

A Front Page Editorial

Arise Indians! Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend can go to Congress if we turn out the "Indian" vote!!! on May 7

We've already heard some of the mutterings from our so-called "Indian" political power brokers: "She didn't tell us she was running until the last minute, and we're already committed to someone else. Well, we say, get uncommitted! The other angle we're hearing is "Well, she can't win!" We're here to tell you that she can win! Arise Indians! Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend can become our representative in Congress if we will deliver the "Indian" vote on May 7. She is an attractive candidate for a number of reasons; one of them being that she is an Indian, and a female besides. She also is a talented educator and a good campaigner. The scenario is in place, the political dynamics will never be as advantageous to an Indian candidate as right now, this moment. Victory is in our hand—Indian hands!!

If Indians will turn out in overwhelming numbers on May 7, Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend can win! Remember, she only needs 40% to win out right on May 7 because there are six other candidates fighting for the right to represent the Democrats in the primary. There are four Republican candidates. One of them will vie for the Democratic standard bearer in November for the right to replace retiring Rep. Charlie Rose. We're nervous, of course. We know how the Indian electorate can be some times. We are feisty, and sometimes unpredictable. No one should take us for granted, ever! We have heard reports of Indian Sheriff Glenn

Maynor and his buddy, the arena enthusiast, Lee Stevens, escorting Glenn Jernigan, one of the other candidates, around the sheriff's office. It's not unreasonable for Sheriff Maynor to be sociable to Glenn Jernigan because, according to news reports, he once served as lobbyist for the Sheriff's Association. We believe Sheriff Maynor would be friendly to any candidate visiting his domain, including and especially Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend. Glenn Maynor is sheriff today because his people, the Indian electorate, voted for him overwhelmingly, and without blushing or being apologetic about it. We hope the sheriff, and the rest of our power brokers, are supporting Lowry-Townsend, the Indian candidate. If Sheriff Maynor, and the rest of the Indian politicians support her, Lowry-Townsend can win. We believe they will... and are!!!

AN INDIAN WOMAN, A BLACK MALE, AND FIVE WHITE MALES ARE FIGHTING TO WIN THE SEVENTH CONGRESSIONAL DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY

History is at hand. Think about it: an Indian woman from Pembroke, North Carolina can become the first and only Congresswoman from the Seventh Congressional District, replacing the retiring Charlie Rose. LOWRY-TOWNSEND can win because she is talented, hard working, and has raised enough money to carry her through a successful

campaign. We would love to see her go head to head with one of those ULTRA CONSERVATIVE Republicans waiting in the wings in November, especially Robert Anderson or former Senator Jesse Helms aide, Robert Wilkie. The people from the Seventh Congressional District would really have a choice then. Whoever gets 40% of the vote on May 7 will be the Democratic candidate for the 7th Congressional District. Think about it! There is one Indian woman running—Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend. There is one Black male running—Marcus Williams. And, Lord have mercy!, there are five White males running. They are: Mike McIntire from Robeson County, Howard Greenbaum from Kure Beach, and Cumberland County's delegation, Mike Dunn, Glenn Jernigan, and George Breece. All of these people will be splitting up the Democratic vote seven different ways. The only Native American Female in the race is Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend. She can win if all of us, especially the Indians, will turn out in record numbers and vote for her. We promise you Robeson County will not slide off into the sea if she wins, and she will introduce and work hard for Federal Recognition for the Lumbee. In November, Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend has the best chance to beat the Republican candidate, whether it is Robert Anderson, Robert Wilkie, Jim Cooper or Bill Caster. Remember, you heard it here first. We are declaring Rose Marie Lowry-Townsend the winner on May 7. Stay tuned. Only in Robeson County.

Only in Robeson would the NAACP hire a White Professor to do a study on a school system with majority Indian students

The NAACP report on the schools is, in our opinion, flawed because it sets up an hypothesis that is unreasonable for Robeson County. For instance, the report, done by Monte Hill, a former White, political science teacher at Pembroke State University, pre-supposes that every school with at least 45% of one race or another, either student body or faculty, is segregated. It's just not so!

The report, for what ever reason, leaves out the student enrollment for the Public Schools of Robeson County. Of the approximate 26,000 students enrolled in the Public Schools of Robeson County, 30.6% of them are African-American (Black); 44.7% Native American (Indian); and 23.8% Anglo-American (White). If this racial breakdown were used as the yardstick of social measurement, it would not be so cockeyed after all. For instance, if you round it off to the nearest percent, 45% of

all the students in the Public Schools of Robeson County are Indians. --If one uses Hill's rationale, Indians would be segregated if 45% of them were found in a particular school. Yet Indians make up 45% of the student enrollment. Umm! It would have been better if the NAACP had done its own report, rather than rely on someone who, in our opinion, doesn't know what he is talking about. Some good could have come from this report if it had been done in good faith.

Hill also leaves out the history of Robeson County, and ignores the racial vestiges of a system that was once six separate school systems before merger finally was won in 1989. --Hill also chooses to ignore the fact that Robeson County now has one school system, not six as in our segregated past. We are all, now, finally, being fed out of the same

educational spoon.

Hill's report also neglects to mention the good faith effort of the PSRC. -- The schools, under the strong leadership of Mr. Purnell Swett, have also had to salvage a school system that is still trying to overcome the poor leadership of former superintendent, William Johnson. -- Johnson and his team set the schools back considerably, as we see it.

We believe the NAACP and its leader, Rev. Franklin Bowden, should be chastised for being divisive and leaking the report in the press before giving a copy of it to its subject—the Public Schools of Robeson County. --It strikes us as being a strange way to get people to work with you in a positive way. Again, we hope that that are no oxen to gore in this matter and no axes to grind for reasons not known at the moment. -- We say, anew, only in Robeson County!

We lament the passing of Mr. H. Dobbs Oxendine and Ms. Rose Carter

It has been a sad time the last few days. The Indian ranks have lost some stalwarts lately, including Dr. Adolph Dial, Mr. H. Dobbs Oxendine, and Ms. Rose Carter, and many others. We lament their passing, and say, sadly, that our ranks have been thinned considerably by the loss of these wonderful leaders who graced us for too short a time. We are glad that they were with us for a season, and their collective memories will guide us spiritually in the troubling days ahead. Last week, H. Dobbs Oxendine died after a lengthy illness. He was a leader in the Republican Party, and was a very successful businessman in Lumberton. He was astute, independent, a man who did his own thinking. He marched to his own music, and was a leader more than a follower. He did what he thought was best, and followed in the tradition of his brothers, the late

Hilton Oxendine, Lumberton's first Indian councilman; and Hubert, the successful owner of the Old Foundry Restaurant. His son, Dobbs, Jr. is following in his footsteps, and is successful in his own right as a businessman and community leader. Pembroke State University honored Mr. Oxendine just days before he died. It was very appropriate. PSU established the H. Dobbs Oxendine, Sr. Service Award to honor those who have contributed significantly to the life of the university. The first winner was former governor Jim Holshouser, a long time friend of Mr. Oxendine's.

This week we received the news that Ms. Rose Carter of Pembroke died on Monday at the ripe age of 88. She was feisty, fiercely independent, outspoken. She was a florist, a school teacher, our very

own Ms. Manners. She always knew exactly how we should do things socially, whether it was a wedding or just a get together. And she was not shy about telling us how to do it either. Ms. Carter leaves to mourn her passing a son, John M. Carter, Jr. of the home; a daughter, Ms. Marilyn Roberts of Pembroke; two sisters, Sarah C. Hornsby of Ohio, and Annie N. Mize of Florida. She also leaves to mourn her passing 16 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Services were held Wednesday at Biggs Funeral Home Chapel in Lumberton with the Reverends Charles P. Locklear and Douglas Locklear officiating. Both leave voids in the lives of their respective families, friends and communities. They will be missed always; still their memories will comfort us in the trying days ahead.

Descendants of the late Miles Henry Godwin and Margaret Jane Carter Godwin united in Native Robeson County nearly a century after re-locating to Recovery, Georgia

By Ira Lee Lowry
Special to the Carolina Indian Voice

In the year 1887, Miles Henry Godwin and wife, Margaret Jane Carter Godwin, moved their growing family from Robeson County in North Carolina to a location near Recovery, Georgia, to grow cotton. Recovery is located a few miles north of the Florida/Georgia line on the Flint River.

With the decline of the cotton industry, they moved farther south into North Florida, attracted by the timber business, particularly sawmills and turpentine stills. The Godwin family settled near the capitol city of Tallahassee, Fl.

According to the 1990 census, there were six more children born to this family after leaving North Carolina. This has made a total of thirteen children.

When Miles Henry and Margaret Jane Carter Godwin took their family and moved south, they left behind two young married daughters, Josephine Godwin Smith, who was married to James Haywood Smith, and Annie Godwin Hammonds, married to William H. Hammonds. One son, Seymore Godwin, was left with his sister Josephine for about 3 years, until the father came and took Seymore home with him.

That was the last visit for the father, Miles Henry, to Robeson County. He died September 9, 1909. Margaret Jane, the mother, never got to return before her death in December, 1916.

Two of the sons came back to Robeson County and died here. Andrew Jackson Godwin died August 17, 1906, and his brother Seymore Godwin died March 3, 1968. Neither had any children.

Josephine Godwin Smith was the mother of twelve children, and Annie Godwin Hammonds was the mother of nine. These twenty-one children never saw their Godwin grandparents, and for more than sixty years, no one heard from any of the family in Florida. All communications

had stopped. It was not known if any of the family members still existed. On June 13, 1995, the family members of the late Josephine G. Smith had one of the greatest surprises one could ever imagine.



Shown left to right: Ira Lee Lowry, granddaughter of Josephine Godwin Smith and niece of Jessie, great niece of Virginia; Jessie B. Smith Maynor, daughter of Josephine Godwin Smith and niece of Virginia; Virginia Godwin Branch, youngest daughter of Miles Henry Godwin and Margaret Jane Carter Godwin; and Mable White, daughter of Melisha Godwin Glover and niece of Virginia and Josephine.

Virginia Godwin Branch, 99, the only surviving child of Miles Henry and Mary Jane Godwin, along with her daughter Emily Merritt, and her grandson Adrian Merritt, from Crawfordville, FL., came to Lumberton, N.C., in search of family members and to research family genealogy. Everyone was so excited with the uniting of family members that had never met and researching their Indian heritage. Both were accomplished.

Ms. Virginia went back with so much news about her family that not many weeks passed before others from Crawfordville were in Robeson County for a visit. Plans for a "Godwin" family reunion were underway, under the direction of Ira Lee Lowry, granddaughter of Josephine G. Smith.

The reunion was very well attended. There were descendants of four of the Godwin sisters in attendance. There were thirty-five descendants of Josephine Godwin Smith, and sixteen of Annie Godwin Hammonds, and five descendants of Margaret Godwin Kinsey from Florida and Virginia Beach, Va.

Virginia Godwin Branch, age 99, had seven members of her family along. Included was a fifth-generation great-great-granddaughter, Stevey Roberts. Members of this family were from Jacksonville Beach, Crawfordville and Woodville, FL.

March 29, 1996 was a great highlight in the life of Virginia G. Branch, her one-hundredth birthday. There was a big celebration with about one-hundred family members present.

Jessie B. Smith Maynor, youngest daughter of Josephine G. Smith, and Ira Lee T. Lowry, a granddaughter of Josephine, both from Pembroke, N.C., attended this party. While they were there, they met so many more of the Godwin family members. They came from as far away as Texas.

This one-hundred year old lady seems to be in excellent health, she reads without glasses and her mind is very sharp. Her plans are to return to Robeson County for our Lumbee Homecoming. Way to go Aunt Virginia.

Stand for Children Day planned in near future

As tough as times are and as hard as we struggle every day for our children, each and every one of us know we can do better. The choices we make in this last national election year of the 20th century will shape our nation's fate and our children's future. At this defining moment every American who cares about children must stand up and be counted.

Stand For Children will be a national day of commitment to children, a celebration, and a day of renewal when we will go together as Americans from every race, region, income, age and faith. On June 1, we will transcend our differences and affirm what unites us as a people: a loving desire to raise moral, healthy and educated children; a sense of fairness; and belief that in the richest

and most powerful nation on earth no child should be left behind.

Stand For Children Day will not be a partisan day. No politicians will be invited to speak.

On Stand for Children Day we will commit ourselves to positive personal steps as families, citizens and communities to do more to improve the quality of children's lives: their safety, school readiness, education and

future.

Stand For Children Day will draw a line in the sand of doing no harm to children that no political, corporate or cultural leader dare cross.

Stand For Children Day will make clear to every candidate and office holder that they need to help not hinder families struggling to raise moral, healthy and educated children.

If you or someone know would like

to go to Washington for Stand For Children Day please call Michele Wofford at 521-8602 for additional information.

Advisory Council elections planned at Swett High

Purnell Sett High School will hold Advisory Council elections on Monday, May 6, 1996 at 6:30 p.m. in the library. All parents are urged to attend.

Plate sale planned at Shoeheel Church

A Plate sale and car wash will be held at Shoeheel Church, located on Highway 501, Maxton, on Friday and Saturday, May 4 and 5. Chicken and barbecue plates will be sold beginning at 11 a.m. and lasting until. Proceeds from the sale will be used for the renovation of the church. The public is cordially invited to attend.