areas of Native traditional ecological knowledge, environmental protection, and natural resource management. The Cherokee of North Carolina have faced a long history of ecological destruction as a result of logging, pulp and paper industries, copper mining and tourism. "We've lost many of our indigenous fish species. The rivers that flow through our lands are very important. They are the life blood of our people," said Lisa Montelongo, another member of ECDL.