

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

"We cannot know where we are going if we do not know where we have been."



## As I See It by Bruce Barton

Gene Locklear is well...and developing as a painter in San Diego, California

Gene Locklear is well...and developing as a painter in San Diego, California where he now resides. After ten years as a professional ballplayer Gene has laid down his bat and glove and taken up the paint brush full time. He wants to be recognized as a painter of note; he is well on his way toward that goal.

Recently he completed a portrait of San Diego Charger footballers Dan Fouts, John Jefferson and Doug Wilkerson. The original of the limited edition portrait was given away to a lucky fan during a promotion at La Jolla Village Square in San Diego, California.

Gene received most of his fame as a professional ballplayer with the San Diego Padres Baseball Club. At the height of his stardom he hit .321 for a season and won two batting titles outright in the minor leagues before he ascended to the big leagues with the Cincinnati Redlegs, the San Diego Padres and the New York Yankees with whom he finished his career.

Since his retirement from baseball in 1978 Gene has devoted fulltime to his painting. He brings to the canvas his own instinctive sensitivity inspired by his Native American heritage as well as his experience as a renowned sports figure. Gene sums up his ambition this way: "It is my goal to become the painter that one day can be admired, appreciated and criticized with pleasure."

I learned long ago not to take bets against Gene Locklear. I admire him immensely. He is a big thinker and a hard worker...that's a tough combination to stop. I expect Gene to continue to grow and develop as a painter until he ranks with the best in the business.



Here's his painting (a facsimile, of course) of Fouts, Jefferson and Wilkerson. Wilkerson is from nearby Fayetteville.

### COUNCIL MEETS DEC 8

The regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Pembroke, scheduled for Dec. 1, 1980, has been re-scheduled for December 8, 1980 at 7 p.m.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### IN REPLY TO A LETTER WRITTEN BY BRANTLEY OXENDINE

The following is a statement of the surviving members of the family of Anthony Oxendine, regarding the facts in the case of James Brantley Oxendine, who was convicted of first degree murder in the slaying of Anthony Oxendine.

On November 20th the Carolina Indian Voice published a letter from the convicted killer James B. Oxendine, in which he alleges that justice was not done in his case. The letter attempts through a series of falsehoods to elicit sympathy for the murderer by claiming that he did not receive a fair trial. Anthony Oxendine, the victim of this callous crime, lies now in a cold grave unable to come forth and refute the false claims of his killer. It is for this reason that we the surviving members of Anthony's family who must live day by day with the suffering from his loss feel that we should express our feelings in this matter to the general public. We had hoped that the passage of time would help to heal the wounds of our sorrow but it is now apparent that there is no end to the lengths to which the killer will go to defeat justice. It is therefore with sadness, hurt and anger that we take pen in hand to answer the lies of the man who slayed our beloved Anthony.

James Brantley Oxendine received a life sentence after being convicted in a court of law of the murder of Anthony Oxendine. Everyone knows that this does not mean that he will spend the rest of his life in prison. To the contrary he will some day again walk the streets of Robeson County, free to do whatever his imagination leads him to do. During his stay in prison he was denied nothing except total freedom and the company of the opposite sex. With the exception of these things he is provided with everything he needs including good food, warm living quarters, entertainment in the form of movies, radio and television and everything he needs to lead a healthy existence. Compare this if you will to the plight of his victim who lies in a lonely grave, never again able to experience any of the pleasures that his killer enjoys and takes for granted every day.

James Brantley Oxendine states in his letter that he was under the influence of both drugs and alcohol before and after the murder. Yet it was the convicted killer himself who led the authorities to the lifeless body of his victim. It was disclosed at the trial by testimony of investigating officers that he had received a telephone call from the killer in which he inquired if there was a warrant pending for his arrest. When he was informed that there was a warrant issued for his arrest in the shooting of another man, he subsequently informed the officers of the location of Anthony Oxendine's body, only the killer could have known the location of his victim's body, which he had let lay for several days decomposing while he was out peddling the victim's personal possessions at pawn shops. No one knows what became of the money he received for the property he stole from his dead victim. Perhaps it was used for the drugs and alcohol that he claims made him too high to make a statement.

He stated that his confession was a phoney statement arranged by the local police officers. But the details of the killer's story as told to the officers after leading them to the body, dovetail exactly with the events that took place before and after the murder. A large percentage of the facts that the killer confessed to the police were not known to the authorities at the time of the confession, but were corroborated later by the investigating officers and proven in court.

In the convicted killer's memory of the events of the murder were blurred, fogged or dimmed by drugs and alcohol as he claims, then it is truly remarkable how he could have given such a truthful and detailed account of the crime. In the face of the overwhelming evidence against him, we marveled at his desperation in his claim of innocence, and yet we wonder just how he would explain his innocence if it were possible for him to once again see and talk to Anthony Oxendine.

We have no doubt in our minds about who Anthony's killer was. If Brantley has accepted Christ as his personal Savior it seems that he would be able to tell the truth now. We all feel that he should accept his sentence and serve it like a man.

We were contacted by Brantley's own family to assure us that they felt that Brantley had committed the crime. Anthony's family has enough hurt to live with day by day and we could certainly appreciate it if Brantley would realize that he has caused us enough pain without continuing to try to hurt our family.

The Family of Anthony Oxendine made an editorial decision not to play the tape on the air. I should have called Kahn and Sgt. Revels before I ran the letter. Both guys are patriotic and decent guys. I know them both well. A call from me might have reduced the need for Sgt. Revels to write. Hindsight's of little help in the matter though.

I apologize to any of our readers who have been offended in the past by a letter to the editor of The Carolina Indian Voice. Our only defense is, I suppose, that we try to be fair and honest in our dealings with everyone, especially those who respect us enough to write a letter to the editor.

Maybe a firm policy about our letters to the editor will emerge from all this. Our only intent is to allow everyone to express themselves without offending anyone else; it's a mighty thin line to walk between the two extremes.

Rev. Chesley McNeill, the pastor, and a number of the membership officially broke ground for the new facilities which will house Riverside Independent Baptist Church. The groundbreaking took place last Saturday morning. The church will be located on Highway 74, approximately five miles from Lumberton. (Bruce Barton photo)

It seems that Kahn did not play a recording that Sgt. Revels wished for him to play on Veterans Day. Instead, WAGR and WJSK ran five editorials on Veteran's Day, a subject which was also covered by a number of public service announcements.

Sgt. Revels affirms that he did not hear any of the references to Veteran's Day on the station.

Too, Kahn noted that the recording of Sgt. Revels chastised the radio station for not playing was about the independence of Israel and he

## Writer Questions Church Practices

To the Editor:

Even in the newspapers, one can plainly see that the Bible is being fulfilled. People are turning to Fables, putting the truth aside. Many preachers are preaching parts or almost all of the truth. But very few are telling the whole truth. On the average, the big time preachers have written book after book claiming to make the word of God plainer. When in reality, they mess it up.

The Bible says that the way is so plain that a fool can understand it. So why all these books. I read an advertisement the other morning in a local newspaper and in it was a book title that read "Why Do I Not Speak In Tongues." The gift of tongues is a spiritual gift found in Corinthians. It's plain to see a form of godliness and any Bible read Christian can see a denial of the power of God. Amen.

False prophets are in abundance. Where are false prophets? For a long time before Jesus Christ came 2000 years ago, God ceased to send prophets because of disobedience. But God restored prophecy to us. The Holy Bible says, I Corinthians 14:4 "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue edifieth himself; but he that prophesieth edifieth the church." May God bless the quotation of his holy word.

The word of God makes it plain that tongues is communication between the individual and God. But prophesy feeds the church. That is what the word edifieth means. That is how Peter fed the sheep as Jesus commanded him to do. Amen.

Spiritual starvation is plaguing the church today. I

urge all of you people to go back to the Bible and stop following man. A man can only lead you to where he is. Christ will lead you into perfect liberty thru the word of God.

You can see ministers of every denomination preaching false doctrines. Don't follow them. You can't sit on the pew and be saved and stay saved. If a minister does not tell you to take up your cross and follow Jesus, then he is not right. If he does not tell you to come out from among the world and love not the things of the world, then he is not right...

The church is supposed to be a holy place and it is a sin to use worldly things such as ball games to draw people to church. If the Holy Ghost can't draw sinners thru the edified preaching of the word of God and the walking talking testimony of the saved, sanctified, Holy Ghost filled children of God, then it can't be done. Amen.

The church is supposed to be without spot, wrinkle or blemish. Strange that it seems that we can't find any that are really like that. I know God called me to straighten out the mess that preachers have made. I have to tell you that compromise is sin. If a man preaches false doctrine, then he is a false prophet and is out of contact with Jesus Christ.

God called me and ordained me and two churches have seen fit to commission me as an Evangelist. Follow God today and for eternity.

All correspondences should be sent to the address below:

Rev. Douglas W. Maynor  
P.O. Box 854  
Pembroke, NC 28372

## QUESTIONS LREMC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S PRIORITIES

Dear Sir:

I feel I must respond to a recent letter to the editor from Mr. Bobby Maynor. As a member consumer of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, I am acutely aware of the problems with that organization. When I realize that there are people who live on fixed incomes and their electric bills are more than their income, I cannot prevent my concern. When will the board of directors of LREMC stop gagging at gnats and swallowing camels?

I call on my board of directors to begin nipping the problems in the bud. If, indeed, the general manager has an unlimited expense account, start by placing limitations on his spending. Stop excessive spending and begin where the problem lies.

We cannot continue to exist

with paying through the nose for electricity while the spending in house remains outrageous.

If I am informed correctly, CP and L's rate increase to LREMC was not half as much as the increase on our electric bills. Where is our money going to? What are we paying for? Unlimited expenses, I suppose.

I would advise all member consumers of LREMC to talk to their directors. If you have one who is unresponsive and gives you only half truths, begin now to eliminate him or her, whatever the case may be.

My condolences to all of us LREMC MEMBER We have once again been had.

Sincerely,  
Jimmy Goins  
Route 1  
Pembroke, NC 28372

## Thanks

Dear Mr. Barton:

It is with great pleasure that I and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the Locklear-Lowry VFW Post 2843 of Pembroke, NC extend to you our thanks for the assistance you gave us during our Annual Veterans Day Parade and activities.

Again, let us say thanks for the news coverage on November 11 and the times past.

Yours in Comradeship,  
Harold B. Locklear  
Post Commander

## BIBLICAL MUSINGS

by Garry L. Barton

In our everyday Christian life, we are bombarded with doctrines: man-made rules and regulations have a strangle-hold on our churches, and are slowly squeezing the life out of them.

The reason for this is quite simple. Man is just getting further and further away from the Word and since John 1:1 tells us God is the Word, we therefore are alienating ourselves further from God.

Man can take the simplest task and in a very short interval of time he will have miraculously transformed it into a complex and practically incomprehensible beast.

This is what is happening in our churches today. It seems that every denomination has a separate and distinctly different doctrine, notwithstanding the fact that there is, in actuality, only one Doctrine. Notice what Matthew 7:28 says: "It came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings (referring to His Sermon on the Mount), the people were astonished at his doctrine."

It does not take a scholar to surmise from this scripture that one can discover the true Doctrine by reading and studying Jesus's sayings and teachings found in the New Testament, especially in the Books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. That seems simple enough.

But, many churches feel that they must immerse themselves into the Old Testament when formulating church doctrine. And, in my estimation, this is where the controversy begins.

I am not knocking the Old Testament. Heaven forbid, I just feel that God had a reason for admonishing His children "to study to shew thyself approved of God." If one studies God's Word, he will find himself capable of keeping things in their proper perspective.

To begin with, the word "Testament" means a covenant or agreement. So, we see that the Old Testament is the Covenant God made with the Hebrew Nation about their salvation before Jesus Christ arrived upon the scene.

But God saw that the Law was not sufficient; man needed an alternate plan of salvation. Therefore, God took off His royal robe of authority and manifested His presence here on earth in the form of Jesus Christ. So, we see that the New Testament is the Covenant (agreement) God made with man about his salvation after Christ came.

In other words, the Old Testament is the Covenant of Law; one had to adhere strictly to the Law in order to acquire salvation. The New Testament is the Covenant of Grace. Jesus Christ sacrificed Himself upon the old rugged Cross of Calvary for the remission of man's sins.

Just remember this when reading the Bible. The Old Testament is an account of a nation (the Hebrew nation). The New Testament is an account of a Man (the Son of man). The Old Testament is especially important because it set the stage for the appearance of Jesus Christ. The New

Testament tells us about Jesus Christ's two and one half year ministry.

When we speak of Christ's ministry, we are talking about Christ's teachings and sayings. Webster defines doctrine as "What is taught as the belief of a church." The way I see it, the church should believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross for the remission of man's sins. And that He rose from the dead on the third day and ascended to heaven.

If you don't believe this, in my estimation, you are not a Christian. Mind you, I am not judging for the Bible admonishes us not to judge. I am simply stating a matter of fact. It has been said that man has taken Christ out of Christmas. I dare to expound upon that: Man has all but taken Christ out of being a Christian. Instead of concentrating our energies upon praising and edifying God we many times find ourselves hung up on such things as whether or not one should be baptized, whether or not it is proper to shout, speak in tongues, work on Sundays, etc. It's sad and sickening at the same time.

I said all that to say this. Doctrine is what is taught as the belief of a church. We should therefore be concerned with Jesus Christ's Doctrine. There is no other. I don't particularly care what the doctrine of Moses was. And I know I don't care what the doctrine of Grandma Moses was.

Indeed, the Old Testament (as is all scripture) is profitable for doctrine, correction, reproof and instruction in righteousness (see II Timothy 3:16). As a matter of fact, Jesus quoted directly from 22 of the 39 books found in the Old Testament. He was especially fond of quoting from the Book of Deuteronomy, no doubt His favorite. It is my opinion that what Jesus thought to be relevant in regard to Doctrine. He quoted it Himself.

If I failed to get the point across, give Jesus a chance. Read what He says about His children hearing His sayings. (To get the point across I substituted the word church for house).

Matthew 7:24-Any church that "heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken (them) unto a wise man, which built his (church) upon a rock; And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that (church); and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock."

So, church, use Jesus Christ as the foundation of your church. And you will have a church with a solid foundation that can weather any storm that comes its way.

You may disagree with my contention that Doctrine should emanate from the New Testament. But if you love God like I do, you have to agree with me that there is no solid foundation upon which to build a church, or anything else for that matter.

Pray for one another, and as John 13:35 tell us so vividly, show love to one another so that man will know you are Christ's disciples.

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