

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



## 50th Anniversary Celebration planned for Rev. and Mrs. Coolidge M. Cummings

The children of Rev. Coolidge M. and Vanice L. Cummings request your presence at the celebration of their 50th wedding anniversary on Saturday, December 27 at 3:00 p.m. at Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. No invitations will be sent but family and friends are invited.

## "Bright Ideas" Grants Awarded To Robeson County Educators

Lumberton—"Bright Ideas" Grants are just that—bright ideas proposed by local teachers to enhance the learning experience in their classrooms.

This year Lumbec River EMC awarded grants totaling \$10,995.00 to teams of teachers at 13 schools in the four county area Lumbec River EMC serves. Sixty five applications were received, and winners included six teachers from Cumberland County Schools, seven from the Public Schools of Robeson County, and one educator from Hoke County. The grants involve 31 teachers and 3,208 students in a variety of educational projects.

The most recent round of grants was the fourth year Lumbec River EMC has participated in the program which was launched by North Carolina's electric co-ops in 1994. The funds go to North Carolina teachers serving grades K-12.

Checks were presented to Robeson County Educators at a presentation at the Public Schools of Robeson County Board of Education in Lumberton on November 20 with Interim Superintendent Barry Harding, the school principals and the winning teachers participating. The check presentations were made by Proctor Locklear, Jr.,

President of the Board of Directors of Lumbec River EMC, and board member Ruth Oxendine.

The seven teachers from the Public Schools of Robeson County are: Adrienne Palma, Tanglewood Elementary School; Anne McGirt, Fairmont High School; Melissa Oxendine, Union Chapel Elementary School; Rene W. Parnell, Long Branch Elementary School; Kay Bradsher, Rowland Middle School; Carolyn B. Deese, Prospect Elementary School; and Kathy Dae Locklear, South Robeson High School.

The "Bright Ideas" Grant Program helps teachers help themselves by funding innovative and creative teaching proposals in a variety of disciplines, including math, science, the social sciences and reading. "This is the kind of community project co-ops like Lumbec River EMC have been involved in since their beginnings in the 1940s," said Ronnie E. Hunt, General Manager. "We mean it when we say that we are committed to the communities we serve. Congratulations to all the teachers, students and schools involved in this year's 'Bright Ideas' Program. We're already looking forward to next year."

## Ruth Locklear Revels, Executive Director of GNAA honored by Board and Staff as she nears retirement



Mrs. Ruth Locklear Revels has served as Executive Director for the Guilford Native American Association for twenty years. Recently she announced her plans to retire. The Board of Directors and the Staff of GNAA dedicated the 21st Annual Native American Pow Wow to her. The dedication was made to recognize her efforts and endless dedication to Indian people throughout North Carolina and because she is an outstanding role model for Indian youth. She will retire in June, 1998. The dedication read as follows:

Guilford Native American Association's Twenty-First Pow Wow and Celebration was dedicated to Ms. Revels for her work in Guilford County, in North Carolina and across the United States. This Celebration fits her philosophy and her beliefs. For more than twenty years, Ruth has sought out ways to make life more pleasant for others especially the elders and the children. She worked tirelessly and stood fast for principle.

It is toward this ideals that she has modeled her life. And this in time has given her heart to others. It is a legacy that she is passing on to the leaders of this community. Her vision and leadership has been crucial to our mission. Her vision must continually guide efforts. As we take the torch "Passing on our Ancestral Ways To Our Children, we will pass it on to others, always remembering Ms. Revels' commitment to "Our Future: Our Future".

She was born in 1936, in Pembroke North Carolina on her Grandfather's tobacco farm. Her home was next to her grandparent's home. She spent most of her time listening to her Grandmother's stories. It was during these times spent with her Grandmother that her gift for passionate storytelling and writing was nurtured. Ms. Revels has used these gifts to seek justice for Indian people. She realizes the power of words and stories, and the power of transformation.

She has helped to write a new story for the children by establishing a day care at the Center and providing opportunities for them to establishing a firm identity through music and dance, as well as visual arts. There are other stories that support Indian pride and identity as well as economic development: Guilford Native Industries, House of Keyawec, Southern Native American Furniture Accessories and the Guilford Native American Art Gallery. These programs were founded under her able and committed directions and leadership.

A driving force in the larger community of Guilford County, Ms. Revels has often provided an Indian presence in the arts, humans services in-

cluding health care the education, civic and faith communities, economic development and just any place she could influence the thinking of the leadership to include the needs and concerns of Indian families. The importance of the larger community understanding, respecting and responding appropriately to the cultural and physical needs of the children and their families had been a major focus of her work.

Her formal education includes a B.A. Degree in English Education from Pembroke State University. She taught English for sixteen years before serving as the executive director of Guilford Native American Association. The words of a former student, Mayor Pat McCrory, mayor of the city of Charlotte, sums up Ms. Revels' impact on the lives of youth. "Ms. Revels' impact on the lives of youth. "Ms. Revels made a mark on my life as my drama teacher that has had a positive influence on all that I do".

Ms. Revels' achievements and rewards are measured in the sounds of happiness in the day care center, the number of Indian graduates from Guilford County Schools, the pride of the faces of elders as they participate in the activities at the Center, the improved economic status of families, the spirituality and faith of Indian people in the Triad Native American United Methodist Church and her involvement in defining what it means to be Indian in today's world.

Ms. Revels is married to W. Lonnie Revels, Sr. and is the mother of two adult children, Bill and Jennifer. She has four grandchildren: Harrison and Corbin Revels and Courtney and Reid Baxter. Her daughter-in-law is Kelly

Revels and her son-in-law is Scott Baxter. A wife, mother, grandmother, mother-in-law, she now longs for more time to enjoy being "these" than anything else.

This Celebration was not just memories of the past, but hope and confidence for the future. What happens to the children is what we do with the legacy that Ms. Revels has given us—an unselfish virtue of service and many hours of work throughout the day and many nights!

by Rose Revels Windfree

## Learn To Tutor Adults To Read

The Robeson County Church and Community Center is offering (at no charge) a 4 day workshop to train and certify Laubach Literacy Volunteer Tutors to teach adults to read. The workshops will be held on January 20, 22, 27, and 29, 1998 from 6-9 PM. All four sessions are needed for the certification. The workshops will be given by Literacy Council of the Robeson County Church and Community Center. For more information or to register call 738-5204 weekdays between 9 A.M. and 5 P.M.

## "No Room At The Inn" to be presented

Pembroke First Baptist Church will be presenting the Christmas play, "No Room At The Inn" on Sunday, December 21 at 6:00 P.M. The pastor, Rev. Kent Chavis, and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

## Pembroke Fire Dept. to host fund raising event

The Pembroke City Fire Department is having a special fund drive for the next several weeks in cooperation with Community Support Services. Families will be contacted by phone and asked to make a pledge. Each family that pledges receives a beautiful 10x13 Canvas Mount Portrait, compliments of the Fire Department. Proceeds are being used to equip a first response vehicle. For any additional information call 1-800-253-2638. They appreciate your past support and look forward to your help this year.

## Free Poetry Contest

If you have written a poem, listen up. The New York Poetry Alliance is sponsoring a free poetry contest, open to everyone. There are 28 prizes in all, with a \$1,000.00 cash prize going to the winner. "We award \$25,000.00 in prizes annually," says Contest Director Dr. John Cusack. "This is our most exciting contest to date. We expect our contest to effect exciting discoveries."

A winner's list will be sent to all entrants. The deadline for entering is December 30, 1997.

To enter, send poem with 21 lines or less to:

New York Poetry Alliance  
Box 1588  
New York, NY 10116-1588.

## Remembering the Aladdin Lamp

by Ronald Lowery  
Virginia Beach, VA

I have held on to some of the memorabilia, which was necessary to sustain a livelihood and some quality of life in rural Robeson County before and during World War II. I have the iron kettle which was part of our hot water heating system, the milk churn which converted raw milk into butter and buttermilk, and the 2-man cross-cut saw which converted trees into wood for the heating and cooking systems. When visited other siblings I have seen other memorabilia display in their homes, which was used on the family farm. Brother Marvin has the family Bible and sausage mill, Brother Curless has the fertilizer distributor, and Brother Tolbert has the black trunk and mantle clock. We all have memories associated with these keepsakes.

My memory goes back to the beginning of the 1930's, a period in our country's history which was later designated as "The Great Depression of the 30's". Nobody in our family lost any money or jobs due to the financial breakdown in the economy. We had no money to invest and our jobs due to the remained available as the result of being in the family farming business. Having no electricity our lighting system was dependent on kerosene plus the light we received from a wood burning fireplace during the cold

months of the year. I began public school in the fall of 1932 and we advanced from the kerosene wick-type to the aladdin lamp, another one of my keepsakes. This lighting system was a much improved one and beneficial to preserving the eye sights of 3 of the children who were attending the public school system in Robeson county.

I have retained possession of this aladdin lamp, which ceased producing our light shortly after World War II ended and when we got electricity. It is an aladdin lamp colonial mantle lamp having a distinctive hand blown amber glass lamp base. We did not use the lamp shade, because the uncovered lamp chimney would emit more light into a room from the lox-on mantle. The lamp generated lots of heat, which was welcome during the cold months. We kept some distance from our source of light during the summer months. We only had one lamp, and it usually sat in the center of the dining room table, which served as our study area after the food and related equipment were moved into the kitchen. Our aladdin lamp was a very energy efficient operation, and was designed to burn 50 hours on one gallon of kerosene. One gallon of kerosene would run our lighting system for 12 days to 2 weeks, and we bought kerosene in a one gallon can when needed. The first errand I was entrusted to do was walking the approximately one mile up the railroad

track Pembroke to buy kerosene from The Pate Supply Company's store. I have used a large home-grown Irish potato pushed down on the spout of the kerosene can to prevent any sloshing on the return trip. During the 1930's The Pates Supply Company would allow us to use the barter system of exchange. We would exchange eggs and chicken for merchandisc, and I have bartered a basketful of eggs for one gallon of kerosene, matches, cheese and bologna.

Brother Murril and his wife Jean left their home in Indiana to spend some 12 days on the coast of North Carolina after Labor Day. They spent some time in Virginia Beach and visited with us. Since he is 2 years, 9 months, 2 weeks, and 5 day older than me, I interrogated him about the early lighting system while growing up in Robeson County. He wasn't sure of the year we advanced from the wick-kerosene type lamp to the aladdin lamp. He did remember doing his homework around the dining room table by the light from the aladdin lamp while attending Pembroke Graded School. A common occurrence we both remembered was when the wick was turned up too high, the mantle became blackened portion. I have heard that another way to correct this problem is to sprinkle a little salt down the chimney and the mantle cleans itself. The aladdin lamp is still operational, and a good stand-by to use when coastal storms knock out our electrical power.



Brother Curless Lowery is shown behind the Fertilizer Distributor in front of his home in Georgia shortly before leaving to hand over his youngest son in marriage wearing his tuxedo.

## Gospel film available for local churches

The film "The Shroud" is available to be shown at your church by request. Also available on the 16mm film is "Daniel in the Lion's Den." For further information call 521-8928.

## Santa Claus is Coming!

Santa Claus will be at the Pembroke Public Library on December 17, 1997 from 4 to 5:15 pm. Stories and treat for all!



Ronald Lowery is shown listening to some features being pointed out by his brother Murril concerning the Aladdin Lamp.



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Mr. Johnny Hunt, Principal of Prospect School is shown with Mrs. Carolyn Deese, teacher.

## Recieves National Awards

Lumberton, NC.- The Robeson County Association of Life Underwriters recently held their annual award banquet at the Outwest Steak House.

The National Sales Achievement Award which was created in 1966 and recognizes an agent's ability in client building and representation was presented to Curtis H. Allen Jr., LUTCF, 1 year, Jerry Lynn Stephens, LUTCF 3 years, Leroy Locklear, 9 years, William W. Britt Sr., LUTCF 11 years, and Milton Gene Hall, CLU, CHFC 29 years.

The National Multiline Sales Achievement Award which recognizes an agent's ability to provide clients with a wide range of insurance products from property/casualty to life and health insurance was presented to Jo-

seph Matthew Adams 1 Year.

The National Quality Award which was created in 1944 and recognizes an agent ability to provide long-standing insurance products and service to clients was presented to Joseph J. White Jr., 9 Years and to Milton Gene Hall, 22 Years.

The Educational Achievement LUTCF designees were Daniel E. Cook and Kenneth M. Spencer.

Mary Dawn Bass of Port-A-Medic was the guest speaker delivering a message on "Time Management".

The Robeson County Association of Life Underwriters was founded in 1959 and has 61 members. It's mission is to enhance professional skill and ethical conduct of those providing life and health insurance and related financial products and services.