

Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Education in Robeson



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THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Editor's note: Our Indian Renaissance began with passage of 1885 N.C. Laws, Ch. 51, designating Robeson County Indians as "Croatian Indians" and providing for an Indian School System. Read the Carolina Indian Voice weekly as we tell this remarkable story throughout 1985 in celebration of our CENTENNIAL OF EDUCATION.

"Strike at the Wind!" Getting Ready For 'Momentous' 10th Season



CARNELL LOCKLEAR
General Manager

Pembroke-General Manager Carnell Locklear, who also doubles as the irrepressible "Boss Strong" in the outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind!" always begins praying that it won't rain too much about this time of the year. The popular outdoor drama that tells the bitter-sweet saga of Henry Berry Lowrie and the Lumbee Indians will kick off its tenth season this year on July 6 and run through September 7. The family-orientated show runs each Thursday, Friday and Saturday beginning at 8:30 p.m.

Locklear considers it a "momentous" occasion the 10th season of a drama that was begun as part of America's bi-centennial celebration in 1976. Locklear, always optimistic where "Strike at the Wind" is concerned, says, "We never know what the weather is going to do but we are always hopeful that we will have a season without too many rainouts."

"Strike at the Wind" depends on the weather and local talent for its success, and a number of cast members will be returning for another season. Locklear exults, "I'm really excited. We have got a great cast, a lot of the same people that we had last year...and that makes a difference." Harvey Godwin returns as Henry Berry Lowrie and Hope Sheppard will recreate her role as the head strong Rhoda Strong Lowrie. They are a part of a 65 member ensemble of actors, technicians and back stage people who make "Strike at the Wind!" the unique success it has been since its beginning 10 years ago.

Back for his second season as director will be David Oxendine, a native of Pembroke and a 1982 graduate of

Catawba College. Oxendine has served previously as assistant director and has acted in the drama on several occasions. Oxendine is presently serving as drama instructor at Lumbee Regional Development Association's (LRDA) Center for the Arts in Pembroke.

Oxendine loves drama, and has acted or directed in four of the last six productions of the Robeson Little-Theatre. He has also made commercials, and recently finished up an acting stint as one of the characters which will be shown in the Public Television production of minutes commemorating the 400th Anniversary of the founding of a colony at Manteo on Croatan Sound.

Oxendine insists on professionalism, and applauds his mostly amateur cast. "We are still learning together, and I hope my ideas about acting will help make the production even better this year than it has been in the past."

Oxendine sincerely believes this will be the best season of "Strike at the Wind." He notes, "We have assembled the best possible cast and crew members for this season. I believe we have a great season ahead of us."

Oxendine, who added a hanging scene last year, is incorporating more action into the production for this year. "Strike at the Wind" is a story that needs to be told, as Oxendine sees it. The drama points out the "futility of prejudice. It is a positive saga that will fill the heart with hope."

As always, the drama will be held at Lakeside Amphitheatre on the grounds of Riverside Country Club in the Red Banks area, approximately three miles west of Pembroke. For more information call 521-3112.



DAVID OXENDINE
Director

Learning From Each Other Through Volunteer Program

by Connee Brayboy

The concept of volunteers enhancing the educational process has proven to be successful. Especially in the Robeson County School System the program has proven over and over to be an asset to the education program.

Directing the Community Schools Program since its inception is Archie Oxendine. He is very enthusiastic and has a magnetic way about him that makes people feel honored to be a part of the program.

"There are many aspects of the volunteer program," said Oxendine. "As we help one another, we help ourselves. It is a learning experience." Oxendine stated that he had grown as an individual as he learned something new from each community person he has recruited. When asked which volunteer had taught him the most, without hesitation, Oxendine, replied, "Carla Earles."

Oxendine commented further to explain. "At our appreciation dinner, recently, we honored all our volunteers. Carla, who is blind, made two statements which impressed me deeply," he said. "First she said, 'I came here tonight to see...' And, secondly, she said, 'I thank the Lord that I am blind.'"

These two statements caused Archie Oxendine to examine himself closely. "While going to his car, he asked himself, 'Atch, if someone had pushed you here tonight in a wheel chair, could you honestly say thank the Lord I'm crippled? Being honest, he had to admit he could not. The conclusion of the matter was that Oxendine found himself involved in some serious soul-searching. "Yes," he said, "I've learned the most from Carla. She has inspired me to look within myself and become a better person. She has taught me not to complain and to do the best that I can with whatever I have available."

Carla doesn't consider herself any different from anyone else. "I am not handicapped," she said, "I am just not sighted." Carla is a junior at Pembroke State University. She is majoring in Special Education and plans to teach children with special problems upon completion of her degree.

Born in Detroit, Michigan, Carla is the daughter of Mrs. Louise Locklear Ragsdale and the late Bill Earles. She is the granddaughter of Mr. Joseph Locklear and the late Margie Locklear of the Mt. Airy Community.

Carla Earles has been blind since two days before her third birthday a victim of glaucoma. She attended the public schools of Michigan and graduated from East Detroit, Michigan High School in 1982. She attended the Michigan State School for the Blind for a year and a half where she learned Braille and other necessary skills for unsighted people.

She is a very positive individual and does not think of herself as handicapped. She recalls moving back to Robeson County for a year in 1978 when she was in junior high. She remembers some frustration because the local junior high school was not equipped to teach a blind student. She returned to Michigan in 1979 with a determination to return to Robeson County because she loved the area. And upon graduation, she returned to attend PSU and resided for a while with her aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Locklear. She has since moved out on her own and keeps busy with school and many other activities, including music.

Carla contributed 187 hours of volunteer service to Pembroke Elementary School. She assisted Ms. Sandy Leggett in the EMH class there. She assisted in teaching the students regular math and reading skills. She also taught some art work and whatever else was needed of her. She volunteered three days a week while attending PSU and donated her spring break to volunteer service.

How did she like volunteer work? "I loved it," she said. One of the special delights for Carla was teaching Braille to Ms. Leggett. She enjoys teaching Braille and says that it is much easier to teach it to sighted people than to the blind.

During the appreciation dinner for volunteers, Carla was presented a certificate in Braille. She was thrilled about it. She taught Ms. Leggett to write in Braille and Ms. Leggett used her new



Carla Earles
Local School Volunteer

knowledge to prepare Carla's certificate of appreciation.

Carla is one of the rare people we meet who doesn't discourage easily. She finds life exciting and enjoys being just what she is. Being deeply religious, Carla places her trust in God and has no bitterness or questions about being unsighted. At one point in our conversation, Carla stated: "No, I don't have any desire to be sighted. There is too much that is bad and ugly. If I were sighted, I might try something I have no business in."

Carla is a gifted pianist and vocalist. She attends the Rowland Church of God where she is very much at home. She speaks glowingly of the pastor, Mrs. Margaret Faye Demery. "She is like a second mother to me," Carla said. "She is a real blessing to me." Carla utilizes her talents at the Rowland Church of God where she enjoys singing with the young people's choir.

As a small token of his appreciation Archie Oxendine has recruited community persons to pay for a summer course at PSU for Carla and to buy the book she needed. This was a class that her grant and the Commission for the Blind would not pay for. Oxendine also recruited Sandra Worrix to transport Carla to and from the University each day.

"Carla does so much for other people, always willing, always with a smile and a great deal of enthusiasm," said Oxendine. "With those thoughts in mind, one can't help wanting to do something for her."

"Our efforts to recruit monies and Sandra Worrix to transport Carla to school," Oxendine continued, "was by no means an, effort to repay her for all that she has contributed to the Robeson County School System. It was just a small token of our esteem and appreciation for the opportunity to meet and get to know such a special person."

Carla exudes positive vibrations and much vitality. Her genuine love of people is contagious and there is indeed much to be learned from her unselfishness.

DINNER HONORS MAGNOLIA'S RETIRING TEACHERS

A dinner honored retiring teachers at Magnolia School May 31, 1985. Retirees honored were Adeline Maynor, Curency Locklear and Hazel McPhatter.

The program consisted of the welcome by Noah Woods, principal of Magnolia School, invocation by Rev. Jerry Lowry; dinner was enjoyed. Shellena Locklear rendered a song and remarks were made by Noah Woods, principal, and Ruth Dial Woods and Donald A. Bonner, Assis. Supertendents of Robeson County School System. Douglas Hunt offered the closing prayer.

ADELINE MAYNOR

She is the daughter of the late Ralph Lowry and Katie Deese Lowry. She is from a family of 17 children. She married James Warford Maynor and has two children, Kayron Kate and Granual, and one grandchild, Desmond.

Ms. Maynor attended the Pembroke Schools, graduated from Pembroke State University in 1954, attended the University of Tennessee for a Degree in Business and the University of North Carolina in Chapel.

Ms. Maynor came to Magnolia in the fall of 1954 while Frank Epps was principal. She worked at Magnolia for 30 years, one month and one week. Her principals have been Frank Epps, Robert Hunt, John Mark Brooks and Noah Woods. She owns and operates A and A Insurance and Real Estate in Pembroke.

CURENCY LOCKLEAR

Mr. Locklear is the son of the late Junie and Catherine Ann Locklear. He is the father of three sons and two daughters, Peggy Jean Thomas, Bobby Dean Locklear, Ralph Locklear, Dexter Dwight Locklear and Lillie Annette Locklear.

Mr. Locklear spent two and one half years in military service, from November 1943 to February 1946. He served in England, France, Belgium and Germany.

Mr. Locklear attended Prospect School and graduated from Pembroke State College with a B.S. degree in Elementary education.

He has served with the following principals and schools: Mr. Otis Burnelle at Sampson County (1954-55); Mr. Adolph Dial, Prospect School (1955-58); Rev. Percelle Locklear, Sampson County (1958-59).

Her served Mangolia School from 1959 to 1985 under Mr. Frank Epps, Mr. Robert Hunt, Mr. John M. Brooks, and Noah Woods.

Mr. Locklear is a member of Branch Street United Methodist Church where he has served as Church Superintendent for three years and as chairman of the administrative board. He is a member of the West Lumberton Kiwanis Club and the Pembroke VFW.

HAZEL McPHATTER

Ms. McPhatter is the daughter of Nettie Huggins and the late Dan Huggins. She is married to Harold McPhatter and has four daughters, Glenda Layel, Sue Nealy, Kay Little, Mary C. Huggins, and one son, William McPhatter. She has two grandchildren, Deryl Little and Jason Huggins.

Ms. McPhatter graduated from Orrum High School and attended one semester at Pembroke State University.

Mrs. McPhatter was a teachers aide at Magnolia School for nine years. She worked with Mr. John Mark Brooks and Mr. Noah Woods. She worked five years in the junior high department with Mrs. Barbara Thompson and one year with Mrs. Vanessa Jones in second grade.

She is a member of Chestnut Street United Methodist Church and is a volunteer for home delivered meals for senior citizens.

Following an evening of fellowship, the retirees received plaques of appreciation and a set of luggage from the school.



Shown left to right are: Adeline Maynor, Curency Locklear, and Hazel McPhatter who were honored recently upon their retirement from Magnolia School. (Photo & text by Elmer W. Hunt)

**Coffee Break
Planned For
Tom Oxendine
Medical
Expenses**

Friends and relatives of the late Tom Oxendine of Pembroke will sponsor a Coffee Break on Friday, June 21 beginning at 6 p.m. and lasting until midnight Saturday. The purpose of the Coffee Break is to raise funds to pay for medical and burial expenses incurred when Tom was beaten severely in Pembroke recently in an unsolved crime. Oxendine died later from the wounds.

The Coffee Break will be held at the Larry Walters Station which is located at the Highway 74/710 Junction. C. B. operators will be on hand to talk with travelers and solicit their support for these expenses.

Coffee and cake will be served for a donation.

The event is being sponsored by the following C.B.s: White Tornado, Beaver Pleaser, Shingleman, Iron Master, The Red Toyota, Baseball Lady, and other friends and family members of the late Tom Oxendine.



PLEASE HELP!

LET'S SAVE
THE PEMBROKE
RAILROAD DEPOT!

Send Contributions to:

PEMBROKE HISTORIC
PROPERTIES COMMISSION
P.O. Box 1075
Pembroke, N.C. 28372



T.J. LOCKLEAR FUND UPDATE

On behalf of T.J. Locklear and family, the Head Start staff of LRDA would like to thank the many kind and caring donors listed below. Thank each of you for making this fund raising a great success and ensuring T.J. a better future.

If others would like to contribute to this fund, please make checks payable to the T.J. Locklear Fund, P.O. Box 68, Pembroke, NC 28372.

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