

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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## Artist Delora Cummings Unveils Pembroke Centennial Painting



Delora Cummings

The original painting, according to the artist, Delora Cummings, will hang in the art gallery at Old Main until a new municipal building is built, which will then be the home of "Visions of Pembroke," the title given the painting by Cummings.

Limited Edition prints can be purchased for \$100 at Pembroke's Town Hall, Old Main or from the artist. Inquiries and comments can be made at Pembroke's Town Hall, telephone # 521-9758.

by Bruce Barton  
Pembroke-Local businessman Juddie Revels, Jr. was the lucky winner last Friday night when he bought the first original print of Artist Delora Cummings' Centennial painting celebrating 100 years of history in Pembroke.

It was the highlight of the evening at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut when upwards of 200 Pembrokeans and friends gathered to celebrate anew the 100th birthday of the town. There was music, dancing, good food and the art auction of the first ten prints of Cummings' painting, and other Centennial items such as plates with the town's Centennial seal embossed thereon.

The original painting by Cummings, an art teacher at Purnell Swett High, was commissioned to

capture the essence of Pembroke's glorious past. The original painting is a montage, featuring the town's historic train depot, Old Main, Carolina Inn, boy scout hut, town hall, high school and Bank of Pembroke.

Pembroke businessman, Allen Dial, volunteered as auctioneer and the festivities were hosted by Councilman Greg Cummings, who along with Councilman Harry Oxendine serves as co-chairman of the Centennial Celebration. Mayor Milton Hunt extended warm greetings to the festive crowd and a good time was had by all.

The first 10 prints were auctioned off, and ranged from \$150 to \$500. All ten were sold. Ten commemorative plates were also auctioned off, bringing in prices ranging from \$100 to \$350.

## Janice Jackson: Single Parent Combines Family and Career



Janice Jackson

by Rene Stockwell  
Special to Carolina Indian Voice  
Janice Locklear Jackson, a local businesswoman, is opening her second business, a florist shop on Saturday, June 10, at 9:00 a.m. in Maxton, three miles west of the Campbell Soup Company on Highway 1309. The name of the shop is "Forsythia," pronounced Fer-sith-ia.

Janice named it "for Cynthia," after her younger sister, because of support Cynthia gave Janice and her family during difficult times. "Forsythia" may seem uncommon but it's the name of a native shrub that looks like a 4-to-5 foot tall Weeping Willow and has golden bell flowers that bloom in the spring. Forsythia is an appropriate name for an idea that blossoms this spring, don't you think?

Last year Janice became an independent beauty consultant for Mary Kay Inc., a multi-billion dollar skin care and cosmetics company based in Dallas, Texas. Janice is putting her businesses under one roof to combine family and career.

"It takes a great deal of time and energy for a woman to really care for a family and build a career at the same time," according to Mary Kay Ash, founder of the Mary Kay Inc. in her autobiography. "If she's going to survive, she must choose her hats wisely, learn when and how to balance them and discard those which distract from her personal priorities." Mary Kay uses the term "hats" to describe the various duties a person has throughout their lives.

Before becoming an independent businesswoman, Janice wore several hats.

A doctor diagnosed her with crippling rheumatoid arthritis at the age of 12, said her mother, Frances Dale Locklear of Saddletree, who nursed Janice through her disabilities. Janice wasn't suppose to be able to walk when she reached 18 years of age. Nevertheless, at age 17 she danced in

front of thousands of people, winning the crown of Miss Lumbee 1967-68.

She graduated as "Most Athletic" from Pembroke Senior High School in 1969. In less than three years later she marched across the stage at Pembroke State University with a bachelor's degree in Physical Education and a minor in Biology.

Janice married Marshall Jackson in 1971. They have three children, Amelia, and twins, Brandy and Mark.

She worked outside the home for 10 years as secretary, accountant, chief of payroll and substitute teacher. In 1988 she began teaching Physical Education full time at Rosenwald Elementary in Fairmont.

"I think the best of her," said the school's former principal, Lanes McLean, who is now the community schools coordinator for the Public Schools of Robeson County. "We selected Janice as Teacher of the Year in 1989 because of the priceless improvements she made with the kids and for her innovative personality. She was not only my P.E. teacher, she demonstrated, she planned programs and motivated good behavior. There was nothing she wouldn't do for the children."

Each week Janice taught 800 students, held 33 classes, and drove 350 miles back and forth to work. What's more, she found enough energy to begin her Mary Kay career.

After returning home, she put on her Mary Kay hat for a couple of hours, then transformed into the laundress, teacher, nurse, errand boy, social director, house maintenance staff, cook, manager and mom.

In November 1993 Janice put on a new hat after the untimely death of her husband. To her children, she became dad too.

"Losing my husband was the hardest continual stress I've had to deal with," she said. "I'm still coping with that loss."

Upon learning of Marshall's death, the sisterhood of the Mary Kay company was very consoling, Janice said. "I heard from women from all over the world. It was amazing!"

Janice confessed she was burning the candle at both ends, trying to work two jobs, care for her kids, and tolerate a physical disability. She said her disability is getting worse every day, and working away from home was excruciatingly painful. With encouragement from her children, Janice decided to quit teaching, stay home and sell cos-

metics full time.

"I hated to see her leave," McLean added. He also said he understood why Janice had to leave and was confident she will be successful in anything she does.

"She's doing very well," her mother added. "She deserves her success after what she's been through. She's always been so kind and patient."

"I enjoy helping people like my father did," Janice said, describing contributions her father, Eddie Mac Locklear, made before his stroke in 1992. "Dad had a good mind for business. If he could talk, I think he'd say 'that's my gal.'"

When asked if she ever wanted to throw in the towel and quit, Janice said yes. "It was difficult to keep going, but I had a need. I had to put braces on two children and put three through college."

"My children are my life. Without them, I don't have a lot of confidence in myself," Janice said, talking about the encouragement she receives from her children.

When asked what she enjoys most about having her businesses walking distance from her house, Janice said, "Family time." Her daughters, Amelia, a senior at PSU, and Brandy, a junior at Red Springs High School, help around the house and make Mary Kay deliveries. Her son, Mark, a junior at Red Springs High School, has a green thumb, plans to help run the florist shop, make deliveries, and set up his own produce market.

Janice said she enjoys the flexible hours, rewards and recognition she gets from her career. For example, last year Mary Kay Inc. recognized Janice for her outstanding success and awarded her with a round trip ticket to Dallas, Texas where Mary Kay Ash publicly congratulated her.

Her income isn't so bad either. In fact, her Mary Kay income afforded her the opportunity to open her second business without taking out a loan.

According to Janice, women can have it all. She has a loving family and a successful career, and enjoys them both.

When asked if she had advice for single parents who are considering a business, Janice said, "Be energetic. Be honest. Love people and love what you're doing. And most importantly, put God first, family second, and career last."

"If you lose your family in the process, then you've failed. Success is so much more wonderful when you have someone to share it with."

## Local students named PSU Chancellor's Scholars



Carlitta Lynn Lowry

Carlitta Lynn Lowry, a senior from Purnell Swett High School, has been named chancellor's Scholar at Pembroke State University for the 1995-96 academic year.

Lowry is the daughter of Edsel and Gwendolyn Lowry of Pembroke. She plans to receive a major in biology (pre-med).

Chancellor's Scholars at PSU receive \$3,000 a year to attend PSU. This almost covers the full expenses of a student living on campus with a full-meal plan.

Chancellor's Scholars take special courses, do a Master's type thesis, and received special honors at commencement.

Erin Locklear, a senior from Purnell Swett High School, has been named Chancellor's Scholar at Pembroke State University for the 1995-96 academic year.

Locklear is the daughter of Vickie Locklear of Pembroke. She plans to receive a major in chemistry.



Dr. Clifton Oxendine



Paul Sampson



Dr. Earl C. Lowry

## Pembroke area men and McKendree College have strong tradition

by Don Gersh

University Relations  
Pembroke-When Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine of Pembroke State University recently received an invitation to represent the University at the installation of the president of McKendree College, two thoughts crossed his mind.

First, the strong tradition of Pembroke area men who attended McKendree College during the 1920s and '30s. These included Chancellor Oxendine's uncle, Dr. Clifton Oxendine, longtime dean and history professor of education at PSU; Elmer T. Lowry, Chancellor Oxendine's principal during his years at Pembroke High School; James Thomas Sampson, former PSU coach and a member of the University Hall of Fame; Delton Lowry who attended McKendree in 1927; Frank Epps, a 1931 graduate; Dr. Earl C. Lowry, and Carlisle Lowry who graduated in 1936.

The Chancellor's second thought was Mr. Paul Sampson, a 1937 McKendree College graduate, a former teacher and coach at PSU, and now a resident of Illinois. What a perfect way to keep the PSU/McKendree College connection alive!

Chancellor Oxendine contacted Mr. Sampson at his Illinois home and asked him to represent PSU at

the April 29 installation of Dr. James M. Dennis at McKendree College in Lebanon, Ill.

Mr. Sampson was thrilled at the opportunity to return to his alma mater, and arrangements were quickly made for him to do so.

But what is the PSU/

McKendree Connection? It's about a time when college-bound American Indians from Robeson County looked to a small co-educational liberal arts college in Illinois founded by the Methodist Church, that offered admission to anyone who was academically eligible to attend. McKendree did not look at a student's race, ethnicity or religion when determining to offer admission to a prospective student.

McKendree College is Illinois' oldest, the 97th oldest in the United States, and the oldest with continuous ties to the United Methodist Church. It is named for Bishop William McKendree, America's first native-born Methodist bishop.

Lebanon, Ill., is located less than 20 miles from St. Louis, Mo. The oldest building on campus is Old Main, a Georgian style building similar in design to Pembroke State's oldest building, also called Old Main but not by coincidence. More about this connection later.

The year was 1924. A year earlier the first permanent structure housing classrooms, offices and an auditorium was completed. A.B. Riley was principal of the Cherokee Indian Normal School (today we would call a normal school a teachers college). And seven local students were preparing to graduate.

Two of those graduates, Earl C. Lowry and Clifton Oxendine, would be the first of nine local men during the 1920s and '30s to travel west to attend college. According to Paul Sampson, a 1937 graduate of McKendree College, "A lot of people think that there were ten of us Lumbees from Robeson County

at McKendree. But that's not right. Raimen Lowry was an American Indian and he didn't come from North Carolina."

As Dr. Lowry transferred the following year to the University of Chattanooga, also a Methodist college, to pursue a pre-medical degree. Dr. Lowry earned his medical degree and became a physician to General and later President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Dr. Lowry is a retired colonel in the Army Medical Corps and lives in Des Moines, Iowa.

Dr. Clifton Oxendine remained at McKendree and graduated in 1928 earning a degree in history and secondary education. He returned to Pembroke and began a long and distinguished teaching career. Oxendine earned a Master of Art's degree in history from George Peabody College for Teachers (Nashville, Tenn.) in 1934. He also studied sociology and economics at Louisiana State University in 1952.

It was Dr. Clifton Oxendine who in 1949 referred to the two-story brick building as Old Main, for it reminded him of the similar structure at McKendree. Dr. Oxendine became principal of Pembroke Graded School in 1932 and then principal of Prospect High School in 1936. In 1939, he joined Pembroke State College as its dean and history professor. He served as dean until 1957. Dr. Oxendine retired as professor emeritus of history at Pembroke State University in 1970 and was awarded an honorary doctorate degree at PSU's convocation in September 1986. He died the following year at age

87.  
during 42 years of teaching, Clifton Oxendine motivated many Robeson County students to enter the field of education. One who credits Oxendine as his inspiration to attend college and devote himself to being an educator is John Paul Sampson.

Mr. Sampson was born July 20, 1912, one of 15 children of Oscar R. and Susie Jane Sampson of Pembroke. Oscar Sampson, a farmer, preacher, and school teacher and administrator, was one of the pioneers in Lumbee education. He served as the chairman of the Board of Trustees for Pembroke State for 30 years.

Paul Sampson graduated from the Cherokee Indian Normal School of Robeson County in 1933 and entered McKendree College.

"I was influenced by my teacher Clifton Oxendine, a McKendree graduate, to attend the college," he recalled. "It was a Methodist Conference and open to anyone. I was there from 1933 to 1937 and earned a liberal arts degree."

"It felt great to return to McKendree," Mr. Sampson said. "I saw a lot of friends and the program was nice. I was a delegate representing Pembroke State and was in the procession."

After his graduation in 1937, Mr. Sampson and his wife, the former Kathryn Pagel of Effingham, Ill., returned to Pembroke and taught French during fall term. He also coached and, when PSU became a four-year school during the 1939-40 academic year, was Pembroke State's first athletic director.

"I stayed at Pembroke until the early '40s," Mr. Sampson explained. "and then became principal of years. During the early part of World War II, I enrolled in a government safety program at PSU and then left North Carolina to work in a government ordnance plant in Decatur, Ill. I worked in the weights and measures office."

After the war, Mr. Sampson returned to teaching. "I taught social studies and coached at Mount Zion High School for about six years and then went to Taylorville to do the same."

Mr. Sampson left teaching for a

short time to become a salesman for Compton's Picture Encyclopedia.

He returned to teaching at Decatur's Roosevelt Junior High School and taught social studies.

Mr. Sampson earned a master's degree in liberal arts from the University of Illinois in 1941. He also completed 64 post-graduate hours towards a doctorate.

Mr. Sampson has three sisters living in Pembroke and a brother in Baltimore. His nephew, Dr. Gilbert Sampson of Pembroke, is professor and chair of the math and computer science department at Pembroke State University.



Coach Paul Sampson and his 1940 Cherokee Indian Normal School basketball squad. Tom Oxendine, Pembroke State University Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine's older brother, is bottom row center. (Family photo)