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PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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ART COLLECTOR AND SUPPORTER OF SATW PREPARES TO RETURN TO NATIVE ROBESON COUNTY

spent a few days, then boarded another train. His destination - Seattle, Washington. "I saw America up and down and across," he says.

A short stay in Seattle netted him his first major art purchase in the U.S. Having toured the country, he went in search of employment in Alaska. He says upon seeing the high standard of living there, he decided it was a land of financial promise for a formerly poor farm boy.

Oxendine had completed high school studies in the military and felt confident he'd land a job with IIT located at a radar site on Barter Island. He began work in the transportation department two weeks later after convincing the conservative Republican personnel director he was supporting Nixon for President.

"At the time I wasn't even registered to vote," a liberal Democrat Oxendine laughs. "Until this day, the man thinks I'm a conservative Republican."

Oxendine says he fell in love with Alaska's climate, wind and sun. He also fell in love with art - all mediums of it. Until 1963, he often-times sold art acquisitions. After then, he says he quit selling the art he collected because he became too attached to it.

He says he has bought art primarily for pleasure than for investment value. "The investment becomes the bonus of a piece of work after you've bought it and enjoyed it."

"If you go into an art gallery and see something you like, buy it! Listen to no one who discourages the purchase. For nine out of ten times, someone else is going to enjoy looking at it, too, over the years," he adds.

"I'd rather buy a good piece of art by an artist who is unknown than to buy a poor piece by a known artist," he says. "If you can afford it, buy two pieces of the artist's work. If financial needs develop, you can always sell one and have one to keep," he advises. Oxendine especially likes original prints and lithographs. Among his extensive collection are works by Salvador Dalis.

For the past 30 years, Oxendine has maintained close ties with his family and friends in his beloved native county. "When you're young, you want to get away, but as you get older, you want to come back home," he admits.

It was during a return visit to Robeson County five weeks ago that Oxendine was invited to attend the annual Strike At The Wind art auction dinner at Ramada Inn in Lumberton. On the last Tuesday in June he took a seat beside family members in the far back of a crowd-filled banquet room. He went un-noticed until bidding began on a four by five-foot commissioned painting of Henry Berry Lowrie. The 300 guest supporters who had paid \$25.00 each to attend the fundraising event all took notice when the gavel struck a final tap at a top bid of \$10,100, for artist Tara Lowery's "The Spirit of A People." Riley Oxendine had bought another gem to add to his collection.

He says he bought the piece of art for two reasons. He liked it - the man, the face. "Henry Berry Lowrie is my hero. He was brave and showed great strength in doing what he did back then." He further adds, "I bought it to help Strike At The Wind which I feel is a very worthwhile program."

The art collector says he plans to leave the Lowery painting on loan to Pembroke State University's Native American Resource Center as long as Adolph L. Dial allows his "Rhoda" to hang in the museum which houses American Indian artifacts. "The two pieces of work of man and wife look nice together," he says. He says he believes in promoting local artists and feels more people will see the work at the Resource Center rather than in a private home.

Oxendine eagerly awaits October for with it comes his season of retirement. "I've been away from Robeson County for 30 years, but everyday of the 30 years, I've been reminded of home when I heard or saw something that reminded me of my native county," he comments.

"You can take an Indian away from his homeland, let him travel the world and work among other races of people, but you can never change his race. If I could be anything else in the world, I wouldn't want to be anything but a Lumbee Indian."

SAY YOU READ IT IN THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE SCHOOL NEWS



FUTURE DIPLOMATS: Carl G. Williams of Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida; Kelvin P. McClinton of the University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia; and Paul Locklear of Pembroke State University, Pembroke, N.C., chat informally with James A. McGinley, Deputy Associate Director for Management, United States Information Agency (USIA), Washington, D.C., while taking part in USIA's Foreign Service Orientation Program for Minority Students. The students were among 17 from 16 colleges in 14 states chosen to participate in the USIA program which was geared to encourage minority students to seek careers in the diplomatic service.

WHAT NEXT???

Next week the Republicans have the opportunity to grab their share of the national spotlight. The Republican National Convention will be held in New Orleans with George Bush as the standard bearer.

The Republicans will attempt to match the excitement of the Democratic convention and George Bush holds the cards for creating this excitement. His best chance of doing this is by waiting until the last possible minute to name a qualified running mate and by selecting a person that had eluded the attention and speculation of the national media. So far we have heard mention of Baker, Kemp, and both Doles as possible running mates. In addition, several current governors are under consideration for the number two spot. The excitement builds as we all wait to hear the name of Bush's choice - well maybe its not excitement, just curiosity.

Oh, by the way, when you hear on television the words, "I'm just looking for a Bush", remember that is a beer and not a political commercial!

In several newspapers we have seen an advertisement which says, "Ollie and Betsy North Need Your Help Now!" The ad asks for your contribution to assist Oliver North by helping "defray legal costs and to assure that his family is properly guarded and that no harm comes to them".

The ad goes on to paint a picture of a patriotic American whom the government is out get. If North had had faith in the American people and in our form of government, he would not have acted outside the framework of our constitutional government. When an individual or group of individuals make important national policy decisions and act without the knowledge of the President of the United States or the consent of Congress, they in effect set themselves up as a de facto government. This is not the American way! We did not elect Oliver North or his cohorts! Consequently, North would not now be in such a mess if he had let the elected, constitutional system of government work. North has no one to blame for his current situation other than himself.

In our opinion, if you have money to donate, donate it to your church and let Oliver North take care of the mess he created.

As you probably noticed, a couple of our "lame duck" county commissioners have decided they wish to attend a convention in California. This will be at the county's expense of course. Both commissioners, Taylor and Morgan, stated they felt this would help them better contribute to Robeson County in spite of the fact they will no longer be commissioners. Seems if Taylor and Morgan really wished to contribute to the county, they would pay their own way to this convention.

We feel the rationale of these commissioners is pretty lame, but since there is no policy against such waste of taxpayer's money, we can only gripe about the waste. We

feel one of the first items of business commissioners need to address is the "lame duck" commissioners the opposition at taxpayer's expense. This policy sh and a new one written which all commissioners the opportunity to important conventions so they can be preparing for their role as county ed county should spend its dollars where the most benefit. Common sense would that spending money on outgoing rail commissioners is wasteful.

In addition to correcting the travel policy for outgoing commissioners, our newly elected county commissioners need to insure that outgoing (i.e. "lame duck") commissioners never again set the budget for our county. Some change needs to be made to insure that elected officials, who are defeated, cannot make binding decisions (ex. dismantling the recreation department, guaranteeing life insurance for commissioners with eight years of service) that will haunt the citizens of Robeson County for an indeterminate period of time. All actions by outgoing commissioners should be subject to the review and approval of the newly elected county commissioners. We desire true representation not mindless retribution by some defeated politicians. By designing a framework whereby the power of "lame duck" commissioners is held in check, the citizens of Robeson County will be assured of better representation and more responsible decision-making.

Why are companies the last to know? The workers of the House of Raeford recently went on strike over general issues including poor pay. The management was obviously taken by surprise and after a couple of days it succeeded in having its employees return to work. Now there is talk of organizing a union to represent workers at the House of Raeford.

Too many times it seems employers fail to recognize the humanity of its workers. Some employers ignore legitimate complaints. Some exploit their workforce. But, for some reason, employers are taken by surprise when the workers stand up and demand their fair share.

We realize the important role a non-union climate plays in the successful location of many industries to North Carolina and to Robeson County. The South has traditionally rejected unions. Southerners have felt that if they work, the employer will do right by them. Sadly, this is not always the case and the non-union Southerners gradually waking up to the fact that labor problems can often be laid at the door of management.

As a subtle reminder to those industries that exploit people; if you persist with your current policy, many people just might decide that, union is no longer a four letter word! Our advice; be guided by the old saying, "you reap what you sow!"

Town of Pembroke Named After Railroad Official

Where did the Town of Pembroke and subsequently Pembroke State University get its name?

It was derived from Pembroke Jones, Sr., a prominent citizen of Wilmington, N.C., which is a couple of hours drive from Pembroke.

Jones "was principal stock holder in the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad," according to the New Hanover County Public Library in Wilmington.

Through the research of Harry Warren of the New Cape Fear, a reference was made not only to Pembroke Jones, Sr., but the Town of Pembroke in the 1968 edition of the North Carolina Gazetteer, published in Chapel Hill.

The article said that the Town of Pembroke was "named for Pembroke Jones (1825-1910), an official of the Wilmington and Weldon Railroad which intersected the Wilmington, Charlotte and Rutherford Railroad here (at Pembroke)."

The article also said the Town of Pembroke was "originally called Campbell's Mill on Waterhole Swamp; later, Scuffletown, after Scoville Town in England...."

This ties in with the Lumbee Indians' claim of being descendants of the English colony at Roanoke Island in North Carolina.

The North Carolina Gazetteer item also says, "Today, it is the center of Lumbee Indian business and social life." It adds, and "Home of Pembroke State College (now Pembroke State University)."

As Warren noted, the "Chronicles of the Cape Fear," written by James Sprunt and published in 1916, also refers to Pembroke Jones, describing him as a Naval officer of the Confederacy. The publication states: "J. Pembroke Jones, a prominent officer in the U.S. Navy, resigned his commission and joined the Confederate Navy. He was first lieutenant commanding on the iron-clad sloop-of-war, Raleigh, which carried four guns and which attacked and broke the (Union's) Cape Fear blockade. He served with distinction in several

departments of the Confederate Navy and after the war was employed by the Argentine Republic upon important military defenses."

Pembroke Jones, Sr., had a son, Pembroke Jones, Jr. (1858-1919), who was not only a prominent businessman but the owner of the most famous estates in the Wilmington area-"Airlie" and Pembroke Park. This was according to information in the "Land of the Golden River," by Lewis Phillip Hall, published in 1975.

The publication also states of Pembroke Jones, Jr.: "Mr. Jones was a man of wide business connections and was at one time the president of the Cape Fear Rice Milling Company in this city (Wilmington). He also controlled a number of mills in Louisiana and Texas. During World War I, he was vice president and director of the Carolina Shipbuilding Company...."

"Airlie" is still a beautiful tourist attraction in southeastern North Carolina, famous for its gardens, especially at N.C. Azalea Festival time.

There is also a Pembroke Jones Park in Wilmington today.

And so from the honored name of Pembroke Jones of Wilmington came the name of both the Town of Pembroke and Pembroke State University.

The Coach's Corner

R's Been A Good Summer Highlights of course is the satisfaction I get from seeing nineteen kids learning to swim in my backyard pool. Also the Saturday morning teenagers now developing their tennis and swimming skills. We work on fundamentals of serving, both the slice and top spin serves, top spin forehands and backhands, flat forehands and backhands, net play with backspins on both sides. Two of my kids are the daughters of my former

No. 1 player, Al Fisher who is now confined to his wheel chair with multiple sclerosis. His elder daughter Jennifer is trying out for the Fairmont tennis team. I sure hope she makes it. My golf game stays the same-no improvement but fun to play.

Kids are thinking of going back to school now the size of the groups are diminishing. Families are taking to the beach for their last fling. It's kind of empty at the PSU tennis courts and the back yard pool, even my Converse five, some is missing three players.

Memory Loss My wife's mental condition of benign decensis is about the same, no worse but no better. She enjoys eating out and we do alot of that. It's a tough condition to see since she was a brilliant piano player, typist and I don't think she ever taught a music class at PSU without a typed lesson plan. But life goes on and everyone does the best they can. I hope you all had a good summer. Ken Johnson

LOOK AT THAT FISH!!!



Alan McMillian of Pembroke is shown with the 10 1/2 pound cat fish he caught at PineLake Park in Pembroke. Alan enjoys fishing in his spare time. He is the son of Lufita and Cherry McMillian.

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