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"Building Communicative Bridges  
In A Tri-racial Setting."

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## Professor Emeritus, Recipient of Honorary Doctorate

### DR. CLIFTON OXENDINE, DISTINGUISHED ROBESON COUNTY EDUCATOR, DIES AT AGE 87

by Gene Warren



Dr. Clifton Oxendine  
1900-1987

A giant in education died early Tuesday morning when Dr. Clifton Oxendine, 87, passed away at Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton.

Dr. Oxendine was a teacher, professor, dean, historian, author, humanitarian and much more.

He was considered the patriarch of the Lumbee Indian people—a man who was highly respected.

An educator for 42 years in both the public schools and colleges, Dr. Oxendine served as dean of what was then

Pembroke State College from 1939-57. He taught at the college for 15 additional years before retiring in 1970 and was named professor emeritus of history.

Last September 3 at Pembroke State University's Cen-

tenial Fall Convocation, he was honored with the Honorary Doctor of Humanities degree conferred upon him.

He was also the recipient of the Henry Berry Lowrie Award presented annually at the Lumbee Indian Homecoming.

Oxendine had the distinction of being in the first class of seven students to graduate at the Old Main building on the PSU campus in 1924 when it was an Indian Normal School.

He later became the individual who gave the name of "Old Main" to the first brick building on the PSU campus.

Oxendine also had the distinction of attending in 1907 the two-story, wooden building—then located near New Hope Church, 1 1/2 miles from Pembroke—that was the forerunner of what became PSU. There's an open field at that location today, & Oxendine's home is not far from it some three miles from Pembroke.

After completing the high school curriculum at the Indian Normal School, Oxendine attended McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill., where in 1928 he earned his A.B. degree in history and secondary education. In 1934, he received his M.A. in history at George Peabody College for Teachers in Nashville, Tenn. He later did graduate work in history at George Peabody College in 1941, 1948, and 1955—and also graduate work in sociology and economics at Louisiana State University in

1952.

From 1928-32, he was a high school teacher at the Indian Normal School, then served as principal of Pembroke Graded School from 1932-36 and as principal of Prospect High School from 1936-39. He joined Pembroke State College as dean and history professor when it became a four-year college in 1939 and served in those capacities until 1957. He then continued as professor of history and sociology at Pembroke State until 1970 when he retired. That represents 31 years of service to PSU.

Dr. Oxendine wrote in 1945 a history of Pembroke State. His publications also include a "Social and Economic History of Indians of Robeson County." He has had other articles published in the North Carolina Historical Review and daily newspapers. He has been a member of the Southern Historical Association and the Advisory Council of Teacher Education in North Carolina.

Dr. Adolph Dial, chairman of the American Indian Studies Department at PSU and a long-time friend of Dr. Oxendine's, said of him: "He was my high school principal and taught me history both in high school and college. We also shared an office in college as professors for 10 years. He inspired me more than any other teacher. Dr. Oxendine was a man of extremely high character. He was highly respected, a man of integrity and character. He ranked as high as anyone in this area. A

No. 1 type person."

Dial said one trait of Dr. Oxendine's he will always remember. "Even in high school, he addressed his students as Mr. and Miss. That was the kind of man he was," noted Dial.

Chancellor Paul Givens of PSU said of Oxendine: "PSU has lost a true friend. He was part of the rich tradition of leadership from which this institution profited in its early years of development. He and his family have been valuable friends of this University. We wish to express our deepest sympathy to the family."

Dr. Oxendine's funeral services were conducted at 11:30 a.m. Thursday at Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke. The family was at Locklear and Son Funeral Home in Pembroke from 7-9 p.m. Wednesday. Interment was at Sand Cut Cemetery near Pembroke.

The family requested that in lieu of flowers, gifts be made toward establishing a history scholarship in Dr. Oxendine's name at PSU.

Survivors include Oxendine's widow, Mrs. Cora Lee Oxendine; a daughter, Mrs. Betty Oxendine Mangum of Raleigh, and a son, Jerry Oxendine of Pembroke. Mrs. Mangum is director of the Division of Indian Education for the N.C. Department of Public Instruction. Oxendine teaches in the Hoke County School System. Other survivors include three grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Dr. Oxendine had five sisters and three brothers of whom only one sister has survived.

## Little Miss Lumberton Wins State Pageant

## STATE BEAUTY WINNER



Shelly Denyale Scott recently won her first state title of Junior American Miss. The pageant was held in Hartsville, S.C. Shelly also won talent, sportswear, modeling, and most photogenic. She received numerous special awards and was the second highest scoring contestant in the entire pageant. Shelly is a former Little Miss Lumbee and is the reigning Little Miss Lumberton. Presently she holds a total of 18 beauty titles and is a state award talent winner. Shelly hopes to eventually become Miss North Carolina and Miss America.

Shelly is the seven-year-old daughter of Randy and Sandra Scott of Lumberton. She will be entering the second grade at Deep Branch Elementary School.



Latonia Cox, 10 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Cox was recently crowned Young S.C. American Miss. The annual state pageant was held in Hartsville, S.C. Latonia was also "sports-wear model" and "best evening gown" winner.

Latonia is a former Little Miss Lumbee. She is presently holding four other active beauty titles, including Young Miss USA Ideal Girl, Junior American Miss, Junior Miss Sunburst, and Young Miss Regal Beauty. She will be competing on a national level vying for the title of Young Miss Regal Beauty USA to be held in Panama City, Florida.

## Open Election Scheduled

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. will conduct an Open Election on August 27, 1987 to nominate a member to serve on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs' Board of Directors for a three (3) year term. Mr. James Sampson, Jr., a resident of Fairmont, NC, currently serves in that capacity.

Voters must reside in the following townships: Lumberton (Townships 1-8); Rowland; Union; Thompson; Gaddys; Alfordville; Back Swamp; Fairmont (Township 1 & 2); Smyrna; Pritts; Orrum; Marietta; Sterlings. Criteria for voting: must be Indian; must be 18 years or older; must reside in above districts/townships. The election sites are being identified and will be announced at a later date. Anyone interested in running as a candidate should declare their candidacy no later than August 17, 1987 at the Executive Director's Office with Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.

## U.S. OLYMPIC FESTIVAL '87

Last Friday, July 17, marked the official opening of the U.S. Olympic Festival '87 at Carter-Finley Stadium in Raleigh. This is the first time that residents of North Carolina have had the privilege of hosting and participating in this prestigious event. Pembroke is one of over 375 communities, towns and cities through which the Olympic Festival Torch passed on its 2800 mile trek, a zig-zagged from Wilmington across the State and back to Raleigh.

Worldwide Olympic Games are held every four years, hosted each time by a different nation. In 1984 the Summer Olympics were held in the United States. The 1988 Summer Olympics are scheduled for South Korea.

Called the National Sports Festival, the concept of a U.S. Olympic Festival became a reality in 1978.

**TORCH RUN THROUGH PEMBROKE**  
On the evening of July 3, 1987, the U.S. Olympic Festival '87 Torch passed through Pembroke. It was brought into town by a group of seven volunteer runners, who took turns carrying the torch from Lumberton to Pembroke. Each of the participants ran one mile with the torch, then relayed it to the next runner on the list. Upon leaving Pembroke this same group of Torch Runners took the torch to Red Springs.

Organizer of this group was Jeff Cushing, a 1975 graduate of PSU, who now serves as cross-country and track coach at Lumberton High School. As the group arrived at Pembroke, Jeff passed the torch to the first Pembroke runner, PSU athlete Jay Jones.

**PEMBROKE TORCH RUNNERS**  
Jay was chosen the Most Valuable Performer on the PSU Track Team in running events for the 1986-87 season and was also selected as the Most Valuable Cross-Country Performer for that season.

A rising senior at PSU, with a major in math education, Jay had planned to go home to Eden, NC on July 2. Instead, he stayed on the campus an extra day just to take part in the Pembroke Torch Run. (That evening he picked up the torch from Jeff Cushing near Hill's Food Store). He describes what happened: "When I saw the torch come, I really felt great! I realized what was happening to me. This was a big honor to be able to carry the torch through the Town of Pembroke and to represent Pembroke State University. I thought about the next day being the 'Fourth of July,' and I felt this was one way to show my love for my country.

"Knowing my girl friend, Laura, was watching gave me an extra incentive as I carried the torch."

**SECOND RUNNER**  
At Central Tire Jay passed the torch to Mitchell Lowry. Here is Mitchell's story, as he gives us a "behind the scenes" account of what it was like to be one of the Pembroke Runners: (Making Contact)

"Having paid attention to the news media and noting the route of the Torch Run scheduled for Pembroke, I wondered, 'How great it would be to run in the relay carrying the torch through Pembroke.'"

"Thinking 'Who knows?' I telephoned Mayor Coble D. Wilson of Lumberton and expressed my desire. He told me to contact Mrs. Betty West at the Lumberton Chamber of Commerce. She indicated that there was no vacancy for another runner. I continued to express my desire to carry the torch. She took my address and telephone number and promised to contact me should something develop, as she needed to call the Raleigh Office in charge of the run. In the meantime, I visited my friend and neighbor, Greg Cummings, President of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce and Chairman for the Pembroke Torch Run, of whom Mrs. West had spoken fondly."

**GETTING ACCEPTED**  
Chairperson Greg Cummings was very much aware of the

## ELMER W. HUNT SR.: HE WAS A GOOD MAN

by Gene Warren



Elmer Hunt, Sr.

It was almost midnight last Thursday night, upon returning from a six-day trip to San Antonio, Tex., for the National School Public Relations Association convention, that I learned of the death of Elmer Hunt, Sr. The night suddenly became a lot darker after that news.

Elmer had died July 12, the day after my arrival in Texas. His funeral was July 15, the day before I returned.

The news of his death was a shock—although Elmer's health had been deteriorating badly from cancer. I had visited him in the hospital and seen him after he returned home. He seemed somewhat stronger at home, but was not taking nourishment as he should. Cancer had drained the strength and zest of this man who had served his area so vibrantly and well for his 87 years.

"You set them up, and I'll shoot them." That was his favorite expression when it came to photography. He meant by that if I'd pose the subject matter, he would photograph it. We took many pictures in that manner of PSU people, places and things.

I've said many times that Elmer Hunt, Sr. was a "life-saver" for men when I arrived at Pembroke State in 1968. There were no photographers on campus to speak of

Some student photographers brought their work by, but it didn't measure up. I needed someone who could take pictures of the variety of topics I was to write about.

Someone told me about Elmer Hunt, a school teacher who took pictures as a sideline. I immediately contacted him, saw his good work, and a strong friendship was born.

As I have told his family repeatedly, Elmer Hunt, Sr. was a GOOD MAN. And no higher tribute can be paid to anyone than that.

The Bible says of Barnabas, one of the great early missionaries, that "he was a good man, and full of the Holy Ghost and of faith" in Acts 11:24.

Elmer Hunt, Sr., was like Barnabas. A good man, for sure. He was a man of his word. You could always count on him to fulfill a responsibility. When he said he would be at an appointed place at an appointed time, you could count on it. He would stay up all night to develop pictures if necessary.

He was not one who sought self acclaim. He never sought any credit for what he did. Self praise was nowhere in his makeup. He was a humble man who loved to laugh.

He was so resourceful at getting a photographic job done. Some way, some how, he would produce.

If you needed an old picture, somewhere in his unique filing system he would find it.

In the business of publicity, one is always getting into a jam as far as photographs are concerned. A picture is needed at an inopportune time. When this happened and you desperately needed help, Elmer would provide it.

His life was spent in doing for others. In this way, he followed the two greatest commandments. "You will love God with all your heart and all your mind and all your soul...and you will love your neighbor as yourself." Elmer Hunt, Sr., obeyed these completely. He was always doing for his neighbor.

His Christian walk was also exemplified by his strong support of his church, First Baptist Church of Pembroke, where he served for years as Sunday School superintendent.

As I told his wife, Luvenia, I have become acquainted with many people since I arrived in Robeson County 19 years ago. But I have never met a finer man than Elmer Hunt Sr. He was the best of the best.

Mr. Elmer set an example for us all to follow. A truly good man. I will miss him very, very much.

## ONWARD TO 5,000!

Our countdown to 5,000 subscribers continues this week with the following:  
67. Edwin Matchett, Jr., Red Springs  
68. Yancy Chavis, Michigan  
69. UNC Davis Library, Chapel Hill  
70. Tom Oxendine, VA  
71. Anna Sloan-PA  
72. Lonnie B. Locklear, Pembroke  
73. Mr. and Mrs. Landon Smith, Nakina, NC  
74. Dennis Lowery, Charlotte  
75. Albert Hammonds, Lumberton  
Won't you join us in our effort to countdown to 5,000 subscribers. Purchase a subscription for yourself and your friends...

ISN'T THIS A  
*Beautiful Day!*  
EXPECT SOMETHING WONDERFUL  
TO HAPPEN

CONTINUED NEXT WEEK