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

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BISHOP WARD CLARK, JR. REMOVED AS PRESIDENT OF LREMC BOARD

by Connee Brayboy

Ward Clark, Jr. was removed from the presidency of the board of directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation at the regular meeting on Tuesday, September 15, 1987. The action was taken in executive session, after which the announcement was made in open session. No reason for the action was given. And no replacement was named. However, in the absence of the president, the vice president assumes the responsibilities of the presidency. Bradford Oxendine, vice president, made the announcement after executive session. Mr. Oxendine will serve until the annual meeting October 6 after which the board will re-elect officers.

The annual meeting will be held at the PSU Performing Arts Center.

The By-Laws of LREMC, Section 6.03, page 23 state: "Removal. Any officer, agent or employee elected or appointed by the Board of Directors may be removed by the Board whenever in its judgement the best interests of the Cooperative will thereby be served..."

This action did not remove Clark from the Board of Directors. He will continue to serve as a director for District 1. The action merely removed him from the office of president.

Ward Clark, Jr. is also presiding Bishop of the Lumber River Holiness Methodist Conference.



Bishop Ward Clark, Jr.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... NEWMAN B. OXENDINE

EDITOR'S NOTE: Beginning this week we are pleased to announce a new weekly column entitled "Whatever Happened To..." This feature will be written as a special to The Carolina Indian Voice by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear. The column will feature retirees and the many people who have contributed to the growth of the area in various fields, including education, social, political and economic growth of the area. We are pleased to have Mrs. Locklear with us and encourage those who have suggestions on people they'd like to read more about to contact us at the Carolina Indian Voice.

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

This summer's sultry months have caused many native Robesonians to seek shelter under old oak trees and back porches. On a recent day, retiree, Newman Brantley Oxendine relaxed, heels up, in a platform recliner on the sidewalk of his home in the Moss Neck Community, outside Pembroke.

He was in deep conversation with four-year old grandson, Brad, and the family dog slept under a car nearby. Oxendine seemed enthralled by the endless curiosity of the child as he asked, "Papa, where is the jet in the sky? I see white smoke but not jet. Why do the clouds move?" The 30-year veteran educator answered the child's every question completely and with rare patience.

Teaching children was second nature to the 64-year-old former school teacher, principal and assistant superintendent. Oxendine retired in 1984 after a long service to public education which included 11 years as a high school principal. All except three years were spent at his alma mater, Pembroke High School. He graduated from that school in 1942. His was the last class to finish under the 11-year high school requirement program.

"I really enjoyed being a principal," Oxendine commented. "It enabled me to have a broader personal contact with all students in the school," he said.

Financing his education did not come easily for Oxendine, one of 14 children, born to Indian sharecroppers. As a high school senior he drove a school bus in order to help finance his school year. "I was paid \$12 a month to drive the bus," he laughed. Six dollars were paid to Craig Sampson for room and board, the other \$6 went toward the cost of graduation expenses, he said.

Upon graduation from high school, the young Lumbee Indian enrolled at then Pembroke State College. Towards the end of his second semester, he, along with other local young men, was drafted into the military service. This was to become his first experience in long-distance travel from Robeson County. It was a journey that took him to 28 U.S. states. During the 42 months he spent in active duty, he received two assignments for overseas duty, but never once took the trip because his "Order" papers somehow got lost. Oxendine said this never disappointed him because few boys wanted to go overseas during wartime.

Oxendine enrolled twice to P.S.C. before he completed studies for his degree in 1954. Shortly before graduating he married the former Thelma Cummings. The Oxendines were recently honored by their five children with a fortieth wedding anniversary celebration at their beloved Bear Swamp Baptist Church near Pembroke. He has been an active member of that church for over three decades, and has held various official positions there.

Commenting on the long marriage, Oxendine said, "It's been forty good years, and I look forward to forty more together."

The retirement years have been one of varied interest to the soft-spoken grandfather of eight. He recently renovated a beach cottage and retreats to the beach as often as he can for some pier-fishing. He enjoys good health which he attributes to moderate exercise, no cigarette smoking and no alcohol. All his adult life, Oxendine has shied away from the wild-game hunting sport. A childhood experience left him with a lasting fear of firearms. When he was a four-year old growing up on Robeson County farm, his father kept a shotgun in the backhouse to ward off thieves. "One day while playing in the backhouse curiosity got the best of a young brother and me," Oxendine remembered. "My brother took the shotgun down from its storage place and was pretending to shoot it. I held my fingers near the end of the barrel and the shotgun went off," he said. Neither child was injured in the accident. "Til this day I've never owned a shotgun," he concluded.

Oxendine said he has seen many changes in education since he left the profession. "Computers have been added to schools. This is for the better I think," he commented. "I personally think they (computers) are a handicap to consumers in some situations. Just the other day, I went shopping and was delayed because the merchant handled my transaction on a computer," he recalled. "A conventional cash register could have gotten me out of the store a lot quicker," he said.

Yet, Oxendine will readily admit that retirement does lend control to his time. He no longer personally tends his 40-acre farm, but chooses to rent it. He can take the hour and half drive to his beach cottage and cast his fishing rod at will. And when ever he feels like it, he can just sit in the shade of his sidewalk and explain to his grandson why the clouds move in the sky while the old family dog snoozes under the shade of the family automobile.



Newman B. Oxendine

WELCOMES 462

It was one of our smoothest school openings, says Mr. Ardeen Hunt, Administrative principal at South Robeson High School near Rowland. He credits pre-planning and the overcoming of some serious obstacles. South Robeson had welcomed some 642 students by Friday, Sept. 11.

During the 1986-87 school year, South Robeson put all its students on computer. Everyone expected smooth sailing for the 1987-88 year, according to Mr. Hunt. But, during the summer just passed, and due to various funding problems, there was no one working in the school office who could operate the computer and get schedules ready for students. Mr. Hunt says he could see problems ahead if students returned with no class schedules. But, South Robeson has somewhat of a unique situa-

MONEY ISSUES DOMINATE MEETING

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to The Carolina Indian Voice

Money issues dominated last week's meeting of the Robeson County Commissioners. In the well-attended meeting, Commissioners listened intently as John L. Godwin, chairman of the Concerned Citizens for Better Government—a coalition of eight local organizations—read from a prepared statement, expressing particular alarm at the large raise given to Sheriff Hubert Stone.

In his statement, Godwin said Stone did not deserve his pay increase because "he and his department have received local, state and national attention due to: the large amounts of drugs which were displaced from the department, the shooting death of Jimmy Earl Cummings—widespread charges of excessive force by members of the department, investigations into the drug trafficker... the department and the county, the high level of unsolved murders related to drugs and the documentation of a letter sent to Florida in reference to (a) county resident charged with drug dealing."

Commissioners granted special pay increases to Stone and 14 other county employees when the county's \$33.9 million fiscal 1987-88 budget was adopted. Stone's special raise was \$4,128 annually, making his annual salary \$41,500.

Also in his statement, Godwin said the raise given to Stone "Can only be perceived as 'approval by commissioners of the job Stone is doing and that the raise is unfair to other members of the department who didn't receive similar compensation. Godwin concluded his statements saying, "It is the intention of the Concerned Citizens for Better Government that all of these practices cease and desist in Robeson County."

Godwin invited the commissioners to attend the fall meeting of that organization on Thursday night at West Robeson High School. Godwin did not take questions from commissioners and left the meeting shortly after reading the statement.

The commissioners tentatively approved a schedule of values on which county property will be assessed. The schedule is to be used in computing property taxes in the county.

Automated Valuation Services—a Raleigh-based firm the county hired to evaluate property, developed the schedule.

James "Pete" Jacobs, Robeson County Tax Administrator said the new schedule will be more fair to county residents because it will judge property based on property features.

Roy Morris, project director for the company, said residents will no longer be assessed for something they don't have, such as a building on a vacant lot.

During past re-evaluations, property owners were assessed as if they had a structure on prime real estate, even if no such structure existed. Jacobs said county property owners now have 30 days to inspect the formula. Once the schedule is approved, it will be used to generate assessments, which are expected to be mailed in late October or early November. Property owners may challenge their assessment once they receive them. The property adoption will not affect agricultural land values.

In other matters, the commissioners allocated \$13,000 to the Robeson County Health Department for the funding of flu vaccinations and pregnancy tests at that department. At an earlier meeting, the health board agreed to ask commissioners for permission to begin charging for the vaccinations and tests because of budget shortages, according to Health Director Robert Holbrook.

The department had proposed a \$3 charge for the pregnancy tests and would have charged residents on a graduated scale beginning at \$3 for the flu vaccinations.

"There are a lot of elderly people who just plain need those flu shots who can't afford them," Commissioner H. T. Taylor said.

Commissioner Jack Morgan, in supporting Taylor's comments said, "Three dollars might not sound like much to me or you, but to some people, that's a lot of money."

"Some people might not seek the services because they know there's going to be a charge for it when otherwise they might try to get it," he concluded.

Commissioners changed the method of issuing permits at the county's inspection department. Contractors will no longer be billed for permits purchased during the month. Effective Oct. 1, they will be required to place deposits with the department. Permits will be issued against the deposits until they become insufficient to pay for permits. Additional deposits will then be required of the contractors.

The school has two principals. The instructional principal, Mr. Dwight Pearson, stepped in for the computer operator and did much of the class schedules by the time the regular operator returned with the opening of school. So, South Robeson was able on August 31 to open smoothly with no

fuss and bother. Students have taken to their classes well says Mr. Hunt and instruction is proceeding as well as anyone could expect. Mr. Hunt says he expects enrollment at South Robeson to climb as a large number of students are winding up summer jobs before enrolling for the new year.

Crosses located on Highway 301, five miles South of St. Pauls, NC. [Photo by T/Sgt. Wm. P. Revels]

Text By Bernard L. Coffindaffer
CROSSES OF MERCY

Mr. Bernard L. Coffindaffer and his family of Craigsville, Nicholas County, West Virginia embarked in September, 1984 on a challenging project. They have installed a cluster of three "Crosses of Mercy" (Praying "Oh, God have mercy on me and my family for the multiple of our daily sins.") at strategic locations in all 55 counties in West Virginia, where the people and the sojourner may see them. Other states are just as important. Since April 8, 1985 in locations of 96 Bible-named towns in West Virginia crosses have been a priority. These towns of our forefathers, are interesting, historical and Holy. Also, they did raise at the proper location, one or more, in the adjoining states of Ohio, Pennsylvania, D.C., Virginia, Maryland and Kentucky, of these superbly beautiful Crosses. Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina and Indiana are now being completed. Small units have gone into Mississippi, New Jersey, Michigan and Texas. It is our hope to work every state east of the Mississippi River. The Biblical inspiration for this gesture comes from Luke 23:1-46.

The work will end when JESUS comes. What we are doing belongs to JESUS and everyone. Landowners, without fee, have given 931 sites thus far, in D.C. and 14 other states.

Remember please—
(a) These "Crosses of Mercy" are lifted up as a daily reminder that JESUS was crucified on A Cross at Calvary for our sins, and He will soon come again. This is the sole reason for our work. This is the substance of who we are.

(b) That the sight of these Crosses will make your heart understand that repentance must come now as Eternity with GOD is what we all strive for.

(c) And, as each installation is completed, be it also remembered that each is consecrated, by prayer, Bible reading, singing, use of the Widow's Mite and holy water from the River Jordan and more prayer to the Throne of God to accept the work of our hands.

(d) And, may the Lord draw to Himself the thoughts and attention of many a heart as they look upon these Crosses truly and now being told, the Lord Cometh, the Lord Cometh.

As Philippians 1:6 the scripture says: "He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Psalm 115:1 "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake."

Psalm 121 :2 "My help cometh from the Lord, which made heaven and earth."

I Peter 4:17 "For the time is come that judgement must begin at the house of God; and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God?"

We have in many sites placed the Crosses high in the rim of hills. (You must look up.) Also in the midst of the waters; and at small churches, cemeteries, holy place, unto GOD.

Double Caution—no sect, no cult, no religious denomination, absolutely none, backs or supports this effort. We take care of every matter ourselves. I personally supply all funds, pay all bills. An old gentleman 91-years-of-age, gave us \$2 along the way.

We have been told (it is also our belief) that this is the first time in history such a project has been undertaken. God, through His Holy Spirit, chose a Christian man from West Virginia to undertake this sacred work—the work is deemed a special Hal-le-lu-jah to all the citizens of every state, young and old, rich or poor, Olympia or lame, and especially in all the outside states where our hands with their help, reach for heaven.

Why should we not consecrate all back to Him? They are His. We expect to lift them up until Jesus comes again. FUNDS to illuminate the crosses are needed. Please respond if you care to. Please pray for us. God bless you and to all that thou hast.

Crafty Bread, Inc.
P.O. Box 365
Craigsville, WV 26205

local bulletin

LRDA CELEBRATES INDIAN HERITAGE WEEK

Indian Heritage Week in North Carolina has been proclaimed for September 20-26, 1987. Activities have been planned to call attention to the more than 10,000 year history of North Carolina Indians who comprise the largest Native American population of any state east of the Mississippi.

During September 21-24, Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. will observe OPEN HOUSE at all its offices located within Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties. The general public is encouraged to visit those offices and observe LRDA "in action."

Also, on September 24, the agency will observe Indian Days in the Pembroke Town Park from 9:00 a.m. til 4:00 p.m. Indian exhibits, arts and crafts demonstrations will be presented "live" that depict the area's Indian life and folklore. Your attendance will be highly appreciated.



Pembroke—Thurman Locklear was awarded "Yard of the Month" by the Housing Authority of Pembroke. He believes in a colorful surrounding. At the age of seventy-eight [78] the Lord has blessed him with good health which allowed him to spend hours working in his flowers. He believes hard work always pays off. Mr. Locklear is shown in front of his home at Dial Terrace, Pembroke.