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LREMC TO HOLD SPECIAL MEETING JULY 12 FOR ELECTION OF BOARD MEMBERS

Preparations have begun for a special meeting of members of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation scheduled for July 12.

At a meeting of the co-op's special meeting Nominating Committee held June 1, five candidates were selected for four of the co-op's 12 directors' seats.

The cooperative's Board of Directors voted May 24 to call the special meeting to hold an election for four director seats which were up for election at the Annual Meeting of 1987: District 3, District 7, District 9 and At-Large. The exclusive purpose of the special meeting of members is for the purpose of electing these four director positions. The July 12 Special Meeting of members is the result of a protest filed in the 1987 election of these four seats.

At Tuesday's meeting of the Nominating Committee, the following candidates for directors' seats were named: Bradford Oxendine, incumbent from District 3, which is comprised of the Robeson County townships of Back Swamp, Smyrna, Britts, Wisharts, Raft Swamp and Lumberton; Harold Dean Brewer, incumbent from District 7, which is comprised of all of Hoke County west of N.C. 211; Herbert Clark, incumbent from District 9, which comprises all of Scotland County; incumbent Elias Rogers of Hoke County, who holds an at-large director's seat; and Conrad Oxendine of Route 2, Maxton, who will challenge Rogers.

In addition to the five nominees selected by the Nominating Committee, other qualified members may petition the co-op to become candidates. According to LREMC spokesman Jerry Spivey, there are three ways to nominate a candidate. Nominations may be made in the following manner: being nominated by the co-op's Nominating Committee; by a petition; and during the special meeting.

The deadline for petitions, which must be signed by at least 15 co-op members, is June 16.

All candidates must be members of Lumbee River EMC and must reside in the district represented by a director's seat that is open for election.

LREMC's special meeting of members will be held at Pembroke State University's Performing Arts Center. Registration will begin at 6 p.m., and election of directors will proceed when a quorum (250 members) is reached.

JACKIE JACOBS NAMED DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL PRESS RELATIONS FOR HOTEL IN SEOUL KOREA

Jackie Jacobs

Ms. Jackie Deloris Jacobs of Hope Mills, an '87 graduate of Pembroke State University with a B.A. degree in communicative arts with a public relations concentration, has just accepted an important press relations position in Seoul, Korea, scene of the 1988 Summer Olympics.

She has been named director of international press relations for the Hotel International of Seoul. In that position, she will be responsible for hotel-press relations dealing with over 3,000 international journalists expected during the Olympics.

Ms. Jacobs is married to Andrew Strickland of Pembroke, a member of the U.S. Army who is stationed in Seoul.

A former "Miss Lumbee," Ms. Jacobs, 27, assisted the PSU telecommunications office while she was an undergraduate at PSU.

In her new responsibilities, Ms. Jacobs is scheduled to go to Singapore in two weeks for a hotel chain-wide training conference in international public relations. After that, she will return to Seoul to begin working with Olympic journalists.

Ms. Jacobs is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Calvin L. Jacobs of Hope Mills. "We are very happy for Jackie that she has this opportunity," said Mrs. Jacobs.

Captain's Choice Golf Tournament Planned To Raise Money For SATW!

Area golfers have one week to polish their golf clubs and practice before the Captain's Choice Tournament takes place at Riverside Golf Course on June 18th. Tee off time is 9:30 a.m.

This second golf tournament, sponsored by Robeson Historical Drama, Inc. is one of several fund-raising projects planned for Robeson County's outdoor drama, Strike At The Wind.

Tournament committee chairman Willie R. Harris, Jr. says proceeds from entry fees will go into the drama's general operating fund.

"Prizes, donated by area merchants, will be awarded participants on every hole," Harris states. "This project will serve a three-fold purpose. It will raise funds, publicize the exciting outdoor drama exploring Henry Berry Lowrie's life, and it will afford golfers an opportunity to compete with each other," Harris adds.

According to Robeson Historical Drama board member Harris, the tournament held two years ago drew 50 participants from throughout the state to the golf course located near the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater two miles west of Pembroke.

Those planning to enter the tournament should register by paying their $25.00 entry fee on or before June 17th by 7 p.m. Registration may be made at Riverside Golf Course or at Strike At the Wind's office in Pembroke State University's Old Main building. For more information, call Riverside Golf Course at 919-521-8433 or SATW, 919-521-2489.

Television Show Looks For Amateur Talent From Pembroke Area

Discovery Talent Search, the nationally syndicated television program, will begin auditions in this area to select talent for the televised special broadcast to be aired on WPCQ-TV, Channel 36, for the Charlotte television area. The Discovery producers will be in the area within the next few weeks to begin the task of selecting local talent to be videotaped for the show. Twelve finalists will be selected for the show within two age divisions: six in the Junior Division (ages 16 and under) and six in the Senior Division (ages 17 and over). The first place winner in each age division will be announced on the show and each will be awarded $1,000 in cash.

Auditions may not exceed three minutes in length and may include a wide variety of talent such as singing, dancing, acting, magical acts, dramatic readings, lip-synching, or any variety talent that has entertainment value and exhibits the participant's ability and skill.

Everyone has an equal opportunity to appear on the television show regardless of age and is invited to call for an audition appointment. Auditions are being held for all ages, men, women and children, individuals and groups. To schedule an audition for the show call toll free 1-800-227-6319.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Rev. Arber Oxendine

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Order" best describes the life of the Reverend Arber Oxendine. Perhaps the order came about during his early military experience during WWI, or maybe the sense of doing things in an orderly manner came about during his early childhood growing up in rural Fairmont.

"My daddy, Dougle Oxendine, insisted on order in his home. Even during meal-time, nobody sat down at the dinner table after he had asked the blessing on the food," the 92-year-old minister says. "If company came in during the dinner hour and didn't accept an invitation to eat before the blessing, they weren't given another chance." Oxendine, to this day, enforces the rule in his own home, located near Fairgrove School.

And when he left for France in 1918, he had no problem adjusting to the order required in military operations.

On the day of his first wife's funeral, Oxendine received his U.S. Army draft notice to report to a Spartenburg, S.C. base. He buried his wife, Largie. He had married her 18 months earlier. There were no children from the marriage.

He was shortly thereafter shipped to LeMans, France. There he engaged in warfare for eight months. While in France, he was to meet up with fellow Lumbees, including J. R. Lowry. Oxendine was discharged from military service in 1919.

The soldier returned to his beloved Robeson County, and in 1920, he married Pearlie Locklear, a "young kid" he'd met on a neighboring farm and with whom he'd churched at New Bethel Methodist Church. She was 16, and he was 22. "Her parents liked me because I was a plumb honest church boy," he says.

A life of farm sharecropping was taken up on the Hoke Smith Farm outside Fairmont. He later bought a farm, but never personally tended it because it was too small to support his 12 children. Today he rents the property.

Throughout his life, Oxendine has maintained a spiritual order. As a young child, his parents drove their 12 children to Pleasant Grove Methodist Church either on a surrey or buggy Oxendine comments.

The great-great grandfather says he remembers the first time he ever spoke before a church congregation. "I was 14 years old, and I stood in front of the church people and recited the 23 Psalm. Spiritual emotions overtook the listeners, and some of them started shouting and moving about the church."

"I got so confused and scared by it all, I said I'd never go to that church again," he laughs.

It was during the same period in his life that he was attending Henderson School which was named for his grandfather, Henderson Oxendine, who had built the one-room structure in 1901.

"It was there at the all-Indian school in 1909, my teacher, Rev. D.F. Lowry, became the first person ever to take pains (patience) in trying to teach me to read and write," Oxendine fondly recalls.

Oxendine says Lowry became his mentor and told him one day he'd become a preacher. The prediction came true in 1954, when Oxendine was allowed to preach under his Deacon license. His first pastorship was taken at New Bethel Methodist Church. Several other pastorships followed along with hundreds of sermons delivered at various other churches in the county.

In 1969, at age 73, Oxendine retired from farming. But he didn't retire from the pulpit. He continued to preach regularly until he was 80 years old. And until a few years ago, he preached "just when he was called on" - mostly at annual church homecomings.

During Easter worship service this year he sang his favorite hymn "Amazing Grace." It was a special request of the "singing" preacher. He is known throughout church communities for his rare talent in "talk-singing."

"I just took up that way of singing within me. I just recite words of a hymn and the congregation sings what I recited. This goes on and on until the hymn is completely spoken and sung" he explains.

Rev. Arber Oxendine sits flanked by family photos.

Oxendine says he has seen change in church structures as well as in the way of worship. "I used to attend night services where we had to worship by oil lanterns." The retired minister says it was a time when people shouted and dust rose from the cracks of wooden plank floors.

"You don't see them churches anymore. Buildings have improved more than the churches have," he adds.

In 1972, Oxendine and his wife accepted an invitation to tour the Holy Land for ten days. It was in the foreign land at a church service his wife was asked to lead the group in the singing of a hymn. She chose "Amazing Grace" without music. "Our voices could be heard over the mountains. What a time we had that day," he smiles.

Not only does Oxendine profess a great love for church, he loves his country, too. Since 1944, he has been an active member in V.F.W. He is the second oldest Indian member belonging to a V.F.W Post in NC. The oldest holds membership in a Clinton Post. Every second Monday night in each month, Oxendine travels to V.F.W. Post #2843 outside Pembroke to meet with other veterans of foreign war.

Life-long rituals continue to dictate order in his life even today. Since he was a youngster he has risen before the sun on the first day of each calendar year. He slips quietly outside his home and finds a location in his yard - a different location is always used. There he offers a private prayer - asking God's guidance in helping him adhere to his New Year's resolutions.

"I don't stand there and wish for His help. I ask for it," he stresses. "There's a difference in the two, you know."

For 70 years, the sage has kept a daily journal. He says the habit began when he left home to go to war overseas. Very few days pass, even today, without an entry being made - noting events of his life. Time daily is, too, spent in reading his Bible.

Oxendine's entire family never tires of his storytelling - an art his grandfather taught him. The widower can recite stories he learned from his school's "second reader" while attending Mrs. Maggie Bell's class in 1902.

He's known countywide as a gentleman who loves words and people - especially young children. "I've always tried to love people and have tried to make them love me," he comments. "I've never met a stranger. I speak to people, because the day may soon be gone, and I may not see them again and get the chance to speak to them kindly."

It just follows his Christian order to do it.

CHAVIS RETIRES FROM PROSPECT SCHOOL

Mr. William C. Chavis, assistant principal of Prospect School, receives a retirement plaque from Ms. Agnes Chavis, President of the Robeson County NCAE, and a retirement certificate from Purnell Swett, Superintendent of the Robeson County Schools.

Mr. Chavis was honored along with three other retiring educators from the Robeson County School System at a banquet held in their behalf May 30 at the Western Steer in Lumberton. Keynote speaker for the banquet was Rev. Sidney Locks, a member of the North Carolina House of Representatives for the 16th District of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties.

Mr. Chavis was honored for his 28 years of educational services rendered to the children of Robeson County.

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

JACOBS FAMILY PLANS REUNION JUNE 18

Owen and Fannie Jacobs family will have a reunion Saturday, June 18 at 5 p.m. All family members are urged to attend and bring a covered dish.

For more information call Fannie Jacobs at 844-3285.

ANNIVERSARY SINGING PLANNED

Brother George and the C&L will be celebrating their second anniversary with a singing Saturday, June 11th at 7:00 p.m., at the Mission Church. Featured on the program will be Brother Felix Deal & Family, McNeil Family, and the Chapeliers.

The Mission Church is located on the Union Chapel Road. The pastor is Rev. Crites Oxendine. Everyone is coridally invited to attend.

ALZHEIMERS FAMILY SUPPORT GROUP TO MEET JUNE 9

The Alzheimers Disease and Related Disorders Family Support Group will meet on Thursday, June 9, 1988 at 7:30 p.m. at Southeastern General Hospital Long Term Care Facility (cafeteria) on Pine Run Road in Lumberton. All interested persons are welcome. There will be a guest speaker and refreshments will be provided. For further information, call Robin Jones, 738-8104.

PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL ENDORSES PROPOSED NURSING HOME

The Pembroke Town Council held its regular meeting in Council Chambers at 7:30 p.m. on June 6 where they considered a short agenda.

A resolution was adopted giving support to a proposed nursing home to be located behind Hill's Food Store in the Colony Plaza, Pembroke, N.C. The facility is being proposed by Brian Center of Hickory, N.C. The state allocates a particular number of beds for a geographical area. There are currently approximately seven applicants for the allocation for Robeson and Scotland Counties.

The N.C. Department of Transportation is proposing the elimination of the left turn signal in front of Town Hall, or the elimination of 100 parking spaces along the front of Pembroke Hardware to rectify a safety hazard in traffic flow at that intersection. The Board voted to leave the parking spaces and let the State come in and eliminate the turning lane. The problem has been that traffic heading East was flowing directly into the turning lane.

The Board went into a short executive session to discuss litigation, after which no action was taken.

A public hearing on the Town Budget was set for June 21, 1988 in Council Chambers.

Reported By Sam Kerns

CLASS OF '48 PLANS REUNION

The Pembroke High School Class of 1948 plans a reunion for July 2. For information and reservation please call Daphne at 521-4855, 521-4097 or Helen at 521-0438 before June 20th 1988.

MEMBERS OF SAND CUTT CEMETARY TO MEET JUNE 18

All members of the Sand Cutt Cemetary are to meet Thursday, June 16, 1988 at 8:00 p.m. at New Hope Church's Fellowship Hall.

All members and prospective members please attend.

For more information call Earl Hughes Oxendine at 521-3030.

ROBESON YOUTH ATTEND 4-H JUNION DAY

Millstone 4-H Camp was the setting for the 1988 South Central Junior 4-H Day. A delegation of 28 4-H members and three adults attended the Saturday Retreat. Junior Day is held annually for 8-12 year olds and sponsored by the South Central District 4-H Council.

Four-H'ers participated in classes on insects (Bug Out), wild birds and their habitat, survival skills, crafts, and field day activities. The camp provided a wonderful outdoor setting for a picnic style lunch.

Attending Junior Day were:

Morgan-Britt Go-Getters 4-H Club
Allison Oxendine, Phillip Oxendine, Eric Chavis, Suzanne Williams, James Nealy

Union Chapel Wildcats 4-H Club
Terra Jones, Stephanie Harding, Sanford Harding, Selina Harding, Michelle Jones, Strawdie Harding

Marietta 4-H Club
Ingrid Powell, Latoya Johnson, DeNotra Johnson, Adrian Powell, Lacostia Powell

Super Kids 4-H Club
Camilia Thompson, Donna Thompson, John Carmicheal

Rowland Super Rollers 4-H Club
Tara Clark, Jessica Clark, Ronnean Deese, Kimberly Harris, Josh Deese

Boys Clover 4-H Club
Jame Mosby, Shaun Southerland, Courtney Jones, Antwain Jones

Member-at-Large
Kim Harris

Chaperoning the delegation were volunteer leaders Georgi Mosby of Boys Clover 4-H Club and Mary Alice Oxendine of Morgan-Britt Go-Getters 4-H Club. Also attending was Cathy Lowery, 4-H agent.