

Editorial and Opinion Page



Reflections

by Alta Nye Oxendine

Best-Selling Books

Have you read Charles Kuralt's America, his latest best-seller? I noticed it in the Mary Livermore Library lately, near the shelf where I'd found my cousin Jim Redfield's son James' best-seller, The Celestine Prophecy, last winter. "Jimmy" is one of our cousins who died recently. Mother was surrounded by her four brothers, two older and two younger. "Jimmy" Redfield's dad, my Uncle Jim, was the brother just older than Mother, and the first of the 10 to die. Until our family reunion last summer I thought Uncle Jim was the only one of the 10 not interested in writing! But Allen, another of his four sons, told me about some writing his dad had done. For the little Redfield family book, Ten Windows of the World, compiled by my cousin Elizabeth in 1989, our cousin "Jimmy" had written a scary boyhood tale his dad had told about taking off on his favorite horse in a blizzard. It was one of the stories Uncle Jim had told his children about growing up in the Pageville community. (The two older boys, Joe and Jimmy, were also born there before their parents moved to California.)

No matter where we were living, our generation learned lots about Pageville life from our Redfield parents, who all had wonderful, life-long memories of those early days.

Ever since my cousin "Jimmy" showed us a pencil drawing of a horse when we were visiting Grandma in California in the thirties, I've thought of him as an artist. Was I surprised to discover last year that his Alabama son had become a best-selling author!

My Two Homes

When I'm in Montana, I keep hearing news stories about N.C. When I'm here, Montana keeps popping up in the news.

Recently, though, on TV, I saw a Strickland man from Pembroke, NC being interviewed in Bosnia. I didn't catch his first name. But he is one of the soldiers sent here on the current peace-keeping mission.

Twin Bridges, Montana

Back to Charles Kuralt and his new book. One evening in December as I walked out of the college library, I was disgusted to see a freight train already on the tracks. Since it was too cold to wait outside, I decided to take Mr. Kuralt's book down and give it a quick "once-over."

For years I've known that we had a little cabin across the Big Hole river from the house where Daddy was born, where we moved in 1941 just before I started high school in Twin Bridges, and where I stayed with Mother from 1991 until 1993.

Ever since 1988 I've been wanting to write Charles Kuralt in both my columns, this one and especially in "Pageville." But when I'd talked with a friend and neighbor, Beverly Rowe, she said the Kuralts did not want any publicity. (Apparently they thought of THIS place as a peaceful kind of hideaway out of the public eye.)

So, although I've told people about our "celebrity" neighbors, I have never—until now—written about them by name.

On that chilly December evening I glanced quickly through Charles Kuralt's book to see if he had made any mention of a summer home in the Twin Bridges area. In the Table of Contents I noticed that his September chapter was actually titled "Twin Bridges, Montana." In it Delmar and Beverly Rowe were portrayed as typical Montana ranchers. So instead of just waiting for the train to pass, I read the entire chapter on Montana. A few days later my January Reader's Digest came, with a condensation of the same book, including the "Twin Bridges" section.

I've never had the privilege of meeting Mr. Kuralt or his wife. And I haven't checked back with Beverly. But I'm assuming it's now okay for me to write about Charles Kuralt and his cabin across the river.

When Mother went with me to the Rowe ranch in 1988, we had a nice visit with Beverly and left some pictures of the old Pageville community, on our side of the Big Hole River. (Although Beverly and her husband, Delmar, have lived on that ranch for decades, they are not natives of the twin Bridges area and did not have much info about Pageville. It once had its own post office, in the home of some of the Page ancestors who gave that community its name.)

As we left the Rowes' ranch that evening and started back up the hill to the public dirt road, Mother pointed to an old log

building and remarked "Look! There's where Dad stayed on week nights when he was driving the

bus on this route." That was 50 plus years ago, when I was in high school and Daddy, a mechanic, was maintaining the Twin Bridges school buses. The old cabin was gone, but the simple bus garage was still standing.

To me it's interesting that Charles Kuralt, like several other North Carolinians, found the twin Bridges, Montana area interesting enough to buy a piece of land there. And that others, like my daddy's first cousin, Max Nye, and I eventually left the twin Bridges area (Max's last Montana home was near the Rowe ranch) to live in North Carolina.

It surely IS a "small world" and a "small country, isn't it!"



A Native American Perspective of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

In praise of great people, I offer one Native American's perspective of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King, like Tecumseh, the Shawnee American Indian Warrior Chief, was a fiery orator, a brilliant diplomat, a revolutionary thinker, and political genius who became a legend among African Americans and whites. Dr. King stood as a messiah to his people during one of the most crucial periods of history—the Civil Rights era. And though an assassin's bullet killed the dreamer, his dream for peace among men will never die.

Perhaps no other race shares Dr. King's dream for peace more than the American Indian. Certainly no other race better knows the cost of peace than does the American Indian. Accounts of massacres fill dozens of history books. And the blood ran freely, sanctioned by those in authority. The same books tell of broken peace treaty after broken peace treaty by greedy, aggressive European immigrants.

Dr. King spoke eloquently of having been to the mountain top. His faith that all of God's children—black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics—would be able to join hands and sing with the Negro in the spiritual of old, "Free at last! Thank God almighty, we're free at last." It is sad to think that Dr. King's dream, even almost three decades after his death, is yet to be fully realized.

For centuries the one thing held in common by America's black people and American Indian people has been racial suppression. America's black people nor her "red" people are completely free today. For my people their enslavement was initiated by Christopher Columbus in 1494 when he sent more than 500 American Indians to Spain to be sold.

Slowly and sadly the American Indians climbed the mountains and read their doom in the setting sun. My heart is continuously saddened at the death and systematic destruction of the people and their

culture who inhabited what is now called America.

Almost a hundred years ago, in 1879, Joseph, a fine American Indian chief of the Nez Percés echoed Dr. King's dream when he said:

"If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian, he can live in peace. There need be no trouble. Treat all men alike. Give them all the same law. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All men were made by the same great Spirit Chief. They are all brothers. The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it... Let me be a free man—free to travel, free to stop, free to work, free to trade where I choose, free to choose my own teachers, free to follow the religion of my fathers, free to think and talk and act for myself—and I will obey every law, or submit to the penalty."

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. died young, but in that brief span he created enough power and awe to do credit to a hundred Methuselahs. The poet Edna St.

Vincent Millay could have had him in mind when she wrote:

My candle burns at both ends; It will not last the night; But, ah, my foes, and, oh, my friends—

It gives a lovely light.
It is right that the U.S. Congress finally declared the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. a legal holiday. Great and no less worthy American Indian leaders as Tecumseh, Geronimo, Massasoit and Joseph would probably approve of such doings. But they would weep over the fact that a legal holiday was declared for Christopher Columbus, the lost explorer, credited with discovering America, a land already discovered by their prehistoric ancestors.

When Dr. King left this land we call America, he left footprints in the sand of time. And because he walked this Earth, his people, the African American, are closer to freedom. The Native Americans, are too. His dream must continue and be built upon so as to ensure that it will not shrink before the mighty tide which threatens to press it away.

A Response to James W. Bell

To the Editor:

I read the Robesonian headlines dated January 4, 1996, "Why Support the GOP in '96?" written by James W. Bell.

Our dear James W. Bell:

As I hold my pen and the Robesonian, the November 1996 General Elections Victory Bells are chiming in my ear.

Your expressed feelings and suggestions: (1) that State Rep. Frances M. Cummings doesn't deserve being re-elected—(ALL WISE VOTERS: DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS & INDEPENDENTS WILL RE-ELECT STATE REP. CUMMINGS); (2) that Rep. Cummings made her bed hard, so she should lie on it—(REP. FRANCES M. CUMMINGS WILL NEVER BE CRUEL TO HERSELF); (3) that you don't think Indians and blacks would be crazy enough to support a Republican Ticket—I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT INDIANS AND AFRICAN AMERICANS WILL SUPPORT STATE REPRESENTATIVE FRANCES M. CUMMINGS; and (4) that you and your family are not supporting a Republican.

I, Yvonne Maria Leow, now say to you, James W. Bell, Please remember always: Almighty God has given to man "Free Will and

Free Choice" to ELECT a candidate to your Hear's Desire.

Being a member of the Robeson Democratic Political Party or the Republican Party CANNOT give your Wisdom and Understanding. Only the Holy Spirit can inspire you. The name of a Political Party IS NOT PRINTED ON A "BIRTH CERTIFICATE."

James W. Bell, it is your Moral Privilege to express your Painful Feelings however and where ever you are being allowed to do so. You need to be Thankful to the Editor of the Robesonian for rendering kindness to you; giving you the opportunity to be able to "Free Yourself from the Disappointments" you claim to receive from the Republicans who you mentioned in your letter. You should admit, Rep. Frances M. Cummings has the Wisdom to Speak; Revise and Write State Laws according to Almighty Gods Will, thus promoting a Happier Tomorrow.

Now to my friend, should you or any person believe another candidate for Robeson, Hoke and Scotland Counties—District 87 can be Wiser and More Successful than our State Representative Frances M. Cummings, please Elect that candidate. Failing to know of a More Qualified Candidate, then you, your family and friends should

VOTE WISELY by shading the OVAL next to Frances M. Cummings' name for the NC House of Representatives. She will surely enough continue to be your Voice, your Hands, and to possess the "Knowledge to be a True State Representative for ALL People." "VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE; NOT THE NAME OF A POLITICAL PARTY"

Remember James W. Bell, the voter will be electing the same Frances M. Cummings who was elected in 1992, and her "Vision" has not changed. Frances still holds the "Key to Progressive Prosperity." State Rep. Cummings is not a Republican Ticket, but rather a "Courageous Legislator" who will forever support a House Bill introduced by a Lawmaker favorable for ALL PEOPLE in spite of the Lawmaker's Political Affiliation.

The Honorable Frances

McArthur Cummings is a State Representative for Democrats, Republicans, and ALL who are not affiliated to a Political Party. We need more State representatives as Frances M. Cummings.

My advice to you: "Be Calm and Peaceful to avoid High-Blood Pressure."

Peace Be Unto You. Amen
Yvonne Maria Leow



TO MEMBERS: THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, INDEPENDENTS, AND DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES:

STOP THE "VIOLENCE" WITHIN YOUR MINDS AGAINST EACH OTHER.

"LET PEACE BEGIN WITH YOU."

A "SPIRITUAL WIND" IS BLOWING OVER NORTH CAROLINA.

THEREFORE, PEOPLE WHO "THROW STONES" SHOULD NOT LIVE IN "GLASS HOUSES". THE SCRIPTURE SAYS, "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF"; "PRAY YE, ONE FOR ANOTHER".

"THERE IS POWER IN PRAYER."

THE SCRIPTURE ALSO SAYS:

"EVERY MAN SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR HIS OWN SOUL."

THEREFORE, "R" SHOULD NOT BE CHASTISED BY EITHER THOUGHTS, WORDS, OR DEEDS FOR CRIMES WHICH ARE

COMMITTED BY "S".

WHENEVER A "FEW" MEMBERS OF THE DEMOCRATIC POLITICAL PARTY, THE REPUBLICAN PARTY, OR THE DENOMINATIONAL CHURCHES COMMIT SINFUL ACTS (CRIMINAL CRIMES), "NO MAN SHOULD BLAME A 'MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE' FOR THE "SINFUL ACTS" (CRIMINAL CRIMES) MANIFESTED BY A "FEW."

THE NAME OF A POLITICAL PARTY OR A DENOMINATIONAL CHURCH IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE "ILL-NATURED" BEHAVIOR OF ITS MEMBERS. PEACE BE UNTO YOU. AMEN.

Written by Yvonne Maria Leow Paid for by Cummings for NC House Committee

Notice of a Corridor Public Hearing on Alternate Locations for the Proposed Relocations of US 74 from the Maxton Bypass to NC 41

Project 6.469002T R-513 Robeson County
The North Carolina Department of Transportation will hold the above public hearing on February 18, 1996 at 7:30 PM at the Purnell Swett High School cafeteria, SR 1339 near Pembroke.

The hearing will consist of an explanation of the proposed alternate locations, right of way requirements and procedures, and relocation advisory assistance. The hearing will be open to those present for statements, questions, comments, and/or submittal of material pertaining to the proposed project. Additional materials may be submitted for a period of 15 days from the date of the hearing to: C.B. Goode, Jr., P.E. at P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611.

Under this project, it is proposed to improve US 74 to a four lane divided facility with controlled access between the Maxton Bypass and NC 41. Two build alternatives will be presented for public comments at this hearing. One will upgrade the existing US 74 to freeway standards. The preferred alternative will construct US 74 on new location from the Maxton Bypass to I-95 and upgrade existing US 74 from I-95 to NC 41. Additional right of way and the relocation of homes and businesses will be required for this project.

Prior to the public hearing, between the hours of 5 PM and 7 PM on February 8 at the Purnell Swett High School, Department of Transportation representatives will be available to provide project information and answer questions for the public. Interested individuals may attend this session at their convenience during these hours.

Anyone desiring additional information may contact Mr. C.B. Goode, Jr., P.E. at P.O. Box 25201, Raleigh, NC 27611 or phone 919-250-4092.

A copy of the Environmental Assessment describing the project and a map setting forth the proposed alternate routes are available for public review at the Department of Transportation's District Office on NC 711, one mile from NC 72 at Lumberton.

NCDOT will provide auxiliary aids and services for disabled persons who wish to participate in the meeting to comply with the American Disabilities Act. To receive special services, please contact Mr. Goode at the above address or phone number or fax 919-250-4208 to provide adequate notice prior to the date of the hearing so that arrangements can be made.