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WITNESS TO JIMMY EARL CUMMINGS KILLING FOUND DEAD



HUNT



STONE



Jimmy Cummings

More than three years after Kevin Stone killed Jimmy Earl Cummings, the only eye-witness to that shooting, Darlene Hunt, was found dead. An autopsy performed in Lumberton determined that drug use was not a factor in Ms. Hunt's death. Prior to the autopsy, however, Sheriff Hubert Stone had stated that she died of an apparent overdose. The autopsy shows that Ms. Hunt died of a cerebral hemorrhage that was caused by a ruptured aneurysm, according to the sheriff.

Sheriff Stone has said that the investigation into the death which occurred Thursday, March 1, will remain open and that they are awaiting lab results that will determine drug levels in Ms. Hunt's blood stream. The sheriff further stated that he has requested the State Bureau of Investigation assist his office in the investigation.

Ms. Hunt was the girl friend of Jimmy Earl Cummings. Cummings was shot to death on November 1, 1986 by the sheriff's son, Kevin Stone.

Just recently the county agreed to an out of court settlement in the "wrongful death" suit filed by Cummings family. The insurance company for Robeson County has agreed, reportedly, to pay \$65,000 to the Cummings family.

Stone has been quoted as saying he did not know the identity of the victim until after the investigation began. "In fact, the name didn't even ring a bell until someone in the office mentioned it," he said. Some people have questioned Stone's involvement in this particular case in view of the fact that Darlene Hunt witnessed the killing of Cummings by Kevin Stone. Many people have asked

individually and collectively why the district attorney for the county has not indicted Kevin Stone in the killing and gone before the Grand Jury of Robeson County to seek a true bill of indictment. Kevin Stone was cleared of any wrong doing in the Cummings death by a Coroner's Inquest which found that the death was accidental or in self defense. In view of the nature of that inquest and the recent settlement of the "wrongful death" suit, many questions remain unanswered.

At the time of the Cummings killing, drug charges were filed against Darlene Hunt. Some charges were dismissed by Judge Charles McLean in Fairmont District Court in January, 1987. McLean found no probable cause to try Ms. Hunt on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and manufacturing marijuana. He ordered her bound over on charges of possession with intent to sell or deliver marijuana, felonious possession of marijuana, simple possession of cocaine and simple possession of marijuana.

She later received a probationary sentence for these charges. Kevin Stone testified at the hearing for Ms. Hunt, although he did not testify at the coroner's inquest. Det. Jimmy Maynor of the sheriff's department allegedly was the first officer on the scene after the shooting of Cummings. He also testified at Ms. Hunt's probable cause hearing. The only testimony heard at the hearing was relative to the drug charges against Ms. Hunt. Judge McLean would not allow any testimony concerning the shooting of Jimmy Earl Cummings. Neither Kevin Stone or Darlene Hunt testified at the coroner's inquest which supposedly cleared Stone of any "wrongdoing" in the Cummings death.

JAMES H. OXENDINE: ONLY INDIAN IN 630TH BATTALION WHICH FOUGHT IN FIVE MAJOR BATTLES IN EUROPE

by Gene Warren

In less than two months, it will be 45 years since Nazi Germany surrendered unconditionally to the Allies in World War II. The date of that surrender: May 7, 1945.

For James H. Oxendine, a '38 graduate of the Indian Normal School of Robeson County (which evolved into Pembroke State University), those days in Europe left an indelible imprint.

Oxendine, 72, who now lives in Mint Hill, HNC (just east of Charlotte), was a communications sergeant for "B" company in the U.S.'s 630th Tank Destroyer Battalion. As such, he was on the telephone on a continuing basis with the company commander. He took part in five major battles in Europe--beginning with Normandy and following with the battles of northern France, the Ardennes (which included the "Battle of the Bulge"), the Rhineland, and Central Europe.

"In our battalion, whose mission was to destroy 90-millimeter tanks, I was the only Indian," said Oxendine, who grew up in Pembroke and is a first cousin of PSU Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine.

Oxendine added, "The 28th Infantry Division, of which we were a part, lost more men and had more battle casualties than any outfit in World War II. The first night of the 'Battle of the Bulge,' we lost 89 of the 120 in our company."

For his service to his country, Oxendine was the recipient of six medals: the European Campaign Medal with five bronze service stars, the American Theatre Campaign Medal, the American Defense Service Medal, the Victory Medal, the Good Conduct Medal, and a special medal from France.

He is from a family of four brothers who served America well in World War II. Simeon Oxendine of Pembroke, who died at age 69, flew 50 missions over Germany as tail gunner and won the Distinguished Flying Cross. Earl Oxendine, 66, of Charlotte was also a tail gunner on a bomber, flying over "the Hump" in Burma in the Far East. Jesse Oxendine, 63, also of Charlotte, was with the 82nd Airborne Division in the glider infantry, seeing action at Cologne, Germany, and occupying Berlin after the war ended.

James Oxendine, who spent 28 years in analytical chemistry in the Oak Ridge, Tenn., National Laboratory before retiring, tells of the severity of the weather in the

"Battle of the Bulge."

"It snowed for 28 straight days," he claims. "It was the worst weather that area at the Hurtgen Forest had ever seen. If we had not held at Bastogne, the Germans would have gone all the way to the coast, in my opinion."

Oxendine said it was important that Gen. George Patton's forces arrived in time to help, but emphasized the importance of the 28th Infantry Division's holding until he arrived.

Oxendine also spoke about how important it was that the weather broke and planes were able to fly in supplies. "If they hadn't been able to fly in supplies, we might have lost the battle for sure," said Oxendine.

Oxendine spent 56 months in the service. His outfit advanced beyond Nuremberg before being commanded to pull back so the Russians would have the honor of taking Berlin.

Those years of danger have great meaning to the serviceman who went through them, and James Oxendine is no exception. He and the members of his battalion have biannual reunions. They have met in Gatlinburg, Tenn., Charlotte, Savannah, Ga., and June they plan to meet in in Cordele, Ga.

"We had 625 in our battalion, and 140 were at our '88 reunions," said Oxendine.

Not only do they meet, but Oxendine and others returned to Europe in '74 and '78 to retrace their battle routes of World War II. "Earl, Jesse and I are planning to return together to Europe in the near future," said James Oxendine. "We want to visit Berlin while we are there."

James, Earl and Jesse are the sons of James C. (Sonny) Oxendine, who served for 10 years as mayor of Pembroke.

Does James see any danger in the reunification of East and West Germany? "No, I think it would be a wonderful thing," replied James. "But it might be an issue if the Germans want to go back to the boundary lines of World War I. There are certain parts of Germany which do not have the allegiance to pre-World War II Germany that others do."

Because of the tremendous defeat that Germany suffered in World War II, Oxendine doesn't think a unified Germany has to be feared as an aggressor again.

He concluded, however, by saying: "I think the Japanese are much more dangerous than the Germans." He referred to Japan's "buying up" this country as a real threat.



James H. Oxendine as a 72-year-old retiree today.



James H. Oxendine as a communications sergeant in Europe during World War II.

Voters at Smiths Precinct to Meet March 15

A meeting of voters of the Smiths Precinct will be held Thursday, March 15, 7:30 p.m. at Oxendine School. Mitchell Locklear, Precinct Chairman, encourages all voters of the Smiths Precinct to attend. All Democratic candidates are also invited.

Oxendine Wins Honors as Photographer



Pembroke-David Oxendine, who will return as Artistic Director of "Strike at the Wind" for the 1990 Production Season, recently won the grand prize in a photo ad contest in Life Magazine.

Oxendine, who takes many of the photos for "Strike at the Wind" where he lives with his wife Bethann. The photo was to depict your interpretation of Kahlua and New York. Kahlua is an imported drink from Mexico.

David said that he purchased a bottle of the product and he and his

wife went to a subway car. He positioned Bethann with the bottle of Kahlua showing out of her shoulder bag. Meanwhile, she was listening to her Walkman and was reading a magazine that featured an ad of Kahlua on the back cover.

David said that he thought the idea was creative but never expected to win the grand prize. The grand prize included his choice of \$2500 worth of Nikon camera equipment.

The photo will be featured in the April edition of Life Magazine in the New York Metropolitan area.

Company Seeking Indian Actors

Fincannon and Associates Casting Company is holding an open casting call for all ages of Native Indians to be in the T.N.T. upcoming television movie "The Last Capone" to be filmed in Wilmington, NC. "The Last Capone," a drama set in the early 1900's, has a scene that involves an Indian Tribe. Pam Plummer of Fincannon and Associates announced today that the casting session would be held on Tuesday, March 13 from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. in the Performing Arts Center located on the campus of Pembroke State University.

"We are looking for all ages to participate," said Plummer. "From very young to even the oldest, everyone is urged to attend. No experience is necessary." David Thaggard, Administrative Director of Strike at the Wind, seemed hopeful that the company would have a large number of participants.

If interested, residents should bring a recent, polaroid-sized photograph of themselves to the casting call to attach to information card provided. If applicants do not have a photo, a photographer will be there to take one for a \$2 charge to cover cost of film.



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Gospel Sing and Spring Revival Planned

Prospect United Methodist Church will hold a gospel sing on Saturday, March 17 beginning at 7 p.m. The featured groups will be the Prospect Mixed Quartet, Prospect Community Men, the New Life Vocal Band from Hope Mills; and the Scott Sisters of Lumberton. Spring revival will begin on Sunday, March 18, and

run through March 23rd with service on Sunday beginning at 7 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. thereafter. The Rev. Robert L. Mangum, pastor of Prospect UMC and the Rev. Bill James Locklear, pastor of Ashpole and Pleasant Grove UMC will be the evangelists. Nursery will be available. The public is invited to attend.



Chancellor Joseph Oxendine (left) of PSU was presented an "Oxendine" sweat shirt with an Army insignia on the front of it at the recent Army ROTC Spring Forum at Ft. Bragg where the PSU chancellor was the guest speaker. Others in the photo are Oxendine's brother, Tom (right), of Arlington, VA., and Lt. Col. Oliver R. Johnson, commander of the four-college battalion which includes PSU, Campbell University, Fayetteville State University, and Methodist College. Tom Oxendine is a retired Navy commander.