

# Elders and Traditionalist Corner

## The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chavers, President  
Native American Scholarship Fund  
Albuquerque, NM



read Churchill's "History of the English-Speaking Peoples.")

Our family legend is that the Godwin brothers came to Robeson County from Wake County. Where they were before that is unknown. When they got to Robeson, however, they stayed.

Pa was a leader in the Indian community all his adult life. My Aunt Chris, who gave me many of the details for this column, remembers that he

was on the school board when she was graduated from high school; he was sitting on the stage.

He was also on the board of the college; Chris says the minutes at one point call him a "radical". He wanted Indian people to make progress, and was not satisfied with the status quo.

He was a farmer all his life. People would come to him for advice. I think of him as a highly intelligent man.

He and Kitty Ma live on one side of the swamp, and the Chavers family lived on the other side, where the Medical Center is. (At one point, the Chavers family owned all the land from the Coast Line Rail Road to Moss Neck, and from the Seaboard Rail to the swamp.)

So it was natural for Purcell Godwin and Jesse Chavers to fall in love and get married. Grandma and her brothers and sisters all inherited a farm each when her father Angus died. Purcell and his brothers and

sisters all inherited a farm each, too. Pa was on the Blood Committee for years. This Committee checked on the blood lines of people, and verified if they were Indians or not. From time to time, people would move into Robeson County and try to claim to be Indians. The Committee would investigate them, and if the claims were false, most of them moved on, Chris told me.

Pa was an outstanding Christian, from all I have ever gathered. He would line the hymns out in church. That is, when people could not read, he would say the line of the hymn, and the congregation would echo the line by singing it.

I have been inspired for a long time by the leadership of this man. Even though I don't remember him much, I remember his spirit. That lived through his children and grandchildren. Thank you, Pa.

I can barely remember Pa. He was on his death bed, in 1944, when I last remember him. He was in Aunt Dimple and Uncle Lonnie's house. I was three years old.

His name was William Henry Godwin, and he was my grandfather Purcell's father. He and Kitty Ma had seven children—Purcell, Rudolph, Dimple, Leonard, Lankford, Garfield, and Stella.

They lived on the Union Chapel Road, just outside Pembroke, all their lives. Pa's father was Quinn Godwin a white man. Quinn and his brother Barry came to Robeson County before the Civil War.

Barry married a white woman in Lumberton, and Quinn married an Indian woman, Mary Sampson. They had five children—Henry, John, Bud, Sis, and Rittie. Rittie married a man from across the river, and lived over there. She had a daughter Mary Bowen, who had a son Willie Bowen. Willie used to own the Amoco station in Pembroke.

Grandpa used to tell me about going to Lumberton to play with his white cousins. Quinn and Barry had a half brother who went to Florida and married, and became lost to the family.

The name "Godwin", according to Winston Churchill, means "good wine" to Old English. One Harold Godwin was King of England for a short while in the 1200's if my memory is correct. (It has been years since I

## Chapin Advises Students on Prom Promise

The Alcohol and Drug Defense Program of the Public Schools of Robeson County assisted Fairmont High School in bringing a nationally acclaimed motivational speaker to participate in the school's Prom Promise Program recently.

The purpose of Prom Promise is to motivate students not to drink and drive during prom season school officials said.

Phil Chapin, from Los Angeles, Ca., travels nationwide, speaking to students. He shared his testimony about overcoming adversity by making "right choices."

Chapin told the gymnasium of 900 excited and enthusiastic students that alcohol, drugs and premarital sex were "bad choices."

He told of his childhood experiences of being raised by a drug-addicted prostitute-his mother- and eventually being abandoned.

He talked about a young life of juvenile delinquency which led to the door of death after he robbed a neighborhood drug dealer.

Chapin, 26, says that he confronted and broke the chains that once had him bound. In convincing, emotional tones, he spoke about his commitment to help today's youth struggle to do the right thing and make the right choices.

"Just because your mother made wrong choices, you don't have to," he said.

"Just because your father is in prison, you don't have to end up there."

"Just because you don't have the support of two parents, you don't have to despair and give up hope. The majority of the youth in society today only live with mama, or grandma, or some other relative.

"Believe in yourself. When mama walks away and daddy is no where to be found, just have faith and confidence in yourself. You're still somebody," he exhorted.

The Reverend Dennis Harrell, a spokesperson for a county-wide ministerial group, invited the students to hear Chapin during the week of May 16-19, 1994 in a series of rallies and pizza blasts to be held throughout the county.

According to Harrell, local clergy and churches will sponsor Chapin and his wife Kim for a week-long effort to encourage county youths.

Harrell said that the theme for that week is "Breaking the Chains."

"We're trying to encourage our youth to 'break the chains' of alcohol, abuse, drugs and wrong choices of the past," Harrell said.

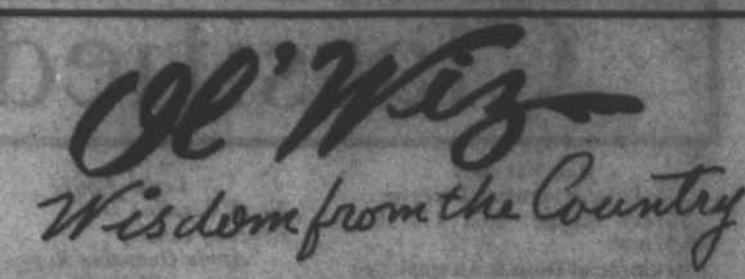
Ronnie Chavis, Alcohol and Drug Defense coordinator for the Public Schools of Robeson County, is assisting the religious leaders in organizing Chapin's visits to other schools in the system.

## 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, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372 or fax to (910) 521-1975.

- \* May 13-15 Lumbee Cheraw Spring Pow Wow, Robeson County Fairgrounds, Lumberton, NC. For info. (910) 521-8602
- \* May 21-22 Richmond Community College (919) 582-7071
- \* May 21-23 Tuscarora Nation Pow Wow, Tribal Grounds, Maxton, NC. Info.: 910-844-3352.
- \* May 28, Upper Mattaponi Spring Festival, Sharon School, King William, VA. Info.: 804-769-2408.
- \* June 3, 4, 5th 2ND Annual NAIA/Loretta Lynn Pow-Wow Waverly, Tennessee, American Indian Vendors/Traders & Dancers Welcomed. For more info. call Native American Indian Asso. Georgia Maupie at 615-726-0806.
- \* June 4-5, Munchapunga Tuscarora Indian Tribal Association First Annual Native American Pow Wow, Moratoc Park on the Roanoke River, Hwy 711 S Business, Williamston, NC. Info.: 910-793-6117/910-975-1473 after 6 p.m.
- \* June 16, 17, 18, & 19, Rebirth of the Traditional Spiritual Gatherings, a Tribute to the Great Spirit, Father of all Indian Nations, North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Call Spotted Turtle (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey (919) 521-2826.
- \* June 24-25 Allentown, PA, Pow-Wow (410) 788-0689.
- \* July 15, 16, 17- Charlotte Native American Festival, First Union Atrium and Plaza 301 South Tryon St. Charlotte, NC. Info. 704-588-5870.
- \* July 15-17 Howard County, MD (410) 788-0689, (919) 257-1720
- \* July 24, Cherokee of Hoke County and Maxton, NC Tuscaroras, Intertribal Festival, at Rockfish near Davis Bridge, NC. Contact Chief or Mrs. Edgar Bryant. (910) 875-0222.
- \* July 29-31 Virginia Beach, (410) 788-0689 or (919) 257-1720.
- \* July 30-31, Third Annual Pow Wow and Festival, Rising Water and Falling Water. Showplace, Richmond, VA. 804-769-1018. 804-443-4221.
- \* August 26-28 Baltimore American Indian Center Pow-Wow (410) 675-3535
- \* September 9-10, Coharie Pow Wow, Clinton, NC Contact (910) 564-6909.
- \* September 15-17 Guilford Native American Association (919) 273-8686
- \* September 23-24, Native American Festival, Durham Technical Community College, 1637 Lawson Street, Durham, NC. Call (919) 598-9188 or (919) 479-8000.
- \* Sept. 30-Oct. 1, Indian Trail Pow Wow, Indian Trail, NC. Call Metrolina Association: 704-331-4818, Kingston Sanderson, 704-821-6361.
- \* October 7-8, Cumberland County Native American 13th Annual Pow Wow, Memorial Indoor Arena, Fayetteville, NC 910-483-8442.
- \* October 14-15, Wacamac-Siouan Pow Wow, Bolton, NC. For info: (919) 655-8778.
- \* October 14, 15, 16, 13th Annual NAIA Pow-Wow & Fall Festival Nashville, Tennessee for more info. call 615-726-0806. American Indian Vendors/Traders & Dancers Welcomed. 211 Union St. Stahlman Bldg. Suite 932 Nashville, TN 37201-1505.
- \* October 21-22, Meherrin Indian Tribe Pow Wow, Winton, NC.
- \* November 7-13 Great American Indian Expo (410) 788-0689
- \* November 21-27 Native American Pow-Wow, Baltimore, MD (410) 675-3535



Dear Miss Connee:

You can't do wrong and git by with it. Now, you might for a while, but sooner or later, it'll catch up with you. Now, I've heard that them REA boys are going to have to pay Rev. Elias Rogers for the wrong they done him, Miss Connee. Well, they ought to, cause wrong is wrong and if you do wrong, you ought to pay for it. But, I wouldn't count on the money coming out of those boys' pockets, Miss Connee. Its going to be the people who will have to pay. Poor people like me, Miss Connee, that pays them high light bills over there at the REA. Now, when all the money's added up that them REA boys is wasted a fighting Rev. Elias Rogers, just to have the "big court" in Washington tell them that they was wrong and he was right, it's gonna cost we poor people a pretty penny. Some folks have speculated, Miss Connee, that the total bill on that fight was close to \$200,000. Ol' Wiz, don't know, but he intends to write them REA boys a letter and ask for that public information.

If Ol' Wiz had his way, Miss Connee, he would put an extra charge on some of those REA boys for putting the people in this situation. Maybe, the next time they would think twice before they done somebody else wrong, if they had to pay for it out of their pockets, instead of the people's pockets.

Now, the latest news on them LRDA boys is that they're sending out letters to our preachers and to them Senators up there in Washington. They're telling our people down here that we're confused about our right to have us a constitution. Then, they told them Senators up there in Washington that they're head of all us Lumbees. I ain't smart like some of them LRDA boys, Miss Connee, but it seems to me that they've put the cart before the horse. If we're wanting them boys at the LRDA to be head of us, we'll take a vote and put them in as our tribal council. That election will come after we vote on our constitution. Course, if there's someone else out there the people is wanting for their tribal council, they can put them in that office. That's the way a democracy works, Miss Connee, and it makes Ol' Wiz proud to know he lives in a free country where he has these rights.

Now, that seems pretty straight to Ol' Wiz but sometimes the plainest thing can trip up some folks. But, I reckon, when them boys at the LRDA think about it hard enough, they'll see that what's going on here is good old democracy.

Course, Miss Arlinda says the BIA has told them this, but they just

ain't wanting to believe it, Miss Connee. I reckon by the time our constitution is elected, they still ain't going to believe it. But, we have to keep on, Miss Connee. We can't hold up because of a few wanting to be in charge of the people without the people having any say so in the matter. If the people are wanting to put them in charge, they'll put them in charge. I not, then the people will be heard. That's what that BIA tried to tell them but they don't hear too well, Miss Connee. They're hard-headed and about all we can do about them is put them on our prayer list. And whilst we're a praying for'em we needs to be calling that there Department of Labor and other government agencies and ask them how come we can't have a full accounting of our tax money they keep a'wasting and keep on buying them ads in that Lumberton paper to tell us how smart they are. And how dedicated to the good of Indians they are. Why don't they spend that money on some of us poor people? I know lots of our people could sure use some help with them drug store bills, Course, Miss Connee, them LRDA boys is done proved that they ain't studying no poor people.

Now, my preacher, he got a holt of one of them letters them LRDA boys sent to the churches, Miss Connee, and he was a might put out, Them LRDA boys was a talking about division in the church. Well, my preacher he said the only discord he has seen was by them LRDA boys. Now, Miss Connee, I don't know much, but my Pa told me years ago, don't be a messing with them church people. Some of em he said, knows how to get in touch with God. So I guess, Miss Connee, what them LRDA boys is done now, is got more people on their knees. That'll bring about a swift change.

Nex week, Miss Connee, Ol' Wiz is gonna try to show you all the connection between that REA and that LRDA. You'll be amazed, Miss Connee, it's down right interesting.

But my brother Elias Rogers won his case against them REA boys, and I'm glad to hear that justice has come for him. There ain't no other place for them REA boys to run now that the high court has spoken. Like my brother said, "the water has been cooled, and someone has got to eat it, Miss Connee."

But, there's another tater cooking in the oven called our constitution. When its done, Miss Connee, we're vote on it and there won't be no other place for them LRDA boys to run. But, if they want to run for our tribal council, they need to quit fighting the people so hard or no one will want them on any council.

## Opera Overture by Composer Rice to Be Performed

An opera overture by North Carolina Composer Martin R. Rice of Pembroke will be performed by the Western Piedmont Symphony Orchestra at a public concert on June 16. Rice, the new Director/CEO of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, is an experienced arts administrator, arts critic, and a published composer. He resided in Hickory for some six years.

Conductor John Gordon Ross directs the Symphony Orchestra, its Chamber Orchestra and Youth Symphony, all based in Hickory. The June 16 program at the Catawba Valley Arts Center auditorium will feature original works by two other North Carolina composers as well.

Each composer will attend a twenty-minute rehearsal of his piece prior to the recorded performance, and be presented with a tape recording of the final public performance. Ross

has long been an advocate of performances by living American composers.

"The reading and performance of the overture is essential to completing the orchestration of the two-hour opera," Rice stated. "It serves as a guide to the piano-vocal version."

Rice's full opera is entitled "The Devil Comes to Wittenberg," and is a contemporary version of the famous Faust legend. The librettist, George Hitchcock, is an award-winning poet and playwright now retired and living in California.

Several years ago, the Pensacola (Fla) Symphony Orchestra performed another work by Dr. Rice, his overture to a concert-opera "RUTH", the biblical story of Ruth, Boaz, and Naomi that contains the famous declaration of love and loyalty: "Whither Thou Goest, I will Go."



Say you read it in  
the Carolina Indian Voice

## The Intertribal Council of Elders

is looking for members from all Carolina tribes, groups, and bands to aid in Traditional Heritage, Cultural, Spiritual Gatherings.

For More information call Spotted Turtle at (910) 521-4178, Painted Turtle at (910) 521-0020 or Wild Turkey at (910) 521-2826. Or write in care of the Carolina Indian Voice, P.O. Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372. Fax (910) 521-1975.

