



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

10 24 77 R 79

VOLUME 7, NUMBER 48

PEMBROKE, N.C.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1979

ROBESON COUNTY

20¢ PER COPY

ROBERT OXENDINE AND REST OF THE BLUE DEVILS TAKE ON TAR HEELS IN SEASON FINALE

by Bruce Barton

DURHAM-The Duke Blue Devils have had a tough season, entering its season finale with a 2-7-1 season. They have lost their last four games.

But all that could become simply relative if the Blue Devils are able to beat Carolina in the annual, blood letting between Duke and North Carolina Saturday.

Coach Red Wilson is hoping for another good effort from Robert Oxendine, a 245-pound linesman who measures 6-3. Only a freshman, Oxendine has seen a lot of action as a member of the special team and as a hardnosed member of the goal line defense. He was one of three freshmen to make the squad.

Wilson, who knows something about Oxendine's background extolls him as a hard working member of the Blue Devils squad. Oxendine is the son of Tom "Tom Boy" Oxendine, a Lumbee Indian and spokesman for the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. His mother is a psychiatric nurse with HEW in Washington.

"Tom Boy" Oxendine was captain of the football team at Pembroke College for Indians back in the late 40s. Pembroke (now Pembroke State University) had a football team until the sport was discontinued in the early 50s.

Robert Oxendine's uncles, Ray and Joe, both were football standouts at Catawba College. Joe, one of the final four candidates for chancellor of Pembroke State university when Dr. English E. Jones retired this year, is a member of Catawba's Sports Hall of Fame for his exploits on the football field. Joe (now Dr. Joseph Oxendine) is chairman of the Health, Physical Education, Dance and Recreation Dept. at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pa. His uncle Ray is a high school principal.

Wilson coached Ricky Locklear (assistant football coach at Pembroke Senior High School) and his brother, Clint, at Elon College a few years ago, as well as Ricky Oxendine, another member of the "Lumbee Line" as a sportswriter dubbed them. All of them were line men.

Robert Oxendine's brothers, Tom, Jr. and Bill, also have had successful careers as athletes, especially at Washington-Lee High School in Arlington County, Virginia (near Washington, D.C.) where they grew up. All three reaped honors as wrestlers and football players in high school. Tom, Jr. "the eldest brother, is a member of the wrestling squad at Washington-Lee University where he is a senior. Bill is no longer an active athlete, having decided on pre-med studies as his major interest at the moment. He is a sophomore at the University of Virginia.

Robert was recently honored in his home county of Arlington as the top

football player in high school last year. He was presented his trophy at an athletic banquet by Bob Kuziel, center with the Washington Red Skins.

Reflecting on Robert Oxendine's fabulous high school athletic career and his growth as a footballer at Duke, Kuziel said he expected him to make Mike Devil fans forget about fabled Mike Curtis, another Blue Devil who graduated to the pros and made his mark as a

A Closer Look....

By Connee Brayboy

Supt. Purnell Swett

Being Chief Administrator of a school system is an awesome, complicated responsibility. It is an intricate, massive undertaking. The ramifications of the position are so vast that the person in charge has many options open to him. He can become very powerful politically and concentrate his efforts on whatever is politically expedient. Or he can devote himself to the mental development of students. If the school system happens to be the Robeson County School System, the possibilities are unlimited. The uniqueness of the educational system in Robeson County makes it almost imperative for the man at the helm to be an educator, first of all. If he is not, chances are the mostly minority students who make up the county system will continue to be oppressed, under-educated, deprived and, in general, indoctrinated to feel inferior and be robbed of that essential good self-image.

Such is the setting in which Purnell Swett finds himself today. And beginning his third year as Superintendent of the Robeson County School System, people just naturally want to know what he has done. Has the educational system improved? Is the mental development of approximately 14,600 students his major objective?

On the face of it, it appears that all Purnell Swett has accomplished has been controversy. But taking a closer look, we find that many changes have occurred under his direction.

To begin with, Robeson County now has five school systems instead of six. The merger of Maxton City Schools with the county system might have been the most educationally sound move since the elimination of double-voting. Many of us, however, are still astounded by the audacity of the action. Many of us, being conditioned and indoctrinated to be constant and virtually unchanging, will be taken aback with the vastness of merger.

Along with the merger proposal came plans for a consolidated high school. This school, West Robeson High, will be composed of Maxton, Pembroke and Prospect High Schools.

In order to construct a new high school, funds had to be made available. What does a school system do in the absence of funds? Many times they strive to pass a bond referendum. Such a referendum for construction was passed by the voters March 13, 1979 for the county school systems. The bulk of the county's share of the \$16 million bond monies will be used for the construction of West Robeson which is a part of the Maxton-Robeson Merger Plan.

-CONTINUED Page 4-

PEOPLE AND L AND THINGS... C E S

ENGLISH JONES RECEIVES AWARD

Dr. English E. Jones, former chancellor of Pembroke State University was among 15 educators honored for services to higher education by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Jones, president and chancellor of PSU for 17 years until his retirement last June was presented a distinguished service award at the San Antonio, Texas meeting.

PSU attained regional university status in 1969, became a constituent institution of the University of North Carolina system in 1972 and graduated its first master's degree candidates in 1979 under Jones' leadership.

Also honored at the association meeting were James S. Ferguson, chancellor of UNC-Greensboro, 1966-79 and Herbert Wey, chancellor of Appalachian State University, 1969-79.

HALIWAY SAPONI ARTS & CRAFTS EXHIBIT PLANNED

Haliway Saponi Arts, in conjunction with the NC Arts Council will sponsor an arts and crafts exhibit Nov. 22-24, 1979. The exhibit will be housed in the Haliway Saponi Tribal Center located on Highways 561 and 43, one mile South of Essex, NC. The exhibits will be from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. Nov. 22. A turkey shoot will also begin at 2 p.m. that same day. On Nov. 23, arts and crafts will be exhibited from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. On Nov. 24, the exhibit will be from 12 noon until 6 p.m. There will also be an auction of hand made pottery and bake goods at 7 p.m. And at 9 p.m. there will be a dance.

JAYCETTES TO RAISE FUNDS FOR BURN CENTER

The Saddlecreek Jayettes are having a fund-raising project for the North Carolina Burn Center. 11 x 14 family portraits mounted on a Deco Plaque (Wood) are being sold for \$6.95. These portraits originally sell for \$29.95 and will match any hofee decor. Four poses are taken, and more may be taken at your request. Portraits will be taken December 1, from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. and will be back for Christmas giving. If you are in need of a high quality family portrait or want something that is out of the ordinary at a low price, these portraits are your answer. Call 739-4973 for further information.

LUMBERTON JAYCETTES HOLD BAZAAR

The Lumberton Jayettes will be holding a Bazaar the day after Thanksgiving, November 23, 1979. It will be held at the Lumberton Rescue Unit Building on Roberts Avenue from 9 a.m. until. The proceeds will go to the Ronald McDonald House which is a place in Durham where members of families who have extended stays in Duke Hospital can stay in a family atmosphere.

There will be something for everyone. Homemade soup, sandwiches, cookies, cakes, coffee, drinks, et cetera will be available for anyone who wants to come by during lunch. There will be a wide variety of things to be sold such as Christmas ornaments, macrame, crocheted items, quilts, handcrafts, aprons, needlepoint, cross-stitch and many others.

The project chairmen are Denese Prevatte and Carla Huggins. For further information call 738-7971 or 739-4628 at night.

L.B. Sunday, Nov. 18, 1979



CYNTHIA GENTRY IS SELECTED
MISS PSU

Cynthia Lynn Gentry of Stedman has been chosen Miss Pembroke State University.

The freshman music education major is also the reigning North Carolina Poultry Queen and has been first runner-up in the Miss Fayetteville, Miss Wake County and Miss Spivey's Corner contests.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Gentry.

First runner-up in the Miss PSU contest held last Wednesday were Tamara Leigh Barnes of Fayetteville; second runner-up, Lisa Gaye Allen of Lumberton and third runner-up Susan Renee Watson of Laurinburg.

YES TO ROWLAND, RED SPRINGS RECOUNT; NO TO PEMBROKE

Lumberton-The Robeson County Board of Elections Tuesday night ordered a recount of votes cast in the Nov. 6 election for city council seats in both Rowland and Red Springs.

The board also turned down a request to have the Pembroke elections registrar removed from office for voting irregularities.

Board members will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday in the board office to retabulate votes in the Red Springs and Rowland elections.

In the Pembroke election, the three member board found no cause to conduct a hearing for the removal of Mable Oxendine, the Pembroke registrar.

Pembroke's Mayor Reggie Strickland has filed charges that Mrs. Oxendine conducted an improper polling place.

In his complaint, Strickland said Mrs. Oxendine had asked local residents to support his opponent in the elections.

Mrs. Oxendine said she did not remember making the statements.

Other complaints from Strickland included charges that one vote was cast by a non-resident and another under the name of a deceased voter.

Board members said neither incident was cause for removal.

***** True Story With A Happy Ending *****

by Lew Barton

Knight of Mark Twain

GOD, THE POOR AND THE PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED WIN AN IMPORTANT BOUT AGAINST C P & L

The time is the latter part of 1979. In the Maxton, NC office of the Carolina Power and Light Company, a blind man, assisted by a friend, approaches the counter.

"You cut off my power," the blind man accuses. "It's Friday afternoon. You won't be open again until Monday. By that time, the food in my freezer will be rotten. I won't be able to cook or stay warm. And I have only \$23 in my pocket. Will you apply the \$23 to my account until Monday? I'll pay the balance when the banks open."

"Sorry," says the snippety girl behind the counter. "We can't accept partial payments."

"But what am I gonna do?" wails the blind man.

"That's your problem, mister," snaps Miss Snippity.

"But I received no bill! I didn't realize..."

"Your problem, too, mister. We sent the bill."

"What'll it take to get the lights back on now that they've been disconnected?"

"\$93."

"Ninety-three dollars? I couldn't have owed that much!"

"You do now, mister."

"You mean it costs something like \$42 to just have the lights turned back on?"

"That's right."

"A \$42 reconnection fee?" Last year your reconnection fee was only \$2 or so! What's the rest of the money for?"

"A deposit."

"A deposit? What's happened to the original deposit of \$50 you required of everyone?"

"Oh, that was forfeited when you didn't pay on time."

"Just like that, huh?"

Miss Snippity snaps her fingers. "Just like that!"

"Why, that preposterous! It's high-way robbery! I want to see the manager!"

But the manager only reiterated what the girl had already told the blind man, "You mean you can't accept \$23 on the account just to tide me through until Monday? I couldn't possibly burn \$23 between now and Monday!"

"Sorry, it's all or nothing."

"The all being \$93."

"That's right."

"The North Carolina Utilities Commission will hear about this!"

"That's your privilege."

"You bet it is! And I intend to exercise it too. Also to communicate the problem with the State Attorney General."

The man shrugs. "Again, your privilege."

HAPPY ENDING

This story has no tragic ending, such as those often seen in the news from other areas of the country. You know, where a blind man freezes to death because the power has been cut off in the dead of winter. Or a senior citizen contracts pneumonia and dies. The stories are too numerous and too familiar to go on.

North Carolina's top office-holders have responded to the problem in a positive way. Just last Sunday, the following or a similar story appeared in every Sunday newspaper in the state:

RALEIGH, N.C.

Electric and natural gas companies operating in North Carolina have been ordered to notify in person any customer whose service is about to be cut off for failure to pay a bill.

The state Utilities Commission, which issued the order Wednesday, said utilities must notify customers in writing 10 days in advance of the cut-off date and then in person at least 24 hours before service is cut off.

"The purpose of this contact will be to attempt to personally inform the customer and his designated representative that termination of service is imminent and to fully explain all alternatives to termination which may be available to the customer," the commission's order said.

The commission said the companies must also make arrangements for customers who cannot pay the full amount of a bill to pay on an installment plan.

And, a customer whose electric or gas service is about to be cut off may file an informal appeal with the Utilities Commission, under the new procedures.

The order will also prevent companies from terminating service after 4 p.m. on Fridays or on weekends or holidays.

A limited termination policy during the winter heating period was also put into effect. For elderly or handicapped persons meeting the

requirements of the policy, no service may be shut off during the period from Nov. 1 through March 31 without the approval of the Utilities Commission.

The commission also ordered each utility to file reports on compliance with the new policies and procedures within 20 days and to file monthly reports after that on the number of customers whose service was shut off.

But who was the blind man who rattled to state officials about the almighty(?) Carolina Power and Light Company's mistreatment of the poor, the blind, the deaf and the mute?

Thank God!

I was!

God, once again you've heard the cry of lowly men and weak. And once again you've opened up My mouth and made me speak!

L.B. Sunday, Nov. 18, 1979