

Strike at the Wind! Ends Season Successfully

By Vinita Maynor-Clark
The outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind" has ended one of the most successful seasons since it's opening in 1976. An estimated 1,500 people packed the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center for the last two performances of this century.

Friday night the newly appointed Secretary of the Department of Transportation David McCoy was the drama's special guest. He was introduced to the audience by State Representative Ronnie Sutton. McCoy told the audience about a telephone call he had received several years ago in regard to the \$25,000 of vandalism that had been done to the amphitheater. During his comments he stated that he was very impressed by the remodeling and repairs to the amphitheater. He told the audience that he was proud to be there.

Many elected officials including Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt were in attendance. Even with temperatures of over 90 degrees the cast of the drama braved the heat

and humidity and performed. Saturday night the drama played to another packed audience. The Stage Manager of the drama Steve Tyner informed the cast at 7 P.M. "We are on hold as we do not have a Shoemaker and he does not have an understudy."

Miss Indian North Carolina was a special guest and David Oxendine the Director took to the stage where he began his acting career in 1977 as Steve Lowrie and sang several Elvis songs. While all of this was going on several of the cast members were praying that Robert Bryant who plays the role of Shoemaker John would be able to leave the bedside of his wife who was a patient in the Emergency Room at Southeastern Regional Medical Center in very critical condition. Around 8:30 P.M. the word came that Robert was in route to the amphitheater. Ken Freeman, President of the Joint Venture Committee, walked out the end of the gate and with his head set on, awaited the arrival of "Shoemaker." The members of the Pembroke Fire Department were

on hand directing traffic and were making sure that when "Shoemaker" arrived inside the gates of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center he would arrive safely to the dressing room area. Upon the arrival of "Shoemaker" he was escorted to the dressing room by several of the cast members.

Ken Freeman presented Bryant with the gift of a wrist watch that came from a fan who wanted to remain nameless and wanted to thank Bryant for the 21 seasons that he had never missed a night.

The last performance began at 9 P.M. with the audience greeting the cast with a thunderous applause. Van Coleman, Carnell Locklear and other cast members from the documentary "Through Native Eyes" were in attendance for the last performance of this century. When Coleman was spotted by cast members and word came backstage Stephen Pate spoke to the cast along with several others that were in the movie saying "let's show this movie director exactly what we can do!" One cast member who

was in the documentary walked up to Micah Sampson and said "if you have never played Henry Bear before, we want you to play him now." The same person spoke to the Leader Carol Oxendine and said "Carol we want you to show those folks out there who distorted the facts on Henry what a Leader is all about!" Another cast member looked at Faline Locklear and said "you go girl!"

When the last song was sung and the lights dimmed for the final curtain many of the cast members embraced each other and some raised their hands to the sky and thanked God for making the drama once again a reality when others said that it could not be done.

Certificates of Appreciation were given to the cast and technical crew by the Joint Venture Committee.

The lights were taken down from the towers, costumes and props were all accounted for and secured. The cast went over to the pool and said their "good-byes" until next season.



Patricia Brayboy, Executive Director of the Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross stands with Vinita Maynor-Clark after the last performance. "I'm impressed" is a quote that was repeated several times by Ms. Brayboy.

Rowland Family Practice Center Adds New Physician

Scotland Health Care System and the staff of the Rowland Family Practice Center are pleased to announce the addition of Deborah Greimel, M.D. to the medical staff. Dr. Greimel's arrival increases the number of providers to two at the Center. She joins Ruth Ann Doerman, PAC, who has provided medical coverage at Rowland Family Practice Center since 1993.

Dr. Greimel, an internist, comes to Scotland Health Care System following completion of her internal medicine residency at East Carolina University Graduate School of Medicine in Greenville, NC. She is a native of Norfolk, Virginia and attended Eastern Virginia Medical School in Norfolk and East Carolina University Graduate School of Medicine.

Dr. Greimel is very excited to begin taking care of the people in the Rowland community, stating, "I am happy to be coming to an area that needs more medical care and I look forward to not only taking care of patients medically, but to educating them as well." As an internist, Dr. Greimel is a physician who deals with the diagnosis and treatment of non-surgical diseases. She is the first female internist to join Scotland Health Care System's team and the only female internist in our area. Internal medicine is the basic training of all subspecialties; thus Dr. Greimel is well prepared to provide medical management of most adult diseases. She will practice with an emphasis on adult medical conditions, such as diabetes, high blood pressure, and heart disease, while Ms. Doerman will continue to see patients of all ages.

Open House

Rowland Family Practice Center opened its doors in 1988, offering the community access to quality primary medical care services and treating all members of the family. This summer the Center underwent extensive renovations. To introduce Dr. Greimel to the community the Center will host an open house on Tuesday, August 17 from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. All Rowland Family Practice Center patients and community members are encouraged to attend.

The office is open from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm on Mondays and Fridays, *00 am to 7 pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 8:00 am to noon on Wednesdays. The office is closed for lunch from noon until 1:00 pm each day. Office appointments are preferred, but staff is always available for emergencies. Non-urgent walk-ins will be accommodated as the schedule allows.



This season was a family affair for Randolph (left) and Corbin Edgings. Randolph played the role of Donahue, the bounty hunter and was also the Armorer. Corbin played the role of Steve Lowrie and also served as an assistant to the stage manager and the armorer.



The cast of the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind!" and the staff of the Carolina Indian Voice wish to express their sympathy and love to Robert Bryant our "Shoemaker John" on the departure of his beloved wife Mamie.

Robert Bryant is presented a watch by Ken Freeman, President of the Joint Venture Committee.

News from the Pembroke Housing Authority

Pembroke - On Wednesday July 28, 1999, the Pembroke Housing Authority, North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs (NCCIA), and Robeson County Mental Health Department teamed together for a meeting to discuss how we could better serve the Pembroke community. Some of the topics that were addressed included youth center, activities; health issues; family matters; substance abuse; and special needs for families. The meeting was held at the security office in Strickland Heights with an overwhelming response from both the adults and youth.

Suzette Salicido, Interim PHDEP Coordinator, and La-Meccha Sweet-Locklear, Youth Coordinator, shared with the residents the activities that were being sponsored by the Pembroke Housing Authority Youth Center. These activities include tutoring; drug prevention; and cultural activities. Darlene Jacobs, Community Service Director, for the NCCIA, educated the group as to the various tribes of Indians of North Carolina and the many functions of the NCCIA. Janie McFarland, also of NCCIA spoke of gadgets that were available by the organization for people with special needs. Elaine Gillespie, Robert Smith,

and Yolanda Lewis, Substance Abuse Counselors with Robeson County Mental Health Department expressed in the meeting if there was anyone with or they knew someone with a substance abuse problem they could be contacted at the Department of Mental Health. All information is kept confidential.

The Youth Center held an appreciation luncheon on Friday, July 30th for the LRCOG Summer Youth Workers. The staff at the center would like to thank Tanya Scott and Richard Cole for their dedication to their job and the volunteer work in the fall at the Youth Center. Richard is a rising freshman at Purnell Swett High School. Good Luck! Richard and Tanya in your upcoming school year.

During the summer, many of our youth participating in various summer camps conducted throughout the county. Some of these camps were sponsored by the Boys and Girls Club; Robeson County Parks and Recreation; as well as UNCP swim camp. These camps offer exciting challenges to an ordinary summer. Many of our youth greatly enjoyed the swim camps offered by UNCP. We wish all of our children well during the upcoming school year as well.



Dodgers T-Ball Team

CORRECTION NEWS

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Chaplain serves as coordinator of Native American spirituality

By Christy Hardee

Medicine bags, smudging, pipe ceremonies and sweat lodges - understanding Native American Indian religion can be a real challenge for those outside of the Native American community. Yet, the Division of Prisons has a responsibility to provide spiritual and ministerial services to all inmates incarcerated in our prisons, including Native American inmates.

With more than 550 different tribes of Native Americans in existence today - all with their own unique religious practices, coming up with one set of approved guidelines for the practice of Native American Indian religion within the context of the prison system has proven to be a difficult task. Needing some assistance establishing such a set of guidelines, the Division of Prisons turned to Ray Littleturtle for help.

A member of the Lumbee and Creek tribes, Littleturtle has served as an advisor for the Division of Prison's religious services for the past 13 years, offering insight into Native American spirituality. However, as the Indian inmate population continues to grow - there are now around 650 Native American Indian inmates in our prisons - it became clear that the Division needed more than just an advisor to handle the practice of Native American religion within the prison system. In January, Littleturtle joined the Division's religious services staff as a contract chaplain in charge of Native American religion.

"In my new role, I'm serving as the coordinator of Native American spirituality for all the prisons," he said. "Native American religion is unique in that it brings with it a certain symbolism not as prevalent in other religions like medicine bags, braids, headbands and other things that identify one as a Native American. My wish is to educate prisoners on how to properly avail the religion and educate the

staff, so they can have an appreciation and understanding of why the Indian inmates do the things they do while practicing their spirituality."

In an effort to promote understanding of the Native American Indian religion, Littleturtle has narrated a video on Native American faith practices and developed "A Guide to Understanding Native American Religion." In the booklet, he explains, in detail, the meanings behind the various practices, methods and sacred items used by Indians practicing their faith.

For example, sage, tobacco, cedar and sweetgrass are considered sacred by Native Americans. These four sacred plants are used for purification, healing and as a medium for prayer. A bundle of the four sacred herbs is used for smudging, a process in which the herbs are lit until a smoke is released. The individual then cleanses himself with the smudge by allowing the smoke to pass over his head, body and into the heart.

Another ceremony, the pipe ceremony, is used as means through which Native Americans send their prayers to the Creator. The individual begins his inward prayer while smoking the pipe, and the release of the smoke carries the prayer to the Creator. Other items such as medicine bags contain herbs, dirt, stones, hair and other various natural items, representing sacred memories and reminders.

Another common practice used in Native American religion is the sweat lodge.

Sweat lodges are not currently allowed within the prison system for security reasons but are used to unify the body, heart, soul and mind. During a sweat, individuals enter an enclosed area that contains a rock pit to produce heat and steam. The individuals sing and pray as the steam creates an atmosphere that opens the body to cleanse it of impurities through the skin, the heart by prayer, the soul by spiritual communication and the mind by the unification of the whole person.

It is Littleturtle's job as chaplain to identify the various faith practices used by the different tribes and pull out common elements that can be used within the confines of a prison.

"I'm trying to develop a comprehensive directory of services for Native American inmates who want to practice their faith," he said. "With

more than 550 different tribes, each with their own ceremonies and practices, it leaves me with the problem of coming up with a middle-of-the-road approach, so we don't have inmates trying to do 550 different things. I'm trying to pull out the common elements and come up with one set of approved guidelines for the practice of Native American spirituality within the entire prison system."

Littleturtle's office is based out of Robeson Correctional Center, but he travels to the various prisons across the state. Anyone needing Littleturtle's assistance can reach him at Robeson at 910-618-5535 or through the Division's religious services office at 919-733-3226. ♦



Ray Littleturtle recently joined the Division of Prisons religious services staff as a contract chaplain in charge of Native American religion.