

Published each Thursday since January 18, 1973

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The Carolina Indian Voice

Pembroke, NC

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

VOLUME 19 NUMBER 34

THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1991

25 CENTS PER COPY

William E. Locklear announces for Pembroke Town Council



William E. Locklear

William E. Locklear has announced his candidacy for a seat on the Pembroke Town Council. In making his announcement, Locklear, 48, released the following statement:

"I am seeking this office because I feel I have the experience and knowledge that can be utilized to enhance Pembroke to become more progressive in developing it to its fullest potential.

"My background has prepared me to represent all people. I was raised in a Christian home, on a farm, in a family of twelve. I have a B.S. degree from Pembroke State University in Education and have completed fifteen hours toward a Master's Degree in Administration.

"I have eight years experience as a school teacher and for the past sixteen years I have been employed with Lumbee Regional Development Association in the area of Job Training. As director of the Job Training Program, I have been responsible for planning and implementing a program with a budget of over one million dollars annually, with a staff of fifteen, and an average of two hundred trainees. I have served on local, state, regional and national boards and committees."

Locklear is married to Elvera Locklear and they have one daughter, Valerie.

Locklear continued: "As your representative I will commit to the following: your concerns will be my concerns; I will represent all citizens; I will be a representative of integrity; my vote will be based on what is best for Pembroke.

"Together we can make Pembroke a place where our children and grandchildren will be proud to live. I solicit your support November 5th."

Whatever Happened To...

RETHA OXENDINE LOCKLEAR

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Out Back Swamp way in southern Robeson County, 83-year-old Retha Oxendine Locklear sits posture perfect in her favorite chair. The tall great-grandmother speaks softly of her family, friends, religious faith and the earth. The Lumbee Indian is firmly attached to all four.

If she could live her life over, she says, "I would change few things because I've had a good life.

"The Lord's been good to me. He blessed me with a wonderful husband and 12 beautiful children. He's blessed me so many times."

Now a widow, Mrs. Locklear grew up around McDonald and Raynham communities in southern Robeson County. She was one of six children born to Bennie Oxendine and Elzettie "Sis" Hunt Oxendine. Her parents were tenant farmers. And when Mrs. Locklear was only eight years old, her mother died. When her father remarried and moved to Florida, she stayed behind and was raised by her oldest sister in her native community.

Several years later while visiting Pleasant View Church in Fairmont, a handsome Lumbee bachelor walked up to her and introduced himself as Clarence Locklear. She shyly spoke to him and chatted on the grounds of the rural Baptist church.

One night in 1924, after a year's courtship, Mr. Locklear, a World War I veteran, hired a taxi to drive him and his girlfriend to Dillon, South Carolina where they were married. The groom was 31 years old; the bride, 15. They took up housekeeping in a house the groom had renovated for them.

Thus began a journey of 44 years for the couple. For 40 years they worked the earth before hanging up the mule lines for a final time in 1955. Mrs. Locklear says that during those four decades she learned firsthand the true meaning of living off the land. It became a meaning etched in hard work and the art of being resourceful.

Sharing in the hard work of farmlife were the couple's four sons and eight daughters—all of whom lived into adulthood. Like many others in Robeson County during the Great Depression years, the Locklears grew their own wheat and corn which were ground into flour and meal. They raised the beef, pork and chicken they ate. There were always two milk cows in the pasture where the couple lived.

"One was always without calf so we could have milk to drink," Mrs. Locklear explains. Usually nearby the cows were two mules and a horse used in working the "three-horse" farms the couple tended.

Mrs. Locklear admits that mealtime around the family table was interesting. It became a time when the entire family took time to gather for food and fellowship.

Plenty of food always graced the table, primarily because Mrs. Locklear always canned and preserved vegetables she grew and fruits given her by neighbors.

"I'd put away at least one hundred half gallon jars of fruit every year. We made our own syrup. The only things we bought from the store back then were coffee, sugar, rice and face soap."

Lye soap was homemade and used in laundering clothes.

Mrs. Locklear says at mealtime it wasn't uncommon for her to serve up 50-75 homemade biscuits—depending on how much "sweets" were being offered on the menu. And it usually took from two to three chickens per meal to feed her large family.

Christmastime at the Locklear home was especially a busy time in the kitchen. Around a woodburning stove, Mrs. Locklear worked hours preparing the annual quota of 15 cakes and 25 pies served during the festive season.

"There was never any left, or any thrown out, either."

she laughs.

Always a resourceful homemaker, Mrs. Locklear saved money on clothing because she designed and sewed the clothes her children wore. Sewing on a pedal-driven machine, she never used a pattern in creating the dozens of garments her family wore with pride. She later got an electric machine for her sewing projects, but even today enjoys handstitching some items like aprons and quilt squares.

In 1955 Mr. Locklear retired from farming. On ten acres of land he'd bought in the Back Swamp community he built a comfortable home for himself, his wife and their unmarried children still living at home. In the spring of 1968, Mr. Locklear died. His widow never remarried.

"I didn't have time to remarry because I didn't have time to court," she says. "I had three sons and a daughter still single at the time of their father's death. The youngest was 18 years old.



Retha Oxendine Locklear

Three of the children lived out of town and it seemed to me that one of them was coming home every weekend to visit. There was no time to court..."

She says she many times regretted not remarrying because she feels it would have given her a feeling of security and comfort to have a mate to care for her during the years of declining health. She also says she would have been available to give of the same care and comfort to a mate as well.

And though five of Mrs. Locklear's twelve children are deceased, and two heart attacks have slowed her pace, she holds no bitterness for life's knocks and blows. She holds steadfast to a religious faith she subscribed to at age 13. She regularly nourishes that faith through attendance at her beloved Piney Grove Baptist Church; and through daily doses of gospel music dispensed from a radio in her bedroom.

Mrs. Locklear has never been licensed to drive an automobile. She regrets this. Her loneliness is measured in small amounts because she visits longtime friends by telephone. And these friends most times return the visit in person.

Mr. & Mrs. Raeford Lowery Observe Golden Anniversary

Mr. and Mrs. Raeford Lowery observed their 50th wedding anniversary on August 18, 1991 at Antioch Baptist Church in St. Pauls.

Raeford is the son of William Von and Nancy Lowery. He was reared on a farm in Robeson County. Like his father before him, Raeford continued to farm after his marriage to Leviona (Bill) Carter.

Leviona (Bill) Carter Lowery is the daughter of Lenny and Edmond Carter. She was reared on a farm in Lumberton. Raeford was 22 and Bill was 17 when they were married in Dillon, South Carolina on August 18, 1941. The ceremony cost them \$5.00. To their union were born nine children. They are Edward (Pete) Lowery; the late Spencer (Dob) Lowery; the late Calvin (Hump) Lowery; the late Thomas Earl (Punky) Lowery; Nancy (Cout) Lowery Knight; the late Tommy Ray (Fatty) Lowery; Raymond (Pooker) Lowery; Raeford (Nuckie) Lowery, Jr.; and Linda Lowery.

Raeford and Bill have enjoyed a prosperous life. They report that their life has been filled with happiness, sadness, success, but most of all, they say, their pride and joy are their children.

The welcome was given by Mrs. Dorothy Lowery followed by an opening prayer by Rev. Sterling Chavis. A special tribute was presented by the following: Rev. Lee Ammons, Mr. Woodrow Locklear and Mr. Gus Hunt. Ms. Jackie Lowery rendered special music.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Lowery gave a special presentation. The children participating were: Edward (Pete) Lowry, Ms. Nancy Knight; Raymond Lowery; Raeford Lowery, Jr.; and Linda Lowery.

A presentation was then given by the grandchildren. The grandchildren included Edward Jr.; Fred; Angie; Jackie; Brent; Rodney; Dena; Calvin, Jr.; Curtis; Vickie; Gerald; Connie; Cale; and Cameran Ray.

Their was a special presentation by the great-grand children. These included: Justin; Shonda; Edward III; Fred O'Renzo; Ricky; Steven Jr.; and Eugenia.

Rev. William Griffin offered the closing prayer.

A reception was held in the fellowship hall immediately following the ceremony. There a delicious dinner was served which featured a three-tiered cake which was baked by Stella Smith Jacobs. The cake was decorated by Avon Hammonds and Jackie Lowery. Approximately 100 guests were in attendance.



Mr. and Mrs. Raeford Lowery are shown with some of their children at the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary. They are shown with three of their children. (Photo by T/Sgt. Wm. P. Revels)

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

SOFTBALL TOURNEY SET FOR PROSPECT

There will be a softball tournament at Prospect School, Route 3, Maxton, on the weekend of August 23-25 with the winning team receiving individual trophies. The entry fee is \$85 and you can contact Mr. Earl Lowery at (919) 521-9592 to make your entry.

An outdoor patio set will be sold at a very reasonable price during the tournament. Snacks and other refreshments will be available through out the weekend softball event. All proceeds will go to support the Prospect Little League Program and to complete the construction of the Prospect Little League's restroom facility. Therefore, your support will be greatly appreciated and will benefit many, many young lives.

For more information you can contact Mr. Earl Lowery at 919-521-9592, Ms. Fedelia Locklear at 919-521-3549 or Mr. Harold Jacobs at 919-521-8669 or 919-521-8503.

POEMS WANTED FOR CONTEST AND ANTHOLOGY

Poems are now being accepted for entry in Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum's new "Distinguished Poet awards" poetry contest. Cash prizes totaling \$1,000 will be awarded, including a \$500 grand prize. The contest is free to enter.

Poets may enter one poem only, 20 lines or less, on any subject, in any style. Contest closes Sept. 30, 1991, but poets are encouraged to send their work as soon as possible, since poems entered in the contest also will be considered for publication in the Summer 1992 edition of *Treasured Poems of America*, a hardcover anthology. Anthology purchase many be required to insure publication, but is not required to enter or win the contest. Prize winners will be notified by Nov. 30, 1991.

"Our contest is open to all, regardless of experience," says Jerome P. Welch, Publisher. "We especially want to see poems from new or emerging poets. We look for sincerity and originality and welcome a wide variety of styles and themes. In fact, many of our contest winners are new poets with new ideas."

Poem should be sent to Sparrowgrass Poetry Forum, Inc., Dept. JP, 203 Diamond St., Sistersville, WV 26175.



Cody Eagle Horse Godwin of Pembroke was selected to participate in Appalachian State University Summer Enrichment Program for Gifted and Talented Children at Camp Broadstone from July 14-26. Cody participated in academic classes from 8:45 a.m. until 12 noon. The afternoon campers participated in a variety of adventurous activities. Evening programs included swimming at the Appalachian State University pool, special interest clubs, movies, and the camp dance. Cody enjoyed the camp very much and hopes to attend next year. Cody is the son of Harvey and Shella Godwin.

"I treasure my old friends. Visits from them make my day...I love everybody," she smiles.

There are regular visits from her many grandchildren and great grandchildren.

"When they all gather here, it's a fuss right...And car loads of food they bring."

Such a scene is reminiscent of those taking place more than six decades ago when the Locklear home was filled with a dozen children; their friends; and "whosoever will come" all milling around enjoying fellowship and food—especially homemade biscuits prepared lovingly by the grand hostess, Retha Oxendine Locklear. Those were good times. Happy times.