

Reflections by Alta Nye Oxendine

Kevin Sampson Named in the Montana Standard

One of the newspapers I contacted about Kelvin and the Goodwill Games Standard. When I mentioned Kelvin's name, sports reporter Hud Willse sounded interested. He said he knew Kelvin well and had even met his father, but did not have much current "info" on Kelvin. So I faxed some articles to a man I would likely never meet under any other circumstances.

In 1988, however, a young lady reporter for that very same paper told a group of us aspiring writers what it's like to be a journalist. Three times I've attended that same local writer's group in Dillon. 25 miles from Mother's home out in the country. The second time, when Mother went with me, we heard from the lady editor of the attractive Montana Magazine. During the question period I said I wondered why there were no Indian writers in that issue. (In a later issue, I did see some stories written by Montana Indians.) On my third visit I had just made some extra copies of the poem, "The Mobile Homes We Live In." When I learned that each of us was expected to read some of our own writing, I decided to use that. Most of the people there (all white) seemed deeply moved by the point it seeks to make, that ALL people are EQUAL in our Creator's eyes.

Back to the Montana Standard. I also know Perry Backus, a Dillon photographer who presently covers the Dillon and Madison County areas for the "Standard." He had planned

to do a story on Mother when she turned 94, but they never got together. When I mentioned to Hud Willse that Mother is 97, he suggested that I see about getting a story about her in the Standard now. I plan to call Perry Backus again to see if he is interested in taking pictures at the Sheridan nursing home, of Mother and several residents even older than she is. As you can see, for me, the story of the Kelvin Sampson family has bridged the gap between my northwestern home in Montana.

Crises
Whenever I hear that a stranger, or someone I know, has died or is going through some kind of crisis, as a Christian I truly care, whether or not I let the people who are hurting know

how I feel. Since, at present, I do not have a car of my own, visiting people is not always easy. And I've overlooked many people in this column. Along with all others, at this time there are three local families for whom I would welcome your prayers. One is the family of Leon's cousin, Roy Chavis, recently killed in a head-on collision. Another is the family of Gertrude Locklear, the young teacher who recently died of breast cancer. Her husband, William, lived next door to us on Pine Street. It seems like only yesterday when I attended their wedding! The third is the family of Lacy Dial, who apparently suffered a heart attack. His sister, Olivia Hunt, and her family lived in the next-door apartment when we were on Pine Street. It was her husband, Doug, who "gave away Wanda Kay (in place of Leon) when she married Jeff in 1986.

Also, I would still appreciate prayer for my 97-year-old mother, who is finding it more difficult to handle the death of her favorite sister, Bertha (the last other living sibling of the 10 who started out together) than most other deaths she has experienced in the past. If anyone would like to send her a card or note, she now has a new address.

The "nursing home" (located next to a mountain range) has just changed its name to: Tobacco Root Mountain Care Center. I am sure that CARE CENTER, Box 308, Sheridan, MT 59749 will reach her.

Families and Individuals
All my life families have been

extremely important to me. First, there was the Harry and Alta Nye family into which I was born. After being an "only child" for four and a half years, it took leaving home for me to really appreciate my two "little" brothers, who both grew to be much taller than I. In each case (my second brother was born before I turned 6) it was a little SISTER that I was looking forward to having AS A COMPANION. Instead, twice my dream was shattered! On top of that, since my parents were no longer able to "zero in" on their little girl who had gotten so much undivided attention, I just KNEW that they no longer loved me. So I went through a period of "hating them back." I had a nightmarish daydream in which I was grown up, telling the whole world

what terrible parents I had. After a trip to California with Mother to visit HER mother (during which I was a real PROBLEM child) Mother decided to give me the responsibility of weekly housecleaning and then PRAISE me whenever I did a job well. (She did a lot better than I would do, years later, in handling MY first child's jealousy when the attention he alone had been getting was diverted toward a little sister, and then a little brother.)

But, at age 7, I became convinced that I could ONLY get my parents' love back and KEEP it, by being a perfect child, who did ALL those household jobs I hated (because they seemed too hard and time-consuming) and also NEVER made any waves! This was one reason I loved going to school from Monday through Friday, but dreaded for Saturday to come. (Since we lived in town until I started high school, and most of the neighbor kids had Saturday off as a day to play and have a good time, I still felt like I was being punished in the process of holding on to my parents' love.)

As I grew older, I dreamed of things getting better in our family. And I dreamed of having a PERFECT family of my own some day. It was only after losing most of my own (second) family, seven months after Daddy's death, that I finally came to grips with my long-term UNREALISTIC expectations. In each case, I failed to really appreciate what my present family had "going for it," until it was too late.

Even though I will likely never be a part of another family, I will ALWAYS care about other families around me, and throughout the world. In fact, I seriously considered going into family counseling after "our" accident. Finally, I decided here would be a dangerous tendency to use other people's families to try to work through issues and emotions left unresolved when my second family was suddenly severed in 1986.

As it has turned out, much of my time and interest since then has been involved in trying to help other Singles, along with myself, go on with our lives, without our former family relationships.

Advertise Your Business In Our Business Directory!



VOTE FOR

Rev. Hubbard Lowery

Tribal Chairman

of

Lumbee Cheraw Tribe

Saturday, August 27, 1994

- Decorated Vietnam Veteran
- Mechanical Engineer
- Pursuing Masters of Divinity Degree at Luther Rice Seminary
- Owner/Manager of First American Concrete Company
- Board member of N.C. Indian Cultural Center
- Publisher/writer for Baptist Sunday School Board
- Consultant to the Home Mission Board Lazars
- Received National Tribal recognition for Tribal Mission projects
- Known for years as a "peoples" pastor



"A Man In Touch With His People"

VOTE FOR

Ponce DeLeon Chavis II

Lumbee Tribal Council
District 11 (Deep Branch Area)

Saturday, August 27, 1994
6:30 AM - 7:30 PM

Long Feather

- Well respected in the community
- 12 years employment with Campbell's Soup
- Married 20 years to Jill Chavis
- One son: Ponce DeLeon Chavis III
- 15 years experience with Indian Crafts



VOTE AUGUST 27TH

BRIAN LOCKLEAR

For Tribal Council
District 12

The Areas of: Union, N. Rowland, Purvis, Elrod, S. Pembroke, Raynham, Evans Crossing, Back Swamp and Hopewell

- 5 Years in U.S. Navy
- Served during Desert Storm
- 2 Letters of commendation for excellence in military service
- Discharged with honors
- Electronics Inspector at Atlas-Soundoller
- Son of Shirley and Larry Locklear
- Member of New Prospect Methodist Church

"Dedicated to Serving The People and Educating our Youth!"



VOTE

JIMMY STRICKLAND

LUMBEE TRIBAL
CHAIRMAN

Saturday, August 27, 1994

23 Years Experience in Pastoral Leadership in Counseling & Finance Budgeting;
A Graduate of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary; Presently, a Senior at Campbell University; Member of the Lumbee Indian Constitution Committee.

Vote For

Hope Locklear Sheppard

Lumbee Cheraw Tribal Council

Deep Branch District # 11
(Voting Site: Deep Branch School)

"A Vote for me, is A Voice for you"



"Strike At The Wind" - 9 years
Narrator of (4) Documentary Films on The Lumbee Tribe
Title V Indian Education Parent Committee - 2 years
Native American Presentations - 10 years
State Employee - 16 years
Co-Owner, Lumbee Indian Arts & Crafts

"I have always represented my people, The Lumbee, in the most positive manner. Allow me to continue working for you by voting for me on Sat., Aug. 27."