

L.R.D.A. IN ACTION...

Helping Hand Extended to Many During Severe Winter Months...

by Garry Lewis Barton
LRDA Public Relations Officer

National weather reports indicate that this is the coldest it has been in over 100 years. In other words, this is the coldest winter the average person has experienced in his or her lifetime. Unfortunately, there are ominous repercussions felt by the poor as a result of this severe cold spell we are experiencing.

From all indications it appears that the poor are worst hit by the alleged fuel-shortage and accompanying exorbitant fuel prices. These out-of-sight fuel prices, coupled with the existing extremely cold weather are especially distressing news to the poor and needy in this county considering the added fact that Robeson is one of the poorest (if not, in fact, the poorest) counties in the state.

This brings to mind Mark Twain's age-old adage: "Everyone talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

L.R.D.A. (an acronym for Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc.), with offices located in Pembroke, N.C., realizes that nothing can be done about the weather. So L.R.D.A. has done the next best thing by helping ten needy families interspersed throughout the county cope with both the extremely cold weather and the exorbitant fuel prices.

L.R.D.A. purchased ten cast-iron wood/coal-burning heaters with the assistance of funds from the North Carolina Commission on Indian Affairs, and distributed them to eligible recipients located from one end of the county to the other.

This massive undertaking was coordinated by Bobbie Oxendine, L.R.D.A.'s new Energy Coordinator, and Shirley Locklear, L.R.D.A.'s Director of C.F.N.P. (Community Food and Nutrition Program). Bob DeCarlo, A.N.A.'s (Administration for Native Americans) Housing Coordinator, headed his Home Repair Crew in assembling and setting up the heaters in the home to various stages of completion.

One recipient was disabled. Nevertheless, she was responsible for the care and well-being of six of her sister's children. She lives in a huge 7-room dwelling with the only heating coming from a tin trash-burning type heater that is burnt through in the back. Worse yet, because of the size of the house, as was the case among most recipients, only one room could be heated. This necessitated, in many instances, using the old heaters for cooking purposes as well.

As a mother of three pre-school age children noted: "What I'm cooking on the heater now will take from two to three hours to cook...and it makes it kind of hard...We have a gas

stove but no gas...been out of gas for about 2 months...You can't cook nothing but beans and stuff like that; can't cook things like chicken..." An ominous-looking gaping crack was evident on the side of the old heater perched so precariously on four brick-halves.

One recipient was a hemophiliac (more commonly known as a 'bleeder'). Despite his serious ailment he, literally speaking, took his life in his own hands and made two heaters. One heater was made from a 50-gallon oil drum, the other from a water tank. Although both heaters showed remarkable workmanship, without the proper linings the home-made heaters were not fuel-efficient and were just not adequate to meet the family's needs.

Most of these families had little or no income at all due to disabilities, or the general desperate state of the nation's economy. One man said he had been unemployed for five months. "I'd like to work," he lamented. "But there's just nothing to do." He, his wife and two children were being forced by circumstances to live in a bedroom where there was a well-worn fireplace located on one wall; they lived, slept, cooked and ate in one room. By setting his new heater up in the living room, while freeing the fireplace solely for heating the bedroom, some semblance of normalcy was achieved in this household.

One lady lived in a wood-framed house with seven children, a fireplace furnishing the only heat. The fireplace had caught on fire twice. No doubt, with her new heater this lady was able to sleep nights without being unduly or overly concerned about the safety of her family.

Another recipient lived in what appeared to be an old log cabin covered with tar paper. The old heater was in a deteriorating condition, one could not help but notice a beautiful and cuddly baby girl, less than a year old, swaddled in a quilt and perched at the end of the couch. "She's sick," noted the mother who shared the confined quarters with two other tots and a husband as well. "I think she's cutting her eye teeth," she continued. One could not help but hope her prognosis was correct.

Of course, these isolated cases were but a few examples of the prevalent and wide-spread predicament many have found themselves in due to this nasty, terrible weather, as well as other contributing factors.

But, this fact notwithstanding, this energy assistance endeavor, in conjunction with the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, is proof positive that Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. is an action agency that does much more than just "talk about the weather."



ANA's Home Repair Crew is shown installing new heater. In background can be seen fireplace that has caught on fire twice.



This heater was completely unusable. Recipient had no means of heating whatsoever before receiving new heater.

National Jaycee Week January 17-23



Robeson County Commissioner of the Maxton-Pembroke District, Herman Dial (left) is shown buying a case of Jelly from Jimmy Golts, President of the Pembroke Jaycees. This effort is to officially kick off National Jaycees Week Jan. 17-23. During this week the Jaycees will be busy selling jelly to raise money for the North Carolina Burn Center.

Said Dial, in making his purchase: "I am delighted to be able to make a small contribution to this worthwhile effort. There are so many people in our area who have needed the services of the burn center. I am privileged to work with the Pembroke Jaycees. They have been a vital part of our community. These young men are a credit to their community and serve as role models for our young." [Connie Braybey photo]

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INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE SET FOR MARCH 4 - 6, 1982



The doughnut was brought over to America from the Netherlands more than 300 years ago by Dutch colonists.

Garry Lewis Barton
Lumbee Regional Development Assoc., Inc.
Public Relations Officer

This year the 1982 Indian Unity Conference will be sponsored by the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, A.B. Jones, Executive Director.

The theme of the 1982 Conference which will be held March 4-6, 1982 at the Royal Villa Hotel and Conference Center in Raleigh, N.C. will be "Building a Better Future Through Indian Unity."

A tentative schedule of events follows:

Thursday, March 4, 1982

General Assembly I, from 3-5 p.m. Guest speaker will be Dr. Joseph Oxendine, Professor, Dept. of Physical Education, Temple University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

4:15-5:30 p.m.--Workshop Session I. Topic: Women's Issues; and Today's Farming Techniques.

7:30-9 p.m.--Indian Heritage Program.

Friday, March 5, 1982

General Assembly II, 9-10 a.m. Guest speaker, Mr. David Lester, Commission, Administration for Native Americans, Washington, DC.

Workshop Session II--10:15-11:30 a.m. Topics: Education, Future Employment and Training, and Federal Programs.

General Assembly III--1:30-2:30 p.m. Guest speaker, Dr. Frank Ryan, Director, Office of Indian Education Programs, Washington, DC

Workshop Session III, 2:45-4 p.m. Topics: National Indian Issues and The Political Process; and N.C. Archaeology Legislation.

Banquet, 7-9 p.m. Guest speakers: James S. Patterson, Secretary, Dept. of Administration; Henry McKoy, Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Administration; and Ada Deer, University of Wisconsin.

Dance, 9 p.m.-1 a.m.

Saturday, March 6, 1982

Council of State Breakfast, 8-9:30 a.m. General Assembly

IV, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Guest speaker, Mr. Jim R. Lowry, Chairman, N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, Raleigh, N.C.

The Conference will adjourn at 11:30 a.m.

For further information concerning preregistration and registration, contact Mr. Greg Richardson, N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, Raleigh, N.C., at (919) 733-5998; or contact Von Locklear or Linda Oxendine at Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. by calling 521-8602.

The Baptist Children's Homes of North Carolina, Inc. served 1,061 children with continuing services and 463 children in casework, counseling and referral services last year. A close working relationship was maintained with 2,178 adults while working with the children.

Miss North Carolina Pageant

October 29, 1981

Mr. Bruce Barton
Carolina Indian Voice
Pembroke, N. C. 28372

Dear Mr. Barton:

Through a vicious grapevine, we have heard that there is an insipid rumor circulating in your area that a Miss Lumbee would never win the title Miss North Carolina because she is an Indian. Our first thoughts at responding to this were that such lies do not deserve the courtesy of a reply. However, in the interest of setting the record straight and hopefully quelling such a slander, we have the following statement:

The Miss North Carolina Scholarship Pageant brings in the best judges available from across the country to pick the best Miss North Carolina available from the representatives sent from the local franchised pageants. The girls who have proudly worn the crown of Miss Lumbee have consistently been talented, charming, and beautiful. These girls work very hard to achieve this title and deserve your full and complete support. When our judges decide that Miss Lumbee is the best candidate for Miss North Carolina, she will become so.

You should be very thankful for the untiring efforts and dedication exhibited year after year by Florence Ransom, a lady who does an excellent job for you and who operates a fine pageant in strict accordance with our pageant guidelines. We are aware of the requirement that the candidates be of Lumbee descent and this is not a problem. Your Miss Lumbees are young ladies who are anxious and able to be used in most any civic or commercial event and who want to work to make your area a nicer place to live and work. Your Pageant and your Queen deserve your support.

If there are further misunderstandings or questions, please feel free to let us know. We feel that proper communication between reasonable people can solve any problem.

Very truly yours,
MISS NORTH CAROLINA SCHOLARSHIP PAGEANT

John M. Alexander, Jr.
Executive Director

John M. Alexander, Jr.
John M. Alexander, Jr.
Executive Director

P.O. Box 17205
Raleigh, NC 27619
A Scholarship Pageant Hosted by the Raleigh Jaycees

NOTICE:

Pembroke Medical Services

Is no longer operating

a MEDICAL CLINIC and the

physical facilities have been leased to

two local private health care providers,

a Physician and a Dentist.

The medical records of former patients

may be obtained by such persons from

the former clinic between the hours of 9-11 a.m.

Monday through Friday. Such records

will also be released to anyone, such as a

physician, upon written authorization

from the former patient.