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Dr. Nancy Sampson Named Chief of Child Day Care Section for State



Dr. Nancy Sampson

Dr. Nancy Sampson, professor of education who has been a member of the Pembroke State University faculty for the past five years, has been named chief of the Child Day Care Section of the Division of Facility Services for the N.C. Department of Human Resources. Her appointment was effective August 1.

She will serve under David T. Flaherty, Secretary of the N.C. Department of Human Resources, and will supervise a staff of 90.

"This is a policy-making position for a regulatory agency within state government that deals with child care programs through the state of North Carolina," she said.

Dr. Sampson says she is "very excited about the position primarily because of my interests during the past 20 years in child care and pre school programs and the quality of education for young children.

"With the increasing concerns about developmentally appropriate curricula for young children and the quality of care givers as far as their training is concerned, this seems like a very exciting challenge."

Her responsibilities place her over the entire child care program throughout the state outside the realm of the public schools. This means day cares, family day care homes, church supported centers, etc. Her staff members will be going out and working in these areas which must be licensed by her organization.

"We will be seeing that the centers follow the regulations and procedures which they should be in compliance with the law," said Dr. Sampson.

"I am very excited and thrilled about the challenge," added Dr. Sampson.

She earned her B.S. in elementary education at PSU in '67, her M.Ed. in elementary education with a minor in child development at the University of Arkansas in '69, and her Ph.D. in early childhood education at New York University in 1980.

Prior to her coming to PSU, she was a member of faculty at Fayetteville State University for 13 years.

"I've enjoyed years at PSU," she says. "It has been good to be back at my alma mater and to make a contribution to the area of the state which is my home."

Dr. Sampson, who is a member of governing board for the N.C. Association for the Education of Young Children, is married to Dr. Gilbert Sampson, professor and chairman of the PSU Department of Mathematics and Computer Science. They are parents of five children.

In taking her new position, Dr. Nancy Sampson and the Sampsons' 15-year-old daughter, Juliana, will reside in Raleigh during the week, but return home to Pembroke on weekends. Juliana will attend Athens Drive Senior High in Raleigh. The remainder of the Sampsons' family is: Gregory, 21, who lives in Asheville; Christopher, 20, a rising senior at PSU majoring in biology; Glenn, 12, a seventh grader at Pembroke Middle School; and Daniel, 10, a fifth grader at Pembroke Elementary School.

Born and Reared on What is Now PSU Campus, This 91-Year-Old Tells of Early Schooling

by Gene Warren

If you are 91 years old and have lived under 17 American Presidents, beginning with William McKinley, your memory is expected to be a little fuzzy.

But not that of Claude Lowry, a widower who lives about a miles from Pembroke on a farm he purchased in '25.

Lowry was born and reared where the present Pembroke State University baseball diamond is located. As a boy, he helped to plant the oak trees which grace the front of the PSU campus.

Sitting in the living room of his home, which is shaded by huge pecan trees, Lowry talked proudly about his 14 children, 39 grandchildren and 29 great-grandchildren--and demonstrated his remarkable memory by identifying his 37 classmates in a picture of his class of 1907-08 at New Hope School, which was located approximately one mile from Pembroke.

This elementary school was adjacent to famed Croatan Normal (teacher training) School, founded in 1887 and the forerunner of what is now Pembroke State University. When the Indian Normal School was moved from its New Hope location to the Town of Pembroke in 1909, Lowry was in the first class there.

Lowry says a number of neighborhood elementary schools like the one at New Hope sprang up in different localities in those early days and that he was eight years old when the school photograph of his New Hope class of 1907-08 was snapped.

The New Hope School helped to launch him toward a teaching career that spanned 15 years. From elementary schools like it, students went to the Croatan Normal School, according to Dr. Adolph Dial, Lumber Indian historian.

"At New Hope, we had a class in ABC's, arithmetic and geography, and you could go to the blackboard if you were higher up (the better students)," Lowry said. "We used a blue-back speller, but a lot of students didn't have books. Those whose relatives had books were the fortunate ones."

Lowry said classes were "ungraded" in those days, meaning one worked at his own level.

"Regardless of how much schooling a student had, when one wanted to become a teacher, he went before the Board of Education to take an exam. If he passed, he was given a certificate. I took my exam in the summer of '22 when I was 23 years old and started teaching the third

grade at Union Chapel School where I taught for two years. I also taught at Pembroke Graded School for two years, then later in South Carolina. In all, I taught for 15 years and had other occupations."

He also did carpentry work, brick work, and "took blueprinting" at the Normal School. "I put in the door in the old Normal School gym in '39," Lowry said. "I also built five garages for faculty members." (Note: PSU used to have a faculty row of houses on campus.)

Lowry now owns 150 acres of crops, mostly beans and corn.

The New Hope School photograph, in which Lowry is kneeling as the first person on the left, also includes three persons who figured prominently in PSU history. One was the teacher, Anderson Locklear, a leading educator of Robeson County in whose honor Locklear Hall, completed on the PSU campus in 1950, was named. Another was Clifton Oxendine, who became the first dean of what was then the Indian Normal School of Robeson County in 1939-40. Oxendine was awarded an honorary doctorate by PSU in 1986, and the lecture hall in Classroom North was named in his honor in 1988. Clifton Oxendine, now deceased, was the uncle of present PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine.

But even more significant, the picture of the New Hope School class of 1907-08 included Tom Oxendine, the father of the present chancellor. He also became a teacher as did six of his eight children, including Chancellor Oxendine.

Of Tom Oxendine, who also became a principal, Lowry said: "He was the kind who enjoyed life, loved to fish and was good at athletics. He always hollered out so people could hear him at the ball games."

Speaking of the chancellor, Lowry said, "He's pretty smart and is doing a good job. He's trying to treat all people alike."

Looking at the picture of the New Hope School class of 1907-08, Lowry commented: "At least 40 percent of those in this picture became teachers. Only about four in the picture are still living. A couple of them left town, and I don't know whether they are living or dead. A lot of them died young because they lived in bad houses and got winter colds."

Lowry pointed to the clothes the students wore in the picture. "Most people could not afford sewing machines then, and people had to make clothes with their fingers," he said.

Lowry was born March 11, 1889. His wife, the former Sarah Hunt, was born Sept. 10, 1905 and died Sept. 27, 1988, of Alzheimer's Disease. Of their 14 children, the first was Inez, born in 1923, and the youngest is William, born in 1952.

Lowry, who owns many historical books, spoke of how much churches in those early years played such an important role in educating students in this vicinity. "The churches helped the children learn to read and write in Sunday school," he said.

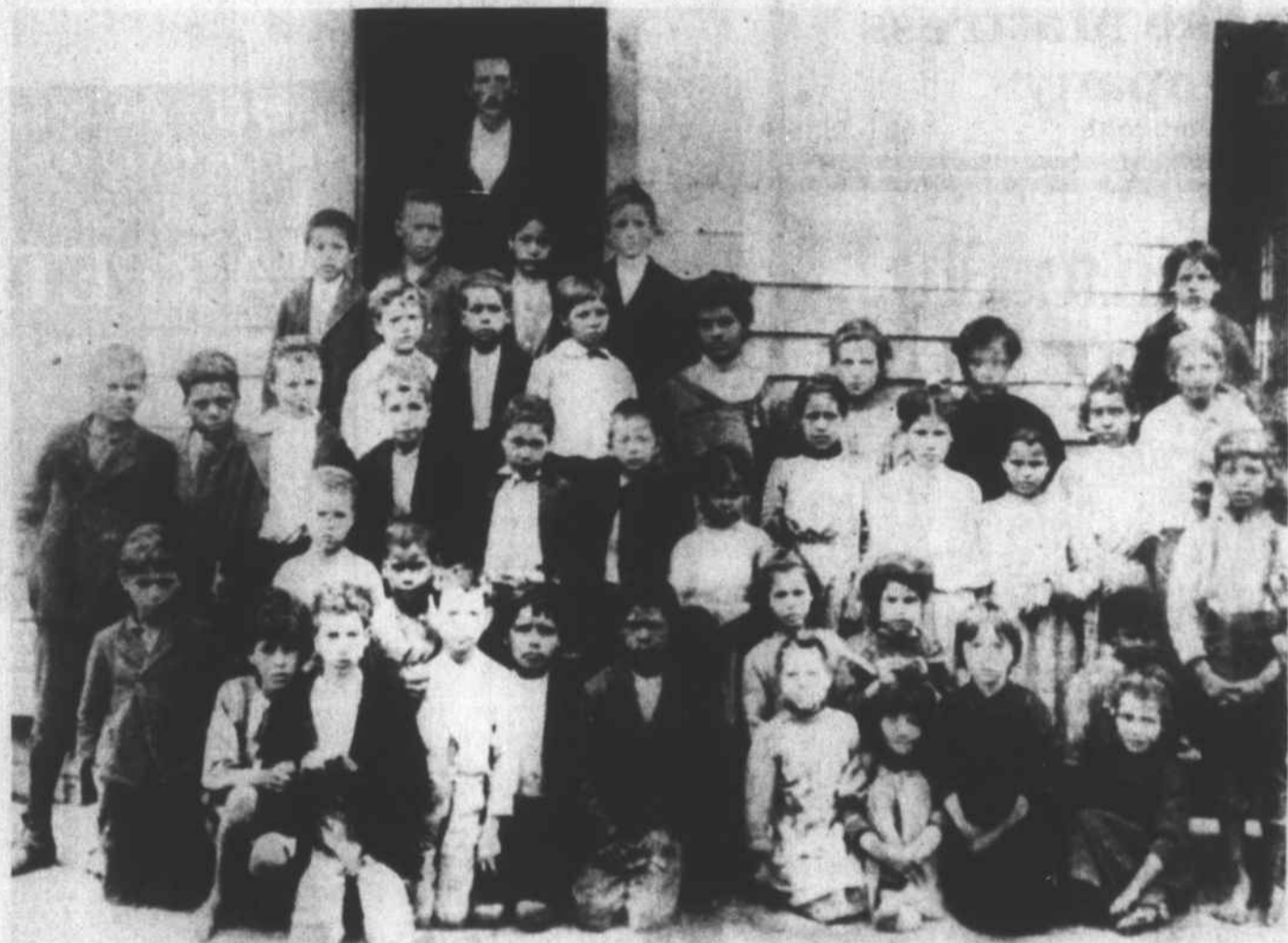
Chancellor Oxendine and his brother, Hughes, who were visiting Lowry during this interview, make some observations in talking to Lowry. Chancellor Oxendine noted, in speaking of history, that his great grandfather, John, "was one of the petitioners of what became Pembroke State University." The chancellor added that most of his relatives went to school and became school teachers.

Hughes, former director of all federal programs for the Hoke County Board of Education and now retired, said of Lowry, "When I learned (from Joe Oxendine) that Joe was going to be the new chancellor of PSU (in 1989), I passed Mr. Claude Lowry going to his mailbox in front of his house and said to myself, 'This man deserves to know.' And I told him."

Lowry enjoyed this first-hand knowledge about the new chancellor, and his spunk at 91 years old showed through as he concluded, "I stopped teaching in '54, but I've never considered myself retired," referring to his 150 acres of farm land and other interests. "I ride my own lawn mower, cook my own meals and do my own washing and laundry."

And as a person who knows the history of the area, he proves to be a valuable resource.

Claude Lowry has many stories to share.



This is the 1907-08 class that attended New Hope School, which was located adjacent to the Indian Normal School near Pembroke that was begun in 1887 and was the forerunner of Pembroke State University. Four of these 38 students are known to be living. Some have moved, and information on them is incomplete. Left to right are: FRONT ROW KNEELING--Claude Lowry (who provided this identification), Elmore Lloyd, Oscar Thompson, Foster Thompson, Joe Franklin Oxendine, Carson Graham, Alinena Brown, Jessie Lloyd, Etta Bea Saunders, Sally Ann Jacobs, Fuller Lloyd, (standing at right); IMMEDIATELY BEHIND FRONT ROW--"Boss" Thompson, Clifton Oxendine (first dean of Pembroke

State), Adeline Locklear, Sally Deese, Elizabeth Oxendine; THIRD ROW STANDING-- Tom Oxendine (father of PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine), Grover Chavis, Ollie Brown, James Deese, Will Thompson, Roscoe Locklear, Maggie Oxendine, Adlena Locklear, Corella Tyler, Mary Lee Lowry; FOURTH ROW--Bruce Thompson, Ulysses Chavis, Bob Glenn Oxendine, Anabelle Oxendine (who was assistant to the teacher), Orenda Lowry, Annie Oxendine, Beatrice Oxendine, Loftin McMillan; TOP ROW--Horace Jacobs, Bill Thompson, Charlie Chavis, Mobret Jacobs, and at the far right, Dewey Oxendine; TEACHER AT THE TOP--Anderson Locklear, for whom PSU's Locklear Hall (the art building) was named in 1950.



PHOTOS AND
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PSU PUBLIC INFORMATION
DIRECTOR GENE WARREN

Shown below is Claude Lowry (right) who lives on a farm just outside Pembroke, identifying the classmates of the 1907-08 class of New Hope School which was located adjacent to the Normal School which became Pembroke State University. Shown with Lowry is PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine whose father, Tom Oxendine, was in the picture.



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