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PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-racial Setting."

ROBESON COUNTY

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THURSDAY

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"The Year of the Native American"

LUMBEE HOMECOMING 1986

The 17th Annual Lumbee Homecoming began June 27 with the Pow Wow held at the Pembroke Junior High. The festivities concluded on July 5 with the opening night of the eleventh season of Strike at the Wind. Other activities included a Gospel Sing held June 29 at Oak Grove Holiness Church; a kick off dance held at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut.

One of the highlights of the annual homecoming festivities was the Little Miss Lumbee Pageant held July 2 at the PSU Performing Arts Center. At this time Shelly Denyale Scott relinquished her crown to Kelli Wallace, Miss Lumbee 1986. Kelli is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Efland Wallace. On July 3 the Awards Banquet was held at Pembroke Junior High. At this time many outstanding Lumbee Indians were honored. Dexter Brooks received the coveted Henry Berry Lowry Award;

Janice Jacobs Hunt received the Advancement of Education Award; Bill Deese received the Business Person of the Year Award; and Rev. Mike Cummings received the Distinguished Service Award. Kenneth R. Maynor who recently resigned as executive director of LRDA, the sponsoring agency of Lumbee Homecoming, was awarded a plaque of appreciation for his fourteen years of service to the agency and the Indian community. This award was presented by LRDA Board member Adolph Dial.

The Miss Lumbee Pageant was held July 4 at the PSU Performing Arts Center. At this time Brenda Lowry, Miss Lumbee 1985, relinquished her crown to Leshia Gail Rogers, daughter of

Ethel and Johnny Rogers. The Miss Congeniality Award was presented to Sandra Goins of Fayetteville.

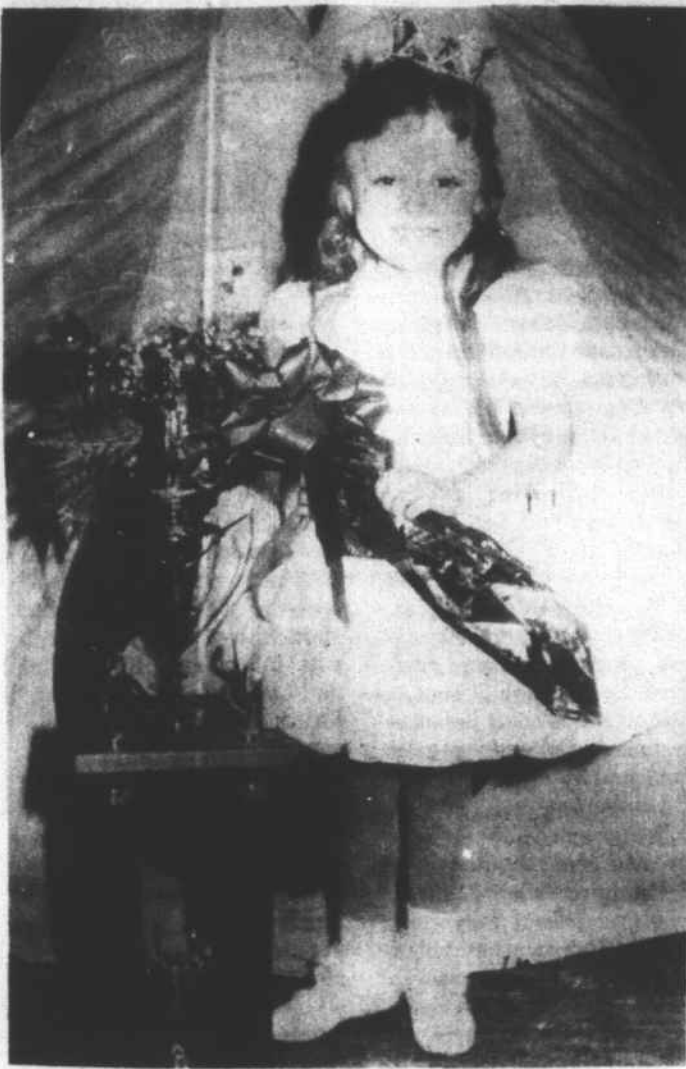
Janet Brown of Fayetteville was named second runner up and Kim Clark of Red Springs was chosen first runner-up. The coronation ball followed at the Old Foundry Restaurant in Lumberton.

Other activities included activities in the park on Saturday, July 5 as well as bow and arrow competition. The parade was also held on Saturday and attracted an estimated 15,000 people. In addition to queens, commercial floats, etc., many

political figures appeared. Riding in the parade were Congressman Charlie Rose, Rep. Danny DeVane; former governor Jim Holshouser;

Senator Jim Broyhill; and Tommy Harrellson, the Republican candidate for Congress; Senator David Parnell and several others.

Little Miss Lumbee



Kelli Wallace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Efland Wallace, was crowned Little Miss Lumbee 1986.

Photos by Hunt's Studio of Photography-See More Photos On Page 8

Coffee Break Planned For Mary Alesia Maynor



The Area C.B. Club will sponsor a Coffee Break at the junction of Highways 74 and 710 on July 11 and 12. The event is being sponsored to raise funds to help defray medical expenses for Mary Alesia Maynor, 14-

month-old daughter of Mary Ann Maynor. Alesia was born with a cleft palate and more surgery is required to correct the problem. Every one is invited to come by and donate to this worthwhile cause.



Should Robeson Merge Its Five School Systems Into One?

As long as this writer can remember, most progressive Robesonians have been against the present school situation in Robeson County.

In my capacity as editor of the Carolina Indian Voice, I stated in a May 29, 1980 column (AS I SEE IT):

"As long as I can remember I have been against the present public school structure in Robeson County. I was one of the first ones to stand up and say in no uncertain terms that 'Double voting' is not only wrong but evil besides.

"I like me for having taken that stand. I have not been so forceful on other matters.

"Racism is still rampant in Robeson County, evident mostly in five separate and unique school systems. We had six systems but the number was reduced to five because of the leadership of the present Robeson County Board of Education and county schools superintendent, Fumell Swett, when Maxton was taken into the county system last year.

"But five school systems is still four too many. One school system is enough period.

"Some say we maybe could have two, with Lumberton hanging on to their present system. No! Two would be as evil and wrong as 20 or 30 or some other indeterminate number.

"One is enough. Then all our children would be treated the same. No special favors, no special taxes, no special nothing. This is America, the land of the brave and free. Every citizen is entitled to equal but fair treatment."

Some Indian parents initiated a Federal law suit to disband the five school systems in 1980. (The suit was

settled politically before coming to trial.)

In a statement accompanying the suit, the parents stated:

"We are parents of children enrolled in the public schools of Robeson County and we are taxpayers. We believe in the principles of free public education and equality. We further believe in the right and obligations of citizens to seek relief from practices which violate either the spirit or the letter of the law.

"We do not enter this action lightly. We have examined our motives as well as the educational system and find that for the sake of our children and generations to come, we must actively work toward the development of a public school system which provides equal educational opportunities to all children. This action necessitates the dissolution of long established customs in our tri-racial county.

"Our suit asks that federal, state and local tax monies not be used to support the five school systems that have each selected to perpetuate segregation through manipulation of school district boundaries. Our suit also asks that construction be prohibited on the \$4.5 million consolidated western high school and on the proposed \$1.5 million renovation of a consolidated northern high school and the proposed Ashpole/Rowland High School consolidation, since we believe that these schools will further guarantee segregation for untold years to come.

"We ask, however, as our most important goal that the school system in our county be required to submit a complete plan for a unified and non-discriminatory system that will eliminate all vestiges of past and present

racial discrimination.

"It is our firm conviction that our suit is just and that it will bring ultimate benefits to the children of Robeson County, that it will result in a better return on tax dollars, and that it will insure compliance with the laws of our nation."

In 1982, in spite of vociferous and, sometimes, unbelievable knee-jerk reactions from many of the affected residents, the N.C. General Assembly passed legislation in the Senate that de-annexed the Clyburn Fines-Country Club area from the Lumberton City School District and returned it to the Robeson County School District from which it was unlawfully taken more than a decade ago.

The legislation was endorsed by all of the local legislators, and sponsored by Rep. Horace Loefer, the then Indian Representative, in an effort to resolve the long-standing controversy concerning the illegal annexation of areas outside Lumberton proper which occurred in the late '50s and early '70s. The renegade annexations occurred at the height of the desegregation pressure by federal authorities, and many believe that they were engineered so as to allow the predominately white residents to avoid sending their children to the predominately Indian county schools.

The illegal annexations were brought to federal attention by Dexter Brooks during the summer of 1974 while he was a law student intern with the Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice. The U.S. Attorney General then formally objected to the annexations under the provisions of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 in early 1975, though no enforcement action was forthcoming by the federal authorities.

Dials Arrested for Breaking and Entering

Lumberton-The Robeson County Sheriff's Department today is still sorting stolen merchandise recovered earlier this week following the arrest of a Pembroke man and a woman identified as his wife.

Over \$15,000 worth of stereos, microwaves, VCR's, sterling silver, TV's, jewelry and guns have been recovered from Robeson, Cumberland, Scotland and possibly Hoke counties and investigation is still under way.

Sheriff Hubert Stone said, "Most of this merchandise was recovered from known drug dealers in this and other counties. Our information indicates the stolen property was traded for cash and drugs, possibly traded for drugs for personal use." Arrested and charged with

seven counts of breaking, entering and larceny was George Allen Dial, 29, of Pembroke. Dial was also charged with failing to appear in court on prior charges of breaking, entering and larceny and was jailed under a total bond of \$18,400.

"About six months ago," according to Sheriff Stone, "this department arrested Dial and charged him with several break-ins. At that time he made bond and then failed to appear in court to answer the charges. Most of the property we recovered this week was stolen since Dial made bond and then failed to appear six months ago."

"Most of this property was stolen from homes during daylight hours," Stone said, "and in most cases

evidence shows a door to the home was simply crashed open to gain entry."

Arrest reports on file with the sheriff's office indicate Dial jumped from his car and ran when stopped by officer while driving near I-95 and US-74 near Lumberton. Assisted by a trained dog, officers arrested Dial a short time later at a mobile home nearby.

Also arrested and charged with possession of stolen property was Alice Faye Dial, 29, of Route 4, Lumberton.

Detectives Arthur Oxendine, Thurman Mitchell and Jimmy Maynor said investigation of the thefts and the recovered merchandise was continuing and that no property would be released or returned until positive identification was made and the merchandise was cleared from use as evidence.

AWARDS BANQUET



Shown above are the winners of the various awards presented at the Awards Banquet, one of the highlights of Lumbee Homecoming.

Left to right they are: Dexter Brooks, Pembroke attorney, recipient of the

Henry Berry Lowry Memorial Award; Janice Jacobs Hunt who received the Advancement to Education

Award; Bill Deese, owner of Deese Coach Lines, winner of the Businessman of the Year Award; Rev. Mike Cummings, pastor of Mt.

Amy Baptist Church, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award; and Kenneth R. Maynor, former executive director of LRDA, who was presented a plaque of appreciation for fourteen years of service to the agency and the Indian community.

1986 MISS LUMBEE



Leshia Gail Rogers was crowned Miss Lumbee 1986 during recent Lumbee Homecoming festivities. She is the daughter of Ethel and Johnny Rogers.

Benefit Gospel Sing Planned For Santana Britt

A benefit gospel sing will be held at Island Grove Baptist Church on Saturday, October 25, 1986 at 7 p.m. Proceeds will be used to help cover medical expenses for nine-month-old Santana Lyn Britt who was born with multiple birth defects. Santana spends much of her time in the hospital and when she is at home she requires several machines, including a respirator.

Featured singers will be the Singing Mears, the McNeill Family, the White Hill Quartet and the New Bethel Quartet.

A love offering will be taken. The event is being sponsored by Santana's grandmother, Mrs. Mercer Britt.

Anyone wishing to make contributions to help the family with medical expenses should send them to: Santana Britt Fund, P.O. Box 1076, Pembroke, NC 28572.

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PEMBROKE, N.C. 28572

Robeson County attorneys sort and identify over \$15,000 worth of merchandise stolen in Robeson and surrounding counties over the past six months. [RCS-D photo]