

# Editorial and Opinion Page

## Letters to the Editor

### A "Million Cheers" For Rep. Ron Sutton, District 85



To The Editor:  
A Musical Melody chimed in My Heart when I read of Rep. Ronnie Sutton's Successful Legislative Achievements, as having an extension of day and year for the NC Indian Cultural Center; also, the reduced amount of cash to be accumulated to establish the complete Cultural Center.

House District 85 Voters should be as Happy as I am Happy. All people should endeavor to promote "Fund-Raising" Events for the NC Indian Cultural Center.

Rep. Ronnie Sutton, I now advise you to become 100% involved and sponsor Golf Tournaments with other means of Fund-Raising for the Cultural Center. This important Mission will place a Blessed Star upon your Crown of Success, and you will be cherished by All People.

Rep. Ron Sutton deserves to be

Thanked for the two thousand plus (2,000+) Voters for Congressional District 7. "Thank You" Ron.

QUESTION: Who will Benefit from the 2,000 Plus Votes?

ANSWER: Either The Honorable Frances McArthur Cummings; our Congressman Mike McIntyre; or Someone Else.

I keep "Wondering" when Donald Bonner will announce that he has made a step forward to have Robeson County African-American Cultural Center become the Fullness of the Dream of the late Rev. Joseph Johnson whose Creative Idea established the African-American Cultural Center. But "Unfortunately" for us, Rev. Joy Johnson is presently lifeless. Therefore, since Rev. Johnson allowed Democrat Donald Bonner to be a Member of the Board of Directors for the Cultural Center, I do believe Bonner should prove how

"Thankful" he is for the combined support he gained from Rev. Johnson and Mrs. Omega Johnson.

Bonner should continue to keep Rev. Joy Johnson's Dream Alive by having Robeson African-American Cultural Center be Worthy of its Name. Bonner needs to promote "Fund Raising" Events for the Center. Bonner should try to accomplish a "Good Deed" for his People, so he can be remembered to be grateful for Kindness rendered to him and not to only be "Known and Remembered" for the LIES, LIES, LIES he pronounced from his "Lying Tongue" as Radio Ads and the Aches and Pains he caused many people to suffer.

Ron, you continue to do your Utmost Best for the NC Indian Cultural Center.

Peace Be Unto You. AMEN.  
Yvonne Maria Leow

### Congressman Says He Did Not Trade Indian Precincts for Fort Bragg

To the Editor:  
The recent editorial in your newspaper about redistricting contained several factual errors and wrong assumptions. It has always been my desire for all of Robeson County to be united and placed in the Seventh Congressional District.

At minimum, I wanted that portion of Robeson which has been in the Seventh District in recent years to remain in this district, including Oxendine and Prospect. I supported Rep. Sutton's amendment, and I am glad it passed.

Many of my strongest supporters are from these two precincts and I was quite concerned that both the original Senate plan (proposed by Sen. Cooper) and the original House plan (proposed by Rep. McMahan) would have removed these precincts and several others from the Seventh District.

I fought to save these precincts, not remove them as your editorial stated.

There was never any "trade off"

for Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg was already in the Seventh District, and it was a separate issue. Just as I wanted to retain what was in Robeson, so I also wanted to retain what was in Cumberland, especially because of my appointment to the National Security Committee—a position never held by a congressman from our district.

Even with Fort Bragg placed in the Eighth District, I will still be able to represent the interests of our premier strike force through my position on the National Security Committee.

As a member of the newly-formed Native American Caucus in Congress and as one who historically has fought for fairness and positive human relations throughout my life, I am grateful for the support of the fine folks in Oxendine and Prospect as well as the other Indian precincts.

I appreciate the confidence expressed by our citizens as I work for our areas concerns in Washington.

Mike McIntyre  
U.S. House of Representatives



### Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

**He is risen!**  
**He is risen indeed!**

This is the way earlier Christians used to respond each Easter. One person would greet another by saying "He is risen!"

The second person would answer, "He is risen indeed!"

We modern day Christians tend to take Jesus' death and resurrection for granted. And yet, what could be more important in our lives than a LOVE for your and me so great that provision has been made for us to have NEW, eternal life in spite of our sins of commission and omission?

Even though Jesus reportedly told the woman taken in adultery simply to "Go and sin no more" I believe we do need to ask for forgiveness.

**Religious TV Programs**

Did you see the recent program on the Sifrud of Turin? Lately CBS seems to be willing to have several shows dealing with religious faith. ION our family we appreciate Touched by an Angel and Promised Land. I don't believe in angles that look like human beings. But the Christian producer, Martha Williamson, seems to be keeping accurate ideas about God as the bottom line in each episode, with help from some very dedicated actors. I was interested to learn that Della Reese is the pastor of a church in real life.

My "kids," Wanda Kay and Jeff, enjoyed watching "Dr. Quinn Medicine Woman" so much that they named their son Byron for Dr. Quinn's husband, Byron Sully.

**Is My Face Red?**

After criticizing and/or condemn-

ing others of us so called journalists for passing on misinformation unfair to the persons involved. I did the very same thing!

In my March 20 column I referred to the "impeachment" of Richard Nixon. Shows how little attention I was paying to current events in the 70s. And how much I've been influenced by so many people calling him, in essence, a good-for-nothing-crook.

Nixon and his staff did a lot of things they should not have done. But it took a question on the Jeopardy TV program to remind me that he resigned as president before the impeachment process could take place. There is a chance that he might NOT have been impeached. If what I said was unfair to his memory and his family glad I didn't indict Richard Jewell. What happened to him, mostly because of the media, was horrible, as far as I am concerned.

**Our Byron**

Byron is growing up fast. I've been wanting to do updates, but my time and column space have not permitted it lately.

For several years I've enjoyed using my new-to-me used computer to write this column. When the printer conked out, I went back to hand writing.

As I started my column this time, Byron did some writing on my paper, as well as his. He walks and runs, feeds himself, is learning more words and insists on using my big broom whenever things get spilled on the kitchen floor.

He takes a lot of time. But he's the joy of our lives.

### Cruise, Young People, Cruise

by Dr. Reginald Oxendine

There has been a lot of discussion about cruising in Pembroke by the town officials and the citizens of our great town. There has been several meetings by our town officials and the police have been instructed to write tickets on many occasions. I say let our "younguns" alone and let them cruise. They are only keeping the long and proud tradition of our forefathers. Pembroke is the Capitol of our reservation and it only makes sense for our youth to want to come to town.

Cruising has a long and proud history in our town. I was told by my elders that Mr. Ang Bullard from Prospect was one of the first Indian men in our community to have a T Model Ford Car. I was told that he would come to Pembroke and the girls would run behind and beside the car. (This must have been about the 1930's). It is my opinion that if cruising has been going on for more than five generations, we need to let the youth of today enjoy the favorite past time of our forefathers.

The late and honorable Mr. Bernard Lowery told me that when he was a young boy in the early 1910's that the highlight of the week was to come to Pembroke. He and his brother (Mr. Jason Lowery) would come to Pembroke on Saturday evening on the mule and wagon and see all the pretty girls. They also talked and socialized with the boys of the Pembroke Community. You see, they lived in the Hopewell community and they would drive 10 miles on the mule and wagon to come to Pembroke. Mr. Bernard Lowery told me that the most thrilling part of coming to town was to go to the corner where the intersection of Pembroke Police Department is located today. The ladies would cross from one side of the street to go to the other side. He said that all the girls and women wore dresses down to their feet at that time. However, as they stepped up on the sidewalk they would pull up their dress just a little and you could see the ankles of their feet (not the legs but the ankles). This was a great thrill for young men who had only seen farm animals for weeks.

I am glad to see our Indian youth and others come to Pembroke to socialize, recreate, patronize and spend money in our great town. Cruising is a good, clean and wholesome activity for our youth. It is far better for them to be in Pembroke than in a night club in South Carolina or a bar in Fayetteville. It is better for them to be traveling down the streets of Pembroke than drag racing up and down our highways. They travel about 5-15 miles per hour; therefore, they are not going to hurt each other as they go about looking and flirting with the opposite sex. You would be surprised if you knew the hundreds of thousands of gallons of gasoline they buy with our Pembroke Merchants each year. If I had a convenience store, I would be at every Town Council Meeting protesting the harassment that the policemen and city council is exposing our youth to. These young people have pockets full of money, and our town would be better off encouraging them to visit our great town.

I know for a fact that every one of the Town Council Members of Pembroke are past and renowned Pembroke Cruisers. Mr. Milton Hunt use to have a white 62 Chevy Impala and

he "stayed" in Pembroke riding and looking." Mr. Larry McNeil had a GTO Pontiac and he "kept the streets of Pembroke hot." Mr. Larry Brooks use to have a fine Green 67 GTO Pontiac and he "helped the state pack streets of Pembroke." Mr. McDuffie Cummings (our town manager) had a new 1966 GTO and he and Mrs. Delora (Revels) Cummings made a real fine couple as they "paraded down the streets of Pembroke" real slow so everyone could see them. Mr. Harry Oxendine came along before I had an opportunity to come to Pembroke very often but I would bet my last nickel that he and Mrs. Mable Oxendine use to be avid cruisers. Rev. Steve Jones had the "finest ride in town" during this time. He had a brand new 1966 GTO Pontiac Convertible. The above people cruised through Pembroke at least 100 times a week.

I use to cruise in Pembroke when I was a young man and I loved it. Daddy had a red 1964 Chevrolet Impala that he let me drive one night a week. I would go to the river and wash it and clean it up. I would then spray some cherry air freshener in it and I thought it was bad I would come to Pembroke and pick up Ms. Peggy and you could not tell me anything. Only recently, I have been known to wash up my old Mercedes and ride through town to see who is uptown. I enjoy seeing my old students, friends and relatives. They wave. It is always nice to see a welcome and friendly face.

One excuse that is used to stop cruising is that rescue vehicles cannot get through town fast enough. Personally, I would like to see the rescue vehicles go slower through

Pembroke. I have been looking for someone to be killed as these vehicles fly through town. I realize that the rescue persons want to get through town as quickly as possible but everyone knows about the traffic in Pembroke on the week end. They could make a slight detour and miss all the traffic. It might be that the rescue personnel want to cruise through Pembroke with their new fancy rescue trucks with their lights flashing to be seen. I know for a fact that many of them come through Pembroke when other routes would be shorter and safer.

My daddy got sick once and we called the rescue squad. He lived on the other side of Purnell Swift High. When we got to highway 711 and the Deep Branch Road, they came through Pembroke when it would have been faster, closer and safer to go down the Deep Branch Road to the hospital in Lumberton.

There is a law named "eminent domain" which says that the public good is more important than the individual good. It is not fair to try to stop 10,000 young people from cruising on the week end because one or two rescue vehicles may or may not come through town. Our young people are always nice enough to pull over to the side and let them through. The operators of these vehicles might be better off if they used some forethought and detoured the town on the week end.

I detour main street every morning when the college and school traffic is coming, every day at lunch when it is so busy and every evening when people are getting off work. Detouring for our youth on the week-

end is a small price to pay if it brings so much joy. The eyes of my son, nieces and nephews light up when they talk about cruising.

New York has it Broadway. Myrtle Beach has its Boardwalk. Other cities have their parks and museums, but Pembroke has its cruising. If our leaders would provide parks, amusement centers, museums and other recreational places for our youth they would not have to spend their time cruising. But since we do not have these facilities for them, many older people condemn and criticize our youth for riding around and having a good time. I think that it is great that they can amuse themselves in this harmless way. It does not cost our citizens anything but a little inconvenience once in a while. If you are in a hurry to go to Lumberton to spend your money on the week end, take a back street and by pass the cruisers on main street. It may take 30 seconds longer but isn't this a small price to pay in exchange for all the joy that cruising brings many of our young people.

When I was young boy, my daddy went to Red Springs many times to buy our "rations" and other things. I would go into the drug store on main street to buy a "cone of cream." I had to take my ice cream and go out in the streets to eat it. They had nice booths with chairs and tables for whites to eat their ice cream but Indians and blacks had to go in the yard and streets to eat their food. I thank God that those days are gone. I also thank God that we have Pembroke. I have never experienced any kind of mistreatment in Pembroke and I always feel good when I come to town.

I think that we as businessmen and leaders of our town need to find ways to make our youth feel welcome and proud to come to Pembroke. They have a large percentage of the buying power today and all of the buying power of tomorrow. We need to do all we can to instill a sense of welcome when they think of Pembroke. Every time they want to purchase any product, the first place they will think of is Pembroke Businesses. If all of our town officials and businesses had an open arms policy like Mr. Curt Locklear, our town would grow and prosper. We could then create more jobs for our children. It is said that a dollar circulates seven times before it leaves a community. If this is true when a young person comes to Pembroke and buys a tank of gas, goes to Linda's Restaurant and eats supper with his girl friend, he may spend \$30. If this \$30 circulates seven times it turns into \$210. When you multiply the above example by thousands of youth spending money, it is very profitable for our town. You see it only makes good sense to treat these cruisers with the utmost respect and gratitude.

Every society (civilized and uncivilized) has a system called a "rite of passage" where the young people are presented to society. In some cultures, the young men and women are brought to town or the village center and all the young available women and men are lined up and presented to each other. This lets the families and the youth know who is available for courtship and marriage.

On our reservation and in Pembroke we do not have an official rite of passage. However, cruising in

### Tree Planting Helps Build Better Ties to Town of Pembroke, UNCP Students

**PEMBROKE** -- The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Student Government Association broke new ground March 26 and set new roots in the community.

Tree roots, that is. The UNCP SGA has been working with Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings to help beautify Pembroke by planting trees along Jones Street. Student Senator Channing Jones met with Cummings on several occasions to select pre-determined sights on

Jones Street for the planting.

The town will provide the trees and peat moss and the SGA will supply the people. This project is the result of the SGA's dedication to improving relations between the University and Pembroke. "I hope that this can serve as a model for future cooperative endeavors between the SGA and the Town of Pembroke," SGA President Trey Allen said. The SGA intends to plant additional trees at other sights in the coming weeks.

### Kiwanis Report

The weekly meeting was held Tuesday evening at the Town and Country Restaurant with President Furnie Lambert presiding. Program Chairman John Rimberg presented Dr. Robert L. Jones, Coordinator for the new "Community in Schools Program." Dr. Jones cited the alarming statistics that 3,000 students drop out of school each day. 600,000 students drop out of school each year. 85% of all court cases are drop outs. 82% of all inmates are drop outs, and over 50% of our students will not graduate.

Children dropping out has become a national concern. Dr. Jones cited the impact of television on the drop out rate. As television is the number one activity of students, they are continually exposed to crime stories, sexual impact as schools have become birth control pill distributors. Corporate America must stop sponsoring TV shows which teach our children to be violent, sexually active, self-centered, anti-family and anti God.

"The Community in Schools Program" has proposed a Chartered School controlled by the local board of education, final approval by the State Board of Education. The at risk student will be served by support and hopefully returned to regular classes to learn. Many community groups will be involved to prevent the high drop out rate as a real help to our students in need of extra help.

Invocation-Albert Hunt. Song leader-Ed Teets. Reporter-Ken Johnson