

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

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

AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



RTI Initiates Illiteracy Effort

and Says "Thanks"

Dear Mr. Barton:

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you and the agency you represent for your efforts in assisting Robeson Technical Institute with the proposal to secure funds to offer a Comprehensive Project in Functional Literacy Education for Robeson County citizens.

will indicate growth of the people we serve, and activities that will continue to be funded to improve our high poverty rate.

Please remember, everyone's help will continue to be needed in this effort to improve the education of our adults. Even though Robeson Technical Institute received the funding, we view the program as one in which all citizens must take part to make the advances that we all hope to accomplish.

Thanks again for your expressions of concern. Visit us when you can.

Sincerely, Fred Williams, Vice-President for Educational Services

Eugene Mercer, Director of Basic Education, ROBESON TECHNICAL INSTITUTE

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES OXENDINE

CHARLES OXENDINE Born June 7, 1940 Died Nov. 8, 1972

won't shed no more tears. I won't say good-bye no more. But it will be peace forever more. Just knowing you are by my side and hearing God say "well done."

Your wife, Fannie Oxendine Children: Linda, Ginger, Belinda, Nelson & Jimmy

Charles, we missed you, although five years have passed and the children are almost grown now. We loved you very much, but you see, God loves you most. Many times we shed tears because we love and miss you. But darling when we meet just inside of that beautiful gate, I



Earl Hughes Oxendine, principal of Hoke County High School.

Bruce Barton photo

Oxendine, also a member of the state board of education and a member of the advisory council on Indian education, is shown at his desk.

Thanks To All Those Who Supported and Voted For Me.

Larry T. Brooks, Pembroke Councilman

Veteran's Day Speaker Confirmed

Mr. Simeon Oxendine, Chairman, Pembroke Veterans Day Celebration:

Dear Mr. Oxendine:

This letter confirms your request for Colonel Hubert M. Leonard, Deputy Adjutant General, North Carolina Army

National Guard, to be the principal speaker during your Veterans Day Celebration on November 11 in Pembroke.

I am enclosing a biographical sketch on Col. Leonard for your use as you desire.

Thank you for remembering the

North Carolina National Guard on an occasion such as Veterans Day, and please don't hesitate to call on us in the future when "your" Guard may be of assistance.

Sincerely, Earl B. Hale, Colonel, GS, NCARNG, Chief of Staff

Fulfillment in Hoke County Schools

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Earlier this year when Hoke County Superintendent of Schools, Raz Autry, decided to move the then principal of Hoke County High, he called upon Oxendine. Says Oxendine, "I was happy at Upchurch Junior High School. I got along well with the students, parents, and teachers, but I was not afraid of the challenge. Probably I would have rather remained where I was but one must be ready to accept challenges in life and this was no exception. I decided that I would, like I have done at every school I have been assigned to, do the very best I am capable of doing...this is usually sufficient. Besides," he added, "I have had most of these students at one time or another since they began elementary school. I know them and they know me. That helps tremendously. I have never really had a student to challenge my authority as principal. That has helped the most in making the transition from junior high to the high school level."

Oxendine says, "I was influenced most by the late Mrs. Ruby C. Dial and Joe Sampson who is now a principal in Cleveland, Ohio. Both were conscientious and concerned."

Oxendine also respects Brantley Blue, a member of the U.S. Indian Claims Commission in Washington and Jim Oxendine, an attorney in Georgia and Chairman of the Georgia Commission on Indian Affairs. "I guess I admire these people so much because they left Robeson County and made their own way." He also professes admiration and respect for Lonnie Revels, Jr. and John Robert Jones, "for their accomplishments."

Oxendine, who lived in Michigan and taught for nine years before returning to North Carolina, lives in Raeford with his wife, the former Betty Hammonds. They are the proud parents of five children. One daughter is a junior at the University of North Carolina in Chapel Hill; two daughters are a senior and sophomore at Hoke High respectively; a son is an eighth grader and they also have a daughter who is in the third grade.

Oxendine says, "I have learned a lot living in working in Hoke County. The most important lesson I have learned is that color does not have to be a deterrent. I have been judged strictly on my ability since I have been in Hoke County. I am most proud of that." Oxendine also praises the former Superintendents he has served under, W.T. Gibson and Donald Abernathy, "one of the finest men I have ever known," and the present superintendent, Raz Autry, "who has supported me fully."

Oxendine remembers his father teaching him "that a man can be whatever he wants to be in life if he is willing to work at it 100%. And that is what I try to do: give 100% all the time at whatever I am doing. When a man does that...well, things just seem to work out for the best in the end."

Oxendine is also a member of the N.C. State Board of Education. His primary interest has been getting Indians and Blacks on the many commissions named by the state board, and involving his people in the educational experience fully.

He also serves on the national Advisory Council on Indian Education.

He is supervising a pilot program at Hoke County High School closely. The pilot program offers a free lunch to any child who asks for it, no questions asked. He believes the program will eventually become a part of the total educational package in North Carolina. Hoke High offers a snack bar to give the students a choice.

Oxendine says, "I am happy doing what I am doing. I believe education is the most important thing we can give our children. I am proud to be a part of the educational experience in Hoke County."

Besides his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Oxendine, who resides near Pembroke,

PEMBROKE HARDWARE. Your Hardware & Houseware Center. Special Oster Kitchen Center \$99.00. Blender • Mixer • Grinder. Tonka Toys . 10% Off. Eureka Vacuum Cleaners. An Ideal Gift For Mom For Xmas! Pots Ceramic Interior 7 Piece Set \$39.95. \$5.00 Lay Away for Christmas!

Robeson Farm Services Honors The Late Rev. Roy Maynor



At their recent grand opening, Jim Oxendine, left, and Bill Carmical, owners of Robeson Farm Services, donated a \$25.00 check to the Indian Memorial Cottage on the Odum Home Campus in honor of the late and beloved Rev. Roy W. Maynor who was serving as construction foreman on the project at his death. Accepting the check in honor of his father was Freddie Maynor, center. (Bruce Barton photo)

Green Grove-Hilly Branch Square Dance Club wins in State Competition



The Green Grove-Hilly Branch Square Dance Club is composed of students from the 4th through the 8th grades. They do western-style dancing. Recently they participated in the Folk Festival at the State Fair. This was the third time they had entered the contest and they were state champions once and second place winners twice. They won again this year. The students who participated this year are shown above: Cheryl Sawyer; Bobbie Jacobs; Ilene Oxendine; Anita Ratley; Michael Hunt; Ricky L. Locklear; Willie Von Brooks; and Timothy Scott. The director is Mrs. Laraine Leggett. Mr. Howard D. Davis, Sr. is principal. (Bruce Barton photo)

Robeson County Board of Education Accepts Uniform School Fees Policy

The Robeson County Board of Education met Tuesday evening and approved bids for the Green Grove Media Center. They heard a report on the Exceptional Children Program from Mrs. Gladys Sawyer and set November 15, at 6:30 p.m. for the annual Advisory Council fishery.

Appearing before the board were approximately 25 parents from the Prospect community who were there in opposition to the "Policy for Collection and Exemption from Payment of Robeson County Local School Fees at Prospect School" under consideration by the board. The policy being considered contained an income schedule which would be used to exempt children in lower income families from the payment of fees. The proposed policy stated that a child who had not paid his fees and was not exempted under the income scale, could be denied extra-curricular activities at the school.

Speaking on behalf of the parents was Ms. Annie J. McGirt who voiced the parents' opposition by saying, "...May we suggest that our school be brought into compliance with what ever policy, either written or unwritten, governs the other schools in the county." She stressed their opposition to their children being singled out in a pilot program. After her presentation, the group was questioned by board members. The board then went into executive session to discuss the pending litigation. (The proposed policy came about as a result of a law suit which had been entered by a parent of a Prospect student. The suit alleged that children at Prospect School were discriminated against by denying them participation in extra-curricular activities because of nonpayment of local school fees.

After a lengthy executive session, Superintendent Purnell Swett recommended that the board reject the proposed policy and accept a county-wide policy which had been basically written during executive session.

The county-wide policy adopted by the board states that school personnel "encourage" the payment of local school fees. And that a record of how money from fees are used is kept so that the communities may become aware of the use of such monies. The policy further stated that no child would be denied participation in extra-curricular activities because of nonpayment of fees.

Mrs. Dorothy Lowry thanked the board members on behalf of the group for "the concern you've shown our children and our community." Said she, "What you've done tonight will be remembered in years to come. We sincerely thank you for your concern."

Common Sense Wins Out

Pembroke is growing up. In spite of a story appearing in the Robesonian the day before the election, seeming to wash out dirty linen in public, Pembroke has decided to elect Reggie Strickland as Mayor; and Larry Brooks, Milton Hunt, Bob Brewington, and Sam Dial, as Town Councilmen.

Ahem, someone took down the clothes line. Common sense has won out. Pembroke has spoken out decidedly against the mud slingers, the wild eyed ones.

The Carolina Indian Voice is proud of Pembroke. We wish our elected officials well. Common sense is the real winner. Now, watch Pembroke grow!