

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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Mrs. Janice Lowry Bryant

Janice Lowry Bryant wants to be "A Faithful Servant of God"

by Bruce Barton

This reporter likes writing for the Carolina Indian Voice because, every once in a while, you just want to get something off your chest. It's very cathartic, for instance, if you are very opinionated as this writer is. And, of course, you get to meet great folk, and share deep concerns with them...and our readers.

Like Janice Lowry Bryant! She recently, reluctantly, agreed to sit down and talk on the record for publication. Janice L. Bryant grew up in Robeson County; first in the Mt. Airy community, then near Pates. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Benford Lowry, Sr. who still live in the Mt. Airy community.

She believes it's "biggety" to talk about one's self, but I think I convinced her to make a spiritual record when I reminded her of the late Ms. Eliza Wilkins who worked with young people in our area churches, and touched many lives in the 40's and 50's. In talking with Ms. Bryant, I found out that we both had been in one of Ms. Wilkins' classes in our youth where she emphasized memorization of Bible verses, and encouraged young people to commit themselves to Christ. We both agreed that the record of Ms. Wilkins was scant, and that we both would like to know more about her. With that in mind, if anyone has any biographical information on Ms. Eliza Wilkins, please share it with us. Your can write me % the Carolina Indian Voice.

The greatest event in Ms. Bryant's life is that she was gloriously saved on "Saturday night between 10-10:30 p.m. on March 30, 1957." She has not been the same since.

She credits her parents with instilling Christian values, and is thankful that she was raised in a Christian home. She attended Pembroke Schools, graduating from Pembroke High School in 1956, and Pembroke State College (now University) in 1960.

She grew up in Mt. Airy Baptist Church, and was a spiritual student of the late Ms. Mary Livermore

and Ms. Anna Mae Locklear, often traveling with them to Christian meetings and convocations. She still remembers the wonderful and uplifting sermons of long-time pastor, the late and beloved L. W. Jacobs. Many others contributed to her spiritual growth, including her teachers and members of Mt. Airy. "I don't want to mention names, I might leave someone out. I'll just say all of them."

And like many of her peers, she became a school teacher, and she married Eugene Bryant. She moved to New Prospect of the Lumber River Holiness Methodist Conference in 1964 and has immersed herself in the life of the church, especially in the areas of music as she enjoys playing the piano. The Bryants have one son, Kelvin Gene Bryant, now 27 and married himself.

After teaching school for 16 years, something happened that changed Ms. Bryant's life dramatically. She experienced a "call from God to go out on the mission field, and just help people. After wrestling with the "call", and with the blessing of her husband, a trustee at New Prospect Church, and a barber who owns his own barber shop - Gene's Barber Shop in Laurinburg, she resigned from the teaching profession, and has been on the mission field ever since, visiting the sick and shut in, taking the sick to the doctor and hospitals, counseling people she meets daily about Christ. Her favorite song and prayer is "If I can help somebody as I pass along, then my living will not be in vain."

Now living on Hwy 710 near Island Grove Church, Ms. Bryant avers that heeding the "call" was the "best thing I have ever done." She wants to be seen as "a faithful servant," although she knows that salvation is a gift of grace, "...not works least any man should boast." For 16 years now, Ms. Bryant's favorite saying has been "May the work that I've done speak for me."

She is still especially close to her parents, seeing them just about every day. Her mother, and an

aunt, Mrs. Gladys Jacobs, often accompany her when she visits the sick and shut in. Her father is her hero, and she values his wisdom and support.

Her husband is her closest friend, and faithful companion. They have now been married for almost 31 years. When she told him of her "call," she remembers that he simply said "You should do what the Lord would have you to do." Doing so has brought much joy to the Bryant household.

"Ms. Janice" has no regrets since she left the teaching profession now nearly 17 years ago. She left the teaching profession to assist needy people in her community, depending on God to provide her needs. He has. A favorite verse is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me." Another is Philippians 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Ms. Janice Lowry Bryant's life is living testimony to the truthfulness of the Philippians verses.

A typical day in the life of Janice Lowry Bryant might involve driving a sick person to the doctor, or she might take an elderly person to pay bills or buy groceries. Or she may just visit a shut in, and just "be friendly." Each day is a great spiritual adventure. She wouldn't trade places with the richest person in the world. She has an important job to do and that is "just to do what God wants me to do." It's her recipe for a successful, happy life. And she recommends that her readers should try to "find out what God wants you to do, then just do it!" Peace and God's blessings are sure to follow.

As a final note, she wants to take this opportunity to thank all those who have helped her along life's way.

Vacancies Pembroke Housing

The Pembroke Housing Authority has vacancies available for low-income families. Currently, two, three and four bedroom apartments are available. Applications are taken each Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 606 Lumbee Street in Locklear Court. Interested persons should contact Rhonda Locklear at (910) 521-9711.

The Authority strives to maintain a drug free environment necessary for family living. Therefore, all persons age sixteen years old and older who plan to reside in public housing are subject to a thorough review of their criminal history.

Golf Tournament Scheduled

Kelsey Sampson "Swing For Life" Golf Tournament is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. Saturday, June 3, 1995 at Cliffwood Golf Club in Lumberton, North Carolina.

Format will be Captain's Choice (Superball), four man teams. Women are encouraged to participate. Cost of 35.00 per player includes cart, green fee, food and beverages. Hole and cart sponsorship are available. All proceeds will be donated to the Kelsey Sampson Cancer Fund.

For more information call (910)738-8829 after 6:00 p.m.

Judge Dexter Brooks addresses fellow veterans

Robeson County Resident Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks was the featured speaker at the Annual Meeting of the North Carolina Chapter of the First Cavalry Division Association which was held recently in Fayetteville, North Carolina. Judge Brooks spoke to his fellow veterans -- including a delegation from Robeson County who attended to hear his presentation -- about his life experiences, including his youth in tri-racially segregated Robeson and his military service.

Brooks enlisted in the United States Army in 1966. He completed Basic Training at Ft. Leonard Wood, Missouri, and Artillery Training at Ft. Sill, Oklahoma. Brooks then served in 1967-

68 with a Field Artillery unit in the Central Highlands of South Vietnam. As a Fire Direction Computer Brooks calculated firing data that his calculations were always correct and never resulted in injury to friendly forces. He did, however relate a humorous incident when he was calculating firing data for an artillery battery at the First Cav's base camp near the Town of An Khe when the first round fired landed right in the middle of a bar near the Town. Fortunately the round contained smoke to mark the target rather than high explosives. The error was not in the firing calculations, however, the chief gunner did not put enough powder into the round. By a strange coincidence the person who intro-

duced Judge Brooks for the speech was the very forward observer who called and directed this fire mission some 28 years ago. The two men had never met until that very meeting.

Judge Brooks closed his remarks by saying that he has never regretted his military service nor his tour of duty in Vietnam even though the war was unpopular with many people. He believes national service, including military service, should be an obligation of citizenship. Furthermore, the military teaches much needed discipline and survival skills. For his service earned the National Defense Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal.

College Basketball Coach of the Year Kelvin Sampson to be PSU Commencement Speaker

by Don Gersh and Jeffery Alejandro, University Relations
Kelvin Sampson, Associated Press College Basketball Coach of the Year, will be commencement speaker at Pembroke State University's graduation on Saturday, May 13.

Sampson, a 1978 PSU graduate and son of John W. (Ned) and Eva Sampson of Pembroke, is the head coach of the University of Oklahoma's men's basketball team.

Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine's announcement that Kelvin Sampson would address his alma mater was well received at Pembroke State University and in the region.

"We asked Kelvin to speak because he is an energetic and charismatic person," said Dr. Oxendine. "I feel that he will be stimulating to the graduating seniors."

More than 500 PSU seniors and graduate students will receive their

diplomas during the ceremony in the Jones Health and Physical Education Center Commencement begins at 2 p.m.

Former Gov. James E. Holshouser, Jr., member emeritus of The University of North Carolina Board of Governors, David G. Martin, Vice President for Public Affairs at UNC and Terrence Brewton, President of PSU's Student Government Association, will present greetings to the graduates, their families and friends.

Dr. Suellen Cabe, chair of the PSU Faculty Senate, will present the Adolph L. Dial Endowed Faculty Awards.

David F. Weinstein, chair of the PSU Board of Trustees, will also take part in the ceremony. Graduates of the Army and Air

Force Reserve Officers Training Corps will be commissioned during commencement.

Dr. Bonnie A. Kelley, recipient of the UNC Board of Governors Award for Excellence in Teaching, will be the Grand Marshal.

Sampson graduated from PSU with two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in Health and Physical Education and the other in Political Science. He was on the Dean's List and was named "Who's Who Among American College and Universities." Sampson was awarded the Gregory Lowe Memorial Award for being the top physical education major.

Sampson earned four letters in basketball and three in baseball.

He coached Goodwill Games basketball.

NC Indian Youth Unity Conference Set for June 12-14

The 16th annual NC Indian Youth Unity Conference will be held June 12-14 at Meredith College in Raleigh. The conference theme is "Native American Youth: Our Future Begins Today."

The conference provides an opportunity for American Indian students to learn more about their Indian heritage, explore educational opportunities, and work together with other students on issues and concerns of Indian youth. Keynote speaker will be Jack Jackson, legislative analyst for the National Indian Education Association in Washington, DC. Participants at the conference will attend workshops on Indian history, spirituality, healthy lifestyles, youth issues, education/career development, arts and crafts, Indian medicine today, and Indian images in the media.

Special events will include a powwow, Miss NC Native American Youth Organization (NCNAYO) Princess Pageant, talent show, basketball tournament, awards banquet, and art and essay contests. Three \$100 college scholarships will also be awarded to graduating seniors, and NCNAYO officers will be elected during the conference.

"This is a great opportunity for Indian youth from across North Carolina to come together in unity to celebrate and learn more about their Indian heritage," said Greg Richardson, executive director of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. The conference is sponsored by NCNAYO in conjunction with the NC Commission of Indian Affairs. Indian youth ages 14 to 18 or in grades 9-12 are eligible to participate.

The \$70 registration fee must be submitted by May 22 and will cover accommodations for two nights, five meals and a banquet, use of recreational facilities, and all workshop materials/activities.

For more information, contact Kerry D. Bird of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs, conference coordinator, 217 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27603-5940; telephone (919)733-5998.



Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks celebrates 100th birthday!

Mrs. Fannie Hammonds Blanks of King's Dale Manor Nursing Home, Lumberton, was born in Robeson County on May 5, 1895. She celebrated her 100th birthday recently. She was the wife of the late Hector Blanks of Lumberton and the daughter of the late Willie Hammonds of Lumberton who lived to be 103. Mrs. Blanks is the mother of four living children: Mrs. Naomi Wade of Lumberton; Mrs. Mabel Brewer of Lumberton; Mrs. Tommie Gean Brewer of Ivanhoe, NC; and Mrs. Evader Durden of Lumberton. She has twelve grandchildren; twenty-eight great-grandchildren; and ten great-great grandchildren.

The celebration for her 100th birthday was hosted by the children and grandchildren at the Saddle Creek Church of God. Mrs. Blanks was a faithful member of Ten Mile Center Baptist Church. On the occasion of her 100th birthday she was honored with a delicious dinner which was prepared in the fellowship hall. The invocation was given by Rev. Ronald Smith. Many of Mrs. Blanks relatives and friends sang Happy Birthday to her. She also received cards and gifts, including a letter from President Bill Clinton, in which he said congratulations and happy birthday on your 100th birthday, Mrs. Blanks. Approximately 150 guests were in attendance.

Text and photo by Tech. Sgt. William P. Revels.

Burger King Comes to Pembroke



Pembroke, NC -- Clifford Bullard, Clifford Bullard Jr. and Andrew Bullard of Burger King were welcomed to Pembroke on May 1, 1995 by the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce and a host of local community people. Several dignitaries also welcomed Burger King to town, including Ken Freeman, President of the Chamber; McDuffie Cummings, Town Manager of Pembroke; Gregory Cummings, Pembroke Town Councilman; Larry R. Chavis, President of the Lumbee Guaranty Bank; Dr. Diane Jones, Director of Student Activities at Pembroke State University, and John Campbell, representing Robeson County and the Human Relations Commission; and Sheriff Glenn Maynor.

A ribbon cutting ceremony was conducted just prior to serving the first meal.