

# Carolina Indian Voice

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Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Photo: Ivan Hinrichs, left, General Agent for Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company and Jim Ollis, Connecticut Mutual Associate, present Dorothy Locklear with her company's Blue Chip Enterprise Award.

## Dorothy Locklear: Surviving Castastrophes 5 G's Mfg. Honored as Blue Chip Enterprise

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Surviving catastrophes is nothing new for Pembroke businesswoman Dorothy Locklear. And on June 4 at a recognition and awards ceremony in Charlotte, the veteran manufacturer felt as though she had graduated from the school of hard knocks. The 52-year-old president and owner of 5G's Manufacturing, Inc. was honored by the Blue Chip Enterprise Initiative. Mrs. Locklear's cut and sew company was one of the region's six "Blue Chip Enterprises" for 1993. The initiative program, launched three years ago and sponsored by Connecticut Mutual, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Nation's Business, seeks out and honors small businesses who have demonstrated exceptional management of key resources to meet challenges, overcome adversity and emerge stronger.

Time-after-time 5G's/Mfg. could have qualified as an award nominee. In 1973 Mrs. Locklear and her husband, Gene, founded University Sportswear and began operation in a rental building in the town of Pembroke. Two years later the couple built their own plant on Red Banks Rd. in rural Pembroke. Contracts for both civilian and military clothing swelled company employment numbers to more than 500 during the late 70's.

Catastrophe cut its first figure when, after ten years of winning markets and seeing them fade, the company shut down. Fourteen months later 5G's Mfg. began making military clothing, mostly fatigues, sold at bases. Soon military outlets became the revamped company's sole market. It was a time of immense growth for both business and manufactory.

Around the corner, though, awaited another catastrophe. In May 1987 the Locklears discovered a company embezzlement by two employees. Two days later a dreadful midnight telephone call to the couple's residence in the Saddletree Community alarmed them that

their plant was burning. Most of the company's official records, along with machinery were destroyed in the arsonist's fire. Equipment damage cost \$100,000 and rebuilding \$175,000. "Gene was determined that we would not allow this tragedy to run us out of business," Mrs. Locklear comments.

"We worked days and nights to reopen the factory ten weeks later. I felt nothing could keep us from continued success." But a greater catastrophe lay ahead. Gene Locklear contracted cancer in fall of 1988. He died a year later, working until just four weeks before his demise in November. "I truly did not know if I could keep the business going," she says of her husband's absence. Mrs. Locklear credits a personal inner strength, and life insurance that had been kept in force during tough times as seeing her through. Conscientious employees with pride in jobs well done helped, too, she adds.

The company cross-trains, so someone can always stand in for another employee, and it provides financial incentives for improved performance.

According to Mrs. Locklear 5G's had shown an average employment of 105 over the past five years. She says not a single employee has suffered a company layoff during the same period. Annual sales, \$1.4 million the year her husband died, were up to \$2 million in 1992. Today, Mrs. Locklear is joined by her two sons in running the privately owned company. The team reaps the benefits of helping to make the business community stronger. For the coveted Blue Chip Enterprise title, Mrs. Locklear's company will be profiled in a widely distributed book.

As she looks at her company's citation in the March 1993 issue of Nation's Business magazine, she modestly comments, "I hope I have added to that success."

## Rev. Sanford Locklear Honored For His Faithfulness

"Moreover it is required of a steward that he be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). This scripture seems to adequately describe the Rev. Sanford Locklear, pastor of Thompson Baptist Church. It was this theme of faithfulness for which the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association chose to honor Rev. Locklear at the quarterly union May 29, 1993. Rev. Roscoe Jacobs and Rev. C.W. Maynor spoke to the accomplishments of Rev. Locklear as the association honored him for 43 years of faithful, perfect attendance of both unions and the annual meetings of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. The theme was "Our Heritage: Honoring a Faithful Leader" and Rev. Maynor presented a plaque to Rev. Locklear in recognition of his faithful service to the Baptist Association.

Rev. Locklear's service to the Association includes 43 years of perfect attendance at the unions and annual meetings; 41 years as reading clerk for the Union meetings; clerk of Church and Deacons Committee; two years as Moderator for the Union; and two years as Moderator of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association; service on the Advisory Board of the Association for 20 years; and has served on all committees and boards of the Association. He is presently a member of the Historical Committee.

Faithfulness has been a trademark of Rev. Locklear. He recalls that he has only missed 4 Sundays in his life and those times were because of a death or illness in the immediate family. Rev. Locklear is 76 years old.

He recalls the day in 1949 when he was saved. "I was saved at Mt. Airy Baptist Church during a revival. I will never forget the time. Rev. Purcell Locklear was preaching the revival. We were school buddies and I remember it as if it were yesterday. When the Lord saved me, nothing has been the same since that night in 1949."

Rev. Locklear accepted the call to the ministry a year later. For 43 years he has served as a pastor of various churches in the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. His years of service has included Galilee Baptist Church where he began preaching in 1951. He has also been pastor at Leach Creek, New Point; Harper's Ferry, Cedar Grove in Fairmont and Thompson Baptist where he continues his pastorate. Many times he served as pastor of two churches simultaneously.

A life long member of the Mt. Airy Baptist Church and community, Rev. Locklear is proud to be affiliated with that community and church. He was born in Mt. Airy to the late Deacon R.D. Locklear and Rockie Jane Cummings Locklear. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Temus (Sarah Catherine Lowry) Cummings and the Rev. A. D. and Susan Locklear, who donated the land for the Mt. Airy Cemetery. His background includes distinction for commitment and faithfulness to Mt. Airy Baptist Church for generations.

In addition to his pastoral duties and service to the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association, Rev. Locklear also taught school for 43 years at Union Chapel Elementary School. His teaching career was from 1938 until 1982 when he retired from teaching. He received a B.S. degree in the spring of 1936 from the Indian Normal School and a degree in 1954 from Pembroke State College.

Rev. Locklear says that he was married "to the prettiest woman in Robeson County." Beatrice Hardin, daughter of Martha Bell and Richard Hardin of the Saddletree community. They were married May 7, 1937 on her 16th birthday. Mrs. Locklear succumbed to an illness in 1980.

On April 19, 1981 Rev. Locklear married Anna Margaret Hunt, daughter of Walter Hunt and Mary Revels Hunt. They continue to reside in the Mt. Airy Community.

Mrs. Locklear was on hand for the Union honoring her husband on May 29, along with two of his sisters and one of his sons.

When asked if he was planning to retire, Rev. Locklear replied "No. The call of God is without repentance." When God calls a man to preach, he has to preach. "I will continue to preach, until God calls me out," he said. Rev. Locklear has no intention of stopping his faithfulness to the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association either. At 76, he describes himself as "in perfect health."



Rev. Sanford Locklear. Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund

Contributing to the Native American Bone Marrow Transplant Fund was the employees of Rae Magnetic Wire: \$27.00. The total for the fund on the way to a goal of \$100,000 is \$1,630.04.

A running total will be held each week as the Fund moves toward its goal to help with the expenses in a Bone Marrow transplant not covered by insurance.

### Father's Day Gospel Sing

A Father's Day Gospel Sing featuring the D&L Gospel Singers will be held at God's Holy Comforter church Sunday evening, June 20, 1993 at 6:30 pm. The Church is located on the Rennert Rd. 4 miles West of Saddletree Church of God. Pastor Ted Brooks and members invites everyone to attend.

## David Oxendine Returns To Direct This Year's "Strike At The Wind"

David Oxendine returns again as Artistic Director of SATW! for the 6th time this season after a two year absence. David is a native of Pembroke and holds a B.A. in Drama from Catawba College. Upon graduation he toured 40 states on a national tour for 10 months. In 1985, David was hired by American Playhouse in New York to assist in casting local American Indians for the mini-series ROANOKE. Afterwards David moved to New York City where he studied at the American Academy of Dramatic Arts for two years.

David has appeared in such movies and television shows as BIG SHAKEDOWN, WORKING GIRL, ARTHUR II, KOJAK, and THE EQUALIZER. David is currently enrolled in the Master of Science program in Counselor Education at North Carolina State University. Oxendine has put together a very strong cast including Robert Locklear as Henry Berry Lowrie, Carol Oxendine as the Leader, Allan Emeola as Sheriff King, Barbara Collins as Dolly King, Willie Harris, Jr. as J.B. Harris, and Carolyn Oxendine as Moma Cumbo.

Kelvin Lowry returns as Hugh McGregor, Zeke Locklear as Old Allen Lowrie and the bounty hunter Donahoe McQueen, and Wanda Harris as the widow Lina McNair. Several new cast members include Tanya

Carter as Rhoda Strong, Brandon Locklear as gang member Steve Lowrie, Scott Witten as George Applewhite and LaDonna Locklear as the Girl. Last and certainly not least, is Robert Bryant who returns for a remarkable 18 years as Shoemaker John.

Heading the backstage team is stage manager Steve Tyner, the Drama Teacher at Purnell Swett High and South Robeson Senior High. Assistant Stage Manager and playing the role of McMillan is James Bass, Props Mistress is Lisa Willis all from Lumberton. SATW is written by Randolph Umberger, tells the story of Henry Berry Lowrie and his fight against racial prejudice and injustice in Robeson County during and after the Civil War. It premiered on July 1, 1976.

Oxendine feels that this story is very relevant today and will continue to be so. As compared to the other more "well known" outdoor dramas, Oxendine states that SATW has more of the "meat and potatoes" that historical shows need, as far as action, humor, and human drama is concerned along with historical accuracy. SATW is a show everyone in Robeson County should see. It opens July 3 and runs every Friday and Saturday night at 8:15 pm through September 4 at the Adolph Dial Amphitheatre on the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center site three miles west of Pembroke.

## Named To Dean's List

Three students from Robeson County are among 821 students named to the Western Carolina University dean's list for spring semester 1993, according to an announcement by John Wakeley, WCU, vice chancellor for academic affairs. To qualify for the dean's list students must achieve at least a 3.5 grade point average out of a possible 4.0 on a regular semester's work of not less than 12 hours, excluding remedial courses, with no grades of D or F. Area students on the WCU dean's list are: Cheryl Renee Goetz, 3890 N. Walnut St., Lumberton, Charles Thomas Bolton Jr., Rt. 2, Saint Pauls, Vance Locklear, Shannon.

David Oxendine