



PUBLISHED EACH THURSDAY

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

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

VOLUME 15 NUMBER 39

25 CENTS



Navajo Comm. Coll., Library
Tuttle, Branch Post Office
Tuttle, AZ 86556



This painting, entitled "Dream Maker," by Gene Locklear has been on exhibit at Pembroke State University and is now at the Robeson County Board of Education, which commissioned it under Title IV of Indian Education. Depicted across the top are Indian educators who made dreams come true. Left to right are W.L. Moore, a founder of what is now PSU;

Dr. English E. Jones, first Indian president and chancellor of PSU; Mary B. Hunt, one of the first Indian "Teachers of the Year;" Bertie T. Rowels, first Indian principal; Ralph Hunt, first Indian chairman of the Robeson County Board of Education; Grace Epps, first Indian member of the UNC Board of Governors; Oscar R. Sampson, long-time chairman of the PSU Board of

Trustees; Preston Locklear, a member of the first Board of Trustees of the Indian Normal School; and at the top Parnell Swett, first Indian superintendent of the Robeson County Board of Education. Prints of the painting may be purchased for \$125 or \$100. The person to contact is Donald Locklear at the Robeson County Board of Education.

West Robeson News



On Thursday, Sept. 17, Tom Sutor, sportscaster for Channel 5 Television, came to West Robeson Senior High School and presented his "Extra Effort Award" to the Rams varsity football team.

Mr. Sutor and his camera man climbed out of their helicopter in the West Robeson Saditum at about 2:45. They were met on the 50 yard line by Principal Ray Oxendine, Athletic Director Ronnie Chavis and Coach Gerald Hasty.

The student body cheered lustily as Sutor praised the Rams victories in their first two games of the year. Mr. Chavis accepted the award which he quickly surrendered to the team. It was then the Athletic Director's turn to present a West Robeson award to Sutor who took with him a Ram Shirt and a Ram Hat. Students enjoyed the rally and showed an abundance of support as the camera filmed their careers.

Spotlight on TED CHAVIS LOCAL BUSINESS PERSONS



by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear

He has earned a college degree and fought military combat overseas, yet Ted Chavis says probably the most difficult thing he ever attempted to do was enter his locked home while the house keys were inside.

"We'd gone out to dinner with family members, and upon returning home could not find our house keys," the 38 year old locksmith told recently while installing a door lock. "I thought my wife had her key. She thought I had mine. Neither of us had either," he laughed. After pondering the predicament, he broke a window pane and entered the locked house. Chavis admitted the embarrassment of the incident has forced him to always carry his burglar tools in his pocket. The Lumbee Indian locksmith is quick to add that he carries the tools legally and with a license to use them.

Before entering the alarm and lock business, Chavis was required by North Carolina to have a minimum of 1,000 hours of apprentice experience in that field, or "for me about two and a half years on the job experience," he recalls.

He established his business nine years ago. Ted's Alarm and Lock Company became Pembroke's first business of its kind according to local residents. Chavis says there are few American Indians in the nation licensed to install and service alarm systems.

After returning from Vietnam, he worked as a heating and air conditioning mechanic for a few years. Shortly afterwards, his desire to study all elements of criminal justice, lured him to enroll at Pembroke State University. He earned a B.S. degree in that field of study from that institution in 1982.

Chavis places a deep sense of pride in being allowed to enter a person's residence without supervision. It's a privilege

he values. "When a customer allows me into their home, it's like they entrust me with the safety of their belongings and their privacy," he said. "It lends a certain amount of prestige to my profession," he commented. North Carolina requires that an individual be licensed and bonded in order to legally install alarm systems in private residences and public institutions," he added. His practice is monitored by the state's alarm systems licensing board. Chavis specializes in home security systems.

Installing alarm systems may be the most prestigious part of his profession, but he readily admits that wearing his locksmith's hat is more colorful. Calls come any hour of the day or night. Emergencies get first priority. Chavis says it didn't take long in his business to determine which situation comes first in getting service.

"There are prank calls and legitimate calls," he said. Often, calls come in from mothers with their children. "One woman accidentally locked her baby up in the family house as the child sat in his highchair. She simply forgot the child," said the locksmith. "Another call came from an alarmed customer who had left the family dog in a locked car trunk with no key to get it out," he chuckled.

Stranded motorists traveling I-95 call upon his services, too. "People are usually in a hurry and lock their keys in cars or car trunks," he said. "I never turn anyone down when they need me," he concluded.

Chavis lives in rural Pembroke with his wife, the former Judy Deese, and their two children. Ted's Alarm and Lock Company is located in Pembroke. Business hours are 8-5 Monday thru Saturday.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... GATHIA S. THOMAS

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to the Carolina Indian Voice



Gathia S. Thomas

local bulletin

The Easter Seal Society of North Carolina is happy to announce that Helen Jones of Pembroke will be coordinating the local Business Area "Community Round-Up" Campaign held annually each Fall to raise funds for disabled North Carolinians.

These campaigns across the State have become an important source of income for the Society. Donations to "Community Round-Up" are used locally to provide wheelchairs, braces and other durable medical equipment for the disabled.

Funds are also used to support speech and physical therapy clinics, a stroke club network and Camp Easter near Southern Pines, the only year-round camping facility in North Carolina for the disabled.

Ninety-five percent of all money raised in North Carolina remains in the state. Because the money raised will be spent locally, the Easter Seal Society hopes local citizens will support the "Round-Up" with their time and money. For more information on Easter Seal services, contact 1-800-662-7119.

The old rocking chair sits empty most times at Gathia Smith Thomas's house. "I can't sit still long. There's just too much for me to do," the 79-year-old laughed.

Thomas still lives in the Antioch Community in Robeson County where she grew up on a farm with ten brothers and sisters. Her birthplace, located a quarter mile from her home, stands as a reminder of years spent on her father's 80-acre farm.

"My mama taught use how to work. When we children got home from school in the evenings, we undressed and began our daily chores," she recalled. "The girls shucked corn for mules. Mama usually did the feeding while my brother worked in the fields," she added. The log tobacco barn, built 84 years ago, is still in use.

The years have done little to slow Thomas, a widow. "I don't watch much television. I'd rather listen to spiritual music on my radio. That way I can do my work and listen at the same time," she said. Whenever she does sit down, it's to engage in one of her many hobbies. Thomas enjoys reading, and missed that pastime last year when she underwent cataract surgery. With sight now improved, she quilts and crochets. "I spend most of my time quilting. My mother taught me how to quilt when I was eight years old," she said softly. Her older sister, now living in Florida, taught her how to crochet. She takes time to write once a month to a young former neighbor stationed with the military in Germany, and has corresponded with old friends in Sanford and Florida for over 20 years.

Sit still long? She does not. There's too much to do when one has a flower garden, and vegetable garden to attend. A filled deep freezer and a bloom-filled front yard attest to hours of work spent outdoors by the grandmother of 15, and "about the same number of great-grandchildren."

The lack of owning a car or driver's license, has never kept Thomas from getting or going wherever she wanted. Until two years ago, she walked the one mile to her beloved Antioch Church. A church friend now drives her to worship in the church her parents co-founded almost a century ago. It is the same location she attended, then Antioch School, and met her late husband, Luther C. Thomas. Married 29 years, they raised three daughters.

The loyalty to her church stems from her childhood. "My parents raised me in the church, and I love it," she commented. She has been an active member of her church since she was 13 years old.

Thomas's loyalty runs deep for her family and community. When her elderly mother's health failed, she relocated to Robeson County from Florida to care for her until her death at age 91. She recently returned from Florida where she visited her 95-year-old sister. Thomas says she enjoys good health, and gives credit to the "goodness of God."

"Mrs. Gathia" is known throughout her community as a sharing and caring neighbor. Thomas says her definition of a good neighbor is "one who knows your needs, and responds without having to be asked." Those in the Antioch community say Thomas's life personified her "good neighbor" definition.

With too much to do, to sit long, Thomas's rocking chair may continue to sit empty for some years yet.

LOCAL GIRL WINS STATE PAGEANT



Andrena Locklear won the title of Little Miss State Carolina Girl in Salisbury, NC recently. She also won in the following divisions: First runner-up in talent; winner in sportswear and interview; and second runner-up in most photogenic.

Andrena received the following awards: personal telephone; \$50 savings bond; and a gift from the out-going Little Miss State Carolina Girl.

Andrena is the granddaughter of Royce and Mary Lois Locklear of Rennett, NC.

Celebration of Citizenship and Constitution at PJH

Teachers of social studies and the principal planned a week of excitement and creative learning in honor of the 200th birthday of the Constitution of the United States at Pembroke Junior High.

On Tuesday, students were briefed in their social studies classes on the activities for the week.

On Wednesday, 8th and 9th grade homerooms competed in a "color (red, white, blue) contest." The homeroom having the most patriotic color was given a free soda. Students were given Citizenship Emblems to wear during the day. At 1 p.m. everyone assembled in the gymnasium for the purpose of singing the Pledge of Allegiance along with the President.

On Thursday, students, who wished, brought miniature American flags to school. In homeroom flags were counted. The 9th grade won

and was given a fifteen minute break at the close of the day. In social studies, students watched a film, "The Constitution. How We Use It Everyday." At 4 p.m. student representatives rang the bell 200 times. The student body was sending up 200 balloons at the same time. The balloons, helium filled, carried messages from the student of Pembroke Junior High. Following, there was a social or the participants, prepared by the social studies teacher.

On Friday, students were assigned a composition on Why I Like Being An American. A winner was chosen from each of the social studies classes, to be entered into the school scrapbook.

The activities planned were to make students more aware of their citizenship and the responsibilities of being a citizen in this great nation.

A STATEMENT FROM LREMC

This statement was released by Jerry Spivey, public relations director of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation:

"The Board of Directors of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation took a vote on September 15, 1987 to remove director Ward Clark Jr. as board president. It was preliminarily determined that the vote passed. However, the by-laws provide that any action by the board must have an affirmative vote of a majority of board members in office. The vote to remove Mr. Clark did not have a majority of board members in office; therefore, the motion to remove failed."