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# CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Pembroke

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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## Whatever Happened to ...

### Winnie Bell Oxendine

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

"Someone's got to look after me, 'cause I've looked after so many people in my life," says Winnie Bell Oxendine as she reflects on more than 70 years of caring for ill parents, relatives and neighbors in and around the Union Chapel community where she has lived most of her life.

"Don't figure I haven't done anything in my life. I've done my part," Mrs. Oxendine says softly. "When people got sick, I looked after them. That's why I'm here today." Ninety-one years ago she was born the youngest child to Daniel and Elizabeth "Betsy" Locklear, a couple who saw three of their children live into adulthood; four others die in infancy.

Mrs. Oxendine's early childhood years were spent working on the farm alongside her parents and siblings. The lucid Lumbee Indian remembers olden times when the mode of travel was by mule and wagon.

"That's how we went to church," she interjects. "And if we didn't do that way we walked. I always walked to school as a child attending Union Chapel School." She met and later married Richard Oxendine. From the union were born two sons and a daughter. When the marriage failed, the young mother with her daughter moved back to the Locklear homestead in the Union Chapel community. Not long after her brother, Albert Oxendine took Catherine Locklear as his bride and decided it was time that he have a home of his own. He built a two-room house with logs he'd cut from Beck Buie's pond nearby. The couple moved from Daniel and Betsy Locklear's house into theirs in 1936.

According to Mrs. Oxendine four bitterly cold winters later the wooden house she, her young daughter and widowed mother lived in seemed too cold a place in which to longer live, and they moved in with her brother, Albert and wife, Catherine.

By this time three rooms were added to the original two-room log house in order to accommodate the new residents. Fifty-one years have passed, and Mrs. Oxendine continues to live there with her only surviving child, Ruthie Jane Oxendine. Her sons, Darryl died in 1946 and Prather, in 1987.

Mrs. Oxendine says when she moved back in with her parents a few years after her marriage ended, she never once considered marrying again. "I didn't want to...I didn't want to." Instead she lived her life in caring for "old sick people." She lovingly nursed her mother, Betsy until her death in 1952 at age 92. "I've had cousins who were sick. I looked after them until they died," she comments.

Longtime friends and neighbors say the kind, soft-spoken Mrs. Oxendine is a treasure in her community. "She used to go to the home of a sick person and stay up all night caring for the patient, then go home and care for her own family. She never accepted any money for her services," says the daughter of one of Mrs. Oxendine's former patients. "Her patients were often-times non-relatives, too."

Even though Mrs. Oxendine doesn't get around like she used to, she says the years have been good to her. She visited a dentist two years ago for the first time in her 91

years of life. She has all her natural teeth except for the three she lost during recent visits to the dentist. She says now she has always enjoyed cooking. She laments, "But they won't let me cook now because they think I'm too old." Her daughter refuses to allow her to operate the gas range in her home for safety reason. "I used to like to cook for sick people and could cook anything I want to if only Ruthie would let me."

She says she no longer quilts. "Way back yonder I quilted. I still have many of the quilts displayed on my quilt table." The heirlooms are not for sale she adds.

Today her days are spent quietly, often-times in meditation. She does not attend her beloved Union Chapel Community Church regularly because of an ailment in both her legs. She says she enjoys worship services and gospel singing on the radio. She sometimes visits friends on the telephone and will occasionally accept invitations to take short distance visits to homes of friends and relatives. Once in a while she says she stays overnight with close family members or close friends.



And as for watching television, "I don't fool with the dial, but watch it sometimes. I'm not crazy over it." She says she rarely takes a nap during the day. "I sleep good at night and don't need one," she smiles.

Her family and the Union Chapel community agree on one thing. The way they figure it, Winnie Bell Oxendine has looked after people all her life, and now it's her turn to be looked after. And they intend to do just that for the kind and gently lady who, over more than seven decades, cared for so many of their own.

## RAF Justice project receives new funding

Lumberton--Mr. Clifton Sampson, chairperson of the Rural Advancement Fund Justice Project Advisory Board, announced today that the project has received a \$80,000 continuation grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation.

Formerly known as Friend in Court, the Justice Project has been in Robeson County since 1984.

The grant will enable Project staff to monitor the courts, provide limited social services to persons involved in court actions, work with court and legislative personnel to improve the judicial system, and help citizens organize in order to confront and resolve court related issues. The project will also continue to join with other local groups working toward more responsive and racially inclusive government.

According to Project Director Anne Crain, the organization focuses on criminal justice issues both directly--court monitoring, for example--and indirectly, through education and employment related efforts. "Illiteracy and unemployment significantly influence the functioning of our courts," says Mrs. Crain.

In announcing the grant, Mr. Sampson paid tribute to the ongoing support of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and said that many of the Project's successes depended on that support. Among the successes he listed were helping to get three important offices established: the Public Defender office, a Dispute Resolution Center, and a county Human Relations Commission.

"Through dialogue with court personnel as well as through our other court involvement in the courts, we have made the courts more aware of the needs and desires of the people regarding a fair justice system. They are more open today to modifying their methods to better address problems than in the past," Sampson stated.

The Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation was established in 1936 as a memorial to the youngest son of the founder of R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. The Foundation, which has focused in recent years on improving the criminal justice system, has made grants totaling more than \$156 million to recipients in North Carolina.

## Financial aid workshop to be held

Title V - Indian Education is sponsoring two Financial Aid Workshops for seniors and parents on February 11 and 12 from 4:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. in the Indian Resource Center located directly behind the Board of Education offices.

The workshops are designed to provide individual assistance in completing state and federal financial aid forms and applying for and finding sources of financial

aid. Any senior enrolled in the Public Schools of Robeson County may attend. Parents should bring W-2 forms and/or completed tax forms. These will assist in the application process. All information shared will be treated as confidential.

For more information, call Gaye Simmons Cushing at 735-2887 or Maybelle Elk at 735-9717.

## Magnolia defeats St. Pauls in Quiz Bowl

Magnolia High defeated a determined team from St. Pauls High Saturday, Feb. 2 to win the Ninth Annual Robeson County Quiz Bowl, held in the A.D. Lewis Auditorium at Robeson Community College near Lumberton. The event was sponsored by the Robeson County Public Library in cooperation with RCC.

All eleven public and private high schools in the county--Fairmont, Flora Macdonald Academy, Littlefield, Mag-

nolia, Orrum, Parkton, Red Springs, St. Pauls, South Robeson, Purnell Swett, and Lumberton, participated in the academic competition.

Magnolia will now proceed to the district quiz bowl, to be held March 23 in Fayetteville. The winner of the district competition will proceed to the state finals, set for April 27 in Raleigh.

## Indian Business Association to meet

The N.C. Indian Business Association will meet Feb. 9 at Pembroke State University in Pembroke. The meeting will take place in Room 225, Classroom North Building from 10 a.m. to 12 noon.

Originally formed on Dec. 1, 1990, the association is holding its second meeting to discuss proposed bylaws and the election of a vice president.

To pre register for the meeting, send \$5 before Feb. 1 to Rowland Hedgepeth, treasurer, P.O. Box 99, Hollister, NC 27844, or call 919-586-4017. Please make checks payable to N.C. Indian Business Association.

The purpose of the association is to provide support for Indian businesses, to facilitate the exchange of experiences and ideas, and to provide growth.

The association plans to offer staff support, newsletter, seminars and workshops providing business education, training, information, leadership, networking opportunities, advocacy and development of financial resources.

Membership is open to owners and operators of Indian businesses and those interested in assisting the association.

## SATW to hold auditions

The outdoor drama, "Strike at the Wind" will hold its only local auditions for the 1991 season on Sunday, March 3, 1991 from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m. at the Performing Arts Center at PSU.

All acting roles are available and everyone is encouraged to audition. For more information, please call 919-521-3119

## Local Happenings

Prospect School's PTA will meet on Tuesday, February 12 at 7 p.m.

Interested parents and community persons are encouraged to attend.

## Special activities planned at Magnolia

Magnolia School is planning special activities for the last Homecoming of the high school February 8. A reception for the graduate alumni will be held at Magnolia beginning at 11 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Each alumnus will be given a ribbon to wear, privileging him or her for half price tickets for the night game and

festivities. Former queens, athletes, and other honorees will be recognized at half time of the games. Friday afternoon from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m., there will be a game between two alumni teams. All graduate alumni are urged to attend these special festivities for the farewell of an important era and the greeting of new horizons.

## Gospel sing planned

A gospel sing will be held Feb. 14 at 7 p.m. at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton. The sing will feature Gold City Alabama, the Kelly Family Singers, the Lumber River Quartet of Lumberton. The singing is being sponsored by the Kelly Family Singers of Dunn, NC.

Admission is \$8 in advance and \$9 at the door. Refreshments will be served. For information or tickets call 739-4446. Tickets are available at the Christian Book Store, WSTS, and WYRU radio stations.

## The Coach's Corner

By Ken Johnson

Pete Rose "Give the devil his due" should be the honest decision on the baseball authorities. The real baseball singles hitter is Pete Rose and no other player. His private life of betting is really no one's business but Rose himself and the legal courts. What he did in baseball should never be taken away from him. He went to jail for falsifying income tax and he paid his dues and still is paying by doing physical education work with young-

sters. Can you imagine working with youngsters and not being admitted to the Baseball Hall of Fame. I predict it will be righted someday as it should be. The selective ethics, the love for Pete Rose's accomplishment on the baseball field, should be the only criterion these judges should use, not takeover the experience of the judicial system. It's a sad case when they won't give credit to someone who has earned the Hall of Fame. There are many players in the Hall

whose characters are questionable, including Babe Ruth.

The situational ethics was used by the Hall of Fame Committee. Pete Rose's rights were taken away from him. He had trial by jury and paid the

price of gambling, not playing baseball wrong. He played the game of baseball great, as no other and deserves the Baseball Hall of Fame. Who has more hits than Pete Rose? BY KEN JOHNSON

## Say you read it in The Carolina Indian Voice To be honored at PSU Alumni Awards Banquet

## Local runs 26 mile marathon



Captain Jerry Baker, Jr.



Marion Bass

Two members of PSU's class of '65--Captain Jerry Baker Jr., a native of Lumberton, and Marion Bass, a native of Fayetteville--will be presented the two top awards at PSU's homecoming Alumni Awards Banquet at 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 9. The banquet will be held in the Chavis University Center.

Baker is now commanding officer of the U.S. Naval Air Station Memphis in Millington, Tenn. Bass is president and chairman of the Marion Bass Investment Group of Charlotte, a regional money management firm based in 26 states. He is also the present chairman of the PSU Board of Trustees.

Baker will be presented the PSU Alumni Association's Outstanding Alumni award, and Bass will be presented the association's Distinguished Service Award.



Barbara Loury, a native of Route 3 Maxton, ran in the 1990 Marine Corps Marathon [26 miles] held in Washington, D.C. recently.

Ms. Loury is employed by Southeastern General Hospital. She is the assistant director and the Aerobic Director of Life Style Fitness Center. She has been employed there for three years.

Ms. Loury would like to stress to all people to set goals and do their best. "I wanted to run in a marathon by the age of 40 and I have accomplished that goal," she said. "It was hard training and long hours. But the end result was a good feeling," she continued. "I am grateful to my director, Ken Bray, who told me I could do it when I thought I couldn't."