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## CRIME REPORT: STATE FIGURES DOWN, ROBESON COUNTY UP 12%

by Bruce Barton

The State Department of Crime Control and Public Safety released statistics Monday showing the number of major crimes dropped by two percent across North Carolina but actually rose 12 percent in Robeson County.

Department Secretary Heman Clark said the latest figures show the seven major categories of crime declined two percent in 1981 and that murders declined 12 percent statewide.

In nearby Cumberland County crimes in the seven major categories declined by about 8 percent in 1981, according to statistics.

Major crimes in Robeson County increased by 12 percent last year, the report shows.

Clark said that North Carolina's crime rate is lower than the average for the South and the nation.

The report showed that 2,185 major crimes were reported in Robeson County in 1981 as compared to 1,959 in 1980. Violent crimes increased locally by 74 percent while property crimes were up approximately 6 percent.

The report was expected to be seized upon as a major theme in the upcoming sheriff's race. Sheriff Hubert Stone has

been criticized by McDuffie Cummings, a candidate for sheriff, and the other candidates (C.A. Brown, Jesse Britt, and Luther Sanderson) for a number of unsolved murders in the county and an increase in burglaries and larcenies.

Sheriff Stone, up for re-election, was quoted in the local press as saying "Violent crimes are the hardest to prevent. They're crimes of passion, and usually done on the spur of the moment after someone has been arguing or

drinking...where the property crimes are concerned though. I still believe that the sheriff's department is doing a real good job at holding that down."

The report is expected to be a topic of discussion at a forum being sponsored by the Robeson County Young Democrats tonight for candidates for sheriff.

The forum will be held at the Robeson County Court house in Courtroom #1 beginning at 7:30 p.m.



Jimmy Hodgpoth, right, city executive and assistant vice president of First Union National Bank in Pembroke, presents a \$2,500 check from the First Union National Bank

Fund, Greater Charlotte Foundation to Chancellor Paul Givens of PSU. The money will go into PSU's student scholarship fund.

### Lowry named "Lion of the Year"



Richard S. Lowry, Jr. was named "Lion of the Year" by the Pembroke Lions Club at the 20th Annual Charter Night-Ladies Night Banquet held at the Town and Country Restaurant in Pembroke Monday night. Presentation of the Plaque of Designation was made by Lion Marvin Carter.

Lion E.R. "Buck" Graham, past district governor, was the featured speaker for the evening. Lion Graham was present at the Pembroke Lions first charter night banquet in 1962 and presented the club charter to John H. Sampson, first club president. Graham was introduced by club secretary, Governor R. Barnes.

Presentation of 20 year membership certificates were presented by Lion George King, deputy district governor, 31-F of Raeford. Twenty year members receiving certificates were Governor R. Barnes, who has been club secretary for the past 20 years; Marvin Carter, Neal Graham, Leslie Locklear, Vin-

cent Lowry, Welton Lowry, Robert L. McGirt, Newman B. Oxendine, John H. Sampson, John W. Sampson and Woodrow Sampson.

Welton Lowry introduced the Lions and their ladies. Elmer Hunt introduced the special guests, including past district, Governor John S. Gardner and wife of Lumberton; Ben Sealy, candidate for district governor of Lumberton; Carl Sechrist, president of Lumberton Lions Club; Lion Jack Kutz of Lumberton; Deputy District Governor George King and wife of Raeford; and past district Governor 31-F, E.R. "Buck" Graham and wife of Aberdeen.

Vincent Lowry, club treasurer served as Master of Ceremonies.

Shown left to right are Furman Brewer, club president; Richard Seavle Lowry, Jr., "Lion of the Year;" and E.R. "Buck" Graham, featured speaker for the evening. [An Elmer Hunt photo]

### National Indian Issues and the Political Process

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is a speech delivered by Ruth Dial Woods, Lumbie activist, to the Seventh Annual Indian Unity Conference.

While we are confronting a series of national Indian issues, we can perhaps work more quickly through the one overall issue under which all of these national issues can be listed—the issue of SURVIVAL. Survival will depend upon (1) Economics—Whether or not we have jobs, the degree to which we suffer unemployment; whether or not we can hold on to our farms, our land, our businesses; (2) Health—Whether or not we can afford proper medical care and treatment, the availability of doctors and clinics, dentists and nurses and the ability to continue to grow our food for

health and nutrition; (3) Education—in order to prepare our teachers, lawyers, doctors, farmers, mechanics, our factory workers, so that we can prevail at the white, blue and pink collar jobs; (4) Housing—whether or not we can continue to own our farms and our lands in order to build our houses and to farm our crops, to pay for mortgages and our rents and taxes; (5) Care for the Young and the Elderly—how well we can accept our responsibility for those who have "trained" us to make it and how well we can pass along to our young what our grandmothers, grandfathers, aunts and uncles have given to us.

Our first approach should be to accentuate the positive. Let us examine where we are: -We have all learned to work;

-We know well how to raise crops and grow gardens for food;

-We have seized the opportunity to send our young people into the professions of lawyers, doctors, nurses, and dentists, and we still have some elders who continue to teach us the "old way" of curing some of our illnesses; -We are found at all levels of society—professionals, businessmen and businesswomen, farmers, and government leaders and workers; -We have held on to the land, built our houses and recognize the sense of security and freedom in this ownership;

-We recognize our elders and those who suffered before us and have taught us how to take opportunities when they are make available to us; We have historically valued education and the responsibility of parents to encourage the education of their children by strong support of education and the schools.

All this we have done in the past, first without government assistance, and more recently, with assistance. We know first hand how to do it without, and how to do it better, with assistance.

The issues of survival have confronted Indian people, and particularly those of us here in North Carolina, since the invasion of the European immigrants. These issues confronted us before we ever received any assistance from the federal government, and they will continue to confront our children and our grandchildren. What is important, is that we continue to persevere and uphold our strong determination which has been successfully modeled by our Indian leaders of the past. At

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Little Miss Lumbie, Tara Nicole Sampson, made an appearance at the Annual Little Miss Lumberton Pageant that was held March 13, 1982 at Tanglewood Elementary School. As special entertainment Tara performed her winning talent "Baby Face."

During the past months Tara has made special appearances at the Little Miss Cumberland County Indian Princess Pageant, the Annual Sampson Reunion, Strike at the Wind, the Lumbie Longhouse Learning Centers at Fairgrove and Magnolia and various talent shows and parades. She will be a visiting queen at the Miss Pembroke Junior High Pageant which will be held Friday, March 19, 1982.

Tara is the seven year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Dale Sampson of Route 4, Lumberton.



Shown are the judges for the "Pembroke Follies," the contest for the 1982 "Miss Pembroke Junior High."

From left to right: W. Philip McRae, Patricia W. Pierce, Marilyn Hunt, Deborah Marie Drake and Alice Faye Revels.

The Pembroke Follies, that is the 1982 Miss Pembroke Junior High School Pageant, not only promises to be one of the best yet, but is honored by a host of judges from a wide variety of backgrounds.

The judges are Dehaeva Drake, Marilyn Hunt, W. Philip McRae, Patricia W. Pierce, and Alice Faye Revels. Each of these judges brings experiences which will enable him or her to be impartial.

Dehaeva Marie Drake, who graduated from Pembroke State University in 1977 with a degree in Music Education. Presently she is a private music teacher. A former Miss Black North Carolina and North Carolina All-American Girl, Ms. Drake resides in Lumberton.

Marilyn Hunt was graduated from Pembroke State University with a B.S. in Elementary Education degree. She received her Masters in Library Science at the University of North Carolina in Greensboro, North Carolina. Having worked in Robeson County schools and part time for Robeson Technical College, Ms. Hunt is presently evening librarian for Robeson Technical College. Ms. Hunt and her husband, Harley K., reside in the Fairmont area.

W. Philip McRae, a Laurinburg attorney, was graduated from Pembroke State University in 1977 receiving a B.A. in History and from North Carolina Central University School of Law in 1981 receiving a Juris Doctor degree. He is a member of the North Carolina Bar Association and the Phi Delta Phi National Legal Fraternity. He and his wife, Gail, and their son, Phillip, live on Aberdeen Road near Laurinburg.

Patricia W. Pierce received her B.S. in Elementary Education degree from Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond and her Masters in Education from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia. Presently she is a specialist in learning disabilities with the Robeson County Board of Education. She is the wife of Julian T. Pierce; they have three children and

reside in the Wakulla area. Alice Faye Revels was graduated from Robeson Technical College in 1976 with a degree in Cosmetology. Currently, a member of the NC Dept. of Transportation, Ms. Revels is a cosmetologist at Barbara's Styling Salon in St. Pauls. She is married to Hilton C. Revels; they have two children, Darwin and Kim, and reside in the Magnolia area.

The Pembroke Follies will be held Friday, March 19, at 7:30 p.m. in the Pembroke State University Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$3.00. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### Ex-Policeman's Trial Is Set

LUMBERTON — A March 20 trial date has been set for a former Lumberton police officer accused of bribery and obstruction of justice charges.

James Edward Hunt, 31, is accused of accepting a \$500 bribe from Lumberton service station operator Carl Stoker to drop a drunken-driving charge against Stoker.

The trial is scheduled for Robeson County Superior Court, but will be prosecuted by special prosecutors from the state Attorney General's office. The Robeson County District Attorney's office is expected to offer evidence for the prosecution in the trial.

Hunt was suspended from the Lumberton force last April after he was indicted on the charges. He resigned from the force in August.

In January, Hunt was found not guilty of bribery charges stemming from an alleged incident in 1976 while he was a member of the Rowland police force. In that trial he was accused of taking a \$125 bribe in exchange for dropping a drunken-driving charge against Alvin Tyson Burns. The jury deliberated for only 20 minutes before returning a not guilty verdict in that trial.

Hunt is charged also with removing police equipment from an auto and arrested on drunken-driving charges. Trial on those charges are not expected to be held until the Attorney General's office has completed its investigation.

## Ralph Hunt Found Guilty

Lumberton-A Robeson County Superior Court jury comprised of 3 whites, 1 Indian and 8 blacks found Ralph Hunt, Robeson County educator, guilty of driving while his license was permanently revoked Wednesday. The trial follows an appeal of a district court verdict.

The jury was reportedly out "about 30 minutes" before returning with the verdict. Hunt was arrested by Trooper H.L. Covington, Jr. on October 18, 1981.

The case, although a misdemeanor traffic violation, was tried by Joe Freeman Britt, the district attorney.

Another interesting feature of the case was that a transcription of the district court case was used extensively by Britt during the two day trial.

Hunt, an Indian, was defended by Pembroke Indian Attorney Arnold Locklear.

Sentencing is set for today even though Ralph Hunt's mother died Wednesday afternoon following the trial. H. Pou Bailey was the judge.

Hunt could receive up to two years in prison for the conviction.