

Obituary

CHRISTOPHER LEE OXENDINE
 Christopher Lee Oxendine, 72 months, died at his home in Baltimore, Maryland, Sunday, Oct. 2. Funeral services will be held on Thursday at 2 p.m. at Pleasantview Baptist Church. The Revs. Melvin Bell and Ronnie Scott will officiate.

Surviving him are his parents, Virginia Gail Hammonds and David Lee Oxendine; one sister, Stephanie Oxendine; two brothers, David Oxendine, Jr., and Franklin Oxendine, all of Baltimore, Md.; maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hammonds of Charlotte, NC; maternal great-grandparents, Ms. Ader Hunt of Baltimore, Md., and Mr. and Mrs. Hartman Hammonds of Lumberton, N.C.

ASI SEE IT



by
Bruce Barton

COMMISSIONERS, SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS MEETING TONIGHT ABOUT ERIC PREVATTE'S SCHOOL PLAN...."

The memo from Paul Graham, County Manager, says "This is to advise that the Chairman of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners has scheduled a joint meeting of the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and the Chairman and Superintendent of each School Administrative Unit in Robeson County for Thursday, October 6th at 7:00 p.m. at the Ramada Inn, Lumberton, North Carolina. This will be a dinner meeting.

The purpose of this meeting is to comply with the motion passed by the Board of Commissioners on September 19, 1983 to meet jointly with the above mentioned to discuss the school district plan presented at the September 19th meeting."

It's ludicrous, really! The educational plan was presented by Eric Prevatte, a seller of 'spark plugs.' Eric and his family own three auto parts stores, one of them in Pembroke.

The plan basically guts the county school system. For instance, his plan would give Saddletree to Lumberton, Rennert to Red Springs, Parkton to St. Pauls, Orrum to Fairmont, Littlefield and Clyburn Pines and God knows what else to Lumberton. Etc. Etc. Etc. The county would not receive a single inch of student or tax dollar. Nothing. Are we all mad. We'll find out tonight. More next week.

If we can't have one school system then we ought to go back to federal court and make the politicians dismantle the district scheme of electing board members for the Robeson County Board of Education. The present scheme especially dilutes the Indian's vote.

But I expect the worst. Robeson County politicians, generally speaking, are provincial and short sighted. Can we expect a leopard to change his spot? Or a Robeson County politician his race or place of domicile?

Anyway, we'll find out tonight if there are any "big" politicians in Robeson County. We'll tell you more about it next week.

On Oct. 1, NC became the worst place in country to get caught drunk driving

by Governor Jim Hunt
 On October 1, North Carolina became the worst place in the country to get caught driving drunk.

That happened because the people of this state demanded it. Members of Mothers Against Drunk Driving and other people who had lost a loved one due to drinking and driving channeled their grief into constructive action. They brought the tragic consequences of mixing alcohol and motor vehicles into the cold light of day, and forced people to confront it.

Their voices were heard in the legislature, in my office, and in the courthouses of this state. The Safe Roads Act of 1983 is an example of the way democracy is supposed to work. The people spoke and their elected representatives listened.

Our citizens demanded an end to plea bargaining in drunk driving cases. They demanded that the worst offenders be put in jail. They demanded an increase in the drinking age. We have now done all of that.

facts and not someone's social standing in their community.

The Safe Roads Act, and the public attention that has been focused on it since it was first introduced in the legislature, began to have a deterrent effect even before it became law. The bill was introduced in January of this year. Since that time, we have seen a steady decline in the number of drunk driving arrests by the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

That tells me that people are being much more careful about drinking and driving. Public attitudes have changed. Drunk driving is no longer acceptable behavior among the people of this state.

The bottom line is this: We as a people must do everything in our power to stop that late-night phone call which tells someone that a child, a wife, a husband, or a parent is never coming home again.

You can help. It's old advice but it's still the best there is. For the sake of your family and friends, don't drink and drive. And don't let somebody else drive drunk.

But in my opinion, the most effective provision of the new law is the requirement that anyone who blows a .10 on the Breathalyzer has his license taken away on the spot. Those people will leave the courthouse on foot and will not drive for 10 days. And that is only the beginning. A conviction will result in a jail sentence for some, and anyone convicted will have his license suspended, pay a fine and be subject to between 24 and 72 hours of community service work. There will be no more bargaining for a lesser charge of careless and reckless driving.

Our law enforcement officers, prosecutors, magistrates and judges are ready to strictly enforce the law. But the real test of its effectiveness will be whether or not drunk drivers begin to disappear from our highways.

That will require that citizens who serve on juries have the courage to convict those who are guilty, to make a determination based on the

Letters To The Editor

Disagrees with "Yes" vote on \$7 Million RTC Bond Referendum

In my opinion, we the people of Robeson County, N.C., sat on our broad beams and searched our narrow minds to come up with, and corner the market on stupidity. We gave to Robeson Technical College \$7 million to spend in the vaguest of excuses as per Fred Williams, President of RTC.

"yes" on the \$7 million bond referendum because they could not afford to pay the price for voting "no." This is not only deceptive, it is morally wrong. Speaking of morals, we of Robeson County set on our broad beams and search our narrow minds and say it is alright to let the Robeson County manager and the Robeson County attorney remain in office although they are under indictment for irregular performances in their respective jobs. In my opinion we are more concerned with irresponsible politicians and special interest groups than with better education and better government for Robeson County.

Note the results of the voting in Red Springs, St. Pauls, Lumberton and Fairmont. Four of the five school systems in Robeson County. These are special interest groups. This too is the biggest joke in the history of education in Robeson County. In my opinion, these are selfish, biased, immature, discriminating persons. Until "all," and I do not mean some, a few, many, a lot, or most, students have the "same" exposure to better education from kindergarten through high school and an accredited college, unlike RTC, will we see better education in Robeson County.

John L. Godwin
 Pembroke, N.C.

Reading Assoc. Meets

The first meeting of the Robeson Council of the International Reading Association met Saturday, Sept. 24, at 10 a.m. in the auditorium of the Robeson County Library in Lumberton.

Mrs. Linda Hall, an elementary teacher of the Lumberton City Schools, gave a presentation on writing related to reading. She gave suggestions of activities that will help aid children in writing. Refreshments were served and a business meeting was held after the presentation.

The Robeson Council would like to encourage all those interested in joining to call Nelia Crain at 521-4422 or Kathy D. Locklear at 521-2520.

Pembroke Lions [and Lionesses] plan annual 'Candy Day' fund raising



Lon Robert McGirt, left, and Lon Billy Lowry are all decked out in their "Candy Day" gear ready to receive your tax deductible contributions. Look for them and other Lions on the streets of Pembroke on Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15. (Elmer Hunt photo)

The Pembroke Lions Club held their regular business meeting Monday night at the Town and Country Restaurant.

Richard Seavie Lowry, Jr., White Cane Chairman, explained and made assignments for "Candy Day" which will be held Friday and Saturday, October 14 and 15.

Pembroke Lions and Lionesses will be manning street corners and parking lots both days in their annual "Candy Day" Campaign to raise funds for the blind and the visually handicapped.

The Lions will be giving away candy rolls and balloons. In exchange for the candy, the public is urged to support the cause with a

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generous contribution.

The proceeds from the candy days will be used to support programs and services of the North Carolina Lions Association for the blind and the visually handicapped. Some of the services included glaucoma-diabetes screening clinics, North Carolina eye and human tissue bank, Camp Dogwood for the blind, scholarships for children of blind parents, gift radios and canes for the blind, research and service programs at N.C. medical schools, purchase of county eye clinic equipment, and numerous other prevention of blindness programs and individual services to the blind.

Your financial support of these programs and services will be greatly appreciated.



Ulysses S. Grant's horse was named Cincinnatus.



Akron, Ohio is the location of the annual All-American Soap Box Derby.

EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE
 We Cannot Know Where We Are Going If We Don't Know Where We've Been...
 So fittingly we honor our Pioneer Fathers

MEANDERING WITH GARRY L. BARTON

DRINKING AND THE NEW 'DRUNK DRIVING LAW' DON'T MIX!

"Lumbee Pride," the county music band (in Fayetteville) Friday, Sept. 30. All night long, the main topic of conversation throughout the private club was the new "drunk driving law" that went into effect Oct. 1 (or after midnight Friday night).

I had a little cold Saturday so I had to take a swig or two (or three or four) of cough syrup which some dear friend brought to my attention was high in alcohol content. Needless to say, by the time we finished playing early Saturday morning (about 1:30 a.m.) I was a nervous wreck. You know how it is when you concentrate on one thought long enough. The more you think, the bigger the thought becomes. The silly notion crossed my mind: wonder if a breathalyzer machine can distinguish between a Phillips 666 cough syrup-induced high or a Miller Lite beer-induced one. I kind of grinned to myself when the silly notion crossed my strange mind. But the more people talked about the new "drunk driving law", the bigger the dread grew in my mind that the machine could not tell the difference.

I know it sounds silly. But you know how it is when people start wagging their tongues about something. Before you know what has happened, the topic is mushroomed way out of proportion.

Anyway, by the time I pulled out and onto the highway to drive home Saturday morning, heavy duty paranoia had set in. I would have gladly bet my Uncle Nabob's left arm that every pair of headlights coming up behind me was a highway patrolman. Ready to beat me into submission with the new "drunk driving law." I mean it was almost enough to drive a man to drinking. I even went as far as to consider whether or not a plea of temporary insanity would help if the highway patrol did stop me.

Well, anyway. Someone (I believe it was my brother Bruce) once said that "ignorance is bliss." I don't know about that. But I sometimes wonder if "ignorance is contagious." If so, there must be an epidemic sweeping political circles in good ol' Robeson County. Sometimes I think the only way to clear up the epidemic is to put all politicians under quarantine by padlocking not their doors, but their mouths. But that's neither here nor there, or elsewhere. (I don't know how I got off on that tantrum.)

I don't want you folk to be ignorant when it comes to the new "drunk driving law," so I thought I'd share some information with you concerning the new law that evidently has scared the bejabbers out of every drunk (or potential drunk) in the state.

Well folk, since the stage is set, here's information about the new law that, incidentally ain't called the "drunk driving law." It's called the "Safe Roads Act of 1983."

The Safe Roads Act
 This act, effective Oct. 1, 1983, repeals the present laws on drunk driving in N.C. and replaces them with the single offense of "driving while impaired--or DWI."

DWI can be proven in one of two ways: 1. Proving the driver's physical or mental faculties are impaired by alcohol, drugs, or a combination of both; or 2. By proving the driver's alcohol concentration is 0.10 or more at any relevant time after driving.

If a person is charged with DWI, the charge cannot be reduced in court to a lesser offense. No more plea bargaining, folk! And a driver charged with DWI who refuses to submit to a breathalyzer test or who has an alcohol concentration of 0.10 or more faces an automatic and immediate 10-day revocation of his driving license. He cannot obtain a limited driving privilege during this period. Graciously!

After a DWI conviction, the trial judge must hold a sentencing hearing to determine the punishment. There are five levels of punishment.

After a DWI conviction, the trial judge will hold a sentencing hearing to determine the severity of your punishment. The new law establishes five (5) levels of punishment determined by evidence of grossly aggravating, aggravating, and mitigating factors. We won't go into these factors, since if you're already convicted, you might as well pack your toothbrush and duffel bag.

Here are the five levels of punishment: Level 1: If two or more impaired driving offenses within 7 years, or any other two grossly aggravating factors are present, punishment is a mandatory minimum of 14 days and up to 2 years in jail. And a fine of up to \$2,000 can be imposed. Goodness!

Level 2: If one grossly aggravating factor (other than two or more impaired driving offenses within 7 years) is present, punishment is a mandatory minimum of 7 days and up to 1 year in jail. You can also be slapped with a \$1,000 fine. These first two levels are

applicable where grossly aggravating factors are present.

Levels 3-5 apply where no grossly aggravating factors are present.

Level 3: If aggravating factors outweigh mitigating factors, punishment is a minimum of 72 hours in jail, or 72 hours of community service, or a 90-day revocation of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. But don't forget: you can also be fined \$500. Gordy! Gordy! (as my little niece says since she can't pronounce "Lordy! Lordy!")

Level 4: If neither set of factors outweighs the other punishment is 48 hours in jail, or 48 hours of community service, or a 60-day revocation of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. And, oh yea! Don't forget the possible \$250 fine.

Level 5: If mitigating factors outweigh aggravating factors, punishment is 24 hours in jail, or 24 hours of community service, or a 30-day loss of driving privileges, or any combination of the three. And you can be clipped for a \$100 fine.

Drinking Age
 The new law raises the age to buy and possess beer and wine to 19 years of age. The legal age to buy fortified (whatever that is) wine or liquor remains 21.

Youthful Offender
 If a provisional licensee (I guess that means one who is 16 or 17) is convicted of DWI, or refuses to submit to the breathalyzer test, or is caught driving with any amount of alcohol or drugs (not counting prescriptions taken in a lawful amount), his license will be revoked until he turns 18, or for 45 days, whichever is longer.

The law tightens down on teenagers, folk. They can lose their license for one year if they attempt to purchase or are successful at purchasing alcoholic beverages; they aid or abet another to attempt to purchase or succeeds in purchasing alcoholic beverages; or if they attempt to buy alcoholic beverages by using or attempting to use fraudulent driver's license or other types of I.D., or by lending his driver's license to any other I.D. to someone else for that purpose.

Oh yea, folk! Law enforcement agencies may set up roadblocks to check for impaired drivers.

A person charged with DWI can be held until the person is no longer drunk or until a responsible, sober adult will take responsibility for him. But he can't be held for longer than 24 hours. If they're still drunk after two days law enforcement personnel need to check him anyway. He might be dead (dead) instead of dead (drunk).

If you are charged with DWI you may still be asked to submit to a breathalyzer test. If you refuse you can still lose your license for a year. People, that don't seem like asking to me. It seems to me like you're being told to take the test.

A driver can not consume any alcoholic beverage while driving. I guess this is what my friend was talking about when he said you couldn't be caught with an open container of alcoholic beverages in your car.

Any person convicted of an impaired driving offense while his license is revoked for an earlier impaired driving offense could lose his vehicle. In other words, if you lose your license, you better get you a Garelli motorized bicycle or a manually-controlled one.

If you don't complete the Alcohol Drug Education Traffic School when told to do so, you can lose your license for a year.

Negligent sale of beer, wine or liquor to an underage person may subject the seller to civil liability if the minor then consumes the beverage and as a result of consuming that beverage has an accident while impaired. There is a \$500,000 limit on the amount that can be collected. The ABC Board must also suspend the seller's ABC permit until the judgment is paid. Also, the seller doesn't have to sell to or serve a customer if he can't produce a valid I.D. And the seller may hold on to the prospective buyer's I.D. for a reasonable time to check its validity if he tells the persons why he is holding on to it.

Well folk, that's about it. I have a bit of advice. If you feel a strong urge to drink coming on you might consider following this simple procedure. Buy whatever it is you are going to drink. Get your car keys and your house keys. Then lock yourself in your house and walk to the window and throw the keys as far as you possibly can. If you can't find your keys when you wake up, Ted's Lock and Gun Shop will probably fix you up for about \$25. On the other hand, if you're bull-headed and drive anyway while drinking, Judge Richardson may fix you up for about \$2,000. Plus you might have to trade that pretty, shiny Chevrolet or Ford in for a Schwinn 10-speed bike.
 Happy motoring.

STRIKE at the WIND!

When: Saturday, October 29, 1983

Where: Pembroke Town Park

Time: 11 A.M. Until "DAY"

- Entertainment, including Lumbee Pride
- Food •Drinks
- Auction with Rev. Dan DeVane, Auctioneer
- Free Candy or Goldfish for Kids under 12