



Hospice of Robeson's 11th annual Festival of Trees reunited twelve children who had attended the 1996 session of Camp Care. Santa presented each Camp Care alumni with a gift. Kneeling from left are Leigh Ann Oxendine of Pembroke; Jessica Oxendine of Fairmont; Josh Oxendine of Fairmont; David Bryan, Brad Hunt and Jonathan Bryan, all of Lumberton. Standing are Lee Ann Clark, Keshia Hunt, Shayla Clark, all of Lumberton; Shannon Oxendine of Pembroke, Melissa Bryan of Lumberton, Santa Claus (a.k.a. Joe Glezen) and J.R. Taylor of Lumberton.

Proceeds from the 1996 Festival of Trees held December 8-11 will help fund the 1997 Camp Care to be held again in May. Hospice of Robeson established the camp in 1995 for children 8 to 16 who have experienced the death of a loved one. In addition to recreational activities and crafts, camp Care offer counseling to help youngsters cope with their grief.

Donations to Festival of Trees can still be made through Dec. 30 at the Tree of Honor located in Biggs Park Mall. For more information about Hospice services or Camp Care, call 738-1905.

Free Poetry Contest Open to Pembroke Poets

A \$1,000 grand prize is being offered in a free poetry contest, open to everyone in the Pembroke area. There are over \$3,000 in prizes, and the deadline for entering is January 15. Winners will be announced on or before March 31, and a winner's list sent to all entrants.

"Poems may be written on any subject, using any style," says Dr. Carolyn Vanderbilt, famed contest director of Hollywood's Famous Poets of America. "We are so sure this contest will attract great - yet heretofore unknown - poets that we are reserving the right to publish the winning poems. We can't emphasize enough: Beginners are welcome!" To enter, send one poem only 21 lines or less to: Free Poetry Contest, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Suite 126, Hollywood, Calif. 90028.

Bridging The Gap

The North Carolina Client Assistance Program (CAP) serves clients, former clients, and applicants of the N.C. Division of Vocational Rehabilitation Services, the N.C. Division of Services for the Blind, and the Independent Living Rehabilitation Program.

The Client Assistance Program (CAP) assists clients in understanding and using rehabilitation services. CAP ensures that people with disabilities know about rehabilitation programs and know how to obtain services. CAP emphasizes the rights and responsibilities of the client.

The Client Assistance Program staff will answer questions about programs and services, will work with client and counselor to solve reha-

bilitation problems, will advise on how to appeal decisions that remain unresolved following informal discussions, and will direct clients to other resources.

In addition the Client Assistance Program will provide registration for assistance dogs for mobility impaired individuals.

The Client Assistance Program can be reached by writing or telephoning the following address:

North Carolina Client Assistance Program
P.O. Box 26053
Raleigh, N.C. 27611
(919) 733-6300 (Voice or TDD)
(919) 715-2456 (Fax)
1-800-215-2772

Robeson County Groups Awarded \$35,813 From NC Arts Council

Raleigh, N.C. -- Nonprofit groups in Robeson County have been awarded \$35,813 in grants from the N.C. Arts Council for arts programs and project during 1996-97.

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center received \$10,500 for an Arts and Crafts Co-op program. Pembroke Magazine received \$1,000 to publish "Pembroke Magazine #29", and the University of North Carolina-Pembroke received \$3,439 to produce a 28-minute videotape documenting the lives of tribal elders who were in government service in World War II.

In addition, the following organizations received a portion of \$20,874 in funds for grassroots arts initiatives: Carolina Civic Center received \$2,874; Fairmont received \$2,000; Lumbee Regional Development Association \$3,500; Lumberton Parks and Recreation Department received \$1,500; North Carolina Indian Cultural Center received \$2,000; Red Springs Arts Council received \$2,000; Robeson Civic Chorale received \$1,000; Robeson County Library received \$1,000; Robeson Little Theatre received \$1,000; Rowland Christmas Festival Committee received \$1,000; University of North Carolina - Pembroke Givens Performing Arts Center received \$2,000; and University of North Carolina - Pembroke Native American Resource Center received \$1,000.

The N.C. Arts Council awards grant money each year to help pro-

vide diverse arts experience for citizens in all 100 counties of North Carolina. In 1996-97, the Council will distribute a total of \$4.25 million to arts organizations, schools, libraries, and other nonprofit organizations that sponsor arts programs.

"Arts program in North Carolina are flourishing due to the vibrant and successful partnership between the public and private sectors," said Mary Regan, executive director of the N.C. Arts Council. "We must continue to nurture and support arts in our communities to provide all North Carolinians with opportunities to participate in, be challenged by, and enjoy a variety of arts experiences."

To be eligible for Council funds, organizations must produce programs of artistic merit that encourage community involvement. Grants require that matching funds be raised by the applicant organization.

The N.C. Arts Council was established in 1967 as a division of the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources. Its mission is to enrich the cultural life of the state by nurturing and supporting excellence in the arts and by providing opportunities for every North Carolinian to experience the arts.

For additional information, please contact Jean W. McLaughlin, director of statewide initiatives, at (919) 733-2111, ext. 15 or Nancy Trovillion, N.C. Arts Council assistant director, at ext. 28.

Solid Waste Management Solicits Aid of Citizens During Holidays

Robeson County Solid Waste Management solicits the aid of all citizens of Robeson county during the Christmas Holidays.

Please do not pile your trash and scrap paper on the ground, inside or out side the fence. If containers are full when you go to one of the disposal site, do not throw refuse on the ground, wait until containers are empty before disposing of the refuse.

The solid waste department will commence clean-up and removal at 7 o'clock A.M. on December 26th. All sites will be cleaned at least three times on Thursday and Friday.

You will not have to hold your refuse and trash no more than one day, and this will aid this department tremendously. Have a Merry Christmas and please help keep Robeson County clean.



Pembroke First United Methodist Youth attended a Youth Pilgrimage recently at the Cumberland County Civic Center in Fayetteville. Shown left to right: Elizabeth Brooks, Mark Adams, and Sherri Brooks.

News from Purnell Swett High School

Fannie Dial Lowry, Mahetta Rena Manning, Brenda Sue Reese, and Dennis Watts were selected in the fourth edition of Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1996.

There will be a Financial Aid Workshop for students and parents in the Purnell Swett Media Center on Tuesday, January 7, 1997 at 6:30 pm. The public is invited to attend. Parents of current high school juniors and seniors are particularly encouraged to attend.

Ms. Iris Locklear's Food and Nutrition class explored six food regions of the United States. Each group researched and presented information to the class. Groups prepared foods from the region. Regions explored included: Northeast-New York-Cheesecake; Southwest-New Mexico-salsa, tortilla chips; South-North Carolina-sweet potato pie; Pacific Coast-California-fruits; Hawaii-Hawaiian Islands-pork and rice, pineapple cake; and Midwest-Kansas-corn.

The Living History Club of Purnell Swett High School presented a variety show at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton on November 16 and 18 under the direction of Mr. John Hodges. The Living History Club danced to "Rock Around the Clock", "Little Egypt", "YMCA", "Celebrate", and "Surfing USA". Also featured was Mr. Ray Charles, Ms. Delores Jones, former Spanish teacher of PSHS, along with other students and members of the audience, danced to the Macarena.

Congratulations to senior Jessica Locklear for winning the Pembroke VFW's Voice of Democracy contest. Jessica represented Purnell Swett High School and won first place. Jessica presented her speech at the VFW and was awarded \$100 as the first place winner.

William Trice performed in RAPUNZEL for Littlefield Middle on November 25 and W.H. Knuckles on December 5.

Natula and Tamer Lowery attended the national FFA convention in Kansas City, Missouri November 10-18. The speakers at the convention included: Terrv Bradshaw, Miss

Red Cloud's Prayer

O GREAT SPIRIT, I pray you to look upon us. We are your children and you placed us first in this land.

We do not ask for anything but what is right and just.

"We pray you to look down upon us, so that nothing but truth shall be spoken in this council.

"When you made your red children, O Great Spirit, you made them to have mercy on them. Now we are before you today, praying you to look down on us, and have pity on your poor red children.

"You are the protector of those who use the bow and arrow, as well as those people who wear hats, I hope we do not pray to you in vain. We are poor and ignorant, but our fathers have told us that we would not be in distress if we asked you for assistance.

"O Great Spirit, look down on your children and take pity on them."

America 1990, the National Teacher of the year 1995, Ty England, and the National FFA president 1994-95. Natula and Tamer attended the National Rodeo Final, Diamond Rio, Concert, and saw the Arch gate way to the west. They also visited the Negro Baseball Hall of Fame, and the St. Louis Zoo and Science center. There were 40,000 FFA members and guests at the convention.

The "Living History" Club of Purnell Swett High School performed in the first annual "Benefit Variety Show". The show was held at the Carolina Civic Center in Lumberton on November 23, 1996. Money from the show bought Christmas presents for the clients from the Southeastern Industrial Center, and helped send clients from the ARC (Associates of the Retarded Citizens) to camp. The "Living History" Club will next present "Remember the 60's - an original musical about the 1960's: the end of January at the Carolina Civic Center. Groups and student rates will be available.

The profits from this show will go towards a scholarship in the name of the "Living History" Club for University of North Carolina tuition.

The PSHS band and chorus held its annual Christmas concert Thursday, December 12 featuring various Christmas selections.

Lumbee River EMC's Scholarships and Youth Tour Opportunities Announced

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation's (Lumbee River EMC) annual youth program is open to high school students whose parents are member-consumers in good standing of the cooperative.

FOR SENIOR: Seniors graduating this year may be eligible for a Lucy Smith or John S. O'Brian Scholarship. These two scholarships are worth \$2,000 each, and are for students who will attend a four-year college or university.

Students who plan to attend two year colleges, or technical schools, may be eligible for the J. McN Gillis Scholarship. Lumbee River EMC offers two McN Gillis Scholarships in the amount of \$1,200 each.

JUNIOR YOUTH TOUR: Juniors may also apply to Lumbee River EMC for a trip on the National Rural Electric Youth Tour of Washington, D.C. in June, 1997. Two

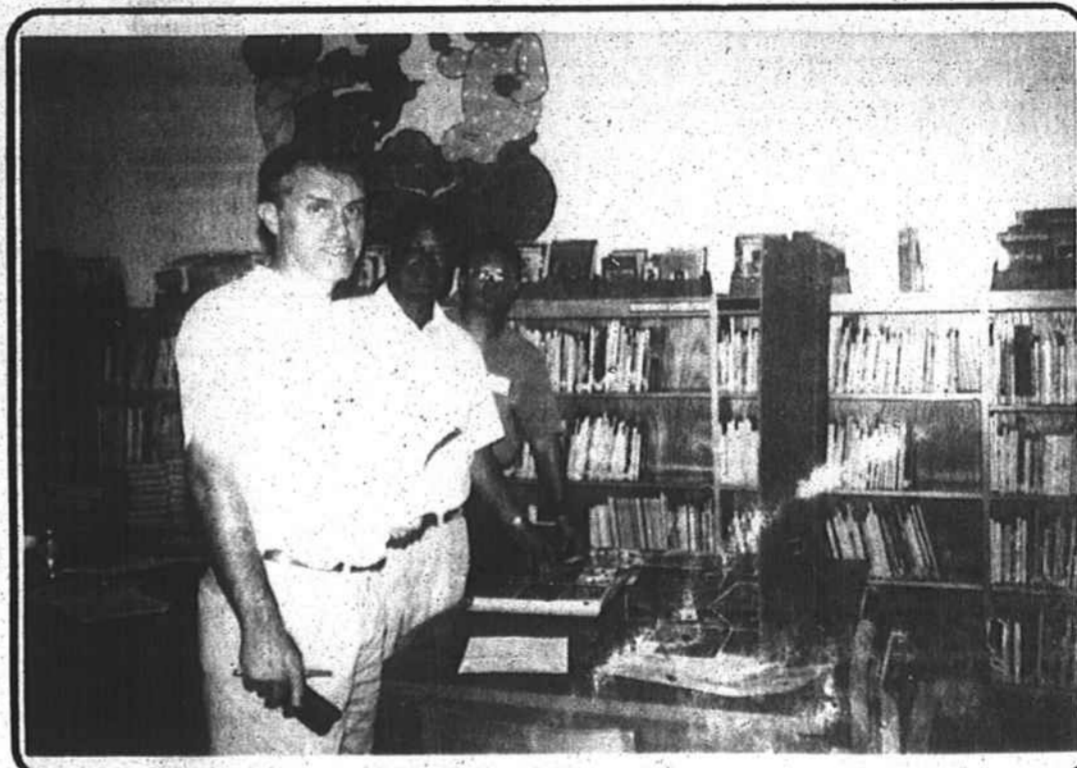
winners will be selected for this week-long, expense paid, trip. Applicants will be asked to write a brief essay on selected cooperative topics or issues.

Guidance counselors at area schools will have applications available beginning Monday, January 6, 1997. Applications will also be available at LREMC's main office in Red Springs, or at any of our district offices in Laurinburg, Lake Rim, Raeford, Lumberton, or Fairmont.

For further information, contact Linda B. Locklear, LREMC Youth Program Coordinator, at 843-4131. Fairmont area members may call 628-0056, and those in the Laurinburg area 276-8802.

Lumbee River EMC is a member owned, non-profit, electric cooperative, overseen by a board of directors elected by the membership, serving 38,000 families and businesses in Cumberland, Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties.

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Mr. Rick Scott, Mr. Ronnie Williamson, and Mr. Monte James analyze photographs from other UTOTES projects in preparing to finalize future project sites at Deep Branch Elementary Montessori School.

Deep Branch Elementary Montessori School to Take Science Outdoors

Deep Branch Elementary Montessori School is one of 24 schools participating this year in an award-winning project that helps teachers use nature as their classroom. The program, Using the Outdoors to Teach Experiment at Science (UTOTES), is administered by the N.C. State Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh. Museum naturalist, Charlie Baker, is working with Principal Loretta Hunt-Hagen and lead teachers Teresa M. Locklear and Jeffrey Thames to create wildlife habitats on the school grounds. Using native wildflowers, shrubs, and trees, schools in the program develop "outdoor classrooms" with butterfly gardens, wetland areas, and bird feeding and observation areas. From sixteen to twenty-four people will participate from Deep Branch Elementary

Montessori School, including supporters from the community. They will spend at least 34 hours over the next two years learning how to teach science and other subjects through hands-on activities that engage students in the natural environment.

According to Mike Dunn, UTOTES coordinator for the Museum, providing cover for birds and small mammals, butterflies and other wildlife not only creates an exciting setting for learning science, it gives students an appreciation for preserving wildlife habitats as urban areas encroach. Dunn says, "Direct experience with living things generates an enormous excitement about learning. The students of today will be the decision-makers affecting the future of our environment. If we can increase their awareness and apprecia-

tion of the natural world, we will go a long way toward preserving our rich natural heritage."

The program at Deep Branch Elementary Montessori School is supported by the Museum's \$719,000 grant from the National Science Foundation. In its first four years, the program was funded by the N.C. Math and Science Alliance and reached 36 schools. The NSF grant allowed the program to expand and reach an additional 75 schools between 1995 and 1998. The N.C. Department of Public Instruction works with the Museum of Natural Science in selecting participating schools. In order to maximize the regional impact of the program, at least two-thirds of the selected schools will be in the eastern portion of the state.