

Lumbee: Possibly Roanoke descendants

by Steven A. Hickie

Dial, Adolph L., and Eliades, David K. **The Only Land I Know: A History of the Lumbee Indians: The Indian Historian Press, San Francisco, 1975. 188 pp.**

In July of this year I was privileged to attend the annual meeting of the Southeastern Jurisdictional

Historical Society of the United Methodist Church, held at Methodist College in Fayetteville. The highlight of the session was a trip to Prospect United Methodist Church in Robeson County, the heart of the Lumbee Indian country. Prospect is the largest Native American congrega-

tion in the United States. While visiting the church, the society was addressed by Professor Adolph L. Dial of Pembroke State University.

Professor Dial is a Lumbee and with David K. Eliades has coauthored **The Only Land I Know: A History of the Lumbee Indians**. They present a thorough account of the Lumbee "story", from their origins to the present day. The history is based on oral history, some documentation and logical supposition. Of importance to history minded North Carolinians is who Dial and Eliades say the Lumbee are:

"When Scottish immigrants began to settle the upper reaches of N.C.'s Cape Fear Valley in the



Kristie Russell, Little Miss United Way of Craven County, meets Governor Jim Hunt (right) and Roy Parker, President of the United Way of North Carolina. Kristie was accompanied by her mother, Mrs. Alan Russell and her aunt, Mrs. Roger Russell. Mr. L. Douglas Davis, Craven County United Way Chairman, Mr. & Mrs. George Dimick and Rick Cannon were also present.

early 1730's they were amazed to find a group of English speaking people already living near the Lumbee River. They were Indian people, without a doubt, but they lived in simple, European style houses and farmed in a European way."

Tradition and folklore link those people with the "Lost Colony" of Sir Walter Raleigh, but there is deeper evidence for connecting them. One link is names: among the ninety-five different surnames of the Roanoke Island settlers, forty-one were found among the Lumbee. The traditions of each of those families was noted in the late 1800's to point to Roanoke Island as the home of their ancestors. One must bear in mind the lack of a better reason why the

Lumbee Indians have English names, as early as the 1730's.

Add to this the geographic isolation of the area and the survival of Shakespearean English into the 1950's and the connection is well made.

Perhaps the drama of Manteo, repeated for thousands each summer, needs another scene, deep in Robeson County, among the Lumbee.

Dial's and Eliades' book is available from Pembroke State University or from The Indian Historian Press, 1451 Masonic Ave., San Francisco, Calif. 94117.

Young Country According to recent population studies, half of the population of Mexico is reported to be below the age of 17.

lights office anytime Friday, September 15 from 8 a.m. til 3 p.m.).



Trivia Quiz

The answer to last week's question: "Which brand of American cigarette introduced the "flip-top" box in 1954 is Marlboro.

Congratulations to last week's winners: Mrs. Linda Lee Mr. William Logan Donnel

(Everyone who answered correctly this week was a winner! Winners may pick up their prize in the High-

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION: What is the name of the bridge crossing the Neuse River connecting Bridgeton and New Bern?

(Answers must be received in the Highlights office no later than Friday, September 15 at 12 noon.)

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