

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT Bruce Barton

Lt. Colonel Oliver North, glib, conservative and patriotic, still lied about his role in the Iran-Contra Affair

First of all, I want to again publicly thank Chancellor Allen Meadors for bringing the Distinguished Speakers Series to UNC-P. All the speakers were interesting and entertaining, and another great lineup is planned for the upcoming school year.

I went to see Lt. Colonel Oliver "Ollie" North Tuesday night at the Givens PAC. And I must admit that I was impressed by his military bearing, his obvious patriotism, and his glibness. He can still hold an audience spellbound. He really made three public declarations: (1) he is a Republican; (2) he is a conservative; and (3) he is an unabashed Christian. One out of three ain't bad. Right?

Still, amidst the handclapping and "soft questions" after his remarks, I sat there and nodded and mused. "Yeah, Ollie, it all sounds great and it was for a good cause, but you lied about the Iran-Contra Affair." Lying is still wrong, and not grounds for greatness, in my book. I must admit that I was in the minority with my views though, because the larger than usual audience was obviously in Colonel North's corner. Many of those in the audience consider him a great American. I do too, except for the lying and deceitfulness. I have a problem with that. Other than that obvious flaw, I applaud Colonel North too. He is dynamic and good theatre.

In November 1986, Americans learned that President Reagan officials had misled them by secretly selling Iran antitank and antiaircraft missiles in an attempt to obtain the release of the hostages then being held by that rogue nation. It probably helped, in the long run, obtain their release. Moreover, part of the profits from the arms sales were secretly transferred to the Contras, a nationalist group working to overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua. Lt. Colonel North was up to his eyeballs in the great deceit, and was convicted in 1989 of destroying National Security Council documents and lying to congress. He was fined, given two years of probation and ordered to perform community service. On appeal, one conviction was dismissed and the two others were sent back to the courts for review. Due to legal technicalities, Colonel North was not prosecuted further.

As he has said on occasion, sometimes the ends justify the means. I don't agree with that, even if it helped overthrow the Sandinistas in Nicaragua, obviously a communist regime. You know how we hate them communists. Right?

Anyway, Lt. Colonel North was glib, conservative and patriotic. But he still lied about his role in the Iran-Contra Affair. Other than that, again I say, Lt. Colonel Oliver North is an interesting American, but flawed.

About this "citizens group"...

LUMBERTON-This crowd hooting and hollering about carryings on in Ol' Robeson, in my opinion, have a hidden agenda. They believe minorities, especially Indians, have more than their rightful share of power, especially in the elected positions they hold.

The group is going to call itself Robeson Community Achievement Network (CAN). Most of them are unable to get elected to public office in Robeson County, and want to circumvent electoral democracy by activating CAN to give them a forum that they cannot win at the ballot box.

Look at some of the people involved, obviously some of them are right-wing conservatives, as well as a Black here and an Indian there to give them some color and legitimacy.

I say to all of the CAN crowd, especially Dr. Ernest Brown and Rod Redfearn, who were quoted in Sunday's *Robesonian* as great pontificators about what is wrong in Ol' Robeson, "put yourself up for electoral office. I double-dare you!" You know, as well as we do, that you would probably not get elected in Robeson County. You would have to convince 38.4% Indians and 25% black Robesonians, in addition to the 34% White populace, to vote for you. That would be a tall order, indeed!

Mr. Redfearn did say to me, in a recent telephone conversation, that he just might run for office, that is, as soon as he becomes a citizen in a year or two. Mr. Redfearn is a Canadian, but he knows just what we need in Ol' Robeson. And when he gets the vote, by God, he just might run for office.

Run for office, I say. We would like to cast a vote for whatever august office you dare run for. We might even express an opinion here and there about such a candidacy.

Redfearn did say too, in the story, that he wants the membership of CAN to include people of all races, like Mr. Wyatt Johnson, a Black Lumberton City Councilman, but he also said, in Sunday's newspaper that "I'm sure there are people, particularly in the Native American community, who will say, 'It is our turn now' and that 20 years ago, whites were in control". Redfearn dug himself a deeper political hole when he said further, "But if the pendulum was swung too far in one direction then, it has swung too far to the other side now." That sounds dangerously like racial profiling to me, and not to be accepted in the Indian camp.

ROBESONIANS AWAIT EDDIE HATCHER VERDICT

LUMBERTON-Finally, the Eddie Hatcher Trial in Robeson County is underway, with jury selection now taking place. It promises to be interesting, as always, when Mr. Hatcher is a participant.

Mr. Hatcher is charged with first-degree murder in the May 31, 1999 shooting death of Brian McMillan, 19 at the time of his death. Earlier in October, Hatcher was found guilty of assault with a dangerous weapon in the May 19, 1999 shooting of Michael Anthony Locklear, then 17 when he was shot outside Bud's Grocery near Maxton. Hatcher, who says he shot Locklear in self-defense, received 75 days in jail for that conviction. Locklear & McMillan were living in the same residence when the incidents occurred. Ms. Amillia Chavis, then age 15, was also in the house and was shot and injured in the drive-by shooting in which Hatcher is charged.

Many people have rushed to judgment in the matter. It is best to wait and see if justice will prevail in Ol' Robeson. Mr. Hatcher is a sore point to many, but his civil rights should be protected at all costs, and the evidence should be allowed to be presented fully without hindrance from outside sources. Mr. Hatcher, who has pled not guilty, is entitled to his day(s) in court. If Eddie Hatcher cannot receive a fair trial in Robeson County, then neither can you and I. Let common sense and justice prevail. It is Mr. Hatcher's right as an American citizen, and it is the right of the family of the deceased. Both parties deserve justice, and no less even in Ol' Robeson.

The Carolina Indian Voice

Published each Thursday in Pembroke, N.C. by First American Publications

The first issue of the weekly newspaper, The Carolina Indian Voice was published on January 17, 1973, by then editor, owner and founder, Bruce Barton with a \$500 personal loan. It has a proud history of continuous publication, having never missed an issue since its inception. Bruce's sister, Connee Brayboy, the current editor, is the only person to have enjoyed full-time employment since the newspaper's inception. A brother, Garry Lewis Barton came to work full-time in 1973 and ended his affiliation with the newspaper in 1985; its founder, Bruce Barton left to further his education shortly thereafter. Another brother, Ricky Barton, has been affiliated on a part-time basis with the newspaper since its inception. For the first time in years, the four siblings are reunited and dedicated to publishing the best newspaper humanly possible.

Connee Brayboy Editor

Along The Robeson Trail

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

Much attention has been given to the topic of federal recognition of Native Americans, especially as it concerns the Lumbee. Some people seem to believe that federal recognition would be the magic potion for everything that ails many Native American communities — poverty, geographical and political isolation, substance abuse, poor health and so on. Other people, including some Native Americans, see federal recognition as an unnecessary and unwanted "stamp of approval" from the federal government. After all, what other ethnic groups in the United States are required to carry a government card to prove that they are who they say they are?

From much of what has been printed in the popular press in recent years, perhaps it would be easy to come to the conclusion that the Lumbee are the only Native Nation confronted with life in the supposedly unhappy state of being federally-unrecognized. But is this true?

Current estimates have it that there are between 115,000 and 200,000 people in America who could be classified as "federally-unrecognized" Indians. Some of these are descendants of Native people who refused to sign what they saw as unfair treaties with the government during

the nineteenth century (for example, a small group of Chippewa people who lived in northern North Dakota). Others are people who migrated away from reservations and into cities generations ago and did not maintain "enrollment." A few are those who simply fell through the administrative cracks.

Many of these "unrecognized" people are enrolled members of the at least 133 separate groups (bands, tribes and nations) which the federal government does not accept as being "Indian tribes." Some of these groups are very small, with less than 200 members. The Lumbee happen to be the largest such group — somewhere between 35,000 and 60,000 people in the United States, most of whom reside in Robeson County, identify themselves as Lumbee.

As is the case with the Lumbee, some groups are recognized by their respective state governments. But many others are not. Of these Native American people it has been written: "There is no simple explanation as to why some tribes were not recognized. Failure by the federal government to recognize certain Indian tribes has usually been the product of long-forgotten historical accidents, or of the belief that many tribes became extinct. Whatever the reason for the non-recognized status of many Indian

groups, one thing is certain: they have not vanished (Miller and De Jong, 1994; in *The Native North American Almanac*.)"

Why do these Indian communities remain "unrecognized?" Miller and De Jong argue that many of these tribes were small, peaceful and/or isolated and therefore not perceived as a threat by the government. Indian tribes which the government has not feared, or whose lands and resources it has not coveted, have frequently been left "unrecognized."

Many of the federally-recognized tribes achieved that status by virtue of wars they waged against the U. S. government — wars which led to the necessity for treaties and reservations. It is ironic that Native American communities which were peaceful (or which were decimated by European epidemic diseases) would now be denied services by the federal government because hundreds of years ago they did not (or could not) resist more violently that same government.

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).

Fayetteville Museum of Art is proud to be a part of the city's newest cultural attraction, The Cultural Caravan. This shuttle will begin on April 14, 2001, and will take its riders to various attractions in the city including the Cape Fear Botanical Gardens, the Convention and Visitors Bureau, the Airborne and Special Operations Museum, the Fayetteville Museum of Art, the Museum of the Cape Fear, Fascinate-U Children's Museum, and the Arts Council. The shuttle will stop at each of these destinations every twenty minutes, and will run all day, allowing it's users time to view all that Fayetteville has to offer. In order to coincide with the shuttle's scheduling, the Museum will be changing it's weekend hours to 10 am to 5 pm on Saturdays and 12 noon to 5 pm on Sundays beginning April 14, 2001. We hope that by forming this partnership with other community cultural organizations, the Museum will be able to further its mission of enhancing the appreciation of the arts in our surrounding area.

29th Annual Competition for NC Artists thru May 20

The Annual Competition for North Carolina Artists is one of the Southeast's most distinguished and highly competitive professional exhibitions. 65 artists from across the state will feature cutting edge art, chosen by President of International Arts and Artists David F. Furchgott. The finalists will also appear simultaneously on-line for a cyberspace exhibition. You can even vote on-line for your favorite artist! Log on at www.fmoa.org.

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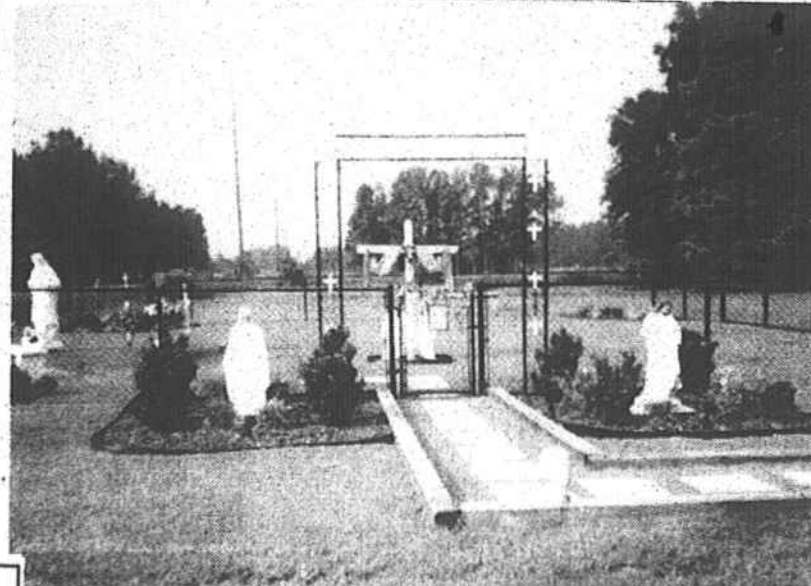
Come on In....

I know you are standing and looking in through the gate. But you do not want to come in, but just open the gate and walk on in. This place has no sin and it is not Betty Jane's end. It is a place that should not have been, but you may come on in. In this place is Betty Jane. This is where a young man's senseless bad mistake ends, a place where our pain and grief begin. So just come on in and look around and see why we weep. Come on in and take the time and pray that not more things like Betty Jane's senseless death will happen to anyone again.

This gate we will always walk through, the pain and grief will never go away for Betty Jane's family. We will forever weep. We will cherish and love Betty Jane. The world's greatest loss, Heaven gained. Memories of Betty Jane and pictures is all we have now.

So come on in and look around and hope it doesn't happen to your children. So come on in. You are welcome. The Oxendine Family April 5, 2001

We extend our heartfelt thanks for everyone for their prayers and concern and we recently re-lived the pain of Betty Jane Oxendine's death while an employee at Hardee's in Lumberton. Her killer, Travis Walters, was sentenced to death row last week. Sitting through the trial was hard and painful. Please continue to pray for us.



The crosscut saw from the past and the chainsaw today along with tangible results from wood aerobics. Ronald Lowry shown



In parts of rural England it was once believed by some that after the mulberry tree had sprouted its leaves there would not be another frost that year.

Remembering An Energy Source From The Past

Today we read and hear about some problems concerning the nation's electrical energy. The people in California have experienced a shortage of electrical energy. We on the East coast have seen our natural gas prices climb upward, said to be due to a problem with supply. The easy life we live today is accomplished to a large extent by use of equipment powered by natural gas or electricity. I remember when only wood was the energy source around the family farm in Robeson County in the 1930s. Wood was used for cooking, heating, curing tobacco, and heating water in an outside pot for the clothes washing process. The outside pot was also used to heat water for the hog-killing activity.

The 2-man crosscut saw was the primary equipment used to convert trees into usable wood for an energy source. Wood sawing was one of many ways to maintain ones physical fitness during the family farming era. We did most of our wood sawing in the fall and winter months of the year while the sap was down. Pine trees kept cook stoves operating on a daily basis. Gum trees have a tough textured wood which is very hard to split. I recently completed an engagement with a large gum tree which grew in the wood portion on my property. In 1960 when I was having a house built on the property, a local resident pointed out this gum tree to me growing just inside the back property line. He said that he and some of his friends had chased raccoons up this tree. It had a large hollow inside which extended up to the branches. I had to get this tree cut down, because it was becoming a hazard to a neighbor's house. I decided to save some money by not having the wood removed. It took 3 tree removal experts 2 hours to get the tree on the ground, delimited, and sawed into fireplace size blocks. I have seen raccoons climb this tree and go out on a limb to sleep in the daytime. Five raccoons were chased out of the hollow at the top of the gum tree while being topped.

It took me 2 months to convert the blocks of wood into fireplace pieces. I used 2 steel wedges, sledge hammer, and wood splitter to split the blocks from the limbs and upper tree body. Local senior citizens are being urged to get aerobic exercise on a regular basis. My vegetable garden and lawn maintenance keep me active during the warm months of

the year. My wife goes to the YMCA and participates in water aerobics three times a week. I claim to have spent about the same amount of time doing a form of "wood aerobics" working out on the gum tree over a two month period. The wedges, sledge hammer, and wood splitter plus manpower could not do anything with the blocks of wood from the main trunk of the tree. The hollow in the blocks measured 35-36 inches in diameter with 6-8 inches of outer wood. I decided to break in my 14 inch gasoline powered chainsaw received as a father's day gift on these blocks. I had no problem transforming the large hollow blocks of gum wood into fireplace size pieces. There is a certain amount of satisfaction a senior citizen, enjoying the middle of his 7th decade of life, can achieve by completing a task like this. While this wood is seasoning, I will be participating in a form of "garden aerobics", and enjoying all the benefits of this activity

Ronald H. Lowry Virginia Beach, Virginia

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