

Editorial And Opinion Page

Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Again, let's remember to pray for all families who have recently lost loved ones, along with many who are STILL struggling to accept what none of us want to even THINK about having to give up, ahead of time.

So many collisions in this area in recent months! One of the last to lose a life in a collision was Harmon Hunt's wife, Tina. Harmon is the brother of Branch St UMC pastor, Harold Hunt. Their mother, Jamie Hunt, is one of the daughters of "Miss Lillie" Jacobs, my "second mother" during the sixties, and the brother of Ardell Jacobs, who recently died. So often there is a series of deaths in the same family! I wonder if that is even harder to handle than dealing with two or more deaths at the same time. (I apologize for mis-spelling "Miss Lillie's" name last time).

Also the family of "Miss Sallie" Bullard, whose daughters, Geraldine and Betty, I got acquainted with my first year of living and working in the Pembroke area.

And Don Blue, a younger brother of "Mr. Adolph" Blue. I remember the morning (December 1, 1956) I hurt my back reaching for a rug in the closet to put over my landlady's washer. I was living in Mrs. Stubbs' apartment house near the railroad track. Three of us, including Don, were supposed to take a trip to Chapel Hill for a student meeting there. Because of my aching back, I had to call and explain that we would not be able to go. That day, after taking Don home, I talked with his next-door neighbor, a senior at PSC, Leon

Oxendine who was on the front porch fixing the screen door. Unlike his very proper serious mood during our first conversation in the small college library, Leon was in one of his characteristic relaxed, joking modes, teasing me about my back, making it sound like I was just pretending. (I'll always recall those first two VERY different occasions. It was like talking to two separate people.) Later I learned that Leon had alot of different facets to his personality.

Also, the family of Charles Smith, one of the nurses who cared for Bryon Locklear after he became paralyzed.

Clyde Hatcher's mother had also passed away. In 1971 Clyde (as an undergraduate) and I (as a forty-something class member) were both studying "new" math at PSU, planning to teach. All the younger students in the class seemed to "get" everything just fine. But Libby Stubbs (the granddaughter-in-law of my former landlady) and I were often in a total state of confusion. (Not the "arithmetic" we grew up with!) Just recently I learned that Libby is also gone! Let's remember her husband "Buck" and family along with others, including the family of Erwin Jacobs, whose columns I have enjoyed reading.

I have also been forgetting to mention that Melvin Oxendine's father died shortly after his wife did. Another family dealing with a double burden!

I'm so glad we have a Creator God who understands and is just waiting to wrap us in His LOVE!

The Church at the Forks

by Erwin Jacobs

Hello folks. It's me again. I have not written much about the church lately as I have been Engressed in many different activities here in Robeson County. Have you noticed on Highway 74 from the Maxton Bypass to I-95 I'll let you in on a secret the reflectors new point jobs that have been installed? You can thank me. I initiated these projects. Also the crack down on speeders also road rage. Where did these people get their license from? God was on the scene several weeks ago in front of West Robeson United Methodist (Harpers Ferry Road) I was shocked as I traveled back to Maxton that morning to see the huge 18 wheeler jackknifed in the center of 74. A young lady had hit it head on (she was entering Hwy 74 from Harpers Ferry Road) As I passed by on the shoulders of the road noone could have convinced me she was not dead (I learned the next day she had only gotten bruised from the impact sitting in the yard at West Robeson Church. Unfortunately 2 people near lotties was not so fortunate. They perished in their car after waving in and out of traffic hitting a local man and wife on their way to work. Please I urge you to be alert and obey the traffic laws.

On Friday afternoon the church decended on the Myrtle Beach, SC shores for a 2 nights stay at the Land Mark Motel or Hotel. Many including myself enjoyed the many pools and saunas inside the complex. It was therapy to my right knee which was damage while I was visiting my Navy buddy at his ranch in Artesia,

New Mexico. I ask your prayers for him, it is very hard on his family. His brain was damaged during an operation in Roswell, New Mexico for prostate cancer. I am so glad God saw fit for me to visit and help care for him over a period of 2 weeks. I got to visit the Space Center and walked on the White Sands at the Stealth Bomber providing grounds before my return to NC so I could help out in the Lumbee voting here in Maxton.

At the beach I saw a beautiful sun rise Saturday morning as I walked on the beach front. Saw alot of birds diving where fish was feeding heading north near the shores. We had a very exciting evening at Dolly Parton's Dixie Stampede. I got to talk to Mr. Greg Anderson from Australia and pat his stallion Star Struck in the pre-show in the Dixie Bell Saloon as he came around greeting everyone. I liked the chickens and little pigs racing, but the Nativity Scene and Christmas Scenes were well received by everyone. The food was good as usual having to use your hands to consume everything from soup to dessert. No utensils are given so it's greasy finger licking good little chickens, bar-b-que'd pork, hot biscuit, corn on the cob, potato. All the beverage you can afford to drink without up setting your kidneys. I had the pleasure the 8th to accompany Mayor Lillie McKoy and 21 other senior citizens to see the rockets and Christmas show at the palace theatre. Their show was breath taking especially the nativity part and the toy soldier march. That trip was

provided by WBTW Channel 13 and their affiliate radio station. We thank you for your care, we enjoyed a tour on Mr. Briggs new charter bus. Watched the mouse hunt movie and enjoyed gospel music afterwards there and back.

The church raised money for the trip 17th through 19th. We had a very heart warming service in the A. Conference Room at 10 am, Sunday. Many had to leave early to attend their aunt's funeral from Red Springs, Mrs. Jacobs Hardin who passed away last week. We boast the only church in the near by surrounding area to have a food pantry. Enjoy your blessed holidays and remember to tell someone about Jesus and His Saving Power.

AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

I'll miss "Mister Ralph"

Even though we were close in age (I am 59, "Mister Ralph" 66), I always referred to Ralph Hunt as "Mister Ralph." I suppose it was the respect I felt for him shining through.

I went to his funeral Monday (Nov. 20) at New Bethel Methodist Holiness Church in Rowland and listened intently as he was eulogized by Rev. James Harold Woods and Rev. Grafton Chavis. And Sheriff Glenn Maynor gave a few remarks about his mentor, and mine, "Mister Ralph." I agreed with every remark, and every song and prayer. Many dignitaries turned out, but most of us there were ordinary working folk who get up every morning and work for a living. "Mister Ralph" WAS OUR HERO, OUR FRIEND, OUR MENTOR. His silences spoke volumes to us because he never said anything until it was time. His words were pregnant with meaning when he did deign to speak after thoughtful deliberation. And he was usually on the mark, including calling elections complete with estimated figures. He was uncanny about prognosticating elections, and reading the minds and intent of his many friends, and his few enemies.

Ralph Hunt and I, along with Tim Brayboy and many former players, coaches and fans, are involved in remembering Indian basketball as we practiced it between 1939 - 1967 when the schools were foolishly segregated. In spite of that, many of us remember those days with fondness, and we have already organized, had our first annual banquet, and am now writing a book about that great sports and social phenomenon in our camp -- Indian basketball. "Mister Ralph" was the first chairman of our board of directors. I suspect he would be pleased if, in lieu of flowers, you decided to make a contribution to the Indian Basketball Alumni Association, P.O. Box 362, Pembroke, North Carolina 28372. Plans will be announced soon for our second annual banquet, and plans for the future ... including the anticipated publication of the "about 80%" completed book.

As a general thing, people marry most happily with their own kind. The trouble lies in the fact that people usually marry at an age when they do not really know what their own kind is.

—Robertson Davies

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Lancome at www.lancome.com.
The Spessa CD-RW line of drives at www.sony.com/spessa.
Mercata.com is found at www.mercata.com.
AccessLife.com is found at www.accesslife.com.
Prove it is found at www.DLTtape.com/Provelt.
BMW's enhanced "Virtual Center" website is at www.bmwusa.com.
The Produce for Better Health Foundation at <http://www.aboutproduce.com>.

Thank You

FirstHealth of the Carolinas would like to extend a warm thank you to everyone who helped to make our Grand Opening Fall Festival a success.

We are excited to be part of your community and look forward to providing quality health care and wellness to you and your family.

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