



THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

VOLUME 16 NUMBER 41

25¢

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1988

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Pembroke Town Council Report BY SAM KERNS

In its council meeting Monday night, Pembroke Town officials gave consideration to a proposed 9400 square foot municipal complex. The architectural firm of Snowdon and Associates presented tentative plans that would include a courtroom, municipal offices, conference rooms, space for a library or for expanded offices, as well as space for the police department and jail holding cells.

Two public hearings were also held in which the town gave a conditional use permit to Mr. G.W. Warriax to add eight more trailers to a trailer park located in Lumbee Terrace off the Deep Branch Road southeast of Pembroke approximately one mile. The second public hearing was held on the close-out of the Community Development Block Grant for the Fifth Street Project area. Out of 53 original homes designated for repair work, only two were not repaired. This was due to the owners electing to not participate. Approximately \$500,000 has already been spent in the area. Upon motions by Councilman Henry Ward Oxendine and second by new Councilman Harry Oxendine, the conditional use permit

was granted and the Community Development Project authorized to spend the balance of monies to close out the project on Fifth Street.

In old business the town was informed that the town has received an award of \$115,000 for work on 25 homes to improve their use of energy. The grant is a state grant for households with low to very low incomes to provide such things as insulation and storm windows and doors. The average expenditure per house after deductions for administrative costs would be approximately \$4100-\$4200. The town will make application for consideration for the next grant cycle which will be in 3-5 months.

The Town Council also approved a gameroom permit for the building located next to The Golden Comb in Cummings Plaza on the Union Chapel Road. It will cater to children and will not have any pool tables. The business will be operated and supervised by Mrs. Sheila Locklear, the wife of Lt. Jeff Locklear of the Pembroke Police Department. Hours of operation will be Monday-Thurs-

day 12 noon to 9 p.m. and closing at 10 p.m. on weekends. There will be fulltime supervision by Mrs. Sheila Locklear.

Under additional new business, the council, upon request by councilman Henry W. Oxendine and second by councilman Larry Brooks, awarded a contract to Twin State Equipment in the amount of \$74,558 for a new street sweeper for the Public Works Department. The bids ranged from \$94,00 to the low bid. It is estimated that the new sweeper should last between 10-15 years. It operates with a minimum of dust and has a feature to clean out storm drains. Delivery will take place in 60-90 days with councilman Henry Oxendine encouraging delivery before Christmas which the contractor thought would be well within their capabilities to deliver.

After the council elected Mr. Henry W. Oxendine to be the town's representative to Lumber River Council of Governments, the council went into Executive Session to consider personnel matters and contracts.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO... Katy Lowery Oxendine



KATY LOWERY OXENDINE

special To The Carolina Indian Voice
By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

The spirit to survive has followed Katy Lowery Oxendine all the 80 years of her life. Just four years ago she lay fighting for her life in a hospital when blood clots developed in her lungs. She says during the hospital stay she experienced temporary death.

"I drifted into death and remember seeing the Garden of Eden through a beautiful light," the great-grandmother says. "The Spirit of God told me I must return to my natural life because there remained work for me to do on earth." She says her spirit returned through a dark cloud. Oxendine, who resides in the Green Pines Church community returned home from the hospital and fought her way back to measurable good health.

The native Robesonian was born in a two-room log house near Pembroke State University. She was one of three daughters born to Mollie Lowery. She remembers vividly the day she professed Christ as her Savior. "I was attending Chavis School outside Pembroke and my teacher Mr. Wilbert Lowery gathered all the students together and marched us to a daytime revival at First Baptist Church in Pembroke." She was 12 years old. "I've been serving Christ ever since," she adds. Three years later she began teaching "primaries" at her childhood church at St. Anna. It was a position she was to hold for 20 years.

Oxendine's early life was spent on a farm. And it was during a day of picking cotton that she first saw her future husband, Willie Kern Oxendine. She was a bashful five-year-old and couldn't muster up enough courage to introduce herself to him. For sixteen years thereafter, she wondered where the "little boy" was. Then one Sunday during worship service at Sandy Plains Methodist Church she met him and a "noticing," non-courtship relationship developed. She says they were able to worship together because St. Anna Church and Sandy Plains Church neither had enough enrollment to have separate worship services. Three months later when she returned to her church, the young Lumbee Indian boy followed her and attended her church on a permanent basis. There he was appointed Sunday School secretary. He took to passing her love letters in hymnals during worship services. The

couple courted for about a year, often times stealing private moments around the old hand water pump on the church grounds.

Oxendine says during a year of courtship the idea of marriage frightened her, and the courtship ended. Then when she turned 23 years of age, she realized she had no family to call her own. Dreams turned to having children and a home. When Oxendine, an only child, proposed marriage to her in 1930, she accepted and was married in Dillon, SC the same year.

The couple took up housekeeping with his parents and began a life of farming outside Pembroke. Seven years later they moved into a house that Mr. Oxendine had assisted in building three years earlier. They bought the house and lived there until his death in 1977.

Activity filled the Oxendine home with the coming of each child. There were to be 13 children born to the couple. All but two were born at home. She was attended by a physician with them. Oxendine says she took a "baby" course as a young student at Indian Normal School.

Taking care of a large family consumed Oxendine's time during the 1930's and 40's. "If I hadn't taken home economics in high school, I would have been hurting," she laughs. She says it was not uncommon for her to sew 15 shirts each fall for her sons and husband. Then there were the many dresses to handmake for her daughters.

Hog killings for food consumption became a job for the extended family. Twelve hogs were butchered annually to feed the family. The task usually lasted three days. Mealtime in the home was always a time for giving thanks. "The blessing was always asked," Oxendine comments. Good behavior and proper attire at the dining table were the rule of the house. No male was allowed at the table unless he wore a shirt. "It would just kill me when one had to take his plate and leave the kitchen to eat alone," she adds. The Oxendines produced the wheat used in preparing the 50 biscuits served three times a day to the family. "I had to cook biscuits because my husband would not eat cornbread," she chuckles.

Oxendine saw two sons go to war in Korea and Vietnam. Drawing on her strong spiritual faith, she advised them to go on and serve their country and do the right things. "I didn't shed a tear the entire time they were away," she says. "I put them in the hands of the Lord." She saw the safe return home of both sons.

Today the widow lives with a daughter and son-in-law a short distance from the Oxendine homeplace. She stays physically and socially active. Every chance she gets, she travels to the beach to do some pier fishing. She has taken numerous long-distant tours throughout the U.S. and visits longtime friends and neighbors. Close touch is kept with others by telephone. She attends her beloved Green Pines Church where she recently retired from teaching Sunday School. She meets weekly with a senior citizens club at the church. Oxendine enjoys reading and watching quiz shows and programs with a mystery theme on television.

This summer the Oxendine children gathered at their childhood home to honor their mother on her eightieth birthday. On the lovely day in late August, they wandered on the grounds which held so many memories of years past. Flower beds established years ago spoke of Oxendine's love for flowers. "I have no favorite flower. My favorite becomes the one which each season brings," comments the matriarch.

Visiting her homeplace evokes memories for Oxendine too. For it is there she experienced first-hand the joys and hardships of raising a large family off the earth. She has seen all 13 children grow into adulthood. And for all the goodness afforded her in life she gives Christ the credit. "See how the Lord works? He's always been in my life."

ROBESON LITTLE THEATRE TO PRESENT

"THE FOREIGNER" OCT. 21-23



Cast of Robeson Little Theatre's production of "The Foreigner" by Larry Shue: front row, Jay Sellers, Mary Lewis; second row, Robert

Berdeau, Hugh Rogers, Helen Scurlock; back row, Ed Nicholson, Charles Kroeger. The play is directed by Enoch Morris.

Robeson Little Theatre's production of *The Foreigner* is a suitable appetizer for the opening of their 1988-89 season. Larry Shue's com-

edy, directed by Enoch Morris, will be presented at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton on October 21-23. Norma Hoffman is the produ-

cer. Enoch Morris is Director of Theatre Arts and Director of the Performing Arts Center at Pembroke State University. Some of his most recent directing successes are *Crimes of the Heart*, *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*, and *Lion in Winter*.

The contrast of characters in *The Foreigner* produces one hilarious situation after another. Imagine what might happen when two English gentlemen (one of whom is believed to speak no English) visits a fishing lodge in rural Georgia. The author's version of what really happened has won numerous awards and has delighted audiences everywhere his play has been seen.

Most of the cast have been in numerous RLT productions and some surprising new talents are making their debut. Included in the cast are: Charles Kroeger, Jay Sellers, Helen Scurlock, Robert Berdeau, Mary Lewis, Ed Nicholson, and Hugh Rogers.

Mr. Morris is so pleased with the play and the exceptional cast he has assembled that he has entered to the play in the North Carolina Theatre Conference's Community Theatre Play Contest. The contest is being hosted by Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory October 27-29. The best play will represent North Carolina at the Southeastern Theatre Conference in Louisville, Kentucky.

The Foreigner will be presented October 21-22 at 8 p.m. and a Sunday matinee at 2:30 p.m. October 23. Admissions will be: Adults \$4.00, Senior Citizens \$3.00, Students, \$2.00. Reservations are not required and tickets will be available at the door.

Dr. Helen Scheirbeck Speaker At Youth 2000 Day At West Robeson

On Wednesday, Sept. 28, a number of West Robeson social studies students were privileged to hear Dr. Helen Scheirbeck, Director of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Dr. Scheirbeck was invited to speak as West Robeson celebrated Youth 2000 Day.

Dr. Scheirbeck gave the students a brief summary of local Indian history and explained how it will relate to the exhibits at the Cultural Center. Her talk gave particular emphasis to the development of public education among the Lumbee Indians.

She also explained how the passage of the Lumbee Recognition Bill will help individuals and the community as a whole. Dr. Scheir-

beck said that she expects the bill to pass Congress in the next three to five years.

Regarding the Cultural Center, Dr. Scheirbeck expects it to be completed by the year 2000. She said that when completed the center will employ about 500 people full-time and about 1500 part-time as it attracts tourists from throughout the country.

Mr. Ray Oxendine, principal at West Robeson said, "We are fortunate to have Dr. Scheirbeck as our speaker because of her vast array of knowledge at the state, local and national level."

President Reagan recently appointed Dr. Scheirbeck to the NACIE (National Advisory Council on Indian Education) Board.

St. Pauls Student Named Teaching Fellow

Donald Ray Williams of St. Pauls has been named a North Carolina Teaching Fellow at the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where he is a first year student.

N.C. Teaching Fellows receive \$5000 scholarships. The scholarships are renewable for three more years and so are worth \$20,000 over four years, provided recipients teach in the state's public schools for at least that many years.

Williams is a son of Mr. and Mrs. L.J. Williams of Route 4, St. Pauls, and is a graduate of St. Pauls High School. He plans to specialize in math education at UNC-G.

ROBESON COUNTY SCHOOLS NEWS & BRIEFS

BY WALTER G. OXENDINE

SUPERINTENDENT'S ANNUAL REPORT

This year for the first time in the history of the Robeson County School System, some 9,000 copies of the Superintendent's Annual Report for 1987-88 was distributed throughout the county schools, local Chambers of Commerce and other businesses across the state to all the school superintendents and to the State Department of Public Instruction Office and officials.

Loretta Hunt Beasley, former Coordinator of Public Information for the Robeson County System, was responsible for working up and seeing that the Report was printed. She chose the theme for the Annual Report as "A Year of Achievements."

FUNCTIONS OF COMMUNITY SCHOOLS PROGRAM

The purpose of this article is to better inform the general public, parents, students and school staff of the many functions and activities that are part of the Community Schools Program.

Coordinating the Community Schools Program is Walter G. Oxendine who also coordinates the Public Information Program, because both programs go hand in hand and deal directly with the public, the community and the schools in the Robeson County System. The coordinator of these two areas is assisted greatly by the secretarial work of Linda Jones and the Local School Coordinators.

Some of the many functions and activities provided are as follows:

School Volunteer Program. The purpose is to encourage parents, concerned citizens and resource people to volunteer their time, efforts and energies to assist and enhance the total educational process in the schools, which in turn provides better learning opportunities for students.

Use of School Facilities-A number of school facilities have been or are being used for Adult Basic and Adult High School classes sponsored by Robeson Community College, physical and recreational programs for youths and adults, family reunions, gospel singings, community group meetings, special programs in arts and crafts and

other such activities that benefit both the community and the schools.

There is a fee charged for the use of the facilities unless the function or activity directly benefits the students or school. One may find out the cost of the various facilities by contacting the school in their area or by calling the Community Schools office at 738-4841, Ext. 244.

Community Relations- working to provide good working relationships for a better educational process for the school system and for all those in the community who are interested in seeing the community and county prosper.

Coordination between schools and community-The suggested procedure is for communities to work directly with the schools and their principals and when a particular situation arises, or when there is a need for a community or county wide project, the Community Schools office is called upon to make the necessary arrangements.

Archie Oxendine, retired, is responsible for organizing and beginning the Community Schools Program. He devoted ten years in developing the program and watching it grow and prosper each year under his leadership. The present coordinator, Walter G. Oxendine, is seeking and asking for that same support from the community and the schools in order to continue to grow and make progress.

COORDINATOR ATTENDS WORKSHOP

Walter G. Oxendine, Coordinator of the Community Schools and Public Information Programs, attended the Eleventh Annual School-Community Relations Workshop held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Raleigh, Oct. 4-6.

The theme of the workshop was "On to the Basics of Community Schools." It was sponsored by the State Department of Public Instruction.

A number of concurrent workshops were offered in such areas as Before and After School Care Communication and Building Support for Schools, Parents Involved in Helping Their Children Achieve in School, School Volunteers, Schools of Merit and many others.