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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

"Strike at the Wind" Returns to the Stage at the NC Cultural Center

By Vinita Maynor-Clark

"There are a lot of people that say that this cannot be done," states Pearlman Revels, the President of Robeson Historical Drama Association. "Personally, I feel like we owe it to the people that have supported us and the people of Robeson County to bring the drama back," she continues. "We have reached an agreement with the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center and this is a joint venture for both of our boards to come together and open the drama once again." Just like a Phoenix rises from the ashes, "Strike at the Wind!" has risen once again.

Auditions began the first of this month and concluded this past weekend with over 50% of the cast returning from the previous years. Returning as Director is David Oxendine who is elated about the drama being performed once again. This is his ninth year of directing the drama. When the drama began in 1977 he played the role of Steve Lowrie the brother of Henry Berry Lowrie, in 1983 he became the Assistant Director. In 1984 was chosen as the Director and also doubled in the role of Boss Strong, the brother of Rhoda. Steve Tyner is also returning as the Stage Manager.

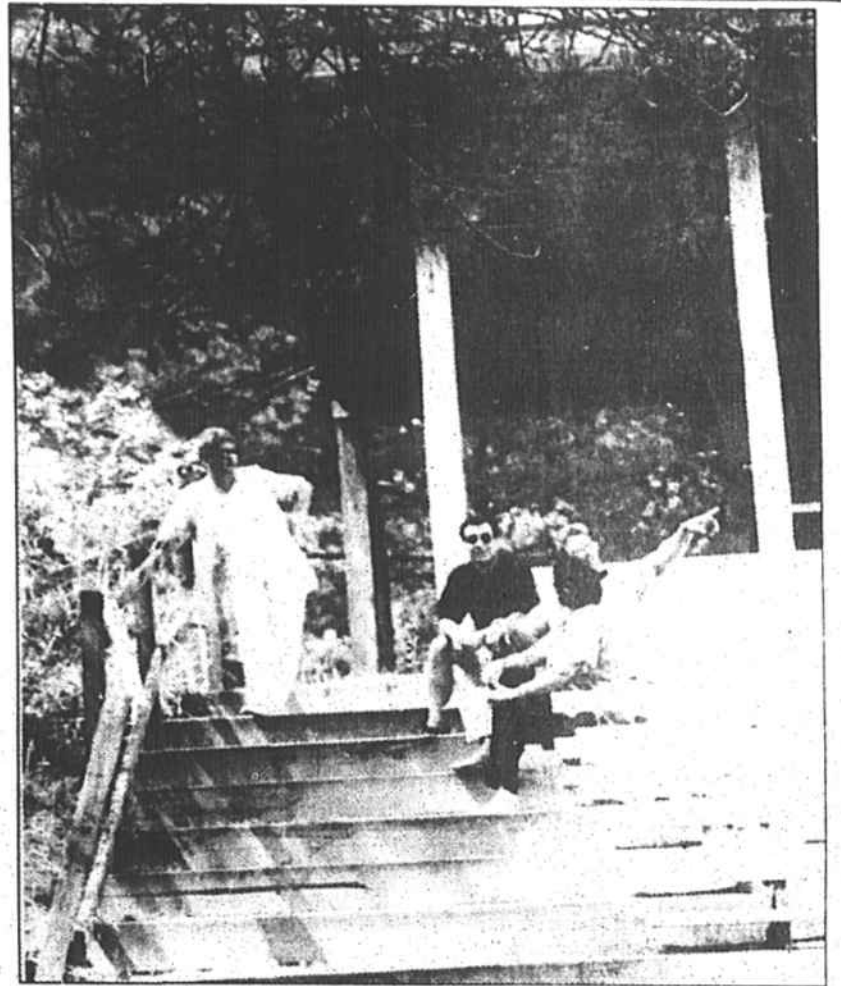
Returning for his second season with his first time in the role of Henry Berry Lowrie is Micah Sampson who was the understudy for this role in 1995. Faline Locklear, a newcomer to the role of the leading lady but not to this drama, has been cast in the role of Rhoda Strong Lowrie. From listening to her audition she definitely has the acting ability to do this role. LaDonna Locklear who portrayed the child with the Leader in 1995 has been selected to be in the role of Polly Oxendine. Corbin Eddings we remember as one of the children of Mary Lowrie, is now in the role of Steve Lowrie. Ray Lowrie is once again Boss Strong.

Returning for his 21st year in the drama is Robert Bryant in the role of Shoemaker John. Carolyn Oxendine is again the Leader. Edith Ward returns to her role of Mrs. Shoemaker. Margaret Freeman returns as Mrs. Pert and Vinita Maynor Clark returns in the role of Hilda. Others returning include Carolyn Oxendine as Mamma Cumba, Marcus Locklear as Rev. Sinclair, Al Emeola as Rubin King, Bruce Barton as Allen Lowrie, David Dietrich as John Saunders, Randolph Eddings as Donahoe, Dolores Steen as Mrs. Applewhite, Kelvin Lowrie as McGregor, Bobby Oxendine Jr. as McMillian, Davita Carter, Edwina Chambers, Lance Spaulding, Charity Locklear, Noelle Locklear, Sharon Locklear, LeKisha Ricks, Tamara Oxendine and Woody Sampson. New Cast Members include Kristen Freeman as the Child, Edward Strickland as Henderson Oxendine, Mark Chavis as Young William, Penny Arokiasamy as Aunt Mary, Mary Winfree as Dolly King, Pryor Scott as Colonel Harris, Justin Jacobs as the Youth, Michael Goodwin, Tammy Jones as Lina McNair. Soldiers are John Lerma, Chris Locklear, James Hardin. Citizens are Kaye Cummings, Eugina Dial, Kisha Hunt, Charly Lowrie, Bethany Oxendine, Cassandra Oxendine, Melissa Oxendine, Wilovra Stencil, Jimmy Hunt, Brandi Barton, Kaitlyn Winfree, Laci Maynor, Alberta Dial, Nicky Briggs, Miranda Oxendine and Garrett Dial just to name a few.

Rehearsals begin May 31, 1999 at 6 P.M. The return performance of "Strike at the Wind" will be Saturday, July 3rd at 8 p.m. at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater, NC Indian Cultural Center, Pembroke, NC. The drama will be performed each Friday and Saturday night during the month of July.



David Oxendine returns to the set of "Strike at the Wind!"



Coming together as one for the purpose of reopening "Strike at the Wind!" are Mrs. Pearlman Revels, President of Robeson Historical Drama Association, Supervisor of Robeson County Board of Elections, Mr. Willie Lowrie, RHDAA Board Member, professional recording artist, composer of original drama soundtrack, Mr. Ken Freeman, Board Member of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, Vice President of Lumbee Bank and Ms. Ernestine Chavis-Bouffant Executive Director of North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. Shown meeting and discussing plans for the drama. (Vinita Maynor-Clark Photo)

Ruth Dial Woods Honored in Meredith UNCP graduates Centennial-year Celebration

Dr. Ruth Dial Woods of Pembroke is one of one hundred outstanding alumnae chosen from nominees to represent all graduates and to coincide with the 1999 Centennial-Year celebrations of the opening of Meredith College in 1899. The Park Center Mural Project honored 100 women on the mural and in the biographies who have made significant contributions to our communities and our world in some way. A reception for honorees was held on May 14 followed by the unveiling of the Park Center Mural. Linda Poole FitzSimons, Mural Artist, Organizer and Coordinator of the Park Center Mural Project, describes her work as a "tapestry of strong-willed, determined, intelligent women who had (and have) dreams, goals, and a fierce desire for education."

The chosen honorees include some alumnae who are well known at Meredith and many more who have been quietly making a difference in our world behind the scenes and with-

out previous recognition. The alumnae selected have been involved in a wide spectrum of careers, volunteers work and religious service. According to FitzSimons, these remarkable women, and those that will be added in the coming years, will serve as living examples of the unlimited possibilities open to all present and future students, as well as serve as visual reminders of the contributions of Meredith students who have come before.

Dr. Woods was honored on May 14 at an Opening Reception of the Park Mural Project. Woods graduated from Meredith College in 1962 and received an A.B. Degree in Spanish and English. Woods has a distinguished career in education, community leadership, and state and national public service, and has received numerous honors and awards for leadership and service in human relations, women's advocacy and American Indian rights.



Dr. Ruth Dial Woods

UNCP to host freshman orientation June 1

Pembroke -- The University of North Carolina at Pembroke will conduct its first freshman orientation of the summer on Tuesday, June 1. Check-in is from 8 to 8:30 a.m. in the University Center.

Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine and Student Government Association President Phillip Bowman will welcome the incoming students and their parents at 8:30 a.m. in Givens Performing Arts Center. Students will then take placement tests followed by the "Freshman Year Experience." From 3:30 to 6 p.m., students will have their identification cards made, and they and their parents can meet with financial aid staff members.

Parents will have their own information session following the welcome. They will receive briefings on freshman orientation, tuition and fees, financial aid, housing, campus safety and parking, student responsibility, and student support services. Parents are encouraged to ask questions during the session. They will then tour the campus and have lunch in the University Center.

For more information about orientation, call Student Affairs at (910) 521-6226 or 800-949-UNCP.

Carla & Redemption anniversary sing

Carla & Redemption's 8th Anniversary singing at Lumberton Senior High School on June 4th at 7:00 p.m. Featuring: Charles Johnson & The Revivers, Steve & Nadine, Quinton Mills, and Carla & Redemption. \$8.00 advance. \$10.00 at the door. Refreshments on sale.

UNCP graduates 513 on Saturday

Pembroke, N.C. -- A total of 513 graduated from The University of North Carolina at Pembroke Saturday, May 15 in a 10 a.m.

District Seven Congressman Mike McIntyre of Lumberton delivered the commencement address.

"As you prepare for the next stage in your life, I urge you to use this time to renew your efforts and energy into making this world a better place," Congressman McIntyre said. "As American citizens and as new college graduates, we must do this."

"So the question is 'how?' I say understanding the paradox of true freedom - the more freedom we seek to enjoy, the more responsibility binds us."

"Three simple words will help us do this: reject, inject and project," he said. "First, we must reject! We must learn to say 'no' to some things in life. Secondly, we must inject! Inject a true sense of responsibility. Third, we must project! Look ahead, as you are doing today, to the future with vision and purpose. The future soon drowns those who are not prepared to swim against the onrushing currents of time."

U.S. Rep. McIntyre congratulated Chancellor Joseph B. Oxendine as a "Man of intellect, insight and integrity."

A total of 57, master's degrees and 33 Bachelor of Science in Nursing degrees were awarded. It was UNCP's largest nursing class and nearly three times as large as the number of last year's graduates. The program is six years old with satellite campuses at Sandhills and Richmond Community Colleges.

Honorary doctor of science degrees were conferred upon Lt. Col.

Curtis Brown, astronaut and space shuttle pilot from Elizabethtown and Pembroke native, Dr. James Jones, distinguished professor of medicine at UNC-Chapel Hill school of Medicine.

The Grand Marshal was Chemistry Professor Peter Wish, winner of the UNC Board of Governor's Excellence in Teaching Award.

The top graduate was Ben Gersh of Fayetteville, who graduated alongside his mother Debra.

In remarks to his classmates, Mr. Gersh noted that the class of 1999 will be remembered for its "last."

"This is the last class of the millennium, the last class to enter Pembroke State University and Chancellor Oxendine's last graduating class," he said.

This was Dr. Oxendine's 10th and last commencement as chancellor. He will retire June 30.



Scout enlists in Army

Richard LaMark Oxendine joined Mt. Airy Troop in March, 1992. He has served in several leadership positions including Patrol Leader, Scribe, Assistant Senior Patrol Leader. Richard obtained his eagle rank on Nov. 29, 1998. Richard is a senior at Purnell Swett High School and has enlisted in

the United States Army. Richard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Oxendine and is a member of Mt. Airy Baptist Church. He would like to thank everyone who has contributed toward his accomplishment and his Scout Master Anthony Chavis.

Photo caption: Richard LaMark Oxendine.

Lumbee Health Choice Out Reach Project at LRDA

Lumbee Regional Development Association has received a Duke/Edowment Grant to promote enrollment of children in the North Carolina Health Check/Health Choice Insurance Program. This insurance program is funded by the federal government and the state of North Carolina. It provides free or low cost health insurance to children whose families cannot pay for private insurance.

Lumbee Regional Development Association will be hosting various activities in Robeson County and the adjoining counties of Bladen, Cumberland, Scotland, and Hoke to promote the enrollment of children who are uninsured and less than 19 years old.

The first Lumbee Regional Development Association sponsored activity to promote the North Carolina Health Check/Health Choice will be Lumbee Tribe's Spring Pow Wow on May 28 and 29, 1999 at the Robeson County Fairground, Highway 21 South in Lumberton, N.C. The admission to this event is free for everyone. Information and assistance with insurance applications will be available to the public throughout the Pow Wow, just follow the sign at the entrance.

At the insurance booth, do not forget to pick up your free Champion clothes product, while they last. This health insurance is for all races.

Kateri Chavis named Baby Doll Miss Robeson County



Kateri Chavis, 29 month old daughter of Brian and Sawnika Chavis, was recently crowned Miss Baby Doll Miss Robeson County.

Kateri represents the Parents as Teachers Program of Robeson County. She is also the reigning Miss Covergirl USA. In 1997 Kateri was named Miss Sunburst USA.

Kateri is the granddaughter of Grady and Cynthia Chavis and Fred and Betty Shehdan.