minally besite

**Upon the Loss** of a Pet... Or Changes In Our Attitudes

attitudes of Lumbee Indians become very evident in modern society. It has been said that "the more things change. the more they stay the same." Lumbee people have for their dogs, that love remains the same. However, when it comes to the role of the dog and the relationship of that dog to the family, change is very obvious.

I can remember how my father loved, protected and cared for his dogs. But those dogs' value were equated with their ability to work; to pets prefer special diets and earn their keep by helping to feed the family. While pedigree & blood line were through to influence the dogs' ability to hunt, the thing which determined the worth or appreciation of the dog was his/her effectiveness as a hunter. oftentimes, non-pedigree dogs were "pitted" against the blood line dog with very favorable results and much "kidding."

These dogs belonged. But, they belonged in "a dog's place." They did not belong

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Change in some of the in the house, and most certainly not in the beds. Food in many families was scarce. Therefore, the dogs are last

and only what was left. The position of the dog for When it comes to the love the urban Lumbee family and some others is that of "pet" and family member. These dogs often sit and sleep in the same areas where the people family members do these activities. Their food come from the dinner table oftentimes at the same time the family eats, in some cases, even before.

Some of these pampered require only certain items cooked in a certain way. In sickness, they command only the best and most expensive medical care.

Such attention, reassures the dog that he/she is indeed another member of the family. After several years of such close relationship, what is the impact on a family when such a pet dies?

Peppi came to live with the Locklears in 1970. He was a runaway from prior owners due to mistreatment. Although he was a pure bred French Poodle, minature, we never knew much of Peppi's vital stats, such as age and birthdate. The vet estimated his age as two in 1970. This means Peppi was fourteen dog years, equal to ninetyeight in man years.

Peppi was wise, a good ch dog. He did not know but a few tricks. He did respond to conversation. Recently, when Rev. David Hunt was a guest in our home, in



Peppi enjoyed being photo graphed.

play he called Peppi "Snaggle Tooth" in reference to the dog having been to the dentist. Peppi understood and immediately would not allow Rev. Hunt passage upstairs until the latter apologized. So, Peppi was not only a

'best friend," he was a pal. Peppi was not on the family's health insurance, nor was he a legal dependent. spared when the dog's wellbeing was concerned.

Its not unusual to hear that Indian families have paid chase or care for a dog. I've miss him very much.

\$700.00 to bury a dog. These are not "well-off" families. In one case, the family borrowed the money

Yes, while the Lumbee people might accept change more slowly, transition does

Many will argue even that to write and print articles about dogs is a waste of time. Nevertheless, no cost was. Yet, really we are about how change is necessary in order to keep up with a changing

Oh yes, about the impact of hundreds of dollars to pur- Peppi's loss, we cried. We



family cou ch with Jocque Donavin Bentley shares the family pet.

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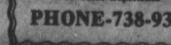
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