



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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THURSDAY JUNE 30, 1983

'PREACHER TOMMIE' GRAND MARSHAL FOR LUMBEE HOMECOMING PARADE

"Never Missed a Night" of 'Strike at the Wind!'

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS



Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. Swett

by Garry Barton

The spotlight during the upcoming Lumbee Homecoming festivities will be on our senior citizens--the pillars of our community. In its second year, the Agriculture Awards Banquet will bestow all their awards to senior citizens this year. And Rev. Thomas M. Swett, one of the greatest warriors of God living today, will serve as Grand Marshal of the Lumbee Homecoming Parade. The parade will begin at the PSU Performing Arts Center, Saturday, July 2 at 10 a.m. and snake its way through the heart of Pembroke.

Rev. Swett was born in 1898, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Frank Swett. His boyhood years were happily spent in the Rowland area. On August 10, 1916 he married the late Bertha Strickland. To this union eight children were born--James, Vergie, Furman, Vardell, Purnell, Tommy Dorsey, Dorothy and Bruce. Five of the children managed, with Rev. Swett's assistance, to obtain a college degree. Purnell Swett, one of Rev. Swett's sons, is the Superintendent of the Robeson County School System. Tragedy struck early in the couple's marriage when Vergie, a precious daughter, died of pneumonia at the tender age of 2 and 1/2 years.

Rev. Swett was called by God to preach His Word in 1922. He began preaching in the Lumbee Methodist Conference, serving the Bethel Circuit from 1929 until 1933. From 1934 until 1936 he preached on the Union Circuit, preaching at both the Union Chapel and Prospect Church. He returned to the Bethel Circuit for the years 1937 and 1938. From 1939 until 1942 he served the Cherokee Circuit. This amounted to 20 years of service to God and his fellow man in the Lumbee Methodist Conference.

Then tragedy struck once again. James, his oldest son, taught school for a while. But when World War II erupted, he felt it was his patriotic duty to volunteer in the Army. The airplane in which he was a pilot had engine trouble. The engine stalled. Not having attained sufficient altitude to pull out of the dive,

the airplane plunged into the Caribbean Sea. All aboard perished.

That same year, Rev. Swett switched over to the Baptist faith. According to Rev. Swett, the Lumbee Methodist Conference would only allow a pastor to remain at a church for five years. Then the pastor would be relocated to another church in the Conference. Rev. Swett did not like being shuffled from one church to another. This is why, he said, he switched to the Baptist faith.

In the fall of 1942 Rev. Swett joined the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, serving as part-time pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church. He also performed pastoral duties at Mt. Olive Baptist Church until 1947. And at Mt. Moriah Baptist Church from 1945 until 1948 on a part time basis. In 1949 he returned to Mt. Olive Baptist Church where he remained until 1966. He also served two years as part-time pastor of Gray Pond Baptist Church. Also as part-time pastor of Deep Branch Baptist Church from the fall of 1945 until 1972 at which time he became full-time pastor of Bear Swamp Baptist Church. He continues to pastor Bear Swamp Church to this day.

"Working with children was my top priority when I first started at Bear Swamp," Rev. Swett said. "And it has paid off. You understand? I always honor children," he continued. "I never try to tell them what to do. I just suggest. I'll say 'have you thought about this or that?'" He seems to bubble over with pride and joy whenever he talks about the children he works with at Bear Swamp, especially when relating about how successful a recent Vacation Bible School was at Bear Swamp.

Rev. Swett's faculties seem unimpaired by the devastating passage of time. If not for the fact that some of the agility and bounce has disappeared from his step and his mobility has been hindered somewhat, you would never even suspect that he is eighty-five years young. His sharp and alert mind impressed this correspondent, especially his ability to recall events from his past

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Robert Bryant, Shoemaker John



Carnell Locklear
Boss Strong



Lee Wiggins, Missionary

PEMBROKE, NC--This will be the eighth season for the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!". This will be a year of many changes including a new director, new songs, dances, more color and the hanging of Henderson Oxendine.

During the last seven years many people have seen "Strike at the Wind!" and many new faces have appeared on the setting at the Lakeside Amphitheatre 3 miles west of Pembroke just off Highway 74, but there are some faces that have never missed a night and they are Robert Bryant, Lee Wiggins, and Carnell Locklear.

Lee Wiggins, an employee at Southeastern General Hospital loves "Strike at the Wind!" so much that she hasn't missed a night. Lee says of "Strike at the Wind!", "It is a part of every human being of Robeson County, it is a part of all of us. I am proud of our drama and I will do everything to see that it continues."

Robert Bryant, an employee with the Lumberton City Schools is a truly faithful member of the cast, and he hasn't missed a night since "Strike at the Wind!" began. Robert says, "I love 'Strike at the Wind' and I will always do my part to assure Robeson County's drama continues."

Carnell Locklear has been tired many times but that doesn't stop him from playing Boss Strong. Although this year David Oxendine will share some of this character with Carnell, Locklear said, "Boss Strong, has to be strong, lively, and etc., believe me this takes a great deal of energy and I think David has all the qualities to assure that Boss Strong stays alive." Locklear also said that he hopes the community will come and see "Strike at the Wind!" this year because we must have that community support.

Strike at the Wind is a professional theatre and is supported by the N.C. Theatre Arts which is funded through the North Carolina General Assembly.

Strike at the Wind can be seen every Thursday, Friday and Saturday night beginning this Saturday night, July 2, and running through August 27. For more information, call 919-521-3112.

New Bern--The former director of human resources for Robeson County, Christian G. "Chris" Antwi, pleaded guilty Monday in federal court to two counts of misusing federal funds.

Three counts against Antwi were dismissed in a plea bargain with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

U.S. District Judge James C. Fox delayed sentencing indefinitely because Antwi's plea bargain requires him to testify in other cases.

Antwi pleaded guilty to one count of misapplying Comprehensive Employment Training Act funds by improperly awarding a computer software contract and one count of embezzling federal funds by filing a false travel voucher.

The maximum penalty for the charges, Fox told Antwi, is four years imprisonment and two \$10,000 fines plus restitution to the government of about \$80,258.60.

Antwi expressed no emotion during the proceedings. His attorney, Dickson McLean of Lumberton, said later that Antwi was satisfied with the plea bargain.

Antwi's testimony is expected to implicate a number of past and present elected officials in Robeson County, as well as other political notables.

Locklear Family Reunion

The descendants of the Floyd and Flora Locklear family are planning a reunion 10 a.m. Saturday July 9, 1983 at Piney Grove School. All participants are asked to bring a covered dish.

Gospel Sing Sunday

The Annual Lumbee Homecoming Gospel Sing will be held Sunday, July 3 at Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center. It will begin at 2:00 p.m. Admission FREE to the public.

The following groups are scheduled to sing. Mt. Airy Quartet, LRDA Gospel Choir, New Bethel Young Choir, Lowery Family Lowell Locklear, the Gospel Sing Quartet, Prospect United Methodist Church, The Pierce Family, Sensational Gospel Singers, Calvary, Lowery Trio, and the Oak Grove Adult Choir. Please come out and join us.

LOCKLEAR REUNION
All descendants of Preston Locklear will gather July 2, 1983 at 2 p.m. at Preston Gospel Chapel. Women are asked to bring covered dishes. For further information call 521-9024--John Pat Locklear.

GOSPEL SINGING
A Gospel Singing will be held at Elrod Baptist Church, July 2, 1983 at 7:00 p.m. The location is south off of Highway 74 on Highway 710 toward Rowland about 5 miles.

Featured singers will be The Locklear Brothers, The Spirituales of Baltimore, MD. The Singing Pilgrims of Fayetteville, NC, Felix Deal and Family and others.

Sponsored by Elrod Baptist Church, Pastor is Rev. Tommy Hagans. Admission is free and the public is invited.

FAMILY REUNION
There will be a Family Reunion for the F.D. Emanuel and Annie Ransom family, Sunday, July 3, from 1 till 4 p.m. at the Robeson County Recreation Center. It will be a covered dish dinner affair. For further information call Mrs. Hartman Hammonds at 738-2161 or Mrs. Pearl Locklear at 521-4866.

MEMBER INFORMATION NIGHTS
Lumbee River EMC invites all members to "Member Information Nights." The purpose of the meetings is for members to talk with the cooperative's administrative staff, get an update on the organization, and ask questions. The meeting times are: June 30 Lake Rim District Office, Hwy 401, Fayetteville; July 7, American Legion Building, Wagram. Meetings will be from 7:30-9 p.m. All members are encouraged to attend.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF PEMBROKE INDIAN NORMAL SCHOOL CLASS OF '33

The Pembroke Indian Normal School Class of 1933 will observe the 50th anniversary of their graduation on July 1 at 6 p.m. at Berea Baptist Church Fellowship Hall. Welcome will be given by the class president, Welton Lowry. Invocation will be by Clifton Oxendine. Dinner will be served. A class history will be given by Ancil Sanderson.

The class of 1933 included Woodrow Sampson, Benny Sampson, Ophelia Locklear, Maggie Lucas, Elizabeth Sanderson, Ethel Lee Maynor, Mary E. Hammond, Anna Mae Locklear, Burney Locklear, Leopal Hunt, Cattie Mae Jacobs, Welton Lowry, Mollie Hatcher, Lucy Sampson, William X Oxendine, Edith Lowry, Ancil Sanderson, George Emanuel, Phenicia Oxendine, Leola Locklear, Lula Jane Oxendine, Annie Gussie Maynor, Burney Locklear, Adna Lowry.

Mascots for the class were Samuel Locklear and Mary Sue Locklear.

PEMBROKE CHESS CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

There will be an organizational meeting to establish a chess club in Pembroke and surrounding areas on Thursday, July 21, 1983 at 7:30 p.m. in the Pembroke District Courtroom. All interested persons are invited to attend.

PROSPECT CLASS REUNION

The Prospect Class of 1973 will hold a class reunion. For more information call Linda Worriax Locklear, 521-3140; Anita Strickland Lowry, 521-0246; Jennifer Chavis Smith, 843-5347; Deborah McGirt Epps, 844-3755; or Angie L. Oxendine, 843-2518.

BOXING EXHIBITION IN PEMBROKE

Spencer "The Warrior" Chavis Lumbee, professional boxer from Dearborn Heights, Michigan will be a Marshall for the Lumbee Homecoming Parade on Saturday, July 2. Spencer will return to the town park at 3 p.m. to give an exhibition of his training methods.

His T-shirts are available at LRDA for \$7. His pictures are also available. Spencer will sign autographs for anyone with his picture. Chavis the Warrior and Lumbee Homecoming T-shirts will be available in the Town Park on Saturday, July 2.

SUPERBALL TOURNAMENT TO BE HELD

The Pembroke Jaycees will sponsor the July 2 Superball Tournament at Riverside Country Club. There will be a prize given away on each hole. There will also be free refreshments served. Entry fee will be \$25 per man. The Jaycees, a non profit organization, entry fee may be deducted from your taxes. Contact James Locklear or David Lowery at 521-2100. They encourage your participation.

RESCUE SQUAD HOSTS HOMECOMING EVENTS

The Pembroke Rescue Squad will be hosting several events on Saturday, July 2nd during the Annual Lumbee Homecoming.

1. Hot Dog Stands will be set up in the Town Park and at First Union Bank. The price of the hot dogs will be .50 each.

2. A free Blood Pressure Screening will be available at each site with certified Emergency Medical Technicians monitoring each station.

3. The Rescue will have on display some of its emergency equipment, and will have demonstrations on its use.

4. Tickets for a Raffle to be held on August 6th will be on sale. The Squad will raffle off a hand-made afghan and a 26" bicycle. The price of the tickets is \$1.00 each and may be obtained from any Rescue Member.

PEMBROKE JAYCEES TO HOST DANCE

Pembroke Jaycees will sponsor a dance July 2, 1983 from 8 p.m. until at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut. The charge will be \$7 single and \$10 couple and will include disco music and refreshments.

Little Miss Lumbee 1983



Latocia Delant Cox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Cox, was crowned Little Miss Lumbee 1983, Wednesday night, June 30, before a packed house in PSU's Performing Arts Center.

More news and photos about the Little Miss Lumbee Pageant will appear in next week's issue of The Carolina Indian Voice.