



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges
in A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

Navajo Comm. College Library
Tsalie Branch Post Office
Chilite, AZ 85603

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 49

25c PER COPY

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 1983

DOCTOR TO FDR, IKE, PATTON, BRADLEY, MONTGOMERY

Indian Doctor who was physician to giants of 20th Century tells his story



Dr. EARL LOWRY...now 76 years old, this Lumbee Indian doctor reflects on the great people of the 20th Century who have been his patients.

BY GENE WARREN

PEMBROKE--Franklin D. Roosevelt, Dwight Eisenhower, George Patton, Omar Bradley, George Marshall, Bernard Montgomery, Charles DeGaulle, and many more. Giants of the 20th Century.

A man who was a physician to them all was Dr. Earl Lowry, a Lumbee Indian from Robeson County who attained the rank of colonel in the U.S. Army and served for 15 years in that grade before retiring.

Now 76 years old, he was chief of the Professional Services Division and chief consultant in surgery, Office of the Chief Surgeon in Europe, during World War II.

Dr. Lowry had some 6,000 physicians under him "looking after four million men," he said.

"Earl Lowry is the smartest man I've ever talked with," says Adolph Dial, Indian historian and chairman of the American Indian Studies Department at Pembroke State University.

Dr. Lowry joined the Army in 1936 as war clouds were gathering over Europe--and his life as a physician brought him into contact with these historical giants plus others like Winston Churchill, Marshal George Zhukov of the Russian army, the queens of England, The Netherlands and Belgium, everyone of importance, it seems.

He was the physician attending Patton when he died from a broken neck in an auto-truck collision in 1945.

He set up an emergency tent at the request of Admiral Ross McIntyre for Roosevelt when FDR spoke at the 75th reunion of the Battle of Gettysburg in 1938. "I wouldn't hesitate to say Franklin D. Roosevelt did more with a tremendous physical handicap than anyone I've seen in 50 years of practice," Lowry claimed.

Lowry was already in Europe helping in medical planning for Roosevelt to attend the Potsdam Conference when he learned of Roosevelt's fatal stroke at Warm Springs, Ga., in 1945. "In some medical circles his death was not unexpected," Lowry commented.

Now residing in Des Moines, Iowa, the distinguished-appearing Lowry returned "home" in Pembroke recently for a two-day visit. "I try to get back at least twice a year," says the man whose father was the late D.F. Lowry, an Indian patriarch of this area who is known as the first graduate of what became Pembroke State University. A long-time member of the Pembroke State Board of Trustees, D.F. Lowry was honored in 1965 when the D.F. Lowry Student Center was named after him. Lowry died at the age of 97 in 1977. He had been a teacher, insurance man, business manager, mail carrier, minister, historian, etc.

"I believe my father contributed more to the cause of Pembroke State University than any other person," asserted Dr. Earl Lowry. "He was the key planner in the tough days when the school was at the tailend of the budget... and the tailend of N.C. education. He did more to



This was how Dr. EARL LOWRY looked as an Army colonel. During World War II, he had 6,000 physicians serving under him "looking after four million men."

get us off that and into the school system than any other person."

Dr. Lowry was recently interviewed--with rain falling outside--at the home of his legendary father, who was actively gardening while even in his 90's. It was one of those wonderful days of nostalgia, when one looks back over the years with fond remembrances.

How did an Indian boy who couldn't attend school with whites or blacks in those days of the strictest segregation manage to climb the heights and become a physician to some of the greatest men of the 20th Century?

This son of D.F. Lowry and the former Jessie Hatcher, a native of South Carolina, explained part of it quickly. "There were four girls and four boys in the family, and we were all taught to work--and not to compromise results. Our father impressed upon us the importance of making an 'A' in school instead of a 'B'--and I think that's why eight children were able to get some 19 college degrees," he said.

Earl Lowry attended Hopewell Graded School, about six miles from Pembroke, then graduated in 1924 from Pembroke High School, which then had 11 grades and was located in Old Main--now the landmark of Pembroke State University. "I was president of my senior class--and those were the first classes ever held in Old Main," remarked Lowry.

"It was reported that a normal school curriculum was available at the school then, but no students were enrolled," he continued. "However, in our senior year, one student was enrolled, Lucy M. Oxendine."

N.C. Newbold was assistant superintendent of public schools in North Carolina at that time--and in charge of the Indian schools. "Newbold took me in the library the day I graduated and reminded me that I couldn't get any more education in North Carolina other than at this school. He wanted me to come back and take the first year of a college curriculum." At that time, Lowry said an Indian student could be taught college work at the all-Indian institution at Pembroke on a one-on-one basis.

Lowry chose to go to McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill., as the first step toward going to medical school. However, because he said McKendree needed "a little more forcefulness in its chemistry, biology and physics for me to get in a Class A medical school," Lowry transferred to the University of Chattanooga. He earned there a B.S. in 1927. "It took me three years to go through. I graduated at the age of 19," he said. His B.S. was in chemistry and biology.

He then returned to Pembroke and taught science at the Indian Normal School where Pembroke State University is now located from 1927-29.

Lowry entered the University of Vanderbilt Medical School in the fall of 1929 and earned his M.D. in 1933.

"In the summer of 1929 before going to Vanderbilt, I went up to Wake Forest College and took a four-hour course in physics. About mid-term the admissions officer summoned me to his office and

I-95 COSMETIC OUTLET CELEBRATES TWO YEARS



Diane Oxendine is shown with many of the discount cosmetics available at Diane's Cosmetic Outlet, located on West Third Street in Pembroke. Diane and her husband Charles, also operate the I-95 Cosmetic Outlet in Lumberton. [Bruce Barton photo]

Pembroke--Diane and Charles Oxendine find it hard to believe. They just completed two years at the I-95 Cosmetic Outlet in Lumberton and have just opened their second store--Diane's Cosmetic Outlet and Alteration Shop--in Pembroke. (Located in part of the building formerly housing Oxendine's Jewelry for many years.) The Oxendines recently purchased the building from the Cook family, and have renovated the other part of the building for rent.

The Oxendines give Charles F. Atkinson, their landlord at the I-95 Cosmetic Outlet, a lion's share of the credit for their overwhelming success there. Mrs. Oxendine recalls, "He encouraged us, helped design the store for us, and had the confidence to rent us the expensive floor space at the I-95 Outlet Mall."

The Oxendines, ardent Christians, also believe that God has honored and blessed their business enterprise because they do not open on Sunday "in honor of God's day."

Diane Oxendine, a teacher at Smith-Allenton and her husband, Charles, a general contractor, find themselves spending more and more of their spare time developing their discount cosmetic outlet business.

Proud parents of three children, they attend Harper's Ferry Baptist Church and live in the Hopewell community.

Their second store in Pembroke is open from 9-5:30 p.m. Monday through Saturday and is staffed by Carol Wainwright, and Jackie Deese.

The new store also features expert seamstresses, making garments on order and alterations.

They invite all their friends to come in and visit with them--either at the I-95 Cosmetic Outlet or Diane's Cosmetic Outlet on West Third Street, Pembroke.

Some of the cosmetics featured are Coty, Faberge, Holsten, Choc, Polo and many more brand names at discount prices. They special order too.

Pembroke is proud to welcome the Oxendines to the business community.

SCENES FROM PEMBROKE JAYCEE'S SPONSORED CHRISTMAS PARADE

PEMBROKE--It was jolly and fun Friday morning as Pembroke held its annual Christmas Parade, a yearly event sponsored by the Pembroke Jaycees. Parade coordinator and officials estimated that a crowd of 8,000 turned out to see Santa Claus and all the other Christmasy floats, holly adorned beauty queens and, of course, Ol' Nick.

Some 90 units took part in the parade and Greg Cummings and the other Jaycees and town officials were euphoric at the large turnout, citing cooperation of Pembroke Police and Fire units and the warm weather.

Trophy winners were: first place in the band competition, West Robeson High School, under the direction of Walter Jackson; second place, Prospect School; and third place was South Robeson. In the elementary school division, first place was Pembroke Elementary.

In the non-commercial float competition, Deep Branch School came in first. LRDA won second place. In the church floats, Union Chapel Methodist Church took first place, and New Prospect Church came in second.

In the marching unit competition, the Pembroke ROTC unit won the first place trophy.



Stevie Oxendine, one of Pembroke's auxiliary policemen, was one of the reasons the Christmas parade was successful as parade coordinator Greg Cummings loaded Pembroke Police Department and Fire Department units for their help with crowd control and moving the parade along Friday. [Bruce Barton Photo]



PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

OXENDINE PTA PLANNED

Oxendine Elementary will have its third PTA meeting on Tuesday, Dec. 20 at 7:30 p.m. A Christmas program will be presented after a short business session. The public is invited to attend.

NACIE APPOINTMENTS

The National Advisory Council on Indian Education is pleased to announce that President Reagan has appointed four new members and re-appointed one for terms expiring Sept. 29, 1986. Robert B. Brewington, Tuscarora of Pembroke was re-appointed; Robert K. Chiago, Navajo; Marie Cox, Comanche, Grace Goodeagle, Quapaw-Potawatomi, Evalu Russell, Kiowa. This brings the membership to 14. It is expected that the President will appoint the 15th member soon.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLANNED

Berea Baptist Church Youth Choir invites you to attend "Two Nights Before Christmas," a Christmas musical for children on December 18, 1983 at Berea Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. The program is directed by Mrs. Felicia Locklear.

SUPT. SWETT TO APPEAR ON CAROLINA IN THE MORNING

Purnell Swett, Supt. of the Robeson County School System, will be a guest on "Carolina In The Morning" on Monday, December 19, 1983. He will be interviewed by Wayne Jackson. Supt. Swett recently returned from a good will "People to People" tour of Russia and China. He will relate some of his experiences on that Channel 6 TV show.

FOURTH SUNDAY EVENING SINGING POSTPONED

The regularly scheduled fourth Sunday evening singing at the Pembroke Church of God will be postponed because that will be Christmas Day. According to the pastor, Rev. Jack Hunt, the singing will be held the fourth Sunday evening at 2:30 p.m. in January. The public is cordially invited to attend.

PEMBROKE JAYCEES TO SPONSOR CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Pembroke Jaycees are sponsoring a Christmas Party on December 25 from 8 p.m. until at the Jaycee Hut. Providing music for your entertainment will be R & R featuring your favorite hits of 1983. Cost will be \$10 per couple or \$5 single. You may pay at the door. Everyone is invited to come out.

CHRISTMAS PARTY PLANNED

The Children's Department of the Robeson County Public Library is sponsoring a Christmas party for children ages 4 to 12 in the Osterneck Auditorium on Dec. 16 from 6-7:30 p.m.

The staff will present "Santa's Christmas Surprise" (puppet show), along with stories, songs, treats and a visit from Santa.

Parents are invited to bring their children and celebrate with the Robeson County Public Library Staff the joys of Christmas.

HE WHO WALKS IN LOVE TO BE PRESENTED

The Saddletree Church of God will present "He Who Walks in Love" on December 18 at 7 p.m. at the church. The public is cordially invited to attend.

PLATE SALE PLANNED

Strike at the Wind will have a barbecue plate sale December 22 in the Pembroke Town Park from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m. The price will be \$3.50 per plate which includes a drink. For more information, call 919-521-3112.

FUND RAISING FOR CANCER VICTIM CARL OXENDINE JR.

A yard sale and Bake sale will be held December 23 in the Pembroke Town Park from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Proceeds from the sale will go toward medical expenses incurred by the illness of Carl Oxendine, Jr. Any donations will be gladly accepted.

For additional information contact Doris Brayboy at 521-2297 or Marilyn Oxendine at 521-4700.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM PLANNED

Cherokee Chapel Methodist Church, Wakulla, will present its Christmas program on Sunday evening at 6 p.m. Refreshments will follow in the fellowship hall. Everyone is invited to attend. Rev. Julian Ransom is the pastor.

ATTENTION ALL LUMBEE INDIANS: COMMUNITY HEARINGS

Community hearings are underway on Indian Federal Recognition.

The purpose of the Community Hearings is to discuss the issues facing the Lumbee Indians in matters dealing with Federal Recognition and the benefits to the Lumbee people. Another issue to be presented is an important Lumbee Tribal Referendum to be voted on January 31, 1984, by Lumbee Tribal Enrolled Members.

December 13, 1983, 7 p.m.--Community Hearing at the Native American Council Building in Hoke County, N.C.

December 15, 1983, 7 p.m., at Green Grove School in Robeson County, N.C.

December 14, 1983, 7 p.m., at West Robeson High Schol, Robeson County.

December 15, 1983, 7 p.m., at Magnolia School, Robeson County.

For more information, call Lumbee Regional Development Association at 919-521-8602, in Pembroke, N.C.

GOLDEN EAGLE CHANGES NAME, MOVES TO NEW LOCATION

PEMBROKE--Golden Eagle Chemical and Janitorial Company, formerly located on West 3rd Street, has moved to Cummings Plaza on Union Chapel Road, bounded on one side by the Golden Comb and on the other by the Show Off.

And the company has also changed its name to Eagle Services, Inc., with a new manager, to more adequately reflect some new services offered by the business. The new name of the business is EAGLE SERVICES.

Eagle Services, like its predecessor, continues to offer chemical supplies and janitorial services and supplies, as well as carpet cleaning and upholstery, and maid services and general house cleaning.

The company also offers 10% discount to churches and civic organizations. For further information, contact Sam Braswell at 521-8416 or 521-8610.

Lowry for the House



Upon announcing his candidacy for the House of Representatives, Bernard Lowry of Pembroke released the following statement:

"As I announce my candidacy for the House of Representatives, I want to make several observations. I was born on a farm near Elrod, N.C. in the Hopewell Community. I attended the local community schools. I have been a taxpayer since 1936. I have been a life-long Democrat. I vote in every election--town, county, state and national. I am a member of the First Methodist Church in Pembroke and a World War II veteran. I am a retired teacher and a former magistrate of the 16th Judicial District. I am making myself available and will give full-time attention to the legislative effort. I also served as Lt. Governor of Kiwanis International District IV.

"I am ambitious for our great state. I am ambitious for all the people of our district, especially, as it relates to good jobs, quality education, neighborhoods free from crime, and first rate care for the elderly. I am ambitious for myself, for which I make no apology. One without ambition could not be of much help.

"These are my aims as your legislator. I appreciate everyone in all three counties."