

The office of High Sheriff of beson County has long been ught of as the highest political ice in the county. In 1994 Glenn lynor was elected to that position. vas an exciting time. He became first non-white to be elected as eriff. It was one of the highlights my life. I was privileged to adminer the oath of office to Sheriff tynor at the Lumberton Court use. It was an appropriate set-g for this historic event. Many ople attended. Following are the narks I gave on December 5, 94 upon administering the oath office to newly-elected Sheriff enn Maynor:

It is good to be here today on such historic occasion. I would be reiss in my responsibility to do juse to this ceremony if I did not take historical perspective in order to termine how we came to be here day and to examine the signifince of this event to our county.

Some one hundred thirty-three ars ago the Civil War was being ught in Robcson County as well as roughout the southern states of our tion. This war was fought over the oposition whether black people ould be citizens of these United ates or whether they would conue merely to be considered as chatis or property owned by white ople. The rights of Native Amerins were somewhere in between the shts of European Americans and ose of African Americans. Alough Native Americans were not ives, we were classified by the State North Carolina as free people of lor, meaning essentially that we id no rights of citizenship. For ex-

mple, Native Americans did not ave the right to vote, the right to ear arms, and the right to serve on iries. In other words, the system of istice was closed not only to African mericans but was closed likewise to ative Americans. The Civil War Idressed such inequities in the civil nd criminal justice systems.

During that time, there was a aique individual, Henry Berry owrie, who played a major role in termining the structure of presenty Robeson County and the rights at we enjoy today. When I say "we" am speaking not only of Native mericans, but also of African mericans as well as European mericans.

After the war, during the period reconstruction, the Ku Klux Klan as active all over the South, includg Robeson County. Among the ore dastardly acts perpetrated by c Klan was the taking of reprisals ainst persons who had cooperated ith the Union troops moving rough Robeson County. At least 10 people were murdered by the lan by reason of their having served guides for General William T. nerman as his troops made their ay through the then nearly impenrable swamps of Robeson and adjaint counties. One was Ben Bethea, former slave who was beaten or hipped to death, and the other was lalcolm Sanderson who was Native merican. Two Native Americans iptured by the klan were about to be urdered when one of the Indians, ndrew Strong, was able to escape. trong carried the news of anderson's murder to Henry Berry nd to the criminal authorities here the county seat of Lumberton. One the principals involved in the

lurders was James Taylor who was

then the leader of the Ku Klux Klan. After waiting an appropriate period of time to give the criminal justice system an opportunity to render justice in the murders and after it appeared that the criminal justice authorities were not going to take any action, Henry Berry Lowrie then took the only means that he had at his disposal to render justice in the murders. He became the instrument of justice and meted out the same justice to the leaders of the Ku Klux Klan as was administered by the Klan to Ben Bethea and Malcolm Sanderson. Within sight of an encampment of federal troops that were in Robeson for the express purpose of apprehending him, Henry Berry shot Taylor at point blank range with a shotgun. After killing Taylor and then calmly removing all valuables from the body, Henry Berry made his way back into the swamp with the troops in hot pursuit. Henry Berry never had to answer to anyone for that particular act or any other such actions because no one was able to

kill or capture him. The actions of Henry Berry should not be termed "crimes" because we must remember that unfortunately violence must remain the final option of all people who would remain free. As Thomas Jefferson, a patriot. once said "the tree of liberty must be refreshed and watered from time to time with the blood of patriots."

Henry Berry Lowrie had to act in his time with the only means he had at his disposal. But his actions assured that the Ku Klux Klan could not operate in Robeson County as they were able to do so otherwise throughout the State. He also assured that acts of violence such as those inflicted upon Ben Bethea and Malcolm Sanderson did not happen again. As a matter of fact, the Klan did not even attempt to operate in this county again until 1958 when they tried to hold a rally near the Town of Maxton and were routed by a host of armed Native Americans.

Henry Berry Lowrie played a major part in shaping Robeson County as we know it today. Another brave man later played a similar role in his time. The Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. had a major impact on Robcson County as we know it. During the time of Dr. King, although the Klan did not operate in Robeson County, there was in force in Robcson as well as throughout the State of North Carolina a system of so-called Jim Crow, laws whereby African Americans and Native Americans were denied the right to vote, denied the right to participate in the political process, denied the right to serve on juries, and further denied numerous other constitutional and statutory rights that all of us take for granted today. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. galvanized the attention of the country on the injustices that people of color, African Americans as well as Native Americans, were having to endurc throughout the South, including Robeson County. By virtue of the courage of the followers of this eloquent gentleman and because of their willingness to endure the violence that was inflicted upon them, they captured the conscience of the country thereby causing to be enacted a series of federal civil rights statutes. the most important of which was the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Americans and Native Americans from being able to exercise the right to vote thereby denying these same people the right to participate in the decision-making processes of this county and this state.

By virtue of the sacrifices of Dr. King, America is a better place to live for all of us. He willingly laid his life down on the altar, so to speak, because he knew that he was not going to survive the struggle for equality waged by the Civil Rights Movement. He did so willingly because he knew that people of color who came after him would be able to enjoy the rights that such people had been denied for generations.

Because of the sacrifices of Henry Berry Lowrie and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. the political system of Robeson County was transformed so that a candidate not of European descent. such as Glenn Maynor, can offer himself or herself for a public office and have a reasonable chance of winning an election for that office. Before 1988 I doubt that anyone could have reasonably expected a Native American or an African American can candidate to have had any great measure of success running for the office of Sheriff of Robeson County.

Federal court decisions have resulted in revolutionary change in the political system of Robeson County. The latest round of redistricting in 1991 has caused all of the boards that exercise power in Robeson County to become truly tri-racial. The Chairman of the Board of Elections and the Board of Trustees of Robeson Com-

munity College are African American. The Chairman of the Board of Education and the Board of Commissioners are Native American. This progress laid the foundation for the minority electoral successes that occurred this year.

Now, it is one thing to have the opportunity and it is quite another thing to have a person who is able to seize that opportunity and to realize a dream that is shared by many people. The election for sheriff was hotlycontested. Without making any statement as to the merits of the various candidates who offered themselves for the position, suffice it to say it took three separate elections to finally determine the sheriff of this great county. That individual is Mr. Glenn Maynor who is about to be invested with the great power of that position.

In other counties around the state. they have a sheriff, but in Robeson County we do things differently sim-ply because we are different from any other county. Since we are so different I do not think you would be surprised if we did things differently when it comes to politics. In Robeson no racial group has a majority of the population or the elected voters so the political rules that apply in other places do not apply in Robeson

County We have out own special ways of doing things. We have our own special offices, and instead of simply electing a sheriff, we elect a High Sheriff

Ladies and gentlemen, the Sheriff of Robeson County and the sherift of any other county in North Carolina. by virtue of being the sheriff, is the chief law enforcement officer of the county In Robeson County, in addi-

tion to being the chief law enforcement officer, the sheriff is also the High Sheriff. When I use the term High Sheriff what I mean is that any person in Robeson County--no matter who they are and no matter what kind of problem they have--feels that they can go to the High Sheriff and get their problem solved. If they have petitioned the Board of Education, the Board of Social Services, the Health Board or the County Commissioners and not gotten satisfaction, regardless of the district in which they live, they know that they elected the High Sheriff. They know that the High Sheriff is the most powerful public officer in the county

By virtue of the authority of that position--which goes back to the Sheriff of Knottingham in England and even further back -- they can enlist his support and he will get on the phone and do whatever is necessary n order to see that justice is rendered on their concern.

I am happy to say to the citizens of Robeson County that we have elected the consummate law enforcement officer in the person of Mr. Maynor. I can now say that since Mr. Maynor is no longer a candidate so I am certainly not endorsing him for any public office. In any case he obviously did not need any such endorsement since he was successful in three elections. He is now the Sheriff-Elect of Robeson County. As such I would be remiss in my responsibility as the Resident Superior Court Judge if I did not speak well of our new Sheriff, Mr. Glenn Maynor. The voters, in their inherent wisdom, have elected the consummate jack-of-all-trades. You have elected a man as High Sheriff who is second to none in the State of North Carolina and in the great Democratic State of Robeson in getting things done for his constitu-

I would be remiss in my responsi-bility to do justice to this historic event if I did not note that Mr. Maynor is the first person to serve as Sheriff who is not of European descent. I say that not to say that makes him any better as an individual and I do not say that to say by reason of that fact he will serve even better in his capacity as sheriff. It was written in a local newspaper recently that the retirement of Sheriff Hubert Stone reflected the end of an era. When the oath of office is administered to Mr. Maynor, it will reflect the beginning of a new era in Robeson County when

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any person--regardless of which racial group he or she happens to be a member of -- can legitimately aspire to the highest position in this county and can be successful if they can convince the voters of the merits of their campaign. When I say convincethe voters. I am not talking about the voters of any one particular racial group Tamspeaking about the voters of all the racial groups that are present here today, because the reality of politics in present-day Robeson County is that if you cannot get a significant number of votes from all three racial groups, you are in serious trouble. This new era arrived in this election because--as far as candidates who are elected by all of us, that is not those who are elected by districts---we elected two Native Americans. two African Americans and two European Americans. First of all, we elected a Native American. Glenn Maynor, as Sheriff. We elected

a Native American Mrs. JoAnn

Locklear, as Clerk of Court W. elected John Carter, an African American, as District Court Judge We elected Herbert Richardson, an African American, as District Court Judge Judge Richardson also serves as Chief District Court Judge of this judicial district. We elected the European American community Johnson Britt as your District Attorney and J. Stanley Carmical as one of your District Court Judges. We fellow citizens, unless my math fails me. I do not believe that we could have gotten any more racial balance than that even if we collectively expressly trued to do so

With those remarks it is appropriate at this time for me to administer the oath of office to our new sheriff. Mr. Glenn Maynor, We are ready to begin a new era in our history

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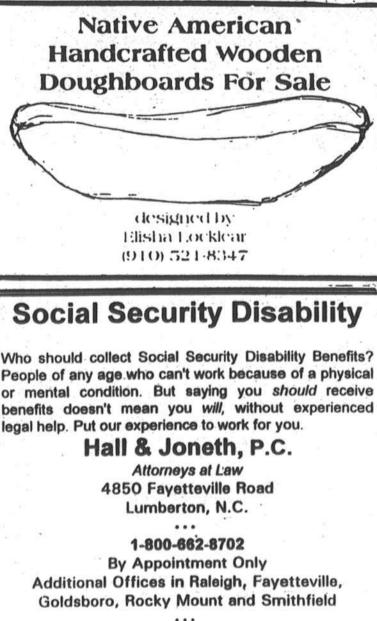
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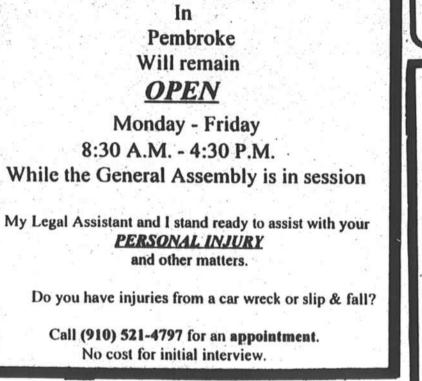
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Saturday, March 8, 1997. 10:30 am - Until Mt. Airy Park - Boy Scout Building

**Guest Speakers** Traditional Iroquois Ceremonies Modern & Traditional Entertainment Come Traditionally Dressed If Possible Please Bring Children Traditional Tuscarora Language Spoken Food Will Be Served State Of The Tribe Address. Chief Cecil Hunt

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