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Head Start Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Twenty five years ago President Lyndon B. Johnson as part of his "War on Poverty Program," signed the bill that would provide funds to begin a program of pre school learning centers for under privileged children. This program was entitled Head Start, a name which expressed what the program hoped to do: give underprivileged children a head start in learning. Since that day the Head Start program has grown and expanded to a point where it serves the fifty states as well as Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Pacific Territories, and is a part of governmental American Indian Programs and Migrant Programs. Head Start is unique because, although it is not a solution to the poverty problem this nation faces, it offers an alternative to many people, parents as well as children, other than staying in the welfare system. Today, Head Start is one of the social welfare programs that President Bush is supporting. He has proposed that Congress \$500 million to the program's national budget. This is a generous, well deserved gesture during the time of celebration of the program's 25th anniversary. Head Start is a success story that is still being written, not only by the young children it serves today, but by those who were served by that eight-week summer program experiment that became a vital part of the education of many children, and an asset to the United States as a whole.

Head Start has been called the most successful social program since Social Security. The program has consistently demonstrated success in preparing disadvantaged preschool children for school and for life. President Bush, Senator Sanford, as well as many other national and state leaders have recognized the tremendous savings to society by providing children with a positive preschool experience. As a result, they have recommended full funding for Head Start. This would mean that every eligible child would have an opportunity to attend Head Start, according to Betsy T. Thigpen, President of the North Carolina Head Start Association.

"Head Start is not just a child oriented program," stated Patricia B. Locklear, LRDA Head Start Director and 25th Anniversary Committee Chairperson for Head Start of North Carolina. "It is a program designed to benefit the entire family. We see the parent(s) as the primary educator(s) of the children and encourage parental participation in our program. If you educate the parents, you educate the children and form a positive cycle which will continue into future generations."

The performance standards of the Head Start programs are very high and are not confined to merely educating children. The program includes dental, medical, emotional and "special" services to the Head Start child. In January 1990, more than 13 percent of the Head Start students were handicapped. These children have difficulties which are physical, emotional or mental. The Head Start program fills a need for these children which might otherwise remain unfulfilled. A program

such as Head Start, geared to the whole family, is of vital importance since the children, in 54 percent of the cases, come from single parent homes and 51 percent of these homes have an annual income of less than \$6,000.

The staff and personnel who work in the program are well educated, with over 78 percent of the class room teachers having their degrees in early childhood education or a Child Development Associate degree. Thirty-five percent of the seventy nine plus thousand paid work force are parents of current, or past, students. A large volunteer staff of over six hundred and fifteen thousand also work in the centers, assuring a sufficient work force for the large number of children served. Parents also participate in the Parents Rights and Training Program, a program which lets the parents be a part of what happens to their children on all levels, from the class room to the Policy Council. This program lets parents have a voice not only in local matters but also at the national level and is considered a vital part of the Head Start program.

Parents are involved in many of the activities enjoyed by the children, such as field trips, and are a vital part of the program as a whole. Many of the parents of Head Start children continue to be an active part of the organization long after their children are in public schools. Parents who entered the organization's clients have continued on to become employees of the organization, and many have continued their education to become college graduates with a bright future. By providing an educational life changing opportunity for the children, Head Start also offers a change in thinking and learning, motivation, for the parents.

Statistics show that there are more high school graduates among the under privileged who participate in Head Start than those who do not. The levels of teen pregnancies and arrests for juvenile offenders is lower among students who were a part of the Head Start program than those who did not have the program. More Head Start alumni expressed job satisfaction and were self supporting than those from the same socio economic backgrounds who were not in the Head Start Program.

The people who will celebrate this year include the 11 million, three hundred ninety four thousand, eight hundred children who have been served during the past 25 years, as well as the parents, teachers, and relatives of the students. With a projected enrollment of almost one and a half million students nation wide for 1990, Head Start is continuing to grow and challenge the United States to provide the educational and social help that the under privileged children must have in order to grow and become productive members of the American society. Head Start is giving this nation's number one resource, the children, a firm foundation to build on and showing, as it has for 25 years, that children are this nation's future, and that in helping the children grow, so does it help the nation grow and prosper.

by Elisabeth Santa Ana

Paynes to Perform at PSU's Gospel Music Festival



THE PAYNES OF OHIO

[Editor's Note: This is the fourth in a series of articles about those performing in the first annual Gospel Music Festival sponsored by PSU on Saturday, April 28, at 7 p.m. at PSU's Performing Arts Center].
pembroke-The Paynes, who include five family members from Ohio, will bring the talent they have displayed on video and through exciting albums to PSU's first annual Gospel Music Festival Saturday, April 28.

The festival will begin at 7 p.m. that evening in PSU's Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$6 for everyone. PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine says PSU is sponsoring this festival "because gospel singing is part of the culture of this region. It is traditional and a good art form. Having this festival is another way of carrying on a community tradition. It is also a way of building a stronger relationship between the university and the community."

Since their official debut in 1981, The Paynes have been described as one of the most creative forces in southern gospel music. That year they recorded their first album on the Windchime label. The title cut from that album, "Ready or Not," went to No. 5 on national southern gospel charts, and their next single, "Out of This World," stayed No. 1 for four months.

In 1982 the Paynes' pioneering efforts entered another area: video. The video of their smash hit, "I'm a Jesus Fan," was the first concept video done in the southern gospel music arena, giving this group exposure to a

completely new audience. More chart-topping singles rolled in, including the No. 1 "Angels Step Back" and the No. 2 "Just in Case of Rapture."

The Paynes' roots go back to 1973 when Mike Payne and his wife, Loretta, began singing together at their church in Grafton, O. Soon Payne's brothers joined them on stage, Marking playing drums and Keith playing bass guitar. Before long, cousin Bill Sizemore also joined the Paynes, supplying both vocal and guitar accompaniment. In 1988, Reggie Crimmett became part of the group, playing the fiddle, mandolin and harmonica.

A new chapter in the Paynes' history also began in 1988

when the group signed a recording contract with the Benson Company's RiverSong Records and Mike Payne signed an exclusive song writer's agreement with Benson Publishing Co. The Paynes' RiverSong debut song was "This is War," featuring top 10 hits "Stir Up The Fire" and "This is War." RiverSong also released an accompanying full length video on this project.

The Paynes' latest release, "God Wants You," is beginning yet an even more exciting chapter for the group. Produced by veteran musician Vic Clay, this release is punctuated with musical innovations rarely heard in the southern gospel arena, according to reports. The material ranges from the bluesy, "Don't Get Caught Dead," and "Make a Joyful Noise" to the moving "The Good Shepherd" and the joyful "I'll Just Start to Live (When I Die)." The group also recently completed filming an exciting new concept video of "God Wants You."

The Paynes' abundant creativity stems largely from the award winning pen of the group founder, Mike Payne. Considered to be one of gospel music's finest writers, Mike co-wrote with Ronny Hinson "When He Was On The Cross (I Was On His Mind)" which was named "Song of the Year" at the Singing News Fan Awards in both 1985 and '86.

Mike Payne says: "People try to categorize the Paynes as one style or another. We are southern gospel, but the same time we love most styles of music, and this is evident in both our concert appearances and our recording projects."

Tickets to the Gospel Music Festival are available at the Performing Arts Center box office and also its usual outlets: The Dancer at Cross Pointe Center in Fayetteville, Quik Copy in Laurinburg, Dee's Hallmark Shop in Lumberton, and McNeill's Jewelry in Lumberton and Red Springs.

Among the other places where tickets are being placed are Merrimac Music Co., the Christian Book Store, the Robeson Baptist Association and Comic Book Shop, all in Lumberton; and the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in Pembroke.

PEMBROKE KIWANIS BY KEN JOHNSON

General of the U.S. Army, Paul S. Oliver, Retired, was the speaker at the weekly meeting held at the Town and Country Restaurant. The General was presented by program chairman Mitchell Lowry, President-Elect for next year.

General Oliver is now Commander of the National Guard in Lumberton. He has served in General Patton's Army in Europe and many more, including the Reserves Army Corp. made up of all the different military branches. He began his military service in 1942 at Fort Bragg. Heavy weapons training and commanding was in the Rangers Battalion, joined the 89th Division, the 71st Mountain Division, also the Mountain Tanks, went overseas in Dec. '44 with Patton's 3rd Army, was in Luxembourg, crossed the Rhine, was in charge of General Clark's Transportation Battalion as Commander, rebuilt roads, moving people in eight different countries and after the war in 1946 for 12 years commanded the Battalions in Lumberton and Char-

lotte and the Southeastern States. He is now President and Chairman of the 7th District Reserves. He paid tribute to the fine ROTC unit at PSU as a unit of quality. "The key to quality units is education." The 108th unit in Lumberton is rated No. 1 in the country. "No longer does the military take misfits they must have good credentials and a high school education. Several scholarships are available for qualified people." Tribute was paid to Strom Thurmond for getting four new armories including the Lumberton armory. The Army Reserves has the highest payroll and as the main forces are cut down the Reserves are built up. The conditions in Europe are very unsettled and we are keeping our forces strong.

President Ron Sutton announced the West Robeson Kiwanis Club has room for one more person to attend the International Convention to be held in St. Louis this summer. Presiding, Ronnie Sutton; Invocation Clay Maynor; Reporter-Ken Johnson.

Indian Health Scholarships

Lumbee Regional Development Association announced that the In-

dian Health Scholarships are now

Convention Scheduled

Robeson County Democratic Party Plans Convention
Mr. Lawrence Davis III, N.C. Democratic Party Chairperson, will be the keynote speaker at the Robeson County Convention on Saturday, April 21, at 1 p.m. Lee Helen Thompson announced recently. The convention will be held at Robeson County Courthouse in Court room #1 in Lumberton.
Heading the convention's agenda

will be the election of delegates to the district and state conventions. "The County Convention is an important link in the series of Democratic conventions leading from the precinct up to the state convention," Chairperson Thompson noted. "We hope to elect strong representatives for Robeson County at the district and state conventions and to debate key issues facing the county, state and nation."

CHURCH NEWS

1990 WMU ANNUAL MEETING AT ISLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH

The Island Grove Baptist Church on Highway 710 will host the 1990 Women Missionary Union Annual Meeting on Saturday, April 21 at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary. The theme is "In His Name...Reach, Teach and Touch." The featured speaker will be Ms. Suthell Walker, Baptist State Connection special worker; WMU Specialized Worker; Church Growth Multiplier for church training; Sunday School and Woman's Missionary Union Church Extension Consultant; Christian Service Corps Volunteer for Home Mission Board.

The annual program includes a business session and special music by Rev. and Mrs. Mike Cummings, Burnt Swamp Director and Secretary. A Officers Commitment service and charge will be given by Rev. Charles P. Locklear of the First Baptist Church in Pembroke, NC.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL AT CHEROKEE CHAPEL

Vacation Bible School will be held at Cherokee Chapel Methodist Church April 16-20. Classes will be held from 6:30-8:30 p.m. nightly.

Rev. Julian Ransom invites everyone to come out, bring a Bible, a friend, and a t-shirt for crafts to enjoy the services. Cherokee Chapel is located just off Hwy. 71 between Red Springs and Maxton across from Oxendine Elementary School.

SPECIAL PROGRAM AT SADDLETREE CHURCH OF GOD

The Saddletree Church of God invites the public to attend services Sunday night, April 15th at 7:00 as they present "The Curse and the Crown."



Melanie Hagans (left) of Purnell Swett High School and Sadattyle Hill (right) of Fairmont High School were recipients of scholarships from the Southern Coastal Plains Chapter of the N.C. Association of Counseling and Development Monday at PSU's 10th annual Conference for Excellence in Counseling and Leadership. Shown in the center is Johanna Evans, chairperson of the chapter's scholarship committee. She is a counselor at Red Springs High School.

LRDA HEAD START RECEIVES AWARDS

by Wanda Locklear

On March 24, 1990 the Head Start Program sponsored by LRDA, received four awards from the North Carolina Head Start Association.

Parent of the Year was presented to Ms. Tammy Jump, a parent and worker from the Rex Rennert Head Start Center.

Special recognition went to Converse Inc. and Mr. Larry Lee, Plant manager.

Best Membership Award for a small program went to LRDA Head Start for over 200 percent member-

ship. For this achievement, the program received \$500 and a plaque.

Those attending the conference included Ms. Vivian Locklear, Health Handicapped Coordinator,

Ms. Hazel Perez, Social Service-Parent Involvement Coordinator, Ms. Tammy Jump from Fairgrove Head

Start Center, Ms. Alice Gayle Oxendine from Rex Rennert Head Start Center, Ms. Marilyn Dial, member of the LRDA Board of Directors, and Ms. Patricia B. Locklear, Head Start Director.

Applications Available for Miss Lumbee and Little Miss Lumbee

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. (LRDA) is now accepting applications for the Little Miss Lumbee Pageant. Deadline for turning in applications is April 30, 1990. For more information call Mrs. Helen Hunt, Pageant Director at 521-8555 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

LRDA is now accepting applications for the Miss Lumbee Pageant. Deadline for turning in applications is April 30, 1990. For more information call Ms. Patricia Locklear or Belinda Harris, co-director, at 521-8602 from 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday.