

The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

Mary Livingston Library
Pembroke State Library
Pembroke, NC 28372

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 24

THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 1989

JUN 23 '89

COPY

Robeson County to pay Tribute to Purnell Swett

"Robeson County People's Tribute to Purnell Swett" will be the theme of a special salute to the retiring superintendent of Robeson County Schools on Sunday, June 25, from 4-6 p.m. at Pembroke Elementary School Cafeteria.

On this day, parents of the school children whom Swett's life has touched and citizens of every walk of life across the county are invited to a reception honoring Swett for his 12 years of being the Robeson County Schools' top administrator.

"It will be a flow-through type reception," says Frank Daughtrey of Pembroke's First Union National Bank, who is chairman of the event.

"We owe Purnell Swett something for his years of service. The reception we've planned is going to be very informal. We want the whole county to feel welcome, and everything is free. We will be raising the money to pay for the event from 20 different sponsors."

At 5 p.m. a 20-minute program will be presented, says Archie Oxendine of the Robeson County Schools who is on the committee. Co-chairing the event will be two officials of Acme Electric Corp. Rudy Barnes and Laymon Locklear.

"We want everyone in the county to take part—businesses, industry, churches, senior citizens, etc.," said Oxendine.

Swett, in his role as superintendent of Robeson County Schools, has been responsible for 14,500 students and 1600 employees. The system's year budget: \$47 million.

He earned his diploma at Pembroke High School and received a b.s. in Science and History from Pembroke State University in 1957. He earned his M.A.Ed. in School Administration at Western Carolina University in 1967. He has done post-graduate work at UNC-Chapel Hill and Virginia Polytechnic Institute.

Before being named superintendent in 1977, Swett served as associate superintendent of Robeson County Schools from Jan. 1, 1975. Prior to that he was Acting Deputy Commissioner for the Office of Indian

Education for the U.S. Office of Education in Washington, D.C.

From 1967-71 before joining the U.S. Office of Education, Swett was assistant supt. of Robeson County Schools.

Swett's honors have been many. He has served as chairman and vice chairman of the PSU Board of Trustees, president of the PSU Alumni Association, and was selected in 1984 for the PSU Alumni Association's 'Distinguished Alumnus Award.'

He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina and the Board of Directors of Southern National Bank, United Way of Robeson County, and the Robeson County-Lumberton Chamber of Commerce. He is a member of the Robeson County Committee of 100 and the Region N Private Industry Council.

He has been past chairman of the State Division of Superintendents for the N.C. Association of School Administrators.

Swett's honors include a Presidential appointment to the National Advisory Council on Adult Education and a gubernatorial appointment to the N.C. Interagency Council for Community Schools. In 1982 he won the Leo Reano Memorial Award from the National Educational Association. He won "Boss of the Year" awards from District Nine of the N.C. Association of Education Office Personnel in 1981 and from the Pembroke Jaycees in 1983.

In 1974 he was asked to deliver the major address at the annual Conference of the National Indian Education Association meeting in Phoenix, Arizona.

He is a former member of the General Board of the N.C. Baptist State Convention and served as moderator of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association from 1978-80.

While a student at PSU, Swett was president of the institution's Baptist Student Union and was third vice president of the state's Baptist Student Union.

As a student at Pembroke High School, he was elected class president in both his junior and senior years and also voted the "Outstanding Male Student."

Karen Coronado: Strike at the Wind's Artist of the Year

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
Special To The Carolina Indian Voice

This year's "Strike at the Wind" Artist of the Year Karen Coronado gave birth twice this year. Five-month-old son Cory was born in January to her and husband, Richard Mathis. In May she produced a four-by-six foot oil painting which Robeson Historical Drama has temporarily claimed.

On June 27 at Pinecrest Country Club in Lumberton the commissioned painting will go to the highest bidder at SATW's fourth annual Art Auction Dinner. The 7:30 p.m. event is the organization's largest annual fundraising project.

"Until the day the committee came and took the painting, it was like a baby. I'd had it in gestation many days," Coronado says. "I really wasn't ready to give it up, because I had set myself up for so much content that I found it difficult to call it quits."

The artist says for three months she labored on the work in between breast-feeding her infant son and sharing precious, private moments with a two-year-old daughter and five-year-old son. She and her husband also have a 13-year-old daughter.

"I literally snatched time when I could," she smiles. "I never got burned out on executing the painting even though I had a few all-nighters."

The Raft Swamp community resident says she received babysitting support from her parents and husband while working in a studio in her parents' home outside Pembroke.

After being selected Artist of the Year, Coronado submitted a dozen preliminary drawings to a selection committee. Once she received the "go ahead" signal, she began in earnest to meet a late spring deadline.

"I was consumed by the deadline. As an artist I don't always have a clear sense of how long it takes to do something," she comments. "Even after the committee came and picked up the painting I heard them joking 'don't tell her where it is being stored because she will want to go paint some more on it.'"

Coronado says she feels the work is complete, but her artist nature makes her want to make a few more strokes with the brush.

Because of the nature of her contract as the commissioned artist with SATW, the 35 year-old says she is unable to reveal the contents of the painting. However, being a professed environmentalist, she admits she drew inspiration for some content from the Lumber "Lumbee" River which runs behind her parents' home.

"I'd go out to the river and look in that dark water...at the different trees and their knees and at the moss to get a feel for something realistic," she recalls. While the Lumbee/Mexican artist says much realism is reflected in the work, there are other things.

"If nothing else, this painting will reflect detail and color. But most importantly, its theme will reflect a spirit of racial unity among a tri-racial group of people after the close of the Civil War."

Once the busy artist/mother completed the commissioned work, she immediately began completion of other art pieces for a New York show at The American Indian Community House Gallery.



KAREN CORONADO, "Strike at the Wind" Artist of the Year

"I didn't expect all this so suddenly. Here, little has happened to my art career during the past two years. I've been somewhat of a fulltime wife and mother, and now all of a sudden I get two shows all at once," she comments. Coronado was chosen as an emerging American Indian artist in the N.Y. show scheduled to open this week. She will exhibit six works of art.

As this year's official SATW artist she has exclusive rights to exhibit works which will be offered for sale to the public at the art dinner. She will exhibit 12 pieces.

The petite artist says being an artist has been easy for her. From an early age she challenged herself to art. But there was a time during early age, the desire to endlessly paint got her into trouble.

"I was drawing during class in elementary school one day when I was assigned to do something else. I ended up in the principal's office and received a reprimand," she laughs. She received her formal education and art training from Pembroke State and East Carolina Universities.

Snatching time to paint during the past few months should pay off for Coronado. For on June 27, her labor is expected to reap funds to support a 14-year-old outdoor drama while handing her much earned applause.

Pembroke Kiwanis Report

Miss Linda Locklear, Regional Vice President of the A.L. Williams Company, Insurance and Financial Services, was the speaker at the Tuesday night meeting held at the Town and Country Restaurant. She was presented by program chairman Garth Locklear.

Being in the insurance marketing business has been a truly rewarding experience for Miss Locklear. The company started in 1967 by Art Williams of Columbus, Georgia who saw the concept of Term Insurance where insurance of \$5,000 for example, could earn up to \$100,000 instead of a much lesser amount. Art Williams realized some one else controlled his life so he planned the Art Williams Marketing Company in 1977, to truly serve middle America. It has now grown to be the biggest insurance company in America with over 600,000 employees and 5,000 offices. Serving the consumer has made them #1 in the country and in Robeson County. As most families are coverage poor, the A.L. Williams company has improved coverage from \$15,000 coverage up to a \$95,000 coverage. Some insurance pays only when you die, but A.L. Williams policies gives the consumer a lift for much more financial security. Miss Locklear's enthusiasm was unsurpassed as she has raised her family of three, has gone through all kinds of factory work and now has financial security by working for the A.L. Williams Co. It's services now include home mortgages, group insurance, disability income, pension funds, real estate and many more services.

President-elect Ronnie Sutton reported the meeting for future officers held Saturday at the Bordeaux Shopping Center in Fayetteville was very instructional with many plans for the future.

Presiding, President-elect Ronnie Sutton; Song Leader- Ed Teets; Invocation-Garth Locklear; Program-Garth Locklear; Reporter-Ken Johnson.

"Good Theatrical Representation of history"

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

For the past three months Ken Conner, Managing Director for "Strike at the Wind" has busied himself in learning as much as he could about the community that is producing the outdoor drama. The 34-year-old West Virginia native came to the area from Winston-Salem on March 1.

"Initially, it was my intention to learn as much as I could about the community, and it has been an ongoing process since I arrived," Conner says. "I've perceived a certain nobility about the people I've seen here, and I like what I see."

The Managing Director brings to the area a broad range in professional theater experience which he has applied in stabilizing his operation with SATW. A 1980 graduate in theatre from Radford University in Virginia, Conner completed the "Managing of the Arts" program offered through the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill graduate school of business.

Conner has worked as an actor, stagehand, Production Stage Manager, Director, Designer and Administrator he says. As a performer he appeared in leading roles in such plays as "Inherit the Wind," "Midsummer Night's Dream," "Lysistrata," "The Philadelphia Story" in regional productions and children's theater tours.

The energetic Managing Director has actively sought support for this particular season, including fundraising, audition participation and audience development.

"I want to broaden the base of support throughout Robeson County and use this story to gain as much national attention and international attention for 'Strike at the Wind' as a company," Conner admits. "I would like very much to see this develop into a professional theatre company in every sense of the word. 'Strike at the Wind' is representative of what is, perhaps purely American," he continues. "The nice thing about this show is it is an outdoor drama based upon a locally historical event as are all dramas throughout the U.S."

According to Conner SATW recently received the 1988 Governor's Business Award in Arts and Humanities, and is aggressively improving the quality of the production, developing ever-improving relationships with business community and working to contribute to the positive image of Robeson County as a whole.

David Oxendine returns to SATW in the role of Director for the production. In addition to his numerous stage credits Oxendine, a Pembroke native residing in New York, has performed in numerous movies.

The 1989 season of SATW opens on Saturday July 1 and runs every Thurs. Fri. and Sat. night until August 26th. The 25 scheduled performances will be held at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater outside Pembroke. Conner says there will be some pre-show events scheduled.

To provide a fundamental source of funding for the organization and to provide community involvement, a membership drive has been established. For information about benefits of memberships, the Managing Director invites calls to the SATW offices at: 919/521-3112.

Carol Ann Conner, a dance instructor in Winston-Salem recently joined her husband for the summer season in Pembroke where the couple is living.

"For the person who has never seen 'Strike at the Wind' expect to see a good theatrical representation of a fascinating historical story. There is actual history involved; actual names and truths," Conner concludes.



KEN CONNER, MANAGING DIRECTOR SATW



DAVID OXENDINE, DIRECTOR SATW

Revival planned at Prospect UMC

A revival is planned at Prospect United Methodist Church June 18-21 beginning at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Guest speakers will be the Rev. Jerry Lowry and the Rev. Charles McDowell. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Wins Little Miss America State Title



Recently, at the Convention Center of the Hyatt Hotel in Winston-Salem, Kelli Wallace won the Little Miss America State Title. Kelli is the eight-year-old daughter of Earl and Yvonne Wallace of Lumberton. She attends Piney Grove School where she will enter fourth grade this fall. Also, she attends Mt. Olive Baptist Church near Lumberton.

A special thanks go to her sponsors, Strickland's Paint and Wallpaper, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Strickland, owners; and Double CAFarms, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie

Hammonds, owners. Kelli won a preliminary back in February at Aberdeen, NC. Now, after winning the state title she will have the opportunity to compete at the National Little Miss America Pageant to be held in Nashville, Tennessee in July.

Presently, Kelli holds other titles, including the U.S.A. Glamour Girl State Petite Miss Fourth of July of Hope Mills, Little Miss Lumberton Sweetheart and Little Miss North Carolina Preliminary Queen.