

"Building Communicative Bridges  
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

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## 'STRIKE AT THE WIND!' ENTERTAINS AT INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE



PEMBROKE, N.C.—Carnell Locklear, General Manager of "Strike at the Wind!", has announced that skits from "Strike at the Wind!" will be performed in Raleigh, N.C. by some ten characters from the drama, Thursday, March 4, 1982.

The Indian Unity Conference will be held at the Royal Villa in Raleigh and the skits from the drama is part of the Indian Heritage Program beginning at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, March 4, 1982 in the Royal Villa Kings Hall.

Locklear stated, "This is great publicity for the drama, and we must do this to keep the public aware of our drama and what it means to our country."

People donating their time to make this trip possible are Mr. Julian Ransom, as the leader; Ruby Hammonds, as Rhoda; Melton Lowery, as Henry Berry Lowery; Carnell Locklear, as Boss

Strong; Robert Bryant, as Shoemaker John; Magalene Lowry, as Moma Combo; Dora Chavis, as Aunt Mary; Tony Clark, as The Boy; Cochise Clark, as Wesley, and Janet Graham, as Polly Oxendine.

"Strike at the Wind!" is written by Randolph Umberger, of Chapel Hill, N.C., and the music was composed by our very own Willie Lowery. The drama is a non-profit organization and survives by ticket sales, sales from tapes and records, and grants from the North Carolina Theatre of Arts, an organization in Raleigh that receives monies from the North Carolina General Assembly.

The auditions for the 1982 production will be held April 4, and 5, from 1-4 p.m. on both days at the Lakeside Amphitheatre.

For more information one may call (919) 521-3112.

## Mistrial Declared in Melton Lowery Case

by Bruce Barton

Shades of "Henry Bear," it was vintage Henry Berry Lowery, in a sense, as Melton Lowery, who has made a good name for himself playing the fabled Indian leader each summer in "Strike at the Wind!" wound up defending himself in a case involving stolen property and felony possession and sale of marijuana in Robeson County Superior Court last week.

Courtroom observers marveled at Lowery's ability to defend himself, at times eloquently, but always with a sense of theatre and assurance.

His wife, Barbara, was ably defended by Pembroke attorney Arnold Locklear.

After three days James H. Pou Bailey declared a mistrial in Lowery's case for "...reasons I cannot go into right now" after conferring in his chambers with Lowery, Locklear and Woodberry Bowen, the assistant D.A. who prosecuted the case.

Reportedly the discussions in the judge's chambers revolved around the propriety of trying the married couple together instead of separately. Bailey also reportedly stipulated that Melton Lowery be assigned an attorney from "out of the county" to represent him at an as yet unscheduled new trial.

Lowery and his wife were arrested in September 1981 after officers reportedly found several items identified as having been stolen from the car of state trooper K.K. Daniel in July of the same year at their residence.

Daniel's car was stolen from his residence in St. Pauls and later recovered in the Union Chapel Community. While searching the Lowery residence marijuana was also found on the scene.

Mrs. Lowery denied knowledge of marijuana stalks found growing in an abused garden adjoining their property. Mrs. Lowery said, "I don't allow it in the house" although the illegal weed was found inside the home.

Although Lowery did not deny having smoked marijuana, and in fact, being convicted several years ago for possession, he affirmed that his wife knew little of his activities concerning the drug.

Arnold Locklear, Mrs. Lowery's attorney, pointed the finger at Lowery, saying, "If Barbara (Mrs. Lowery) is guilty of anything it's being the wife of Melton Lowery...the King of his Castle."

The stolen goods indictment was thrown out by Judge Bailey and Mrs. Lowery was found guilty of the least severe penalty of simple possession of marijuana and fined \$100 and court costs.

While the jury was out in Mrs. Lowery's case, Judge Bailey called Melton Lowery to the bench and chit chatted for a few minutes, even revealing, according to by standers, that he "had a little Cherokee" in him. He seemed impressed by Melton Lowery, handsome and well groomed, and bringing to mind visions of how Henry Berry Lowery might have looked and acted in similar situations.

## DEMO CHIEF RESIGNS

Robeson County's Democratic Party Chairman, Gene Ballard, has resigned his position effective immediately to join the re-election effort of Senator Sam Noble who is expected to have strong opposition from Representative David Parnell who has indicated that he too will seek the office of state senator.

Ballard, a farmer with extensive holdings, resigned at a special called executive committee meeting Saturday.

Named to replace Ballard is Bobby Freeman, a relatively unknown political figure in the county. The meeting was also called without notifying the press. Freeman will serve out Ballard's term. His chances are poor for being named to a full term because Robeson County unofficially rotates the chairmanship among the three races in the county. A black is expected to be the next chairman of the Robeson County Democratic Party when the party convenes again in 1983.

## Indian Unity Conference Underway

RALEIGH—The 7th Annual Indian Unity Conference got under way today in Raleigh. More than 500 people, most of them North Carolina Indians, are expected to gather at the Royal Villa Hotel to hear from Governor Jim Hunt, National Indian leaders Ada Deer, Dr. Joseph Oxendine and others.

Governor Hunt will make his remarks Friday at 9 a.m. Ms. Deer will be the banquet speaker Friday night. Ms. Deer gained nationwide attention for her role in restoring a federal relationship between the government and the Menominee Indian people.

Others participating on the conference program are Dr. Joseph Oxendine, a Lumbee native from Robeson County, and now a member of the faculty at Temple University and president of the Indian Rights Association in Philadel-

phia, Pennsylvania. David Lester, commissioners of the Administration for Native Americans. Dr. Frank Ryan, director of Indian Education and others.

The conference also features an Indian art exhibit and competition, and a cultural heritage program and is sponsored by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs in the N.C. Department of Administration. Most of the conference participants are expected to come from the state's five tribes—Cherokee, Coaharie, Haliwa-Saponi, Lumbee and Waccamaw-Sioux—and three urban concentrations in Cumberland, Guilford and Mecklenburg Counties.

North Carolina, with 65,000 Indians, has the largest Indian population of any state east of the Mississippi, and the fourth largest in the country.

## Earl Hughes ["Bucky"] Oxendine, Jr. receives Appointment to West Point



Earl Hughes  
["Bucky"] Oxendine, Jr.

RAEFORD—Earl Hughes ("Bucky") Oxendine, Jr. has received a prestigious appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point. Representative Charlie Rose announced the appointment during a recent campaign appearance in Pembroke. The appointment was secured through the auspices of Rep. Rose's office.

A rising senior at Hoke County High School, Oxendine is the son of Betty Hammond Oxendine of Pembroke and Earl Hughes Oxendine, director of Compensatory Education for the Hoke County Board of Education in Raeford.

He comes from a long line of educators. One of his uncles, Ray, is principal of a high school in Montgomery County; another, Joe (Dr. Joseph Oxendine) is on the faculty at Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. His uncle, Tom, is director of Public Information at the Bureau of Indian Affairs in Washington, D.C. An aunt, Magnolia Griffith, is on the faculty at Pembroke State University.

Following in the steps of many of his uncles, "Bucky" is also a star athlete at Hoke County High School, having lettered in wrestling and football, and having played baseball. He made All Conference in wrestling.

He is also a member of the Society of Distinguished American Students, and named Who's Who Among Students in American High Schools. He is a member of First Baptist Church in Raeford and a

member of the Science, Spanish, Monogram, J-Teens, and the N.C. Indian Youth Council.

He is the grandson of Mrs. Georgie Ann Oxendine and the late Tom Oxendine.

Lt. General Willard, Superintendent of West Point wrote in a letter to young Oxendine:

"On behalf of the President and the Secretary of the Army, I am pleased to announce that the United States Military Academy has accepted you for admission contingent upon continuation of your excellent record and your medical and dental qualification at the time of entrance.

"Congratulations to you. You have already demonstrated a fine potential for future service to your country and your fellow citizens. West Point's education and training programs will give you the opportunity to develop that potential fully.

"Before you enter West Point, I encourage you to review your thinking and consider the following:

"...West Point requires cadets with intelligence, determination, integrity, self-discipline, strength of character, endurance, and a willingness to work hard.

"...West Point exists to educate and train career officers for the United States Army. Because West Point offers this education and training at public expense, West Pointers, both as cadets and officers, are obligated to give in return the best of themselves and to serve as Army officers for at least five years after graduation.

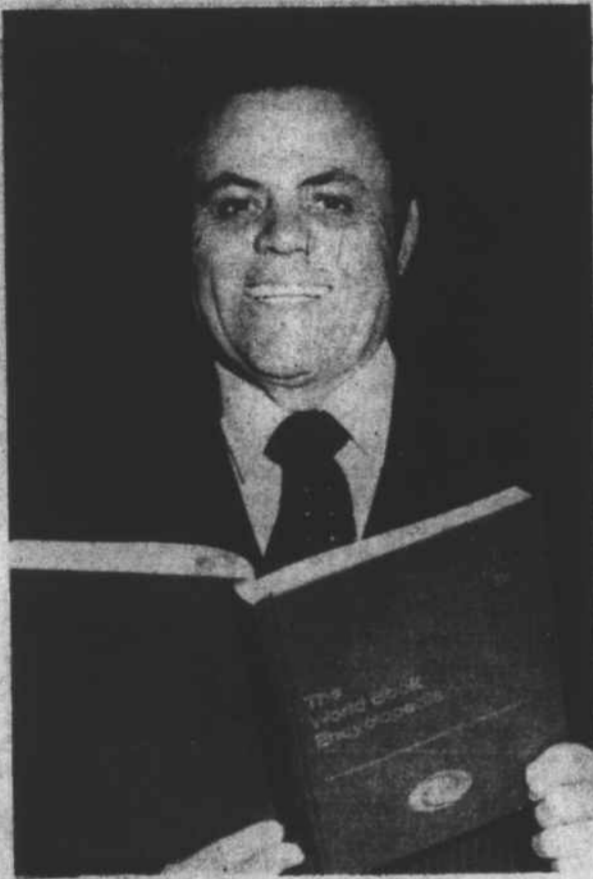
"...During your first year at West Point, you will live under the Fourth Class System, which is a rigorous program of customs, activities, and training designed to help you develop some of the discipline, toughness, and self-reliance required of a leader. It will be demanding and difficult, and you will be expected to demonstrate effectiveness under these pressures."

The Military Academy is located in West Point, New York.

To our knowledge, this is the first direct appointment to West Point received by any Lumbee Indian.

## Adolph Dial article published in World Book Encyclopedia

by Gene Warren



ADOLPH DIAL, chairman of the American Indian Studies Department at Pembroke State University, displays a

copy of World Book Encyclopedia in which he has an article about the Lumbee Indians.

Adolph Dial, the chairman of Pembroke State University's American Indian Studies Department, has something to indeed be proud of.

His article about the Lumbee Indians has been published in the 1982 edition of World Book Encyclopedia, which has headquarters in Chicago, London, Sydney, Tokyo, and Toronto. The 250-word article is on page 448 of the "L" volume.

The article says in part that the "Lumbee Indians are the largest Indian tribe in the United States east of the Mississippi River. More than 40,000 Lumbees live in and near Robeson County in southeastern North Carolina."

It also says "they opened their first school, the Croatan Normal School, in Pembroke, N.C., in 1887. This school is now Pembroke State University."

And in its concluding paragraph, Dial's article states:

"Today, the Lumbees are the nation's largest group of Indians without a reservation. Many of them farm the land for a living."

The article also traces the origin and history of the Lumbee Indians, stating that: "According to one theory, the Lumbees are descendants of the Hatteras tribe and of English colonists who settled on Roanoke Island in 1587...Many Lumbees have the same last names as the missing colonists. Other theories trace the ancestry of the Lumbees to the Cherokee, the Tuscarora, or an eastern band of the Sioux."

This is another "plus" in the career of Dial, who is known all over the United States as an authority on the Lumbee Indians and has co-authored a book on their history, entitled "The Only Land I Know," published in 1975.

Congratulations, Adolph.

GENE WARREN'S  
COLUMN CONTINUES  
ON PAGE 5...

WHITE AUTO  
AUTO-TRUCK-TF



In spite of the inclement weather, Prevotte's Auto Parts had a successful grand opening celebration last Friday and Saturday.

The business has moved to new quarters on highway 711 in Pembroke. A family business, the firm has been in Pembroke since 1966. Owners of the business are Mr. and Mrs. James Prevotte, and their son, Eric. Other locations are in Lumberton and St. Francis. Eric Prevotte, a former president of

the Lumberton Jaycees, says, "We are proud to be a part of the business community in Pembroke." To mark the occasion, Prevotte's Auto Parts presented a check for \$100.00 to the Pembroke Rural Fire Department. Shown (l-r) are Eric Prevotte (presenting the check) and Ray Ross, Chief of the Pembroke Rural Fire Department.

Ted Locklear is manager of the Pembroke store, ably assisted by Charles Locklear and Steve Locklear.