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Whatever Happened to ...

EULA, MABLE & LORRAINE HUNT

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Recent frigid weather caught some area residents shivering. But for three Hopewell community residents the situation became a laughing matter.

Eula, Mable "Zil" and Lorraine Hunt just threaded their needles and kept on stitching quilts with their nimble fingers.

It's been many moons since the Hunt sisters began quilting - a craft they learned in childhood. As far as they are concerned there is no special season for quilts, for they are surrounded by them continually. A quilting frame stays up year round at the Hunt residence off Highway 710 between Rowland and Pembroke.

Eula, 72; Mable, 68; and Lorraine, 66 never married. "We had parents to take care of," says Mable Hunt in explaining their marital status. None of the women ever left home. They were among 19 children born to Allen and Betty Brooks Hunt in the Union township of Robeson County. Nine children live today.

All three sisters say there is little idle time spent at the old Hunt homestead where they live with an unmarried brother, Cliff.

"We don't quilt every day. Some days we loaf," says Mable. Eula readily admits to being the biggest loafer because her siblings push her because she handles the family's business affairs. She says she depends on her sister, Mable or other family members to drive her on errands because she never learned to drive because of "a heavy foot."

Their hobby became a business of sorts several years ago when two students from Pembroke State University came calling for old quilts for their dormitory rooms. The students were obliged and news spread that quilts could be purchased from the Hunt quilters. This was before the Hunt house was destroyed by fire in the spring of 1986.

"We were awakened from our sleep that night and escaped unharmed," Eula remembers. "But we lost everything we owned including more than 100 treasured quilts." Also lost in the fire was their mothers pedal sewing machine which was used in constructing quilt tops.

The sisters along with their brother took up temporary dwelling in a small wooden house across the road from the one destroyed. Unable to continue actual quilting, the sisters busied themselves in sewing quilt tops with nimble fingers. Construction began on a new home and during the fall of the same year they moved into the modern brick home they live in today. In planning the house they provided for a custom-designed quilting room built on the backside. This is where much time is taken in turning out masterpieces in bedcovering.

The sisters agree that double-size quilts are most in demand. Among the most popular designs are the wedding ring and star. Rarely is a quilt top made by machine because none of the sisters feel comfortable in operating the electric machine which sits pretty much unnoticed in a room.

"I don't use it for the same reason I never learned to drive a car. My heavy foot won't let me," laments Eula.



Raymond [Pete] Clark, known as Ray Spotted Turtle, is shown being interviewed by Beth Kulle of WBTW-TV of Florence, SC, during his recent visit to PSU's Native American Resource Center. Clark, 71, dances with the Lumbee-Cheraw Dancers, who were organized by his son,

Ray Little Turtle. Pete Clark performs mostly in the eastern United States as far west as the Mississippi River. Once a year he goes to the Far West. He does presentations regarding Native American customs and traditions.

Lyrics of Indian Normal School

Song Recalled by Howard Oxendine



Howard Oxendine

Years go by, but one's school song remains embedded in his or her memory.

There is nothing quite like an alumni group getting together and ringing forth with what-to-them-will be the forever immortal words of their school song.

The Pembroke State University school song, "Hail To PSU," was written by Ira Pate Lowry and his late wife, Reba, in 1941. Lowry wrote the music, while Reba wrote the lyrics.

But there was a school song at this Indian Normal School before that. Its words and music were written in the early 1930s by A.F. Corbin, the first agricultural teacher and shop foreman at the Indian Normal School.

Title of that school song was "Indian Normal School," according to Howard Oxendine, a member of that school's Class of '35 who now lives in Mint Hill, NC, just west of Charlotte.

A man with marvelous memory, Oxendine recently met

two old friends at Sheff's Seafood in Pembroke: MaryHammond Locklear and Lucy Locklear. They started humming the old school song, but only Oxendine recalled the words. They were so meaningful to him that he wrote them down.

In his neat penmanship, here are the words of the song, "Indian Normal School," that Oxendine wrote and can sing as readily as "The Star Spangled Banner":

INDIAN NORMAL SCHOOL

We are the I.N.S. [meaning Indian Normal School] of the old N.C. of the U.S.A. so grand. So hurrah for our School, hurrah for our state and hurrah for our native land.

Today we honor the men of old and the mothers of old. We praise the maidens and youth, the fair, the bold that lived in the olden days. But we turn to the future and we see a much nobler and greater race-for we're molding and training here each day in our dear old I.N.S.

We are the I.N.S. of the old N.C. of the U.S.A. so grand. So hurrah for our School, and hurrah for our state, and hurrah for our native land.

Our blood runs red, like a crimson stream from the fountains of long ago-where our fathers roamed as free as the wind and feared not any foe. But we turn to the future, and we see a much nobler and greater race for we are molding and training here each day in our dear old I.N.S.

We are the I.N.S. of the old N.C. of the U.S.A. so grand. So hurrah for our School, hurrah for our state, and hurrah for our native land.

Oxendine mailed these words to PSU for its quarterly issue of "PSU Today." However, credit was mistakenly given to Oxendine's wife, the former Doris Wood of Abbeville, Ala., for researching and sending in the lyrics.

It is Howard Oxendine, a man with a remarkable memory who deserves credit for remembering and sharing these historical lyrics of a bygone day.

by Gene Warren

Mid Winter Prayer Service & Indian Dance to be held

A mid-winter prayer service and Indian dance will be held at Prospect School on Friday evening, February 22 from 6 p.m. until 11 p.m. Admission is free. The drumming will be by the Running Water Drum of Fayetteville. Derek Lowry and Angie Goins will lead the dance.

Barbecue will be on sale during the event. The public is encouraged to attend.

The D & L Singers will be performing. Prayers will offered by Vernon Cooper, Rev. Jimmy Dial, Ev. Priscilla Jacobs, Rev. Samuel Wynn, and Ev. Harold G. Dial. Rev. Kelly Sanderson will deliver the message and invitation.

Spelling Bee Champ



Deep Branch Elementary School announces the winner of the 1991 School Spelling Bee. He is Eric Chavis, a sixth grade student. His parents are Mr. Duight Chavis and Mrs. Anita Chavis of Rowland. Eric is eleven years old. He is a student in Mrs. Rosella Brooks' sixth grade. Eric was on the honor roll during the last grading period. He enjoys baseball and football. Eric represented Deep Branch Elementary School in the Spelling Bee for the Public Schools of Robeson County on February 13, 1991.



Charlotte Chavis has been selected as one of the Outstanding Young Women of America. She is the daughter of James M. and Sue Chavis of the Mt. Airy Community. She is a junior at Pembroke State University where she is majoring in social work with an emphasis in teaching.

The Outstanding Young Women of America for 1991 program is an honor that recognizes young women throughout the nation for professional achievement and community service.

Charlotte serves as treasurer of the Social Work Club at PSU, as well as secretary of Theta Kappa Sorority. She is a member of the National Association of Social Workers and an active member of Mt. Airy Baptist Church.



Front: Lorraine Hunt; standing left to right: Eula and Mable Hunt.

In addition to running family business errands her "loafing" consists of daily chores of caring for the family's farm livestock which consists of four cows and two hogs. Throw in 35 chickens and several cats.

Eula says she does it, "Because I've always done it and I do it because there's no one else to do it," she explains after coming indoors from rolling a bale of hay which she has fed the animals. "Hard work is not new to us. We remember well the years of killing hogs, pulling tobacco suckers, pulling foter and plowing mules on the family farm from sun up to sun down."

The Hunt sisters share in the responsibilities of running the household. They say they get along living together because they don't have "fusses."

"It ain't a bit of good to have fusses...not a bit in this world," says Eula. "We agree well on everything."

Lorraine, who works in an area textile manufacturing plant, does most of the cooking of meals for the family. Eula does the outside chores, and Mable says when she's not cutting and sewing quilt tops, she's napping. Eula and Lorraine enjoy good health. Mable suffers from hypertension and diabetes.

"There is no boss in the family. We do as we please," Mable comments. And what they do best is make quilts.

Cummings Family to Observe First Anniversary with Singing

The Happy Echoes and the Cummings Family will host their first anniversary singing on Friday, February 22 at God's Holy Assembly in Shannon.

The singing will feature the Happy Echoes, The Cummings Family, the JoyBells, the Born Believers, the Pierce Family and the McNeill.

On Saturday, February 23 a singing will be held at St. Annah Church in Pembroke. Featured singers will be the Cummings Family, the Happy Echoes, the Joy Bells, Faith Gospel Singers, D & L Gospel Singers, the Scott Singers and Felix Deal and Family.

The time for both singings will be 7 p.m.

A barbecue and chicken plate sale will be held on Saturday, February 23 at St. Annah Church. The sale will begin at 10 a.m. and last until...The price of the plates will be \$4.00.

Community To Meet With County Commissioner

Creative Health Ministry and County Commissioner Noah Woods are pleased to announce a series of community development meetings for District IV. These meetings will allow citizens to ask questions and make recommendations regarding issues impacting the county.

Three meetings are scheduled for February 21, 1991 at Pembroke Elementary School; February 28, 1991 at Townsend Middle School (Maxton); and March 7, 1991 at Prospect Elementary School. All meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will last approximately two hours.

Commissioner Woods and Richard Mathis, director of Creative Health Ministry, will listen to concerns of citizens and will facilitate citizen involvement in trying to improve the well being of the community and county.