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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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New Member of NC Humans Relations Council is Committed to Listening And Serving Citizens

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

When H. Dobbs Oxendine, Jr. was appointed to the North Carolina Human Relations Council last December, he brought to his seat more than two decades of experience in formal human relations.

The 50-year-old Lumberton resident says as Council member he is committed to listening to opinions of his district's residents with the belief that regardless of its popularity, or even accuracy, each viewpoint is meaningful and worthy of attention.

"I feel honored that Governor Martin appointed me to the Council," says Oxendine. "Listening is hard work, and not many of us are very good at it, but I am committed to serving people and promise to listen to them."

Since 1966, through his business enterprises, Oxendine has been listening to, and filling, the needs of citizens in Robeson County. A staunch supporter of Equal Employment Opportunity, he has rendered employment to all races in the tri- racially populated county.

"People need employment opportunities. With her current unemployment rate at 6.0, Robeson County falls short in meeting needs in that area," he says. "I feel last year's schools merger will invite prospective industry to take a second look at locating here," the former public school teacher adds.

A state government agency working to promote social and economic equality, The North Carolina Human Relations Council was founded in 1963. It has been a leader in the efforts to achieve civil rights and equal opportunities for all the people of the state, according to Oxendine.

"There, especially in my native county of Robeson, exists a great need to promote understanding, respect, and goodwill among its citizens," he comments. "In one direction, I see progress. In another, I see despair."

The businessman says it requires a rare discipline to see both clearly. "As a Council member, and resident of the county, I need to keep both in my vision--because one gives me hope, and the other gives me work to do." He says he will actively assist the Robeson County Human Relations Committee in promoting equality of opportunity for all Robeson County citizens.

A Native American, Oxendine says he will work to influence public policy in North Carolina by encouraging the state's governments and institutions, in all their activities, to appreciate the cultural and ethnic diversity of North Carolina people and to share the goal of people living and working together in harmony and mutual respect.

As Vice-Chairman of Robeson Historical Drama Association, he says the tri-racial population in Robeson County is unique and pledges to continue working toward



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Mem.-The N.C. Human Relations Council

gains to bridge gaps created by racial problems.

He adds that the NCHRC educates public officials and private businesses about civil rights, encouraging them to take an active role in providing equal opportunities and preventing civil rights abuses.

Oxendine fosters goodwill in his community through civic involvement. He was instrumental in gaining a charter for Kiwanis of West Lumberton, an international service club of business and professional men and women. He became the chapter's charter president, and remains an active member. Additionally, he serves as chairman of Branch Street United Methodist Church Board of Trustees.

"It becomes a citizen's duty to return to his community some of the generosity given him by it. And I make every effort to do just that," the newly-appointed Council member says.

Reflections By Alta Nye Oxendine

VALENTINE PARTY

We "Singles" enjoyed the Valentine Party at Southern Kitchen on Valentine's night, February 14.

After enjoying a buffet meal, we participated in a variety of amusing games. I almost missed the party, because I was feeling so tired. But the food, fun, and fellowship were so rejuvenating that I felt 20 years younger when I left than when I arrived. Looks like we all need to forget our worries, "let our hair down," and have a good laugh from time to time.

We were happy to have a number of new people attending this time. Remember, the Single Adult Fellowship is open to all, regardless of religious or racial background, as long as you are an adult who is not presently married. Our next meeting will be at 7:00 p.m. March 14, at First United Methodist Church, Pembroke.

A BELIEVER OR A DISCIPLE?

The Rev. Jerry Lowry, our pastor at First United Methodist Church, Pembroke, preached recently about "Believers" and "Disciples." Speaking to Christians, he asked: "Are you a disciple? Or just a Believer, who does not take learning from and following Jesus Christ seriously? We would like to give a sincere invitation to anyone, or any family, who will stop in to visit us for Sunday School and Worship on Sunday mornings. Of course, a church is not just a building. It is a House of God. We want you to come and meet Him there.

Several times recently I've "subbed" at South Robeson High. On one occasion I was invited by English teacher, Barbara Jones, to speak to her sixth period ninth grade class about writing. I thoroughly enjoyed our discussion about feelings and thoughts, and the personal value of expressing them rather than just holding them in. Also how the reader can often relate to the feelings of the writer.

It is interesting that two of the people who have encouraged me to write--Edmond Locklear and Bruce Barton--are also teaching at South Robeson.

14TH ANNUAL INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE TO BE HELD MARCH 16-18 IN FAYETTEVILLE

The fourteenth annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference will be held March 16-18, 1989 at the Bordeaux Inn in Fayetteville.

According to Jane Jacobs, chairperson of United Tribes of North Carolina, the sponsor of the conference, over 500 Indian people from around the state and the nation are expected to gather for the Indian Unity Conference which will address major educational, cultural and economic concerns of Indian citizens.

Jacobs said Governor James Martin has confirmed plans to speak at one of the four general assemblies that will be held during the three day event. Lucille Dawson, of the Administration for Native Americans, a major funding source for Indian tribes and organizations, is also scheduled to speak. Dr. Helen Scheirbeck, of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, will present plans for the multi million dollar cultural and tourist attraction in Robeson County.

Jacobs said the Indian Unity Conference is the major event for the year of Indian affairs of the state. She

noted that it gives the leaders in Indian affairs of the state the opportunity to meet and exchange information relative to Indian activities and programs. Other major features of the conference include 11 workshops on diverse topics, an inter-tribal pow-wow, and awards banquet, and a dance.

Jacobs said a new feature of the conference is a seminar on March 16 for Indian business leaders. Over 100 Indian business leaders from around the state will gather to meet with representatives of over 10 agencies that provide free business assistance services. The seminar will focus on major business development efforts in Indian communities and the need to increase networking among Indian business leaders of the state.

Jacobs said Indian people, especially Indian business leaders, are invited and encouraged to attend the conference. Registration information and materials for the conference can be obtained by contacting the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs at (919) 733-5998 or the Indian organization in your area.

Selected as Miss NC Teen Finalist



Miss Emily Blue, daughter of Ms. Lola Blue of Pembroke, has been selected as a state finalist in the 1989 Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant. The announcement was made by Ron Simmons, State Director for the Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant.

Miss Blue is sponsored in the pageant by Di-Reba Construction Comp. Inc. of Rowland, Native American Construction and family. The Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant is the official state preliminary to the Miss U.S. Teen Pageant to be held in August, 1989. Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen will receive a host of prizes including a cash award, a color portrait, jewelry, crown, banner, trophy, and an all expense paid trip to the national pageant.

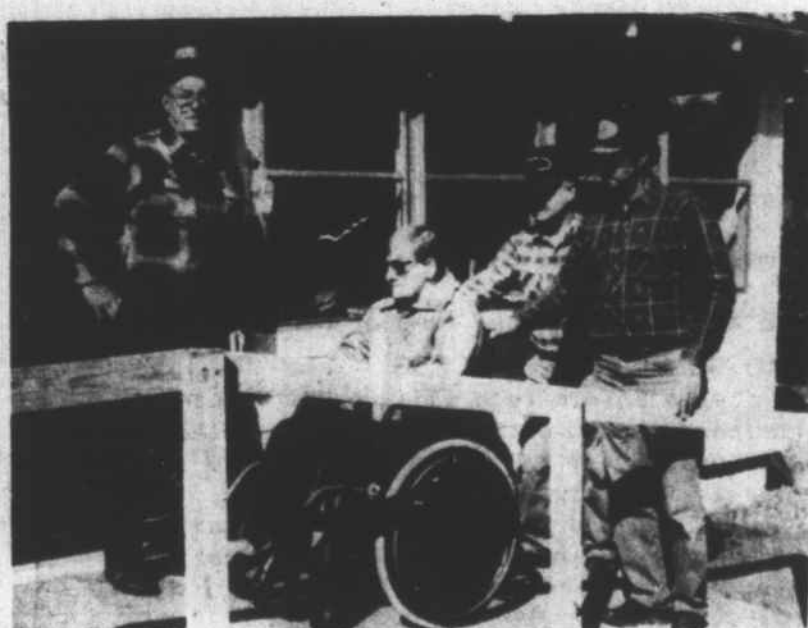
The Miss North Carolina U.S. Teen Pageant will be held in Greensboro at the Sheraton Hotel on March 18, 1989.

For further information about the pageant write Ron Simmons, 7808 Cadillac Drive, Huntsville, Alabama or call (205) 880-1275 after 8:00 p.m.

Kiwanis of West Lumberton: Active in Community Services



Kiwanis members Leroy Scott, James E. Thomas, and Dobbs Oxendine, Jr. construct a wheelchair ramp.



Shane Willoughby tries his new wheelchair ramp as Leroy Scott, James E. Thoms and Horace Hunt look on.

Lumberton-Lance Hardin and Horace Hunt coordinated a Saturday work day for the Kiwanis of West Lumberton as part of the Kiwanis Community Service Project. The group constructed a wheelchair ramp

at the home of Shane Willoughby of the Burnt Islands community of Robeson County. "The club members gave 100% effort to this project," said club president Wendell Lowry.

At our county-wide United Methodist Christian Workers School held at Sandy Plains UMC on Sunday, February 19, I attended two classes: Evangelism, and our current mission study--The Faces of Poverty. This was an opportunity for persons of all racial backgrounds to come together and share. Especially in our small Evangelism group I was impressed by the way we were able to "let down

our hair" and relate to one another. It was obvious that we have the same needs and problems, whether we are attending a "White," "Black" or "Indian" church. Perhaps some day we will be able to worship together on a regular basis. In the meantime, we experienced our own little "Robeson County Human Relations and Unity" group.

Rev. Jerry Lowry Appointed to PSU Board of Trustees

BY Gene Warren

PSU Public Information Director The Rev. Jerry Lowry, a 1970 graduate of PSU who is pastor of both Pembroke First United Methodist Church and West Robeson United Methodist Church, has been appointed a trustee at PSU, filling the unexpired term of Ira Pate Lowry.

The Rev. Lowry's appointment was approved at the recent UNC Board of Governors meeting.

The four-year term of Ira Pate Lowry, who has resigned because of health reasons, expires June 30.

Of his appointment in filling the vacancy, the Rev. Lowry said: "It is an honor to serve one's alma mater. I'm looking forward to coming back and serving in this capacity to help build bridges in helping the University be all it can be in this region."

Lowry, 40, of Route 1, Rowland, is married to the former Irene Lowry of Rowland. They are parents of two daughters: Elena, 16 and Ana, 15. Along with earning his B.A. degree in Spanish at PSU, Lowry has done foreign study at the University of La Llama in Spain in 1970 and earned his Master of Divinity at Duke University in 1985.

In January, he became the United Methodist campus minister at PSU.

Long active in PSU campus affairs, he is past president of the PSU Alumni Association and past president of the PSU Braves Club. During his time at Alumni Association president, lifetime memberships were established.

From 1970-80 before his call into the ministry, Lowry was a Spanish teacher and assistant principal for the Robeson County Board of Education, executive director of agriculture stabilization with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and self-employed at Lowry's Chain Saw Service.

Since entering the ministry, he has been part-time pastor at Fairmont United Methodist Church in Hamer, SC, student pastor at Branch Street United Methodist Church in Lum-



Rev. Jerry Lowry... Appointed new trustee at Pembroke State University

berton, senior pastor for Robeson County Cooperative Ministry based in Pembroke, and part-time minister at Wesley Pines Methodist Retirement Home in Lumberton. He is this year serving the Native American Large Parish in Pembroke.

Past president of the Union Civic Club, his is a part member of the Robeson County Board of Education and the Governor's Task Force on CETA Funds. Lowry is serving on the Governor's Task Force for Alcohol and Drug Abuse and is a member of the Pembroke Kiwanis Club.

His awards have included the PSU Braves Club "Member of the Year" award, the Union Civic Club "Member of the Year" award, the Lumbee Businessman Award, and membership to "Outstanding Young Men of America."

In 1986-87 he was chairman of the annual Fund-Raising Campaign for the Robeson County Church and Community Center and was a member of the Christian Concerned Clergy for Better Government in Robeson County.

In earning his Master of Divinity at Duke Divinity School, Lowry received there the Crusade Scholarship, the Dean's Merit Scholarship and the Russel B. Harrison Scholarship.

HOSA Club News

by Natasha Sinclair

Health Occupations Students of America is an organization developed to promote student competency in leadership development and philosophy in health occupations programs.

Health Occupations is a course taken by juniors and seniors from Robeson County Schools. This course is available at Robeson County Career Center (Stacy Locklear, principal). The class is scheduled to have HOSA II in morning and HOSA I in the evening.

This year's HOSA Club has been very active. At the first of the year HOSA elected officers. The following students were chosen: Presidents-Jessica Oxendine, Maria Jones; vice presidents-Queen Snow, Angela Goins; secretary-Teresa Jacobs, Regina Hunt; treasurer-Rita Locklear, Angela Hunt; Reporters-Tonda Christa; Natasha Sinclair; Historians-Rebecca Locklear, Geneva Locklear.

HOSA II set up a booth at the county fair and won first place. Later they accompanied students from Bryan Memorial School to the fair.

HOSA's state advisor, Mrs. Raynel Pearsal, visited the HOSA classes on October 13th.

Mrs. Dorothy West, Health Occupations Instructor, attended two Regional Leadership Conference meetings to pay dues to help coordinate HOSA activities.

At Christmas, both clubs visited the patients at Kingsdale Manor Nursing Home and the Cancer Institute.

The past few weeks both HOSA Clubs have been getting ready for a competition at Regional Congress. It will be held on March 3 at Fayetteville Technical Community College. Many contests will be available, including first aid and CPR, medical spelling and more.

On May 11-13, HOSA plans to attend state competition at Winston-Salem. The club hopes to win all of the prizes!!!

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