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Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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LRDA Board votes against concept of moving SATW

Most of the LRDA meeting on Monday night was devoted to a presentation from David Carter and Helen Locklear. Mr. Carter, Chairman of the Robeson Historical Drama Association, the sponsoring agency for the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind," addressed the board first. Mr. Carter said that he was speaking to the board about "the concept of the relocation of Strike at the Wind or the survival of Strike at the Wind." He explained that David

Weinstien, mayor of Lumberton, has spoken to the Historical Association's board relative to a proposed site in Lumberton for the re-location of the drama. The mayor's proposal for "talking with the Lumberton City Council about the move" was contingent upon letters of endorsement from several Indian entities, LRDA was one of them.

Carter spoke to the status of Strike at the Wind. He said the drama now located in the Red Banks community in the western part of the county, had helped the community through theatrical support. "Two years ago the board (and through the past five years) realized that the drama always ends up in the red," Carter explained. "Until last year. That was the first year that the drama finished the season in the black...the board was able to cover the cost of the drama." There is a budget of \$128,000 needed for the production. Grants have been applied for but no monies have been issued. The drama is runned, according to Carter, on a fundraising basis. He spoke of the annual art dinner to be held Tuesday, July 2 at 7:30 p.m. at the PSU

Chavis Center. A painting by Lumbee artist Ellis Sampson will be auctioned at the dinner. Proceeds will go to the drama. Tickets for the art dinner are \$25.

In an attempt to make ends meet, Carter said, the board has lowered the cast members of the drama from 65 to 40. Local auditions were held, he said, but were not well attended by locals. Auditions were also held in Winston Salem and the Raleigh area. "We will have professional people this year," Carter said. The director is from Ohio and has been hired as a professor at PSU. "He has brought a new concept to the drama, new stage, live stock, etc. All of these things will help the drama."

Carter spoke of the attendance over the past 15 years. There was some increase in attendance last year, he said, with about 4,000 people attending. Carter said the reasons for the lack of attendance, he believed, was marketing...letting people know about the drama. "The problem is that there is no money to market the drama as it should be marketed."

Helen Locklear of the Real Estate Exchange in Lumberton spoke to the concept of the relocation of the drama. "How to keep Strike at the Wind alive," she said was the goal. The Robeson Historical Drama Association Board has voted to look at the concept of relocating the drama. A proposal was made to the North Carolina Indian

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Little Miss Lumbee to relinquish crown July 3



Terica Brooke Lowery, the reigning Little Miss Lumbee, will relinquish her crown on Wednesday, July 3, at the PSU Performing Arts Center. The pageant begins at 7:30 p.m. and admission is \$5 per person. Terica is the daughter of Wanda A. Lowery of Pembroke.

Those vying for the title of Little Miss Lumbee are shown below.



MARY ASHLEY JONES
Betty & Walter Jones



TEWANA NICOLE BELL
Mattie Bell

Whatever Happened to ... Johnie Preston Bullard

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Out Prospect way lies Juniper Swamp and on the swamp's edge lives Mr. Johnie Preston Bullard, and the octogenarian says, "Let me tell you the secrets of my 84 year-old life...let me tell you of olden days when life was simpler than it is today..."

Mr. Bullard was one of six sons and daughters born to Lilly Locklear Bullard and John Bullard. Two of Mr. Bullard's brothers died in infancy. He grew up on the farm his parents owned.

"Life on the farm was hard, but it wasn't hard. We Bullards were dirt-loving people. We loved the earth," he says.

He attended Prospect School in grades one through seven where he attended four-month sessions during November through February. He fondly remembers the school's principal, Tom Oxendine; also his favorite teachers, Mary Ellen Moore Dial and Emma Locklear Collins.

He entered the Normal Indian High School and daily walked the five mile trek to attend classes in a wooden dormitory on the Pembroke campus. It was a time when Russell Livermore, a prominent merchant had just established a general goods business in Pembroke and area farmers were patronizing the new merchant; having left general patronage of J.W. Carter in Maxton.

So it was after getting out of class each day, Mr. Bullard would wait out front of the local school building and see a patron riding a mule-drawn wagon, flag him down and hitch a ride home to the Prospect community.

He completed the 11 years required study at the school and enrolled in the Normal School program where he studied for a year before earning a "temporary" A teacher's certificate. His first teaching assignment was at Prospect School where he taught third grade during four-month sessions.

In his first class of students was Adolph L. Dial. Mr. Bullard says after a few days into the session he went to the office of Principal Lonnie Jacobs and told him that he had to get Dial out of his room. His principal inquired as to why he was making the request to have the young Lumbee Indian student removed.

"There's not a thing in that room for that boy! He needs to be somewhere he can work," came the answer. Consequently, Dial was moved up a grade level.

It was in the middle of his four-year teaching assignment at his alma mater that he met a fellow teacher, Cattie Bell Jacobs. The couple courted under the watchful eye of her father and after a two-year courtship eloped one night to Dillon, SC and were married. He was 24 - she, 22 years old.

"Our two selves went alone to get married. I paid five dollars for the marriage license. Afterwards we had left between us a nickel piece. We bought us a drink apiece and headed home to my mother's home where we lived for about four months," Mr. Bullard chuckles.

The couple then moved to a farm he'd bought nearby and in a wooden house joined by wooden pegs.

The groom resigned his teaching position at Prospect after four years of teaching and re-entered the Indian Normal School where he pursued a two-year teacher's certificate. The bride meanwhile taught at Pembroke Graded School.

In 1936, with certificate in hand, Mr. Bullard returned for another year's teaching at Prospect School. Mrs. Bullard then became a fulltime homemaker and mother.

From the Prospect assignment he went to a seven-year position at Macedonia Indian School in neighboring Hoke County. There he became the lone teacher of students in grades one through six. In addition to his teaching duties, he says he woodfied a potbelly stove and often played

Mama to some five-year-old students in the one-room building. He taught in the school under the supervision of school superintendent K.A. McDonald. There was no school principal.

And when the Macedonia and Elisha Dial Indian Schools merged to form Hawkeye School, Mr. Bullard says because of his exemplary performance, he was assured a position at the newly formed school.

"A principal who can't work with you, Johnie," McDonald said, "can't work with me."



Mr. Johnie P. Bullard

It was at Hawkeye School, while teaching third grade, Mr. Bullard says he taught Julian Pierce.

"Lord! That kid was smart in the world," Mr. Bullard remembers of Pierce.

After teaching at the all-Indian school for four years, Mr. Bullard retired from the teaching profession and returned to farming the earth he so much loved.

His beloved wife, Cattie, died. She had given him 17 years of marriage, three sons and a daughter. The daughter died as a newborn child.

His second wife, Mable Stewart Bullard, was to give him two more sons.

In the early 1930's Mr. Bullard became a practicing Christian. The young Methodist says he was called to the ministry, but was unable to become an ordained minister because the denomination of his affiliate church required a seminary degree holder for ordination. Mr. Bullard held no such degree and personal circumstances during that time prohibited him from attending the seminary, he says.

Instead, Mr. Bullard says he studied Rules and Laws of the Methodist Church under the command of D.F. Lowry for a designated length of time and was awarded a Local License to preach as an associate pastor. His first pastorate was at Sandy Plains Church. He later served Pleasant Grove and Ashpole Methodist Churches. He co-founded Collins Chapel where he, too, served in addition to Prospect Methodist Church where he has continuously served as associate pastor to Reverends Harvey Lowry and Robert Mangum.

SEE JOHNIE PRESTON BULLARD PAGE 4



ERICA NICOLE DELLINGER
Rhonda & Tony Dellinger



BRANDY NICOLE LAMBERT
Shelia Lambert & Glenn Carter



RANDI MICHELLE HUNT
Karen & Randy Hunt



ALISON DANIELLE WORRIAX
Sharon & Harold Worriax



LAKISHA LYNN HAMMONDS
Shelia & Anthony Hammonds



ELIZABETH DAWN LOCKLEAR
Wanda & Michael Locklear



CANDACE LEE OXENDINE
Charnaine & Ricky Oxendine



MELISSA MANIELLE LOCKLEAR
Theresa Locklear



BRIDGET DAWN LOCKLEAR
Vanessa & Kenneth Locklear



CRYSTAL NICOLE LOWERY
Dollie & Ronald Lowery



LAKESHIA ARIFILA JACORN
Ella & William Jacobs

