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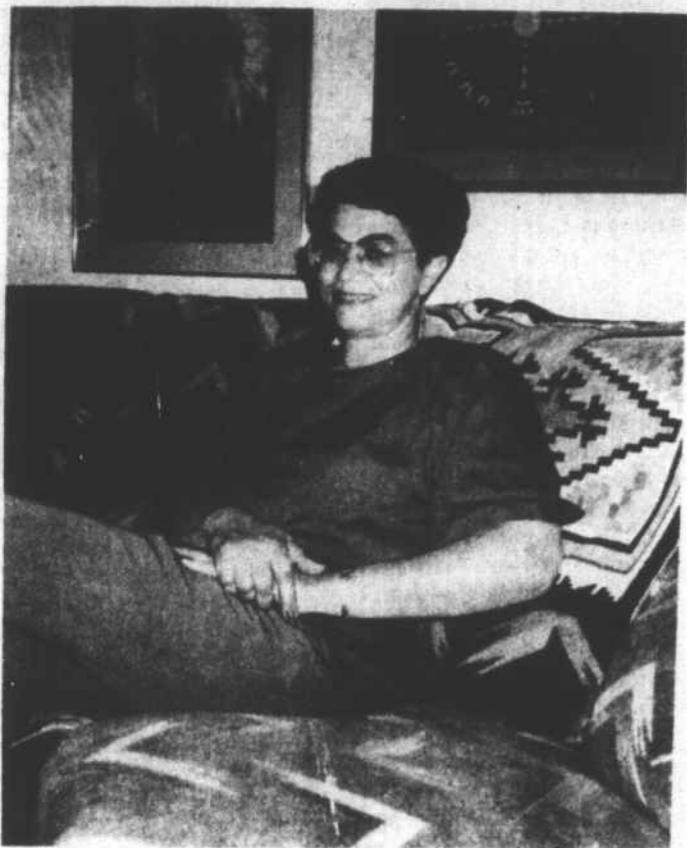
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SATW ANNUAL ART DINNER FEATURES TARA LOWRY



Tara Lowry, official SATW Art Dinner artist.

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Last fall when some area residents were cutting trees for firewood from the swamps of Robeson County, Tara Lowry was wandering through them in search of clues to the swamp-like life of the county's legendary former citizen Henry Berry Lowrie.

It was shortly after the Lumberton artist was commissioned by Robeson Historical Drama, Inc. to paint this year's official "Strike At The Wind" Art Dinner painting, that she began an indept study of the life of the man who roamed the county's swamps during the period of 1865-72.

"The project totally consumed me for nine months," says the 44-year-old Lumbee. "I was absolutely driven by it." She says she visited Moss Neck Swamp several times to get a feel for the area once traveled by the Indian hero.

"And it was so beautiful during the fall. Only then could I understand why it would appeal to a lover of nature as Henry Berry Lowrie must have been," she adds.

It was during one of several visits to the swamp that she saw an uprooted tree-still clinging to life. The sight gave her a burst of inspiration to create the project assigned her last year.

"Henry Berry Lowrie was somewhat like that tree in that he, too, was uprooted. He couldn't live with the people he loved and couldn't safely live in his community," she says. "Yet, he still survived, and he still followed what his mission to be."

The tree became a part of the four by four-foot oil painting which will be unveiled and later auctioned at the upcoming SATW Art Dinner at Lumberton's Ramanda Inn on Tuesday, June 28 at 7:30 p.m.

There were visits to other places in search of clues to the life of the American Indian most-loved, and hated, by Robesonians. Lowry spent hundreds of hours at the county's libraries and interviewed family members whose ancestors lived during the Lowrie era.

She listened intently and patiently made notes on each bit of information given her on the subjects' personal manner, physical features, attire and family standing. She worked with an actual pistol which belonged to the man whose outlaw exploits terrified a county from 1865-1872. And often times after a long session of reading on her subject, when she lay down to sleep at night, Lowrie was with her even in bed.

"I had many dreams about him," she laughs. The public school art instructor says only after she had read hundreds of printed pages, talked with dozens of people, trotted through half a dozen swamps, did she feel satisfied that she'd left no stone unturned in knowing the subject which dominates the commissioned piece of artwork.

"I painted him several times in my mind before I put the first stroke of oil on canvas," she comments. "I

know the spirit of Henry Berrie Lowrie." Lowry says she knew she was finished with the piece of work with the last stroke of the brush. And even though the work is ready for the auction block, she still hasn't quite put Henry Berry Lowrie to rest.

"The adrenalin still flows when the painting is in the house," she sighs. She says it's been difficult to contain the pride she feels in having created the work, because she'd like to have allowed other professional artists an opportunity to critique it. Due to a commissioner/artist agreement, this was not permitted. For the time being, the painting is under lock and key at an unannounced location.

With the painting out of her art studio, Lowry is busy working on other pieces which will be shown at the art dinner. She is the exclusive artist for the event and will exhibit 20 other pieces of her work. They will be offered in several mediums.

For the first time in her art career, she will show five batiks, a form of art she recently taught to students at West Robeson High School where she has taught for several years. Local art collectors will be interested in five other pieces of work depicting events which took place in the county this year. Of these the artist says, "There has been so many events taking place in the Indian Community, it becomes difficult for me to select five to feature."

For those interested in general American Indian art, the artist will offer five works depicting American Indian life and subjects. Five more works will round out the one-woman show. These will include Robeson County scenes in abstract.

"I love abstract art. It gives an impression of something. Then it allows a person's own mind to interact with what's put forward," she says. "After viewing this kind of art, I can come out with something, while another person comes out with something totally different. That's what is so beautiful about the abstract or impressionistic type painting."

The general public may view Lowry's artwork a few days after the art dinner. During the week of Lumbee Homecoming, it will be exhibited in the Native American Resource Center located in Pembroke State University's "Old Main" building.

Lowry is proud of being selected as the official SATW Art Dinner artist. She says the honor bestowed upon her has been the one for which she is most proud. "My art has been recognized more outside the Lumbee community than inside it. And to be recognized by my own people is, indeed, a great honor."

CAROLINA
INDIAN
VOICE

OXENDINE RETURNS TO SATW

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

With all the main characters cast, Director David Oxendine hopes to create magic for this year's Strike At The Wind.

"In doing magic, one needs so many people to work with in order to create," says the 28-year-old director and acting general manager of Robeson County's outdoor drama. "To the observer, magic looks real. The magician knows it isn't. There's a trick to it," he laughs.

The trick for the self-professed workaholic is to bring together 60 cast members, eight technical people and numerous volunteers to produce the show which explores the life of Henry Berry Lowrie who is a true historical character, whose outlaw exploits are chronicled in the script for the play. The drama opens its 13th season at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater on July 2.

According to Oxendine, this year's show offers a major change in casting. With the casting of Carol Oxendine, it becomes the first time a female has taken charge of the "Leader" role in the play written by Randolph Umberger, a protegee of Paul Green.

Oxendine says that he believes the change will give a different aspect to the play. The story line will not change, he added, but the perspective will.

Audiences will notice several changes in the script and stage this year. Script changes will include a revised version of the prologue. At the recommendation of the playwright, it will be shorter.

Another change came about a few weeks ago when railroad ties were placed on the stage to eliminate erosion problems. Because the stage was slanted, rain water would remain after a storm, causing a problem for cast members. The ties raised the stage two feet, making it level.

This becomes the third season Oxendine, a Robeson County native, has directed the 13-year-old show. The 1982 graduate of Catabwa College directed SATW during the 1984 and '85 seasons. In the play's second and third seasons, he was an actor. He also served as assistant director in 1983.

Acting has become the profession of the Lumbee Indian who once dreamed of becoming an astronaut. A change of direction came about for Oxendine when he was in the eighth grade at Pembroke Junior High School. An unshakable interest in science lured him to the stage to perform magic before high school audiences. In 1976, he performed tricks of magic to P.S.U. students.

He says a magician is nothing more than an actor. And with that in mind, he took drama classes in high school and got hooked. He was to play in numerous productions and head the drama club during his high school years.

After graduating from college, he joined a repertory theater and toured the U.S. for a year. He is a graduate of the American Academy of Dramatic Arts in New York and is a member of the Screen Actors Guild. In 1986, the theater major received further training from the American Playhouse in New York. The PBS Production Company hired him to cast Indian "extras" for its 1985 production of "Roanoke."

Oxendine admits it was a big decision to undertake the role of director for this season's SATW. He was offered the position last summer but waited six months before making the acceptance decision. "I left all that was going on, or was to go on, in New York to come home and direct because of what the show's about," he says. "Being from the county and being a part of it, puts the drama in my heart."

He says directing in a situation where actors are semi-professional offers him a challenge in patience. He says the drama affords the situation. "Professionalism is all attitude. You come in, do a job, give it all you've got, then you leave."

Being director and acting manager of the production lends itself to working long days. The workaholic says since rehearsal began two weeks ago, a typical workday for him is 8:30 a.m. until 11 p.m. Rest for the young director doesn't come quickly, even after the epilogue each evening. "If it's been an unusually stressful night and there are mounting problems, I just try to calm down and think through them." A late-night 30-minute drive through the countryside usually helps, he says. And when that doesn't work, he joins a "rap" session with friends who will talk about things other than SATW.

Oxendine says he thinks events in Robeson County since the February 1, hostage-taking at a Lumberton newspaper will help publicize the drama because they brought attention to the county where Henry Berry Lowrie once fought for social justice and equality for all people.

He says his favorite line in the script best projects the theme of the entire play: "No man walks in darkness who has seen the face of freedom, and no man lives in vain who seeks in truth." "And that's exactly how the events addressed themselves as I see it," he comments. "They were about the rights for all people."

And even though Oxendine has not performed magic on stage in years, he holds some under his director's hat for this season.

"If the weather stays nice, the state comes through on its promise for financial support and people come see the show, we'll have magic," he says.



David Oxendine

David Oxendine, director of SATW.

SAY YOU READ IT IN
THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Girl Scouts Celebrate Cookie Sales Campaign



Top cookie seller, Megan Scott, left, receives a plaque from Troop leader Joan Lowry.



Girl Scouts participating in this year's cookie sales, and belonging to Pembroke's Girl Scouts Troops 72 and 719 are kneeling left to right: Adriene Chavis, Cortney Campbell, Jessica Deese, Megan Scott, Sarah Locklear, Brandi Brooks and April Deese. Standing left to right are: Joan Beasley, Katie Jacobs, Millie Jo Jacobs, Stephanie Beasley, Sorana Oxendine, Christina Deese, Octavia Brooks and Kimberly Hammonds.

There were no cookies eaten when 18 girls from Girl Scout Troops 72 and 719 gathered at Kay's Subs & Pizzas to celebrate their successful cookie sales campaign.

The pizza outing brought daises, brownie and juniors together to make an end to a year and to recognize their hard work in selling 2,300 boxes of cookies last February. For the past nine months, they had gathered at the First United Methodist Church in Pembroke each Tuesday afternoon. There they involved themselves in various projects under the leadership of Joan Lowry, Andrena Scott and Diane Chavis.

This year marked the first time both troops joined together in selling cookies. "They really worked hard when the cookie drive started," says leader Lowry. "The parents played a tremendous part in helping to sell and deliver all the cookies."

Lowry says as the cookie-selling season approached, former customers began calling to place orders. "Then the girls hit the streets and started working very hard in order to get commitments from hundreds of Girl Scout cookie lovers."

After mouthfuls of pizzas were washed down with ice tea and colas, the girls assembled at the sponsoring church to receive awards. Every participant received a patch commemorating their achievement in the project.

Four girl scouts were recognized as top cookie sellers. Megan Scott won top award in the Daisy/Brownie Department for selling 328 boxes of cookies. Second place winner in that department was Adriene Chavis who sold 281.

In the Junior Department, Jessica Locklear and Shannon Nutting were co-winners at 202 boxes sold each.

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Guest Speaker: Congressman Charlie Rose

Tuesday, June 28, 1988
7:30 P.M.

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(Champagne and Prime Rib Dinner)

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521-2489 or 738-8261
Strike At The Wind
P. O. Box 1059
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Reception for
Gloria T. Lowry,
Adolph L. Dial,
& Hector McLean
6:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.