



**Blue Ridge Electric
Membership Corporation**

Caller Service 112
Lenoir, N. C. 28645
Telephone: (704) 758-2383

August 17, 1990

Honorable David H. Diamont
Post Office Box 784
Pilot Mountain, NC 27041

Dear Representative Diamont:

Thank you for accepting our invitation to speak at our annual Joint AWARE Committee meeting on Thursday, October 18, 1990. The Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corporation (BREMCO) is pleased to host this event and have you as our speaker. The meeting will be held at Greenfield restaurant in West Jefferson, North Carolina.

The topic we would like for you to address is "Education and Rural Development Issues in North Carolina--Meeting Current and Future Needs." Your leadership in the House Appropriations Committee and other bills this past session was significant, and we think is worthy of discussion. Our audience is very concerned about these two important issues, and we believe your thoughts and views on these topics would be stimulating. However, if you wish to address a different subject or prefer another title we would be glad to comply. A draft of our program of the evening is included.

To give you a better sense of our region, I prepared a briefing paper on the four counties in the BREMCO service area. I have also included a copy of our 1989 Annual Report.

Two years ago we had 100 people attend the AWARE meeting. Bob Bergland, executive vice president of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, spoke to the group about the role of rural electric cooperatives in economic development. We had good local media coverage and Greenfield restaurant provided an excellent meal.

We appreciate your participation in this event and look forward to hearing your remarks. Please let me know if we can do anything to assist your travel plans or other needs.

Sincerely,

Brian Crutchfield, Manager
Economic and Community Development

BC/r1

Enclosures

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

240720949 DIAMONT DAVID H

073190

AMT. OF CHECK ▶

110524

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	EARNINGS	YEAR-TO-DATE	DESCRIPTION	TAXES/DED.	YEAR-TO-DATE
SALARY	17333	92700	648900	FEDERAL TAX	7376	51632
EXP. ALLOW.		46500	325500	FICA TAX	5927	41488
SUBSISTENCE			623700	NC STATE TAX	149	1043
TRAVEL-ELEC			112320	HEALTH INS	15224	106568

*Legislative pay
Aug 1990*

EARNINGS	TAXES	DEDUCTIONS	NET PAY
139200	13452	15224	= 110524
1710420	94163	106568	= 1509689

STATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND DEDUCTIONS • RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

PAY RATE - 927.0000

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY - RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA

240720949 DIAMONT DAVID H

072890

AMT. OF CHECK ▶

16200

DESCRIPTION	HOURS	EARNINGS	YEAR-TO-DATE	DESCRIPTION	TAXES/DED.	YEAR-TO-DATE
SALARY			648900	FEDERAL TAX		51632
EXP. ALLOW.			325500	FICA TAX		41488
SUBSISTENCE		16200	639900	NC STATE TAX		1043
TRAVEL-ELEC			112320	HEALTH INS		106568

EARNINGS	TAXES	DEDUCTIONS	NET PAY
16200			= 16200
1726620	94163	106568	= 1525889

STATEMENT OF EARNINGS AND DEDUCTIONS • RETAIN FOR YOUR RECORDS

PAY RATE - 927.0000

STOKES COUNTY DEMOCRATIC SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Aug. 20

Dear Women - Manchester 6:30
Picnic Stokes Danbury

- Sept. 6, 1990 Fund raiser. South Stokes High School
6:30 p.m.
- Sept. 15, 1990 Stokes County Fair, Democrat Booth
Open and registration every night.
- Sept. 22, 1990 Stokes Stomp - Parade 10:00 A.M. Until
- Sept. 23, 1990 Danbury Library Dedication - Congressman
Steve Neal speaker.
- Sept. 29, 1990 Stokes Democratic Rally Western Stokes
County, location and time pending
- Oct. 6, 1990 Voters League Rally, Walnut Cove Jr.
High, 5:00 P.M.
- Oct. 13, 1990 Democratic Rally - sponsored by Sandy
Ridge, Mitchell Lawsonville, Pine Hall
Freeman precincts. East Stokes Community
Building-intersection Highway 772 and K Fork
Road.
- Oct. 20, 1990 Stokes Democratic Rally - The traditional
fish fry at the intersection of 8 and 89,
3:00 p.m. until. Special guest.
- Oct. 27, 1990 Reception Francisco Fire Dept. 3:30 -
6:00 p.m. Sponsored by Frans, Francisco,
Reynolds and Flynty Knoll.
- Nov. 3, 1990 Young Democrat Parade beginning at _____
and touring county ending at court house,
with rally, chicken stew, singing, dancing
and plenty of country music.
- Nov. 6, 1990 Election. Everyone and their neighbor vote
Democratic.

John W. Burwell
Chairman

Needs of children discussed

Legislature must do more, institute says

By **BILL KRUEGER**

Staff writer

Advocates for children gave the General Assembly credit Tuesday for taking important steps to combat North Carolina's high infant mortality rate and to treat and educate handicapped children, but they said much more attention must be paid to the state's children.

Dr. Carolyn T. Cobb, chairman of the N.C. Child Advocacy Institute, said legislators did well in a tight budget year to find funds to address the infant mortality rate and preschool education programs for the handicapped.

But, speaking at a news conference in Raleigh, she said money was still needed for subsidized child care, for efforts to combat child abuse, for programs for emotionally disturbed children, and for public education.

Using a loaf of bread to illustrate her point, Dr. Cobb said that North Carolina children were being short-changed.

"Overall, in a tight budget year, with no action to raise taxes, the children of North Carolina were an important priority," she said, noting that only the state's crowded prisons got more new money this year from legislators.

"But once again, the children got only half a loaf," she said. "That has been true for the past five years. Half a loaf is better than none, as the saying goes. But it still is only half a loaf."

"When you get only half a loaf for five years in a row, as we have, the result for children is chronic fiscal malnutrition."

House Appropriations Chairman David H. Diamont, a leader of the effort to provide more money to combat infant mortality, said the legislature had taken some important steps on the issue. But, he said, lawmakers must be willing to sustain those efforts and not be satisfied with just changing



David H. Diamont

North Carolina's ranking as the state with the highest infant mortality rate.

"North Carolina needs to strive to be better than the national average, not just get off the bottom," Mr. Diamont, a Surry County Democrat, said during the news conference.

Dr. Cobb, director of the division of development at the state Department of Public Instruction, said that several other areas affecting children would need to be addressed in 1991: the almost 15,000 children on waiting lists for subsidized day care; a dramatic rise in reports of child abuse; and a lack of funding for plans to provide mental health services for children.

"We must have more money for children's services in our state, and it probably will require a tax increase," she said.

Also Tuesday, House Speaker Josephus L. Mavretic, D-Edgecombe, called for increased funding for screening and treatment of PKU disease, a condition found in newborn children that can result in brain damage.

North Carolina's rate for the disease surpassed the national average this year, Mr. Mavretic said.

"We are not doing everything that we can do and that we should do to help screen and treat newborn babies in North Carolina for PKU," he said in a statement. "Once again, we have another example where the state could be preventive rather than prescriptive and where we could choose to save lives and money."

JAMES B. HUNT, JR.

8-15-90

David,
This is very good.
What you did on these
matters in the Leg. — and
the news conference about them.
(P.S. I wish you the very best. ♥.)



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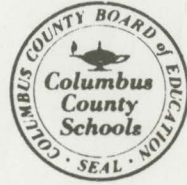
The Honorable David Diamont
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, N.C. 27041

BOARD OF EDUCATION

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COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

POST OFFICE BOX 729
WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28472
919-642-5168



ADMINISTRATION

R. MITCHEL TYLER
Superintendent
JAMES C. DAVIS
THOMAS A. NANCE
DAN STRICKLAND
Assistant Superintendents

August 30, 1990

Representative David Diamont
Post Office Box 784
Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27401

Dear Representative Diamont:

Our preschool inservice activities for the 1990-91 school year were an outstanding success. A highlight of these activities was the legislative update and other comments made by you at our system-level meeting of the more than seven hundred (700) educators employed in the Columbus County School System. Our teachers were pleased with the information you shared regarding salary increases and other related matters for the coming year.

We are pleased that we were able to schedule you in Columbus County and appreciate your help in making our system-level meeting a success.

Again, many thanks.

Sincerely,

R. Mitchel Tyler
Superintendent



COLUMBUS COUNTY SCHOOLS

POST OFFICE BOX 729
WHITEVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28472

Representative David Diamont
PO Box 784
Pilot Mountain, NC 27401



First Round-Up

Norris Gore Hunt

Marvella Dorman

The gathering of Columbus County Schools teachers, administrators, staff and guests Monday at Williams Township looked similar to a convention with a placard designating areas for the 18 schools. The keynote speaker for the term's first system-wide meeting was Dr. Jay M. Robinson (left), vice president for public affairs of UNC. Other speakers (shown seated l-r) were Rep. David Diamont, D-Pilot Mountain, chairman of the House Appropriations Committee who

delivered a 1989 legislative report; Rep. Leo Mercer, D-Chadbourn; Teacher of the Year Norris Hunt and the unit's NCAE President Marvella Dorman. Other speakers presented by Supt. R. Mitchel Tyler were Sen. R.C. Soles Jr., D-Tabor City; County Commissioner chairman Giles E. "Buddy" Byrd and Board of Education vice chairman Richard Dameron. Entertainment was by Michele Halgler accompanied by Becky Melvin. Classes will start Tuesday.

Social Service Age

(Continued from Page 1)

call 24 hours a day.

"I hadn't even sat down," Mrs. Dickens said, when a pastor came in with a homeless woman his church had sheltered the previous night in a motel. "He explained that she was trying to get back home to her people in another state and asked if we could help. We ultimately agreed to pay for a bus ticket, and the preacher said he would give her a ride to the bus station in Fayetteville."

Arriving soon after was a young couple who said they'd been sleeping in a car since his job ended when the company closed, owing him a month's wages. They were evicted from their apartment because they had no rent money. "We asked them to come back later," as time was needed to check the authenticity of their need.

A church contacted the office reporting that their emergency committee had rented a room for a woman who was job hunting and had been unsuccessful so far. Could the Red Cross pay her rent for a night because it looked like she had a good work prospect? "We did, and she is now gainfully employed," Mrs. Dickens reported.

Late in the day a mother and two children arrived. "They had been deserted by the man of the house, the woman had undergone emergency surgery and now faced dispossession from the trailer because the payment was \$290 in arrears.

"The out-of-county finance company holding the mortgage was contacted by us to confirm the amount of back payment due and at first claimed \$444," Mrs. Dickens said, "but we urged a closer check and they confirmed that the amount was really \$290. It was paid, the woman returned to work and is now supporting herself and the children."

None of the requests heard by Mrs. Dickens that day were within the usual scope of Red Cross services "but agencies such as Social Services and Four County Com-

Debbie Sievers, a television news person. They are parents of Ashley, 4, and David James, 6 months.

Dr. Robinson and his wife, the former Elizabeth Holland, a registered nurse, have a daughter who is a teacher in Dade County (Fla.) Schools and a son who works in the Everglades National Park in Homestead, Fla.

One who knows Robinson well said frankness is one of his outstanding characteristics. Once he told an interviewer, "You've got to be totally honest with people. They'll forgive you for a mistake, if you don't make too many, but they don't want you misleading them."

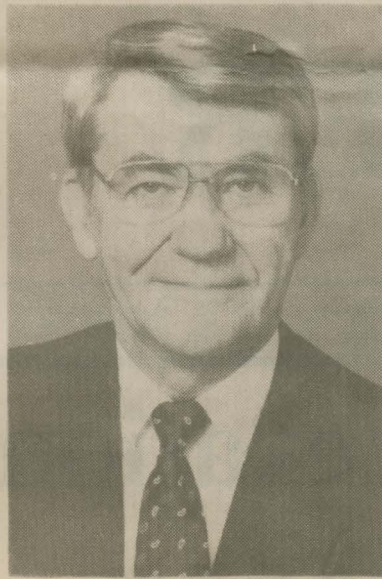
The native of Bandana, a small mining town between Boone and Asheville, is also known as a listener about whom a colleague said: "He has an unusual skill of dealing with the diversity of a community. But he hangs tough once a decision is made."

Even his UNC secretary admits her boss is shrewd "even while he's giving you a warm smile and a big handshake."

She said Robinson enjoys fishing and woodworking. "I believe he'll be enjoyed by his Columbus County audience because he's a great story teller," she added.

Students of Columbus County Schools will report Tuesday for the beginning of the term.

Clarification



Dr. Jay M. Robinson



David Diamont

UNC's Robinson

(Continued from Page 1)

ell County served as superintendent of Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Cabarrus County Schools prior to joining the UNC system. He began his career as a math teacher/coach, was promoted to principal, then rose from assistant superintendent to superintendent.

Robinson majored in mathematics and physical education at Appalachian State University, did graduate work in math at East Tennessee State University, earned a master's in school administration at UNC-CH, then got an advanced certificate in school administration and also completed his doctorate at Duke.

Having been a physical education coach is one thing Dr. Robinson has in common with David Hunter Diamont, who will also be on the program Monday to report on actions of the 1990 General Assembly affecting education.

Diamont is serving his eighth term in the House and is the only public school teacher among its membership. A resident of Pilot Mountain, Diamont was head coach at East Surry High School until he resigned due to increased responsibility in Raleigh but remained in the school teaching economics and government.

R. Mitchel Tyler, superintendent, said Diamont was invited to make a legislative report to the Williams Township assembly because "Rep. Diamont is probably best qualified to advise us on what to expect in finances and programs from the state because he is chairman of the House Appropriations Committee."

Diamont is a former resident and still has many friends in Tabor City where his father once coached in the high school when David was in the primary grades. School board member Richard Dameron was one of his classmates and former legislator Richard Wright was a grade higher.

Coach and Mrs. Dave Diamont became parents of twin sons Ronnie and Donnie while living in Tabor City. The senior Diamonts are deceased but the three sons and their families continue to visit Tabor City, usually while en route to from Myrtle Beach, S.C., Wright said.

Wright and Diamont continued their friendship through Wake Forest University and after both were elected to the House in 1974.

Diamont is married to the former

page 1
UNC's Robinson Addresses County School Personnel

By WRAY THOMPSON

"I came from as far back in the sticks as you can get," said Dr. Jay Milton Robinson in a newspaper interview headlined, "Mountain Man Blazes Trail in Public Education."

Robinson, vice president for public affairs at UNC-CH, will speak at the system-wide opening meeting Monday of Columbus County Schools.

The 10 a.m. assembly will be attended by approximately 500 teachers, 200 administrators and staff support personnel "along with other officials interested in public education," the superintendent announced.

Remarks will be made by State Sen. R.C. Soles Jr. of Tabor City and Rep. Leo Mercer of Chadbourne; Giles E. "Buddy" Byrd and Raymond Shaw, chairmen of the boards of commissioners and education; Columbus County Teacher of the Year Norris Hunt; and Columbus County NCEA unit president Marvella Dorman.

Dr. Robinson, a native of Mitchell
(Continued on Page 2)

My favorite part

McGOUGAN, WRIGHT AND WORLEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CORNER 4TH AND LEWIS STREET

TABOR CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28463

D. F. McGOUGAN, JR.
O. RICHARD WRIGHT, JR.
DENNIS T. WORLEY
WILLIS H. HARPER, JR.

August 31, 1990

POST OFFICE BOX 457
TELEPHONE (919) 653-3682
(919) 653-2082
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The Honorable David Hunter Diamont
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27041

Dear David:

My teacher friends and Mitchell Tyler have indicated that they very much enjoyed your remarks. You got good reviews! I hope that your political travels on that day were as successful.

Enclosed for your amusement, is the story which appeared in The News Reporter on Thursday, August 23, 1990, just a few days before your appearance. Ray Thompson always has some trouble with the facts and when he called to interview me, I took an unusual amount of time slowly and carefully answering his questions. As you see, he made several mistakes but the most amusing is his statement that "Wright and Diamont continued their friendship through Wake Forest University and after both were elected to the House in 1974." My Carolina friends find that a bit of interesting and hidden history about me.

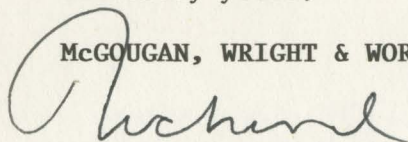
Also enclosed, please find a picture which appeared in The News Reporter on August 30, 1990.

Good luck to you and please stay in touch. I regret that you did not get down to our place on Sunday evening. We were around all afternoon either at the house or the office. When we left the house, we had posted a notice on the front door and the back door as to where we were and when we would be back.

On a sad note, our mutual friend, Billy Dorman, who so much enjoyed seeing you at the meeting, suddenly died on Friday morning, August 31, at home. He had been at school all day on August 30 and although had had heart trouble for many years, seemed in good health and spirits. His wife, Marvella, teaches at Williams and Billy had the DECA program at Tabor. In the August 30 picture, the lady on the right is Marvella and the lady next to her is Norris Gore Hunt who was in the Methodist Church when you were and who was 2 grades above you. Norris had an older brother named "Scooty" because he used to scoot around town in an early version of a gold cart delivering groceries from the store of his dad, Lewis Gore.

Sincerely yours,

McGOUGAN, WRIGHT & WORLEY



O. Richard Wright, Jr.

ORWjr:cc

P.S. David: I just spoke to Marvella and during the conversation she mentioned that she and Billy had invited you to lunch on Tuesday.

Sincerely R.

McGOUGAN, WRIGHT AND WORLEY

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

CORNER 4TH AND LEWIS STREET

POST OFFICE BOX 457

TABOR CITY, NORTH CAROLINA 28463



The Honorable David Hunter Diamont
P.O. Box 784
Pilot Mountain, North Carolina 27041

