

THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



Grandfather (left) John C. Brooks.
Grandmother (right) Leacie Brooks.

31 Year Search Ends for Brooks Family

Friday was a usual day for the Brooks family of Evergreen Church Road. Nothing could have prepared them for what happened around 2:30 p.m. that day. A phone call to the house of Leacie and John C. Brooks began the beginning to an end of a 31-year search.

Wayne Lewis born October 1, 1963 in Laurinburg to Rosa Ella and Willie B. Lewis was taken by his father following a split up of his parents. Numerous times his mother and grandmother Leacie tried to find the location of Wayne or his father. Willie B. only to be filled with despair and disappointment. The Department of Social Services and the State Bureau of Investigation were brought in to help with the search. They also came up empty handed. The father and son were by all means presumed dead. Not one day passed that Wayne was not thought of by his family, wondering if he's alive, does he know he has a mother and family that loves and misses him! Not having any answers or any leads, Rose prayed and asked God "Where ever my son is just please, God watch over him and let it be your will that brings him home!"

Evidently, following the split up of his parents Wayne's father took him to his Aunt and Uncle's near Morehead City and left only to be seen once one year later, only to be left again without a father or mother.

Sometime in January of 1994, Wayne met his father after fifteen years. Wayne was of course curious about his mother and asked his father several questions about her only to get short answers, which most of them he already knew. Except that she lived at Route 1, Pembroke and that he supposedly had a brother named Adam, that his grandfather's name was John Brooks. With this

little bit of information in hand, Wayne came to Pembroke about three weeks ago. Looking and hoping beyond hope that he would find some trace of their existence.

Wayne had met Jeff, during his travels, which previously lived in Lumberton. He contracted Jeff to help him with his search. They traveled down Union Chapel Road and came into Pembroke where they stopped at the Exxon, what we call Jake's. He asked the clerk if she knew a John or Rosa Ella Brooks and her response was "no, she didn't know them." Still determined, they went outside to the phone book, he took out the listing with the entire Brooks' and upon returning home began calling. Of course, there was not a listing for a John or Rosa Brooks because the phone number is listed as Leacie Brooks and during the time he called Mrs. Leacie was not living in her house due to a fire four months earlier.

After several calls and desperation setting in, he spoke to Cynthia Brooks and told her his tale. Listening to his story she told him she would do what she could to help him. She took his name and phone number. Sometime after that, Mrs. Cynthia spoke to Mrs. Arpie Maynor and upon relaying her story behind her strange phone call, Mrs. Arpie told her that she had a sister who had a grandson that has taken and that her sister's last name was Brooks. To make a long story short, Mrs. Leacie was contacted and the story relayed to her. It was as if her prayers were answered. Mrs. Leacie, not wanting to disbelieve the information but also not wanting to be disappointed, could not seem to pick up the phone to call the number given to her by Ms. Cynthia. Without hesitation, her daughter,



Rose Ella with the boys when they were small, Wayne and Adam, Brother of Wayne and Adam, John Wayne Collins.

Ruth whom by the way was home to help with the moving back in for her parents, picked up the phone and called. A lady answered the phone, which we found out was his wife Martha. Ruth told her why she was calling. That we were looking for a Wayne Lewis and wanted to know if this was his number. Martha replied "yes", then Ruth asked if she knew his mother's name. She told Ruth that his mother's name was Rose Ella Brooks and he had been looking for her. Questions were asked and apologies made for all the questions, but in the end it turned out to be our Wayne, we all so desperately had been looking for. During this time we found out that he was at work and would not be home until around 5:00 p.m. Anxiously awaiting his call, it finally came and all the information we received earlier was confirmed, not to mention he sounded so much like his little brother that it was uncanny.

He was told that he has two brothers, Adam Lewis 33; John Neal Collins 22, two sisters, Victoria Brooks Jowers 31 and Lisa Ann Lewis 27, Grandparents Leacie and John C. Brooks, five nieces, two nephews,

four Aunts and Uncles and eight cousins, not to mention the many more Aunts, Uncles and Cousins whom have loved and missed him for such a very long time.

On February 20, 1999, Wayne Lewis 35 came home after being lost to us for 31 years and he brought with him a wife, Martha 32, a daughter, Amy 17, two sons, Jeremy 14 and Justin 5 and a grandson, Blake 18 months. He also brought his friend Jeff and his wife Tammy and daughter Samantha. It's hard to put in words how we all felt at that very moment but this was a glorious day that will always live in our hearts for years to come. With the exception of our lost loved ones we are finally a complete family.

You know, I heard this saying once, that "The first glance is always the real one", well that's all it took for Rose on that cold February night to know that it was truly her beloved son Wayne!

Welcome Home Wayne & family we love you all
written by Victoria Brooks Jowers
your loving sister

Cummings to be autographing "Moon Dash Warrior" at Indian Unity Conference

Dekano Cummings, author of *Moon Dash Warrior*, will be autographing copies of his book at the N.C. Indian Unity Conference March 11-13, Fayetteville.

Moon Dash Warrior is the story of an American Indian in Vietnam. Cummings is a former Marine from the land of the Lumbee Indian.

Following the conference, Cummings will be going on a book tour to Dallas, TX and Oklahoma City, OK. He will be available for book signings with Waldenbooks stores in Dallas, TX, March 19-20-21 with Barnes and Noble and Waldenbooks in Oklahoma City, OK, March 26-27-28 back to Dallas, and Fort Worth TX, April 2-3.

Cummings was honored to receive a letter from the Commander of the Marine Corps General Charles C. Krulack, after he had read *Moon Dash Warrior*. "It made me proud to be a Lumbee Indian, to have been a United States Marine and to have served my country," Cummings said relative to the letter.

Local Student recognized for Excellence

Derrick Thompson of South Robeson High School was one of six seniors from the county's high schools recognized as a Student of Excellence at the February 9th meeting of the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County. The Student of Excellence Award is a Chamber of Commerce initiative to recognize students for their contributions to their schools and communities. Each area chamber is responsible for selecting a student based on applications submitted from the high school in their area; students who apply must have a 3.0 minimum grade point average. Each chamber honors the student with a plaque and other rewards for meritorious service and achievement.

Derrick Thompson has served his school in several leadership capacities: Chief Marshal for the Class of 98 and Senior Class President as well as a member of the Varsity Basketball Team. His many awards include All-County First Team in Basketball '98, HOBY Ambassador in 1997, and poetry published by the National Library of Poetry in 1998. Derrick is very diverse in his leadership and his accomplishments. Derrick defines success as "the accomplishment of desired goals accompanied with commitment and dedication." He hopes to pursue a career in the computer industry or in health care.

All Students of Excellence recipients are recognized at individual schools, at their area Chamber of Commerce meetings, and, officially, at the Board of Education presentations.

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Rachel Blue of Purnell Swett High School was one of six seniors from the county's high schools recognized as a Student of Excellence at the February 9th meeting of the Board of Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County. The Student of Excellence Award is a Chamber of Commerce initiative to recognize students for their contributions to their schools and communities. Each area chamber is responsible for selecting a student based on applications submitted from the high school in their area; students who apply must have a 3.0 minimum grade point average. Each chamber honors the student with a plaque and other rewards for meritorious service and achievement.

Rachel Blue is the number one student in her senior class and serves as Senior Class President and as president of the National Honor Society. She is active in many clubs, is on the Tennis Team, and is on the newspaper staff at her school. Her community involvement includes service as a volunteer for the Communities in Schools Program and for Community Elderly projects. She plans to obtain her optometry degree and return to her hometown of Pembroke to operate an Optometry Clinic.

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South Robeson High School Rising 9th graders for 1999/2000 and parents are invited to attend an Open House and Curriculum Tea, Sunday, March 14, 1999, from 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. At South Robeson High School Administrators, teachers and counselors will be available to answer any questions about a student's career pathway and course selections for the 1999/2000 school year.



Left to right, Wayne Lewis, Vicky Javols, Adam Lewis, Lisa Brooks, Brothers and Sisters joined together at last.



From left are CYNA'S Designer/Watch Maker Tim Locklear, Jr., CYNA'S Co-owners Tim Locklear and Cynthia Locklear, Hospice of Robeson Director Miriam Edwards, and Hospice of Robeson Assistant Director Cathy Hardee.

Union Chapel Family Supports Hospice

For more than ten years, Cynthia Locklear has given generously to Hospice of Robeson. While her mother, Vivian, was alive, they worked side by side to share their time, talent and resources with local families who had terminally ill loved ones.

Now that Cynthia operates her own family business CYNA'S Diamonds and jewelry, with help from her husband and son, she has not forgotten the cause dear to her heart. Recently she donated over \$1,300 to Hospice based on the store's sales for November.

"My mom and I were first volunteers and then she became a patient of Hospice," Locklear said. "We lost her in 1991, and this is my way of saying thank you to Hospice and all that they did to help me and my family during that difficult time."

Since 1997 Locklear has donated a percentage of her total sales for November to the local hospice organization. November is traditionally celebrated as National Hospice Month.

Hospice of Robeson Director Miriam Edwards thanked Locklear for the donation.

"Cynthia is our foundation, or building block. She has helped us not only financially, but also physically," she said.

Established in 1985, Hospice of Robeson is dedicated to the principle of affirming life. Hospice seeks neither to hasten nor postpone death but emphasizes the quality rather than length of life. Hospice services are available without regard to age, sex, race, religion, national origin, handicap or ability to pay if the individual meets the admission criteria. For more information about hospice care, call 738-1905.

Spring Clean 99

The Robeson County Board of Commissioners in appreciation and recognition of the natural beauty of our great County proclaims the following:

That whereas, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners recognizes the natural beauty that this great County has to offer, and

Whereas, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners and concerned citizens of this County also recognize that the natural beauty of this County is often spoiled by the unnecessary littering of our highways, fields and streams, and

Whereas, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners recognizes the need to make certain that all the citizens of this County are not only aware of the natural beauty of this County, but appreciate the need to maintain a County free of litter

Now, Therefore, Be It Proclaimed in a spirit of appreciation of the natural beauty of the great County of Robeson has to offer and in a spirit of recognition of an opportunity to improve that beauty, the Robeson County Board of Commissioners proclaim the week of April 18 through April 24, 1999 as "Robeson County Spring Clean 99."

Johnny Hunt, Chairman
Robeson County Board of Commissioners



Delano Cummings.

Edisto Indian Cultural Festival to be held Mar. 26-27

On March 26-27, 1999 the Edisto, Kusso, Natchez Indian People are having their annual "EDISTO Indian Cultural Festival." This is a special year because the Four Holes Indian Organization is celebrating its thirtieth anniversary of incorporation as an Organization.

Contact for additional information: (843) 871-2126

Doors open at 12 Noon, no alcoholic beverages allowed, no pets allowed. American Indian Artisans and Traders. Authentic Traditional and Fancy Dancers.

Location Exchange Park, Highway 78, Ladson, South Carolina 29456
Schedule: Friday, 26, 1999
Doors open 12 Noon
6:00 PM - Opening Ceremony
7:00 PM - Grand Entry, Flag Song

7:15 PM - Intertribal Dancing
11:00 PM - Closing
Schedule: Saturday, March 27, 1999

12:00 PM - Registration Closes for Dancers

1:00 PM - Grand Entry, Flag Song, Veteran Honor Dance, Dancing Begins (There will be intertribal dancing between competition rounds.)

5:00 PM - Supper Break
6:00 PM - Dancing Resumes
10:00 PM - Award of Prizes
10:30 PM - Victory Dance
11:00 PM - Closing

Head Man Dancer.....Lee Scott
Head Lady.....Feliccia Pye
M.C.....John Blackfeather
Host Drum.....Eastern Bull Drummers, Edisto River Singers
Dancers Registration Saturday Only 10 AM - 12 PM.



A Farewell Tea will be held for Miss Indian North Carolina, Rhonda Denise Jones (Happy Spirit), On March 10th, at the Quality Inn in Lumberton. We are going to express our appreciation and gratitude for her eloquence and grace as she represented the highest ideals of being a Native American, and a role model for the young people to embrace life and realize the sky's the limit as to what you can do in your life. Her reign will end when she crowns the next Miss Indian North Carolina.