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In A Tri-racial Setting."

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Indian Patriarch Clifton Oxendine Points Out Spot Where PSU Began In 1887



Clifton Oxendine: "This is the exact spot where the original building stood"

which became Pembroke State University. Shown in the background is New Hope Church.

By Gene Warren
With his trusty cane, 86-year-old Clifton Oxendine pointed to an area in the freshly plowed field where once stood the two-story, unpainted, wooden building which was the beginning of Pembroke State University.

It is considered a patriarch of the Lumbee Indian people. The place he designated is only a few yards from New Hope Church, which is approximately 1 1/2 miles from the Town of Pembroke, site of PSU since 1909. The "spot" where the wooden building stood is two-tenths of a mile east of N.C. Highway 710 and about eight miles south of Red Springs.

people "took their broad axes and went into the forest - as Noah did in building the ark - and built that first building." Lowry was the first person to receive a diploma from what was then known as Croatan Normal School. That occurred in 1905. The people had to donate their labor because the N.C. General Assembly appropriated only \$500 to the school, and that amount was stipulated only for "payment of

services rendered for teaching and for no other purpose." So the school's Board of Trustees had to raise or contribute the \$8 to purchase the one-acre site. The Rev. W.L. Moore, one of the leaders in founding the school and its first principal and teacher, found it necessary to contribute \$200 of his own funds to get the school started.

"That first building was never painted. You can tell that from looking at the old pictures of it," said Oxendine.

Oxendine said he attended the school in 1907, "but I went only a few days in the first grade before switching to a little elementary school through those pines." He pointed past New Hope Church. Oxendine was seven years old at the time. Oxendine said that when he was a boy "people always called this the college although it wasn't any college. It was not graded. People went more or less on an individual basis."

but our people hadn't caught onto the value of education. Attendance was very poor. The grades were mostly elementary. There was no high school.

Oxendine remembers that the school near New Hope Church had a big bell which was carried to Pembroke when the school was moved there in 1909. "I didn't start to the school at Pembroke until after the sixth or seventh grade. World War I interrupted things and during that period I was mostly farming with my father." (Note: World War I was from 1914-1918 with the U.S. entering the war in 1917).

During those war years too, said Oxendine, there wasn't much interest in education among the Indian people. Oxendine completed the high school curriculum of the Indian Normal School of Robeson County in 1924 along with six other students. "It was high school. That was the highest they offered," said Oxendine, who was 24 at the time. From that point in his life, his education broadened. He earned his A.B. degree in history and secondary education at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill., in 1928 and his M.A. in history at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tenn. in 1934. He later did additional graduate study at George Peabody and Louisiana State University.

the oldest brick building on campus and others were to follow, I would begin calling it 'Old Main. The name took."

Oxendine said the building became so hallowed that funerals of prominent people used to be held in "Old Main." It was to the Indians like the rotunda of the nation's capitol.

In those early days when that first two-story, wooden building was constructed near where New Hope Church is now located, did Clifton Oxendine have any idea that it would grow into a regional university which Pembroke State University is today?

"I don't think anyone was thinking that far into the future," the Indian patriarch responded. "But, you know, our rivers start off as small rivers in the mountains - and look at them today." In conclusion, Oxendine shared a story of how the father of Ida Howell (who married Bill Friday, former president of the UNC System) used to operate a sawmill in Robeson County. "Mr. Howell operated out here at Pates and cut timber for me with which I built a house in 1939," said Oxendine. Friday met Miss Howell on a blind date at Meredith College which she was attending. They were married in 1942. This was according to a story on Friday's life in "North Carolina" magazine.

Pates is located one-half mile from the New Hope Church location where it all began for Pembroke State University 100 years ago - come March 7, 1887. (Note: An honorary doctorate will be conferred upon Clifton Oxendine by Pembroke State University Sept. 3 as part of a PSU convocation launching a year-long celebration of its Centennial.)

K-MART HEADS FUND RAISING EFFORT FOR KAYLA LEIGH SMITH'S LIVER TRANSPLANT FUND

K-Mart of Lumberton is showing its community spirit by raising money for Kayla Smith's liver transplant fund.

On a recent Saturday they raised over \$400 selling hot dogs, cokes, pepsi, and baked goods. K-Mart would also like to thank all of the merchants who participated in helping out with the fund raising by donating their merchandise and discounts on the goods sold.

In addition to the bake sale, K-Mart is raffling off a 19" color television by selling raffle tickets for only \$2. The drawing for the raffle will be on May 17 and all proceeds will go to Kayla L. Smith's liver transplant fund.

K-Mart's goal is to reach over \$2000 and issues a challenge to other merchants to raise as much for this worthy cause.

Regan Receives Master Of Divinity Degree

Wake Forest, NC - Richard Regan of Pembroke, NC received the Master of Divinity Degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary during Commencement Exercises on May 10, 1986.

Regan, the son of Fred and Maureen Regan of Pembroke is a graduate of Pembroke Senior High School and Pembroke State University.

Regan is now Chaplain Intern at Central Prison in Raleigh, North Carolina.

PEOPLE AND PLACES AND THINGS

Programs of Alzheimers Disease Research Center to be Discussed

Mari Szymanski, Nurse Clinician for the Alzheimers Disease Research Center, Duke Medical Center will discuss programs of the center on Thursday, May 22, 7:30 p.m. at the Robeson County Mental Health Center on Route 711, west of Lumberton. Questions and sharing time will follow. All interested persons are encouraged to attend. For further information call Lois Rogers at 738-8104.

Kayla Leigh Smith Liver Transplant Fund Schedule Events

On Friday, May 16, 1986, a dance will be held at the Golden China on Pine Street, Lumberton, sponsored by Bruce Chavis. Entry fee is \$3.50 (\$2.50 of each entry fee to Kayla Smith Fund). The dance begins at 9 p.m. until.

On Saturday, May 17, 1986 Kayla Smith Day will be observed. Radiothon at WJSK - Al Kahn will be Master of Ceremonies. The event will be held at the Rescue Unit Building. Raffle drawing - bears to first 48 people donating \$25.00. Taco Bell is donating 10c on each taco sold from May 17 until May 24.

Friday, May 23, Kayla Smith Dance will be held at the Bill Sapp Recreation center by Terry Williams and the Knights of the Turntable. Pat McKay of Z101 will be on location awarding door prizes. Time 7 to 12. \$3.00 per person or \$5 per couple.

Saturday, May 24, 1986 Bowl-A-Thon also Sunday May 25, 1986 by George Dooley of Varsity Lanes. 739-3778. \$8.00 entry fee. Time, May 24 at 2:30 p.m. and May 25 at 2:30 p.m. (Two trophies)

Saturday, May 31, 1986 Rummage Sale beginning at 7 a.m. Saturday, May 31, Auction Sale beginning at 1 p.m. Events will be held at Rowland-Norment School Gym. Paul Cox auctioneer will be present with door prizes and grab bags.

Sunday, June 15, 1986-Kayla Smith Minor League Baseball Game. Sponsored by Lumberton Jaycees. Arranged by Bill Watts. Teams: Florence Blue Jays vs Macon Pirates. Time: 2:00 p.m. at Lumberton Senior High School Baseball Field.

May Day Planned At Prospect School

Prospect School will present its annual May Day program on May 23, 1986 beginning at 9 a.m. and continuing throughout the day. The theme for the day is "Round Up Time." Come one, come all. Enjoy a day with dance and running in the sun. Hot dogs, hamburgers, drinks and ice cream will be available.

Pembroke Rescue Squad To Hold Plate Sale

Pembroke Rescue Squad will be holding a plate sale on Friday, May 23 beginning at 10:30 a.m. Chicken and barbecue plates will be sold with all proceeds going to the Pembroke Rescue Squad. Come out and support your local rescue squad unit, which is non-profit and sponsored by volunteers trained in emergency rescue care. HELP US HELP YOU!

RETIRED TEACHERS MEET

The Robeson County Retired School Personnel will meet at the Ramada Inn, Lumberton, NC May 21 at 11:30 a.m. This will be a luncheon meeting. An interesting program is being planned. Officers for '86-87, '87-88 will be installed. Superintendents from our local school systems will attend. Also attending will be former leaders in the NCEA who are now giving their time, assistance and guidance to North Carolina Retired School Personnel, a division of the North Carolina Education Association. Further information may be obtained by calling 521-4397.

Miss Princess of Lumberton Beauty Pageant Planned

Miss Princess of Lumberton Beauty Pageant will be held on Saturday, May 31, at the Carolina Theatre in Lumberton, NC. This is a preliminary to the Miss North Carolina Princess Pageant which will be held September 12th and 13th. The pageant is open to contestants between the ages of 18 and 18 years. For information please call 425-4665, 425-474 or 425-8178. The event is sponsored by the Arthritis Foundation.

SINGING PLANNED

United Gospel Sing Association Singing will be held May 17 at 7:30 p.m. at the Bill Sapp Recreation Building (Old Armory Building) in Lumberton. The singing will feature the D & L Singers, the Calvary Singers, Friends of Jesus. Tickets are \$2 and are available at Linda's Grill, Pembroke, WTSB Radio Station and Lowry's Seafood Market, Lumberton. Admission at the door is \$3.

A plate sale will be held May 16 and 17 from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m. Chicken and barbecue plates will be \$3 each.

Little Miss Lumbee

Applications Available LRDA is accepting applications for the Little Miss Lumbee Pageant which will be held July 2, 1986. Any child wishing to enter the pageant must be Lumbee Indian (at least one parent must be Lumbee) between the ages of 4 and 6 years old by July 2, 1986 and must have some type of talent. The first twenty applicants will be accepted only.

The applications are available at the LRDA - JTPA Building in Pembroke. For more information contact Herion Sampson, Chairperson at 521-9761.

To subscribe, Call 521-2826

Grace Lowry led S.C. Indians' fight for identification

Reprinted from The Columbia Record By Kay Gordon Staff Writer

About 10 years ago, Grace Lowry's son David, then 12, came home from school crying.

In filling out information on a test form, David had to choose "black, white or other" in the race category. His teacher instructed him to mark the "other" slot. David, a Native American Indian, didn't understand.

That's when Mrs. Lowry, a Lumbee Indian like her husband Claude, decided to speak up for not only her child, but for all Native Americans in South Carolina. She started by calling the schools, then went to the local and state level, amassing sympathetic supporters who would help develop a positive identity for Native American Indians in the state.

Help came from the Rev. McKay Brabham, minister of College Place United Methodist Church, Columbia College professor Charles Pfeiffer and Roger Kirk, assistant to former Gov. Jim Edwards.

On a federal level, Dr. Helen Scheiber, who at the time was with The Year of the Child Program in Washington, came to Columbia to share her expertise on Indian affairs - on the local, state and national levels.

She suggested identifying the Native American groups throughout the state and forming a non-profit council to serve as an advocacy group. The Catawba Indians were the only group that had been recognized in South Carolina. After a series of community meetings, the Edisto, Santee and Pee Dee Indian were identified.

And in March, 1979, the Council of Native Americans of South Carolina was chartered by the state. The council began with seed money from the National Indian Lutheran Board, followed by funds from the Religion and Race Council of the United Methodist Church.

Mrs. Lowry served as chairman of the council until December, 1985, when she resigned to become supervisor of the VISTAS among the Indian groups in the state.

As of March 3, 1986, she became director of the council office and "finally got a paying job after nine years" as a volunteer.

The council applied for and received a one-year \$99,000 grant from the Administration of Native American Programs, Division of Health and Human Services, to set up administrative offices for the Santee near Orangeburg, the Edisto near Charleston, Pee Dees near Dillon, the Piedmont American Indian Association in Greenville and the central office in Columbia.

The money is to be used also to work with the governor's staff to promote small businesses among Native Americans in the state, Mrs. Lowry said. First, Native Americans who are interested in setting up small businesses are being identified. The grant also is for those who already have businesses and those who need help with them.

"The whole idea is to make them independent," Mrs. Lowry said.

Mrs. Lowry oversees Peggy Scott as administrator for the Santee, Lisa Mackpivany as administrator for the Edistos, Janet Cummings as administrator for the Pee Dees in Dillon, and Pat Sabo as administrator for the Piedmont American Indian Association.

Currently, Johnny Crewd is chairman of the council, as well as chief of the Edistos. Oscar Pratt serves as chief of the Santee, Johnny Owens is chief of the Pee Dee Indian Council of Dillon and Marion counties, and Johnny Adams is chief of the Piedmont American Indian Association. And today, Mrs. Lowry estimates there are at least 10,000 Native Americans in the state.

There are two VISTA workers who work with the Edistos and Santee to help with the youth, senior citizens and children. And the former advisory council, comprised of community members in all walks of life, is now divided into task forces of the recognition committee, camp committee, powwow committee, and personnel and management committee.

Currently, the council is funded through the \$99,000 grant, but "even when we don't have money, we still have operated," she said.

And though she has a salaried job, her volunteer work goes on. After her basic 35-hour-a-week "paying" job, she spends at least that much time continuing the kinds of things she was doing before - calling tribal councils, attending meetings, taking care of mailings and so forth.

In addition, she is a member of the United Methodist Women, on the board of the Lutheran Indian Minority Task Force, on the board of the United Indians of America, works with the Save the Children program and serves on the Human Endeavor board. She has also worked to increase public awareness of Native Americans in South Carolina.

The council, under her leadership, was awarded the Modjeska Simkins Award in 1985.

She also has been instrumental in writing grants for adult education for Indian groups and has coordinated efforts for the distribution of food, shelter, heat and clothing for the needy. Mrs. Lowry also has coordinated the annual Native American Summer Camp for underprivileged children. This fifth year, the camp will be held in August at Camp Kinard near Leesville.

From its inception, the council's office and home base has been quartered in the educational building of College Place United Methodist Church. Also since the beginning, education and state recognition have been driving forces, she said.

Right now, a recognition bill is ready to be presented to the state legislature, she said. The bill, if passed, would be a resolution acknowledging the Edisto Natchez Kusso tribe of Indians now living in Dorchester, Colleton and Charleston counties; the Pee Dee tribe in Marlboro, Dillon and Marion counties; the Santee tribe in Orangeburg, Calhoun and Berkeley counties; and the Piedmont American Indian Association and other urban Indian associations.

Mrs. Lowry said Indians and the council have "come a long way" in 10 years. At first, "the only contact was here at the church. Then, there was the advisory committee, the Lutheran, Methodists and CETA - different people making contact."

The Indian people are taking more responsibility within their communities, too, she said, and South Carolinians are more aware there really are Indians in the state.

The outcry of her people is still education, she said. Ultimately, she would like to see the council office as one of advocacy, as it was intended. Now, though, the office is trying to implant solid programs for the people in the areas of housing, transportation, adult education and local administration.

"I still believe," Mrs. Lowry said, "I pray and then also, South Carolina is not aware of the plight of the Indian people. But the majority of people wouldn't deny them the right to be recognized."