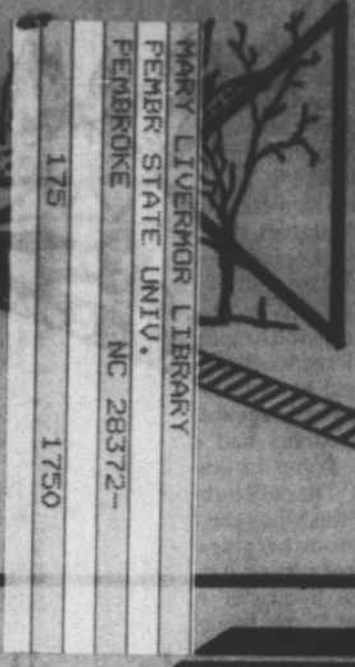
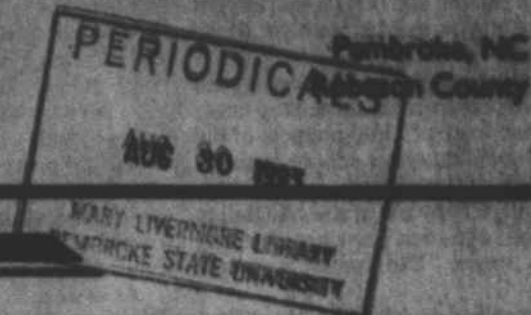


CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

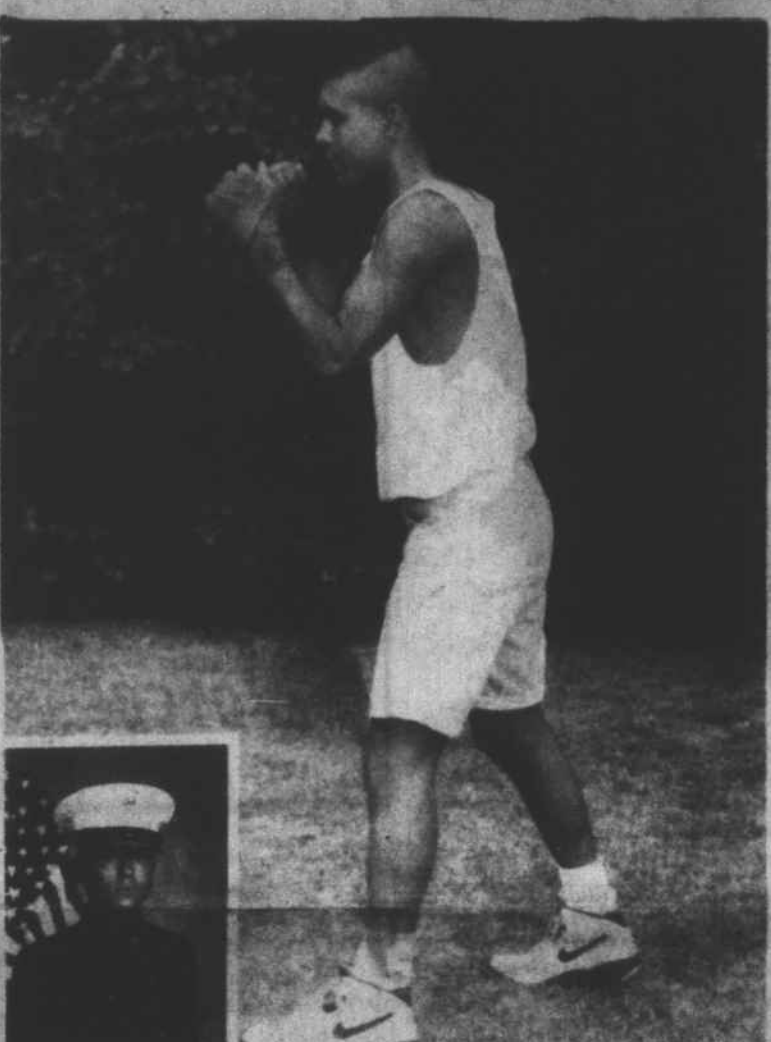


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JDavid Revels: All-Marine Team Boxer



By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Last spring, in Phoenix, Arizona, JDavid Revels stepped into a boxing ring and threw punches that glared his opponent's eyebrows and raised those of spectators. Afterwards the Marine lance corporal took home more than his leather boxing gloves. He also took the Arizona Golden Gloves Boxing championship.

In winning, Revels defied the odds, because he'd only been boxing for six months. Despite this, he won the Golden Gloves in the 125-pound weight class against more experienced, and better prepared opponents.

The young Marine who grew up in rural St. Pauls, NC says for a long time he'd been interested in boxing and wanted to try it. Then one day last October he was invited to a gym in Yuma, AZ and was introduced to a military staff sergeant who trained boxers. Several of the trainer's boxers had made the All-Marine Team. To make the team would be a dream come true for the 1990 St. Pauls High School graduate.

But there was a stumbling block.

Caught between training sessions the 12-hour shifts Revels worked as a military policeman. The long shifts, days in a row, left little energy to train.

"On those days I got off work, all I wanted to do was go home and sleep," he remembers. The demand-

ing work schedule afforded only three or four days a week for training under the watchful eye of SSgt. Pete Claypool.

People told the young Marine back then he'd probably not make the All-Marine Boxing Team because it usually takes three to four years training before being good enough...and he just didn't have the experience.

Revels punched on. Pressed on.

Then stationed at Yuma, he knew he was "pretty good." Possibly good enough to get a chance at showing off his skill closer to his native state of North Carolina.

In late spring he contacted Camp Lejeune and was invited to the military base for an audition in mid-June. He stayed on the base less than a week before flying back to Arizona. He was told he'd be contacted in about a month and advised as to whether he had made the All-Marine Team.

It took the US Marine Corps less than eight days to realize they had their "good man."

Revels received orders to return immediately to Camp Lejeune and begin training as a member of the All-Marine Boxing Team. It was jubilant news for the 21 year-old Lumbee Indian.

Making the team was a feat he accomplished after only one year of training as a boxer.

Revels says while there are several Marine boxing teams, there is only

one All-Marine team. He is the only Native American currently on the boxing team which competes against other military and civilian teams. He stresses that though he is a boxer, he is a Marine first.

A natural 140-pounder, the fighter has worked to lose weight so as to qualify in the 119-pound class.

"At this weight, fighters don't usually have a lot of power," he comments. "Speed is really all they've got."

Like his idol Sugar Ray Leonard, Revels is small, and very quick. "Although he was small, he knocked out a lot of big men. It depends on the fighter," he says of Leonard.

Revels denounces that boxing is a violent sport, but admits that on the surface the act of throwing punches back and forth at another person normally appears as a fist fight when actually it's not the case at all.

"Most of the time the boxer is fighting someone he knows. The next fight could be in the ring with a buddy. I don't get angry when I fight."

Revels' attitude is like that of many fighters—to him it's a sport. But for some members of his family it's a source of worry.

"My wife, Cheryl, didn't like it at first, and my mother gets a little over excited," he laughs, "but my dad is the worst of all of them."

Though his parents, J.D. and Denna Revels of Route 1, St. Pauls, worry

about their son, they're extremely proud of his accomplishments and hope he achieves his goal of fighting at the Olympic games in 1996.

"My mom is a big part of the reason I'm trying to make it. I've only known of one American Indian fighter at the Olympics before. I hope to be able to be the next. I know I can do it, but time is of essence. I've got to get more training."

"Training requires discipline," the Marine says. His mornings begin at 5 o'clock when he arises and meets with his fellow team-mates. His training consists of a seven-mile run, speedbag workouts, jumping rope and sparring.

Revels confesses that he is happy about being stationed near his homeland of Robeson County. The committed athlete continues his training even when visiting his parents. During such visits at their rural home he uses the dirt road in front of the house as a path on which to run. He has a makeshift gym in a building behind the house where he spent most of his childhood years. His two younger sisters, Janera and Rebekah are among his fans. The fighter has a stepson, Joseph.

When the torch is lit signaling the opening of the 1996 Olympic games, let it be noted that if Revels steps into the boxing ring, not one eyebrow should be raised.

For he will be one of the U.S. Marine Corps's "few good men."

On The Pow Wow Circuit



The following list of upcoming powwows is not intended to be a complete list. Anyone having information about upcoming powwows not listed is encouraged to send them to: Wild Turkey, PO Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372 or fax to (919) 521-1975.

- August 27-29, 19th Annual Baltimore, Maryland Powwow. Call 410-675-3535
- September 10-11, Coharie Powwow Clinton, NC. Call 919-564-6909.
- September 16-18, Guilford Native American Association Cultural Festival and Powwow Greensboro, NC Powwow. Call 919-273-8686.
- September 24-25, Indian Tribal Powwow, Indian Trail, NC. Call 704-273-8686.
- October 1-3, Lumbee Tribe's Annual Old Style Dance Festival and Powwow, Pembroke, NC. Call 919-521-8602.
- October 8-9, Second Annual Native American Heritage Festival & Powwow, Roanoke, VA. Call Britt Rossi (D) 703-342-5712 or (N) 703-362-1833.
- October 8-9, American Indian Cultural Festival (Fayetteville, NC) Indian dance competition, Indian traders Cumberland County Memorial Auditorium. Call 1 919 483-8442.
- October 15-16, Waccamaw-Siouan Powwow, Bolton, NC (Buckhead). Call 919-452-3778.
- October 15-17, Hagerstown, MD Powwow. Call 410-788-0254.
- October 15-17, 1993 NAIA Pow Wow & Fall Festival Dupont/Tyler Middle School Hermitage, TN.
- October 22-23, Meherrin Indian Tribe Powwow, Winton, NC. Call 919-438-2166.
- November 11-14, The Great American Indian Exposition, Richmond, VA. Call 410-788-0254.
- November 22-28, Sixth Annual National Native American Cultural Arts Festival. Call 410-675-3535.
- November 26-28, Pee Dee Indian Association & Chicora-Waccamaw Indian People, Loris, SC. Contact 803-523-6790.

Traditional Dance Classes Available

SINGING AND DANCING
Singing, drumming, and dancing can be found Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6 P.M. to 8 P.M. at the old Pembroke Middle School gym, beside Pembroke State University.

Tony Clark, the cultural coordinator for the class, instill traditional values as well as traditional Native American dance and music. Each class includes Native American flute music, instruction in traditional singing and dancing as well as storytelling and talk circles.

The class also offers instruction in traditional crafts such as beadwork, dreamcatchers, basket weaving, and regalia making. Interested students are encouraged to attend any session between 6 P.M. and 8 P.M. Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



"When Elvis Reigned Supreme", newest gospel album released by Charles Bell

By Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Robeson County's late summer is a season fall of harvest from tobacco fields to orchards where tree limbs, heavy with fruit, fall limply to the ground.

It's particularly a time of harvest for gospel singer, Charles L. Bell of rural Pembroke. The 45-year-old recording artist and songwriter's latest gospel album, "When Elvis Reigned Supreme," was released two weeks ago in Canada and the United States.

Immediately apparent, seen, heard, and felt in the vocals and accompanying piano styling of Bell is the inspiration, versatility, sincerity, humility, and moving compassion. And when people hear him sing, they hear Elvis Presley.

Bell does not imitate Presley's style of dress and is not known as an "Elvis impersonator." The native Robesonian is just blessed with a baritone voice that is strikingly and markedly similar to Presley who died 16 years ago at age 42. The similarity in voice is readily recognized, particularly in two of Bell's songs, "You'll Never Walk Alone" and "How Great Thou Art" which appear on the artist's newest album.

Bell is a veteran recording artist whose love for gospel music was nurtured from age 10 by eight older brothers and two sisters growing up on a tenant farm in the Powersville Community North of Lumberton. It was there he often gathered with his extended family inside a packhouse or around a tobacco barn and engaged in gospel singing.

"We referred to those gatherings back then as barn meetings," Bell recalls. "It was like a church service."

Many-a-good time was had during that period when he and his older

brothers strummed music from handmade instruments they'd crafted from discarded parts. Bell remembers with laughter the first time he sang a solo during a church youth service at Hestertown Church of God. He was accompanied at the guitar by his brother.

"I began singing what was supposed to be a slow gospel, but before I had finished, it turned into a fast one because my brother suddenly began playing the guitar faster."

Afterwards Bell says he learned that his brother was struck with a sudden case of stage fright and just wanted the performance to end quickly.

Years later, guided by a profession of Christianity at age 16 and a natural musical inclination, Bell began a part-time career as a recording artist and gospel concert performer. Now for almost a quarter century the Lumbee Indian has been singing "to lift up the Lord."

Bell cut his first of three gospel albums with the Crystalite Gospel Singers 23 years ago. The group performed throughout the area and appeared weekly on a regional television station where they performed a 30-minute gospel show.

For 18 years Bell was the piano player and sometime lead vocalist for the Gospel Group, The Scott Sisters, who now perform as The Singing Scotts.

The multi-talented artist has performed at numerous concerts throughout the region with other entertainers as the Speer Family, Singing Cooks, The Kingsman Quartet, The Happy Goodmans and other groups. He has traveled throughout Canada and appeared on internationally syndicated T.V. programs originating in Toronto.

Bell has accompanied his older brother, the Reverend Melvin Bell, on numerous of his prominent camp meeting speaking engagements in both the U.S. and Canada.

The music background of Bell's songs represent Southern Gospel; Big Band sound; rousing camp meeting style; contemporary rock gospel; country gospel; and gospel/soul/blues. Some of Elvis Presley's magnetism and charismatic qualities are seen, heard and felt.

A chance meeting last year brought Bell together with Brant Joseph Maracle, a poet, author, songwriter, and internationally recognized lecturer from Canada. Maracle encouraged Bell to cut the album, "When Elvis Reigned Supreme." A Maracle poem about an Elvis Presley religious experience whereas the Rock and Roll King publicly displayed spiritual emotion at an Easter church service in the late 1950's inspired a collaboration in writing the lyrics and melody for the album's title song. It is one of the nine songs which appears on Bell's cassette tape which was released to area outlets two weeks ago.

Bell says the underlying message in creating the song was that while Presley was torn between two worlds of music, he never faltered in his love for gospel music.

Bell says his decision to record the song about Presley came only after he'd prayed for a week.

"I asked God to release His spirit for me to record the song." He comments that it's important for people to understand that in selecting the song, that he's not pushing Presley, but is "pushing the Lord."

"In no way do I impersonate Elvis. If I sound like him when I sing

gospel music, it's a blessing from the Lord and for the uplifting of Him. Not Elvis."

The famed Jordanares, background vocals for Elvis Presley for more than 15 years serve as background vocals for Bell on his newest release.

Recorded at Maggard Sound Studio in Big Stone Gap, Va. and at Studio 120 in Nashville, TN, "When Elvis Reigned Supreme" is produced by Dirk Johnson.

Another original song, "One More Chance", which appears on the album was written by Bell 18 years ago, and first recorded then. The songwriter has written three others and says the lyrics and melodies usually come while he is driving. He often carries paper and pen in his car and jots them down and sometimes records them immediately upon arriving home.

Bell says the past year has been the busiest of his life. A self-professed perfectionist, he retreats to a music studio he built on his property 8 years ago. It is there he steals time to meditate, sing and compose gospel songs and contemplate the making of another album. Maybe next year. It could just be the one which would include a gospel duet with his wife of 25 years, the former Annette Locklear. The couple have two children, Tammy Bell Locklear and Ricardo Bell. The Bells are longtime members of Liberty Holiness Church where Mr. Bell is church pianist.

"Sure, there are financial needs to be met," Bell comments of the question of monetary gain versus blessings gain in recording and performing gospel music, "but if one is going into gospel singing for more than the spiritual blessings, they'll be let down. For me it's enough to know I'm lifting up the Lord in song."

