

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

...the voice of the drum is an offering to the Spirit of the World. It's sound arouses the mind and makes men feel the mystery and power of things.
-BLACK ELK

As I See It Bruce Barton



EDWIN SAMPSON-
DEEP BRANCH CITIZEN

He was a familiar figure in the Deep Branch Community. Born and bred on the fertile land, on the banks of the Lumbee River, Edwin Sampson and his family cleared much of the farm land in the Deep Branch community when he was a boy and a young man. Sampsons abound in the Deep Branch community. Many are buried there.

On Friday Edwin Sampson will be buried in the Deep Branch Cemetery where many of his deceased family members reside in their final abode here on earth. He will be missed by surviving family and friends. He was a good and decent man. He died suddenly Monday of a heart attack. He went quickly. He did not suffer.

Many times he and I watched the evening news together on television and he would bemoan the perversion that he saw about him in America. He knew Richard Nixon was a shady character long before the Watergate Committee uncovered his wrong doings. And Edwin Sampson announced it folly that a country like America would spend more money than she took in. It didn't make any sense to him.

Edwin Sampson was a hard working man. He provided for his family. He scorned social welfare and other social notions. He believed that a

man should receive his bread from the sweat of his brow.

And he loved his family, dearly. He excelled as a husband, father, grandfather, father-in-law, brother. A rough hewn man, a man of the earth, a man who's spirit cried out against the confining nature of towns, he was tender and loving and caring on the inside. He was a marshmallow beneath the bluster.

He was my father-in-law. He thought me a peculiar fella but he did not scorn me because I loved his daughter, Barbara, and his Sissy and Peter. And, in time, I think he came to love me for myself. Mr. Edwin always wanted a son whom he could teach to farm and worm hogs, and raise cattle, and repair farm machinery and all the loving tasks one must learn on the farm. Alas, poor me, a town boy, unable to screw in a light bulb correctly gave him a fright in the beginning.

But we-Mr. Edwin and I-came to love and respect one another. We understood our respective strengths and weaknesses. I could not castrate a hog but I could decipher bureaucratic non sense found festering within the government contract he had to read, understand and sign to maintain his contract to keep the post office clean. We were helpful to each other. And he told me when and how to screw in light bulbs, repair water pumps, and build fires, etc. And we shared the love of

Barbara and Pete and Sissy, his daughter, grandson and granddaughter. He mused recently, "I just hope I will be able to live long enough to see Sissy grown up..." That's not asking for much. Sissy introduced him to ballet, funny pointed ballet shoes, clarinets and primly notions. He watched Sissy's last ballet recital in amazement.

And we take comfort in the fact that he is, as Sissy recounted between tearful bouts of crying, "gone to be with Jesus."

Birth

But he is gone now, a good and decent man. He exerted a mighty influence on his wife, Margaret, his two daughters, Barbara and Bonnie, and all the rest of us. We are all better for having known him. We shall miss him so very much.

Mr. and Mrs. Gary Barker of Statesville, NC announce the birth of a daughter, Natalie Nacole Barker, born February 27, 1978 in Iredell County Hospital weighing 8 lbs and 6 oz. Mrs. Barker is the former Lawanna Lowery, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lonnie Lowery of the Wakulla Community.

-Elect- C.A. BROWN for JUDGE 16th Judicial District (Robeson and Scotland Counties) "EQUAL JUSTICE FOR ALL"

- Brown will be a man who'll know you 365 days a year-not just on election day.
- Brown will be at the courthouse an hour before each session to answer any questions
- Brown believes in freedom of speech for all people.
- Brown will have an answering service 24 hours a day and will return calls within 24 hours to answer questions.
- Brown believes in hearing from the defendant, not lawyers.
- "With the help of God. I appreciate your support."

Paid for by Citizens to Elect C.A. Brown

STATE RECOGNITION OF INDIANS

Most of us have been following the efforts for federal recognition, but last week at the Third Annual Indian Unity Conference in Raleigh, a new issue was raised which affects all Indian communities in North Carolina.

Last year, many of you will recall my lengthy article relative to the transfer of the North Carolina State Commission of Indian Affairs from an autonomous agency to the North Carolina State Department of Administration, a transfer which I did not then, nor do I now, endorse as a beneficial move for Indian people. However, it appears that another vital part of North Carolina legislation was overlooked intentionally or inadvertently, during the process. Simply put, this legislation, properly recorded as House Bill 1515, did more than transfer the Commission. According to legal interpretations, the passage of this legislation repealed all previous legislation in Chapter 71 of the North Carolina General Statutes, the Chapter which included legislation giving state recognition to the Lumbee and the Haliwa as well as fishing rights of the Cherokee. In effect, as of the date of legislation last year, the Lumbee and the Haliwa are not now recognized by the State of North Carolina.

I think it is important for us to realize that in a crucial time when we are striving to obtain federal recognition as Indian people we are also caught up in the struggle to maintain our state recognition as Indian people. I hope that we will not be caught up in diversionary tactics which will affect our status as state or federally-recognized Indian people. There are some implications that have been brought into the "mainstream" of national Indian issues such as federal termination of all Indian groups, tribes and organizations. Such implications are not unreal since we learned that the State of Maryland just last week had repealed legislation giving state recognition to Indian people in the State of Maryland, and that there has been some question as to whether or not a CETA contract will be renewed with the Pee Dee Indians in our neighboring State of South Carolina. WE ARE NOW, MORE SO THAN EVER BEFORE, A PART OF INDIAN PEOPLE ACROSS OUR COUNTRY. We are beginning to suffer the same indignation and violation of our civil rights as our Indian brothers and sisters across this country.

The struggle is not new to our people in North Carolina, for our complete history is one of continuing struggle, but what our opponents do not know is that our history is also one of winning struggle after struggle. Many historians have labeled us as "assimilated," but they have failed to indicate to what degree we have "assimilated." I maintain that we have not, nor will we yet, "assimilate" our ethnic status and our heritage as Indian people. There was an old adage which said: "You can walk my walk, but you can't talk my talk." While our lifestyles may be patterned after those of the dominant culture, there is still inherent in us all an Indianness which can never be taken from us, whether by legislation or other attempts to force us to total assimilation.

I find it quite frustrating to find myself, as well as all of our Indian people, in a position of NONRECOGNIZED. It rings of "neither white, nor black, nor red." As a child I knew discrimination in its worse form, grew up with it, lived with it, and have suffered from it during all my life because of my Indianness. All of a sudden, I'm forced into a new ball park where I have to justify and try to prove my Indianness after having been discriminated against all my life for being Indian. I ask no man, or woman, to try to understand this situation, with the exception of Indian people, as I am not sure that I can really deal with it myself.

I do, however, propose, that we, as Indian people, deal with it, and deal with it forcefully. If we have been so successfully "assimilated," then let us use what we have learned from the dominant culture to retaliate. During the 60's when anti-poverty programs were at a peak, there was a saying among us: "Make the system work for you!" I think there is a lesson for all of us which is crucial and important at this time.

An Open Letter To The Indian Community

RUTH DIAL WOODS

I am angered, and I hope that all Indian people are angered, at the leadership of North Carolina in their action. Please note that I have said, leadership of North Carolina. This action was taken by the N.C. Legislature and is the result of no one individual but a group of individuals. I hope that all of us will remember this one point and realize that our problem is with our legislators across this State, and is not confined to any one local area. It is not Robeson County's problem; it is not Halifax and Warren County's problem; it is not any one County's problem...IT IS OUR PROBLEM.

All too often we look only at the local level rather than setting a problem or an issue in its proper perspective. The proper perspective for our trauma at the present time is to begin immediately writing to all State legislators, not only our own Robeson County representatives, but to all across our State to let them know the injustice which they have done to us, but at the same time, ask their commitment and effort to rectify the situation as soon as possible. In addition, let us write and/or call our state leaders and our national leaders, including our Congressmen and Representatives. WE MUST LET THEM KNOW THAT WE KNOW WHO WE ARE AND WE INTEND TO STAY WHO WE ARE... INDIAN PEOPLE!!

This is perhaps the most crucial issue which we must confront as a people, and time is of the essence. In the effort to obtain federal recognition, it is highly probable that we will be attacked on the very issue of state recognition. It will be important for all of us to move together and collectively for both state and federal recognition. We must call upon and mobilize the resources of all of our people. Some can open doors in state government and at the national government level...others can make telephone calls...still others can write letters...we begin at home and work our way up. There can be no pro and con to this issue because "it affects ALL of us, individually and collectively."

If we fall into the divisive and diversionary tactics of character assassination, finger-pointing, back-biting and pit community against community, we cannot win, and WE MUST WIN. It is not a matter of federal programs, federal services, or federal dollars. IT IS A MATTER OF CONTINUING THE STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE AS A PEOPLE...AND AS INDIAN PEOPLE...regardless of our tribal identity and/or affiliation. Whether we are Lumbee, Tuscarora, Coharie, Waccamaw, Siouan, Haliwa, or any other identity, LET US UNITE TO SAVE WHAT OUR FOREFATHERS FOUGHT AND STRUGGLED TO PRESERVE FOR US, AND LET US WORK TO PRESERVE THE FUTURE FOR THOSE WHO WILL COME AFTER US.

It is not even important now for us to have the answers as to why all this happened, but what is important, is that we gather commitments to rectify the situation, and add our hopes and prayers that it is not too late. Bickering and fighting will not help the situation; it will only create more chaos and divisiveness, and we can ill-afford to fall into such traps at this crucial time in our struggle.

Someone made the statement

PEMBROKE HIGH BASEBALL SCHEDULE

MARCH 10	Fri.	Scotland	Laurinburg	4:00
14	Tue.	Lumberton	Femreke	4:00
17	Fri.	West Columbia	Femreke	4:00
18	Sat.	Hallsboro	Hallsboro	2:00
21	Tue.	East Bladen	Elizabethtown	4:00
24	Fri.	Fairmont	Femreke	4:00
27-31		Robeson County Easter Tournament	Lumberton	
APRIL 4	Sat.	Whiteville	Femreke State	7:30
7	Fri.	West Brunswick	Shalotte	7:30
11	Tue.	West Columbia	Serre Gordo	7:30
14	Fri.	East Bladen	Femreke State	7:30
18	Tue.	Fairmont	Fairmont	7:30
20	Thu.	Whiteville	Whiteville	7:30
22	Sat.	Lumberton	Lumberton	7:30
25	Tue.	West Brunswick	Femreke State	7:30
28	Fri.	West Columbia	Femreke State	7:30
29	Sat.	Scotland	Femreke State	7:30
MAY 2	Tue.	East Bladen	Elizabethtown	7:30
5	Fri.	Fairmont	Femreke State	7:30
9	Tue.	Whiteville	Femreke State	7:30
12	Fri.	West Brunswick	Shalotte	7:30

Head Coach: Bruce Child
Manager: Frank Child
Sponsor: 50-5000
Principal: Dr. E. B. Thompson
Phone: 50-5000
Athletic Director: John W. Sampson
Phone: 50-5000

ACCORDING TO SCRIPTURE

EVANGELIST TED BROOKS

THE BLESSEDNESS OF BROTHERLY LOVE

Beginning this past Sunday, March 12-14, the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association held its evangelism conference. The Association had different speakers and if you didn't come out you missed a wonderful service. Some of the finest preaching was heard. I believe all those who attended can say as David said in Ps. 133:1 "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity." Verse 1 "It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard that went down to the skirts of his garments like the dew of hermon, and like the dew that descended upon the Mountain of Zion, for these the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for ever more."

Brothers, when you miss this kind of service you miss something. Two messages

were preached each night. Sunday night, Rev. Sherman Brooks and Rev. Roosevelt L. Homes of Raeford, NC preached. Monday night speakers were Rev. Chesley McNeill and Rev. Manford Locklear. Speakers Tuesday night were Rev. Wade Locklear and Rev. Robert M. Tenery of Morganton, NC. When these men of our Lord Jesus preached, Brothers, like David said, the spirit fell like dew falling from the Mountain of Zion. For me to read this Psalm of David, how pleasant it is, Brethren, to dwell together in unity. If Jesus permits and tarries, I am looking forward to another evangelism Conference.

Don't forget the 4th Sunday night of this month, Rev. Mike Cummings of Clinton, NC and Rev. Jimmy Strickland of Pembroke will be in revival at Rev. Johnny Chavis' church at Maxton, the Sycamore Baptist Church.

Yours in Christ,

Up From Dust & Darkness By Lew Barton, 3rd Century Artist

SOME HOMELY, HOMESPUN PRAYERS OF MINE

Oh, Lord, help me not to judge or hate or become vindictive, remembering that there are other kinds of blindness in this world other than physical blindness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, Lord, when I consider what You must be compelled to look down upon every day of your eternal life, and yet You go right on loving and forgiving and extending mercy, who am I to get all broken-up about the wrongs the ignorant commit against me? In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, Lord, Our God, you taught us to be persistent in prayer, mentioning the poor widow who cried out to the unjust judge so long he became weary with her continual beseeching him and granted her request just to get a little peace and quiet. And Your implication seems to be, if an UNJUST judge could be moved to act in such a manner, how much more likely is it that the Just Judge of the Whole Universe will hear and answer the crying of His own beloved people! I thank You for that bit of knowledge in Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, God, Our Father, how marvelous it is that even a sinner such as I has access to Your Holy Throne, just by coming to You in the name of Another, the Almighty-Worthy-One, the Son of God, Himself! I thank You for this altogether in Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, God, I am weak and weary, and I am tired of fighting a losing battle with the enemy of my soul whose highest ambition is to separate me and others like me from Your Glorious Presence forever. Rebuke him. I pray You, in Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, Lord, You have commanded us to love, even as You love-not just our friends and relatives but our enemies, bent upon our destruction, as well. Help me to accomplish this impossible feat-impossible apart from Your help. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, God, the hour is late. I am tired. I am weary and I need my rest, else how may I be sufficient for tomorrow? Turn off my over-active mind. I pray You, and let me rest serene in the security of the Almighty. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Look at those people, Lord, evidently concerned only with that which makes them happy and evidently uncaring about that which makes others happy. They seem to be bent upon fulfilling their own selfish needs, no matter who else such fulfillment would make unhappy! Open their eyes to reality, Lord, and make them to understand that they cannot be truly happy at the expense of anybody else's happiness. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, make my life fruitful. Make me to hear the singing of the birds on more in my own time. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, I thank You that You are not like people-although people are somewhat like You. Because if You were like some people, Lord, I wouldn't stand the slightest chance of escaping Hell. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, as someone has said, there is so much good in the worst of us and so much bad in the best of us, I dare not judge anyone except myself. And I don't even do that well. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God, I thank You for the Davids-the Thomases, the Peters-and all the other sinners mentioned in the Bible. Because they found restoration and grace in Your sight, I am encouraged about my own shortcomings. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Faith, You have taught us, Lord, has the power to move mountains. With all that power available to us, please grant that we don't believe in the wrong direction-and utterly destroy ourselves! In Jesus' name. Amen.

In the end, a lot of people are going to be lost. Lord-lost because they think eternal life is a reward rather than a gift. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, God, knowing my sins are under the blood of Jesus, I am not afraid to face You on that Last Great Day. Please help me not to be ashamed to face You, though. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Lord, You once promised that when my enemies came upon me like a storm, You would raise up a standard against them. Thank You for doing just that. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, Jesus, You Who taught us how to pray "forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us," it's comforting to know that you were giving those instructions to Your Own disciples. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Oh, Lord, I do pray for my enemies-just as You commanded. But it sure isn't easy. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Happy Birthday!

A birthday party was held for Michael Heath Flanagan Saturday, March 11, 1978. He was one year old. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael Flanagan of Maxton. He is the maternal grandson of Mr. and Mrs. Belton McMillan, Sr. of Maxton and the paternal grandson of Mrs. Magnolia Flanagan.

The guests were served cake, cookies, potato chips and ice cream. He received a German Shepherd puppy, a

musical rocker, a toy chest, a talking Mickey, a toy pony, a toy barn and animals and clothes. His guests were his cousins Mary Jean, Monika, Candita McMillan and April and Dawn Locklear of Maxton; Mr. and Mrs. Belton McMillan Jr.; Mr. and Mrs. James Flanagan; Mrs. Jeannie Dale Thompson; Todd Flanagan; Barbara and Harry Lee McMillan of Charlotte; also Sheila, Audrey and Alexander Revilla of Pembroke. See Photo Page 6

Easter

JUST A HOP-AWAY

STEP INTO
SPRING
AT EASTER!

LADIES' SHOP

- NEW EASTER DRESSES Ladies & Girls
- NEW EASTER BONNETS
- SPRING SHOES & BAGS TO MATCH

MEN'S SHOP

- NEW SPRING SUITS
- DRESS SLACKS
- NEW TENNIS WEAR & WARM-UPS
- NATURE KNIT SPORT SHIRTS

PATES SUPPLY COMPANY

IN PEMBROKE