

EDITORIAL PAGE

AS I SEE IT



by
**Bruce
Barton**

A biased review of 'Strike at the Wind'

I just like 'Strike at the Wind'! That is why this is a biased review of the popular outdoor drama that showcases the exploits of Henry Berry Lowrie and the Lumbee Indians of Robeson County. The show, under the stellar direction of David Oxendine, opened July 7 to raves from the critics and the viewing public. Playwright Randolph Umberger called it, "the best production of 'Strike at the Wind' since the production began in 1976." Of course, I agree wholeheartedly. David Oxendine, the director, has emphasized direction and movement since rehearsals began. And the show is fast paced, and articulate. David Oxendine deserves plaudits for his insistence on professionalism from a mostly amateur cast. Oxendine also has been ably assisted by Melton Lowry, who has refined the role of stage manager. Melton Lowry, who ably played Henry Berry Lowrie for a number of seasons, is a talented fellow who has a good way with people. His natural abilities have allowed Oxendine to concentrate his efforts on improving every actor in the cast; including, yours truly, who is enjoying his role as Allen Lowrie-Henry Berry Lowrie's daddy.

The Cast
'Strike at the Wind' either succeeds or fails on the characterization of Henry Berry Lowrie. This year's production succeeds artistically because Harvey Godwin, Jr. is a superb Henry Berry Lowrie. He plays the role with verve and vigor, but always understates his emotion. That is the sign of a good actor; and Harvey Godwin is a good actor, and he is handsome besides. His beloved, Rhoda, is played masterfully by Hope Sheppard; she has perfected the role over a number of seasons. Hope Sheppard becomes Rhoda Strong Lowrie, and that is not an easy thing for an actress to do. The show is strong because Harvey

Godwin, Jr. and Hope Sheppard are strong. They set the tone of the show, and the rest of us have to play up to their capabilities or look foolish in the process. The rest of us have opted to do our very best, and we succeed admirably, as I see it.

Derek Lowry is stately as the leader. He looks the part and acts it out as well. There is an air of dignity about him, and he is superbly cast as the stentorian one who provides narration and theme for the fast paced show. His counterpart is Bobby Oxendine, who plays the "boy", and receives wisdom and understanding from the "leader".

Brenda Jacobs plays Mama Cumbo, and Dora Chavis emotes as Aunt Mary. Both are perfect for their parts, and exude confidence and real acting ability. As I see it, neither can be improved upon. They have taken the pivotal roles and made them their own respectively.

Carnell Locklear and Robert Bryant provide comic relief as "Boss Strong" and "Shoemaker John" respectively. In many instances, they steal the show. They are the crowd favorites, no doubt about it.

After these fine performances, the rest of us just try to stay up with them. And I honestly think we emote quite well. Jamie Lee Oxendine performs capably as Polly; and Jim Lovell and Michelle Martin hold their own as Sheriff Reuben King and Dolly, the suffering wife.

A real surprise this year is Willie Harris, Jr. as Brant (Jack) Harris, his real forte. Willie is deliciously nasty as the protagonist who sets the stage for the mean guys. The cast and audience just love to hate old Brant Harris, who was purported to be "the meanest man in Robeson County" during the Civil War era which is the setting for the show.

Also filling in capably are Joe Blackman as Reverend Sinclair and Keith Hight as Hector McCord.

I like watching the cast grow into their roles, and every performer has improved since the drama began. 3 in particular have impressed this reviewer. They are Spencer Hunt as Murray "the drunken home guardsman"; Tim Hunt as Donahoe, the sneaky one who preys on the rest of us; and young Mark McKinney who is delightful as Andrew King.

Everyone in the cast deserves accolades. The chemistry is good among the cast, and camaraderie reigns back stage. I take my hat off to Perry Hammonds as Henderson Oxendine (it is worth the show to see the hanging of Henderson Oxendine); Roger McKinney as Young Wesley; Mark Oxendine as Young Allen; Michael Deese as Zack; Frank Carter as Calvin; Frankie Hunt as Steve Lowrie (Frankie Hunt has a booming voice, and has marvelous stage presence); Tony Bullard, who plays Andrew; Lynn Edward Locklear as William Lowrie etc. etc.

Walter Spence, who plays McGregor, another nasty guy, might be the best who has ever played the role. He is imposing and has wonderful stage presence and diction. Michael Carter plays McMillan with beautiful understatement. His characterization is quite good, and effective. Another who deserves special mention is Lee Wiggins, who has played the missionary and Widow McNair for ten years. She is a superb actress, and is an example for the rest of us to emulate.

'Strike at the Wind' most times is weakened or strengthened accordingly by the home guardsmen and Scuffle-town and Lumberton citizenry. This year's cast sparkles and interplays well on stage. Some of them are Marcus Locklear, Leonard Oxendine, Edith Ward, Traci Locklear, Lisa Locklear, Jimmy Mask, David Thaggard, Latonia Cox, Lance F. Jacobs, Ronnie Eddings, Traci Oxendine, Randy Fields, Glenn Oxendine, Ricky Chavis, David Bryant, Mark Deese, Angie Revels, Norma Lowery, Samuel Jacobs, Stevie Jacobs, Frances Chavis, Wanda Kay Locklear, Nicole Locklear, Phillip Steffes, Crystal Ward, Christopher Ward, Shaneequah Collins, Carolyn Oxendine, Shari Ann Cox, Margaret Freeman, Victoria Oxendine, Angela Collins, Jacqueline M. Holmes, Donna Lingle, Robert K. Locklear, Terena Sheppard, Tonya Lowry, Angelo Lowry, Mychalene Deese, Vandra Locklear and Dale Ann McKinney.

I give us all a big hand, and I challenge you to visit 'Strike at the Wind' this year and not like it. I promise you this: we'll act our hearts out to entertain you.

It's a superb show with a poetic script by Randolph Umberger and haunting music by Willie Lowery. And a them of brotherhood that is worth emoting about. Come out and see the most exciting outdoor drama, in America, as I see it.

the best of the week editorials

Abolish The Exclusionary Rule

Sen. John East (R), North Carolina, proposes to abolish the so-called "exclusionary rule" of evidence. It's about time! The rule bars evidence against a defendant in a criminal trial if the police or the prosecutor violated any Constitutional rule or any other law while gathering the evidence. Judges do not — because the Supreme Court has said they may not — consider the value of the evidence when they apply the rule.

As interpreted by the Supreme Court, the Constitution absolutely prohibits a judge from looking at such evidence to determine whether it would have any value for the jury. If the means used to obtain the evidence breached any Constitutional rule, then the evidence must be treated as if it had never existed. Obviously guilty defendants have gone free in thousands of cases such as these:

- Stopping a speeder, the trooper notices something suspicious about the driver's behavior, and demands that the trunk be opened. Inside, he finds a gun with the driver's fingerprints on it. The gun turns out to have been used to murder a bank teller. The court suppresses the gun, keeping its very existence from the jury, because the Constitution, as the Supreme Court reads it, demands that the officer have more than a "suspicion" to justify searching the trunk.
- Because they suspect a businessman is dealing in drugs, detectives get a court order authorizing them to tap his phone. One morning they overhear a telephone conversation between one of the businessman's visitors and someone else; they are discussing their plan to murder an informant. The prosecution of the two plotters for conspiracy to murder collapses when the judge prohibits use of the tape recording because the court order authorizing the tap didn't mention evidence of murder plots.

There is nothing in the Constitution that says that improperly obtained evidence must not be used. The exclusionary rule has been developed by the courts in response to the failure of the government at times to prosecute policemen who violate the law in the course of their duties.

There are and always have been laws prohibiting the police from using illegal methods of gathering evidence. Occasionally, overzealous police violated those laws in their desire to catch and convict criminals. Such police violations rarely were punished.

The exclusionary rule has been the judge's answer to the prosecutor's failure to discipline errant police. The courts are saying, "We're going to make it pointless for you to break the law; if you do something illegal to get the evidence, we won't let you use it. Period."

Prosecutors don't indict wayward police because prosecutors have to work with the police day-in and day-out. And there are some prosecutors whose crusading enthusiasm sometimes leads them to condone or even encourage improper police tactics. Because no one else has taken on the task of making the police obey the law, the judges have imposed the exclusionary rule.

What is needed, obviously, is a way to preserve valuable evidence without giving the police any incentive to violate the law. Any solution must also accept the fact that some police will sometimes break the law and must be punished. Senator East's idea provides such a solution: Federal judges will have the power to punish, as a "contempt of the Constitution," government conduct that breaks Constitutional rules. But regardless of whether the rules are broken, the proposal would let the jury see and hear the evidence. And many more guilty defendants would be convicted!

—Americanism Educational League

Deft-nitions

A Perfectionist: A person who chooses a picnic site as if it were to be a permanent home.

A Gossip: A person who just can't leave bad enough alone.

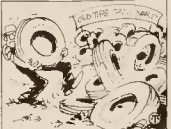
Congressman: A person who leaves his \$175-a-day hotel suite to climb into a \$30,000 car which takes him to a \$100 million jet which delivers him to the city where he delivers a speech on economy in government.

Genius: A combination of work, dedication, perseverance, imagination, and average ability.

—The American Way Features

WINNERS & LOSERS

Workers at 102,000 places — primarily retail gasoline stations and garages — their customers and their employers can consider themselves winners thanks to new Occupational Safety and Health Administration standards. They must now be protected by barriers and restraining devices from the dangers that can occur if a tire or wheel explodes.



The wheel experts at The Budd Company point out that worn out or corroded truck wheels are losers. If they are corroded to the point that there are visible pits in the metal, or if any locking surface is bent or cracked, or any parts do not match, the wheels should be scrapped to prevent re-use.

You can be a winner if you remember never to work on a truck tire or wheel unless you are properly trained and have read and follow OSHA regulation Section 1910.177 and wheel manufacturer's literature.

FREE BROCHURES
OSHA offers free charts and booklets to help mechanics learn the accepted procedures. To get a copy, you can send a self-addressed mailing label to Servicing Rim Wheels, OSHA Publications, Room N-4101, Frances Perkins Bldg., Third St. and Constitution Ave., Washington D.C. 20210.

EDITORIAL EXPRESSION

GOVERNOR MARTIN ASKED TO RENEGE ON HIS PROMISES TO INDIAN PEOPLE

Governor Jim Martin made an appearance at the North Carolina Indian Unity Conference in Fayetteville last March and endorsed the proposed Indian Cultural Center at Red Banks; and spoke of other areas of concern in which his administration would serve the needs of the Indian community.

Yesterday, according to reliable sources, Governor Jim Martin met with Dr. Ernest Brown, the chairman of the Robeson County Republican Party, and some other locals, and was reportedly asked to renege on his promises that he made publicly at the Indian Unity Conference. Dr. Brown and his associates reportedly asked Governor Martin to forego his endorsement of the Indian cultural center and opt, instead, for a state park. The talk is that the proponents of the state park plan would name it the Lumbee State Park.

The North Carolina General Assembly recently allocated \$100,000 in state funds to be used to develop the concept of an Indian Cultural Center under the auspices of the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. With the monies allocated a non profit corporation will be set up and manned with Indians presumably. Also, further planning will be done; and the idea will be kept alive and nurtured. If we had our druthers, the Carolina Indian Voice would rather see an Indian Cultural Center developed as originally planned. It will be a sad day for Indians if local concerns prevails like Dr. Ernest Brown are allowed to come in at the 11th hour and change directions and decide, in essence, what is best for Indian people. We say "no!" to such a move, set, and remind Governor Martin anew of his promises to support an Indian Cultural Center; in spite of the Brown's protestations to the contrary. The ball is now in Governor Martin's camp. He can either keep his promise to the Indian people of North Carolina, or he can do like his predecessors of old have done. When it all said and done, I hope it will not be because of Governor Martin's promise. "They made us many promises and they never kept one...they promised to take our land and they took it." Governor Martin follows the suggestion of Dr. Brown and his associates, he will have broken his word. We would remind him anew of an old Robeson County Indian saying, "A man is only as good as his word!"

HERITAGE NEWS FORUM

FROM HERITAGE FEATURES SYNDICATE • WASHINGTON, D.C.

SOME QUESTIONS

By Edwin Feulner

Why does government pay for abortions, encourage illegitimacy by supporting children born out-of-wedlock to welfare mothers, yet place incredible obstacles in the way of prospective adoptive parents? Is this the way government promotes family cohesion?

Why can't the subject of Social Security be discussed without every petty demagogue in the country denouncing anyone who dares even suggest that the lousy system needs repair? Isn't it in the public interest to have a sound retirement-income system that doesn't make hollow promises while draining the economy?

Why isn't English the official language of the United States? What should it be: Croatian?

Why is there great agreement on what's wrong with American education, but no consensus on "what every child should learn in school"? Actress Ali McGraw said recently she thinks the school day should include daily "therapy." Is that the answer — getting in touch with one's feelings? Or would most Americans vote for grammar, literature, history, and math?

In other words, are there some fundamental values common to American society that the political process has either distorted or ignored?

In a first-ever joint study involving America's major think tanks, a fourteen-member study panel — which I was pleased to be part of — looked at many of these troubling questions. The answers in many cases were disturbing because we found that instead of defending and protecting the family — from birth, through school, to retirement — government policy in many cases is contributing to the destruction of the family as the basic unit of society.

Known as the Committee on the Next Agenda, the study group organized by the Hudson Institute included representatives from the Hoover Institution, The Heritage Foundation, Brookings Institution, American Enterprise Institute, and the Institute for Research on the Economics of Taxation.

The study panel suggested that:

- The government should encourage, rather than hinder, adoption. Adoption, after all, builds families. And couples who are attempting to build a family should not have to wrestle with a bureaucracy that appears to be hostile to them.

- Policymakers need to develop a better understanding of what our children should learn in school. The panel suggested that President Reagan convene a "White House summit meeting" of state officials and education leaders to see if we can reach agreement on what body of knowledge and values we should expect every child to bring home at the end of a successful school year.

- In an effort to better absorb the immigrant community into U.S. society, English should be made the official U.S. language. Children should be taught in English, and expected to learn the language. While else, we also must end the charade that bilingual education is the proper way to prepare a child to succeed in U.S. society.

- A private-sector alternative to Social Security must be created. We must assure retired people and those nearing retirement that their benefits are secure. At the same time, we owe it to the Baby Boomers and post-Baby Boomers to see that they have the opportunity to provide for their own old age — without saddling their children and the economy with a tax burden they can't afford.

- Since the legal system has grown into a seemingly endless bureaucracy, the number of tasks in society "which are reserved for the exclusive attention of lawyers" should be reduced. Professionals such as bankers, realtors and paralegals should be given expanded powers to write and execute legal documents, and handle real estate contracts and settlements.

In addition, the study panel recommended that President Reagan appoint a national commission to report on the state of family life in America.

Increasing government involvement in our lives has helped replace the idea of individual responsibility with the notion that individuals and we start asking the right questions, perhaps we can reverse the trend. (Feulner is president of The Heritage Foundation, a Washington-based public policy research institute.)

Martha Washington's silver service was the source of the silver that went into the first U.S. coins.

Dr. Sherwood Hinson, Jr.

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CHIROPRACTORS CONTROL PAIN NATURALLY

The Reader's Forum

Will The River Survive When Dirty Politicians Take A Bath In It???

One of the most prominent concerns for residents of Robeson County is Lumber River. Lumber River is not only a major source of recreation and fishing for Robeson residents but it is also a major or the major supply of water for several municipalities in the county, Lumberton in particular. So why would a large and influential municipality such as Lumberton stand idly by while a toxic nuclear waste treatment plant is about to be given a permit to build? This very plant will emit processed materials into Lumber River at night that will force Lumberton to discontinue using the river as its source for water. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that the residents of Lumberton don't care that they would have to build new facilities for processing that precious commodity of H2O or that the great august political machine that dictated the course of Robeson County and governed its agenda is now dead or completely powerless.

It is rather interesting to note that this plant that is presently being planned to be built in Scotland county will have its most devastating effect on Robeson County is being fought most vigorously by residents of Scotland County. O by the way, the damage from nuclear waste is irreversible. Have you thought about Campbell Soup? No one in his right mind will want glow in the dark soup to eat. It seems like the Mafia of Robeson County has joined forces with the Mafia of Scotland County to perpetrate this infamous deed upon their respective residence. In the words of a socialist analyst, "They think we are dumb enough to let them do it to us."

Which brings me to this point, Lumber River can and has taken a lot, but the day wherein our benevolent elected officials decide in their finite wisdom to take a bath in it, even with anointed Ivory Soap, that will bring pollution to the "maximencia." No more swimming for me in Lumber River. Also if residents of Robeson and Scotland Counties will get off this Rip Van Winkle trip they are on, maybe, just maybe, the plant will not be built and the river saved. If you want to help, please write Save the River, P.O. Box 759, Pembroke, NC 28372. Harold G. Dial