



# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Dedicated to the best in all of us



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## Off-the-reservation Indians Not discussed

### IT WAS A FIRST: PRESIDENT OF U. S. MEETING WITH LEADERS OF ALL INDIAN TRIBES

By Gene Warren

PEMBROKE--Like Gen. George Custer, President Gerald Ford found himself recently surrounded by Indians many with knives in their sheaths.

But this was a peaceful powwow. And the weapons were mere decorations for the traditional Indian costumes worn by about 10% of the 200 leaders present from tribes all over America.

The meeting took place July 16 in the East Room of the White House--and it was a first.

"Never before had a President been host in the White House to Indian leaders from tribes all over the nation," said Adolph Dial, chairman of the American Indian Studies Department at Pembroke State University who was one of three Lumbee Indians invited. Dial joked about the President's "lack of security."

Other Lumbees present were Dr. Bobby Brayboy of Rockville, Md., chief of the National Indian Health Section's Position Recruitment, and W.J. Strickland, former director of CENA (Coalition of Eastern Native Americans).

Dial, who combined his trip to Washington with a meeting of the American Indian Policy Review Commission of which he is a member, realized the meeting had political connotations, but was eager to meet the President and hear what he had to say.

"President Ford spoke for about 15 minutes and emphasized self-determination on the part of the Indians instead of termination." (Note: In the 1950's, a lot of tribes dissociated themselves from the U.S. government, said Dial).

Dial, a Democrat, said President Ford "talked in generalities" and the PSU professor didn't think the President's speech writer did a very good job. "The President didn't say anything about off-the-reservation Indians or urban Indians," said Dial. President Ford's talk was geared toward reservation Indians, in Dial's opinion.

Because the Lumbee Indians are not on a reservation, Dial was interested in hearing about (1) scholarship money for Lumbees, (2) funds for Lumbee health, (3) funds for Lumbee housing, plus the same help for other off-the-reservation Indians.

"To not speak about off-the-reservation Indians was a political blunder on the part of the speech writer because we have Indians in Mississippi, Alabama, Martha's Vineyard, everywhere and all with common problems. These will be big topics of the American Indian Policy Review Commission which will send recommendations to the Congress in January," said Dial.

Dial declared, however, that he believes President Ford will be more

specific about matters "before the election"--indicating that Dial believes Ford will win the Republican presidential nomination over Ronald Reagan.

Dial expressed his appreciation for President Ford's agreeing to meet with the Indian leaders because "after all we are only one million of the nation's population whereas the black population has 25 million," he said, meaning, in his opinion, that Indians may not have that much political clout.

There was no question-and-answer session after the President's talk. "The President did all the talking," said Dial. President Ford did form a receiving line, however, and shook hands and spoke briefly to each of the 200 Indians present.

"We were not hurried through the line. We had a chance to chat with him as long as we wished," said Dial, who was pleased at this courtesy.

Dial did not complain about problems to the President. "You don't go to a man's house to bowl him out," said Dial. "I told him I appreciated his administration and thought he had done a good job. I think President Ford is one of the most congenial men I've ever met. When you see the man, you like him. He looks in very good health. He's the type fellow you think you would like even more as you get to know him better. He is not arrogant or difficult to talk with."

The 54-year-old Dial was a delegate to the Democratic convention in '72 at Miami and an alternate delegate at the mini-convention in '74. He also attended the Democratic conventions in '64 and '68.

He appreciated President Ford's consideration of the Indians with this meeting. "He didn't have to do it. He was very busy at the time, but spent a couple of hours with us."

Before the President appeared, there was a session in the Executive Office Building next to the White House at which Thomas Kleppe, Secretary of Interior, spoke and presided. Representatives of HEW, Labor and Commerce said a few words.

"Finally," said Dial, "Mel Tonasket, president of the National Congress of American Indians, rose and said, 'Mr. secretary, we decided at a meeting this morning that we ought to be more involved in programs instead of your doing all the talking.'"

"It was at this point," said Dial, "that Ted Maars (a presidential aide who helped coordinate the meeting) injected, 'If you people want to dissolve this meeting, raise your hand.'"

"Not a person raised their hand," smiled Dial, "because we all wanted to meet the President."

And they did.

## A News Analysis

### The Gubernatorial Race

As we see it, the Democratic race for governor appears headed for a runoff, while the Republicans, more likely than not, will decide the first time around.

Our impressions are the result of watching, listening, and talking to the candidates, the people around them, and conversations with the electorate. We do not categorically bet our life on any of our predictions. Politicians are unpredictable animals.

#### THE DEMOCRATS

As the Democratic campaign heats up during the final two weeks, before the showdown in the August 17, primary, Lt. Gov. Jim Hunt is thought to be ahead of his major rivals...but not far enough ahead to forestall a run off in November with probable second place finisher Ed O'Herron.

Ed O'Herron has excited the electorate in the last few weeks, especially businessmen and educators; for example, two of his staunchest supporters in Robeson County are Hector McLean, President of Southern National Bank in Lumberton, and Dr. Vernon Ray Thompson, Principal of Pembroke High School. Both score O'Herron high on his business background and his common sense approach to politics and government.

Jim Hunt's whole campaign seems to be geared to winning out right in the August 17 primary. Few expect that to happen. Hunt would have to garner 50% of the vote cast plus one. That plus one might be hard to come by. It is expected, whatever the spread (and most political observers expect Hunt to be far ahead of the field when the votes are counted in August), that O'Herron would quickly call for a run off and begin actively courting George Wood and Tom Strickland (the other two major candidates) supporters.

Both Tom Strickland and George Wood have active supporters in Robeson County but neither seems to have captured the attention of the electorate in order to get their views across.

If turnout is low, as expected, Hunt's widespread organization could make the difference. Political observers say it has the capacity to get out voters in many precincts and make sure they get to the polls.

On the other hand, observers say the presence of three other active candidates poses the threat that voters will spread their votes and prevent a clearcut winner.

"What you're talking about is percentages," explained a prominent Wake County Democrat last week. "Hunt could get 49 per cent of the vote, and O'Herron and Wood most of the rest, and you got to figure (State Sen. Tom) Strickland will get 4 to 5 per cent."

"So there you have it," he continued. "If just Strickland weren't running, Hunt would probably get what he needs for a majority. But as long as Tom's in there, it's going to be damn hard to pull that off."

According to current speculation, O'Herron has a solid lock on second place. Wood, the former legislator from Camden County is considered a distant third and Strickland, a Goldsboro lawyer, is listed fourth. (A fifth Democratic candidate, Andy Barker of Love Valley, is not expected to draw much support.)

O'Herron's rise is credited by observers to a well-run media advertising effort ("if you've been watching the Olympics, you've been seeing Ed-great ad placement," one neutral observer says), plus surging interest in the vote-rich Piedmont cities of Charlotte, Greensboro and High Point.

"Whether he promotes the fact or not, Ed's the only urban oriented candidate in the field," says the Council of State aide "that ought to count for something."

Wood and Strickland are viewed by many as the "spoilers" in the Democratic primary. That is, they are not considered to have a chance to win the primary, or even finish second. But

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## people and places and things

### PEMBROKE WATER RATES HOLD AT COUNCIL MEETING

A delegation of towns people appeared before the town council Monday and appeared to change the thinking of the Pembroke Town Council.

The town had indicated that the minimum rate would be set on the first 1,000 gallons but the councilmen decided to leave the rate as is at a minimum of 2,000 gallons before assessing special rates at the insistence of the towns people who appeared before the council and objected strenuously to a change in water rates.

Also, Pembroke citizens appeared before the council and complained of undue noise and disturbances around the Chicken Hut. The council took the matter under advisement and allowed the business operator to try and straighten out the matter himself.

The Chicken Hut fronts a residential area.

### N.C. COMMISSION OF INDIAN AFFAIRS AWARDED HOUSING ASSISTANCE CONTRACT

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs has been awarded a housing assistance contract by the Department of Housing and Urban Development to provide housing assistance payments (rent supplement) to 255 families. The contract provides for \$457,284 per year for five years and will be operating in Bladen, Hoke, Sampson and Warren Counties. The purpose of housing assistance is to allow low-income families to more efficiently distribute their income by not requiring them to pay more than 25% of their income for safe, sanitary and decent housing.

Direct any questions to: State of North Carolina, Commission of Indian Affairs, 229.239 Heart of Raleigh Motel, Person and Edenton Street, Raleigh, N.C. 27603.

### CONGRESSMAN CHARLIE ROSE'S MOBILE DISTRICT OFFICE SCHEDULE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Congressman Charlie Rose, D-N.C., announced the August schedule for his Mobile District Office.

Rip Collins, Congressman Rose's administrative assistant and representative in the district, announced that the mobile office will be parked as close as possible to each post office.

#### HOKE COUNTY

August 12, Thursday-Raeford Post Office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 26, Thursday-Raeford Post Office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

#### ROBESON COUNTY

August 13, Friday-Lumberton, Biggs Park Shopping Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 19, Thursday-Pembroke Post Office, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

August 27, Friday-Lumberton, Biggs Park Shopping Center, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

### FHA EXTENDS LOAN TO EVANS CROSSROAD VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT

Farmers Home Administration has approved a loan of \$29,300.00 for the Evans Crossroad Volunteer Fire Department, Inc.

State Director, James T. Johnson, in making the announcement stated that the funds would be used to refinance short-term debt on truck and building of a fire-house and to buy a used tanker. This assistance is made possible under the provisions of the Rural Development Act.

Mr. William E. Locklear is President of the fire department and they serve a populated area of 920 residents.

### THIRD "FRESHMAN TESTING DAY" SET SATURDAY AUG. 7, AT PSU

PEMBROKE--The third of Pembroke State University's "Freshman Testing Days" will be held Saturday, Aug. 7,

with as many as 40 students expected to take CLEP (College Level Examination Program) tests beginning at 8 a.m. in the Mary Livermore Library.

Thus far this summer 211 freshmen have taken tests. A total of 90 took the first ones June 26. On the second testing day July 24, the number was 121.

The tests provide an opportunity for freshmen to pass off a maximum of 30 semester hours (equal to an entire freshman year) before attending their first college class.

Last year 216 freshmen took the test, with 75 passing off courses.

Tests are in the areas of English Composition, Mathematics, Humanities, Natural Science and Social Sciences-History. A year ago those passing these courses numbered: English 46, Mathematics 24, Natural Science 15, Social Sciences-History 13 and Humanities 12.

The testing will be directed by Dr. Ray Von Beatty, director of Testing and Placement at Pembroke State University.

First test will be the English General Examination followed by the Strong Vocational Interest Blank. Total cost for these is \$3 with all freshmen required to take them. The other tests are optional for a cost of \$4 each.

### JOE FREEMAN BRITT TO DELIVER BACCALAUREATE ADDRESS AT RTI

Joe Freeman Britt, District Attorney for the sixteenth judicial district, will deliver the baccalaureate address at Robeson Technical Institute's Commencement Exercises on Friday night at Lumberton Senior High School. Ceremonies begin at 8 p.m.

I.J. Williams, chairman of the Board of Trustees, will present several awards to outstanding graduates. The Robeson Office Supply cup will be awarded by Bill French Jr., and Tom Long will present three Acme Electric awards.

President Craig Allen will confer 419 diplomas and degrees to the largest graduating class in the eleven year history of Robeson Tech.

Commencement marshals are Monnie Driscoll chief; Joseph C. Barnes, Aubrey E. Gaddis, Horace M. Tyner, Jean O. Harris, Delilah Smith, Edith O. Hunt. These students represent the highest averages in the rising senior class and will be the official marshals for school functions during the coming year.

The public is cordially invited to attend the ceremonies.

### 1976-77 SCHOOL YEAR TO BEGIN AT PEMBROKE ELEMENTARY

The 1976-77 school year at Pembroke Elementary will begin on August 19 with the arrival of teachers and staff for an in-service workshop and planning period. On August 30 at 8:00 a.m. students in grades 1-7 will report for orientation and registration. Students will be dismissed at approximately 11:00 a.m. and the cafeteria will not open. The first full day of school will be Tuesday August 31 and lunch will be served.

Principal James C. Dial requests that all new students (students who did not attend Pembroke Elementary School last year) to register as soon as possible at the principal's office between 8:00 a.m. and noon. Pupils should have their report cards for the last school year when they register.

This year all children who will be five (5) years old by October 16 are eligible for kindergarten. Parents have been notified by letter when to bring their kindergarten child to school. Anyone with a kindergarten child who has not received a letter should contact the school immediately for proper registration forms.

All student will be assigned to teachers and home rooms prior to the opening of school. Parents of children in grades 2-7 are requested not to visit the

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ADOLPH DIAL...Talks about recent visit to White House to meet President Ford as one of 200 national Indian leaders.

## Native American Directs Church Musicians

Jay Martin, native Robesonian and 1958 graduate of Pembroke State University was unanimously elected to serve as the President of the Fellowship of American Baptist Musicians at the Conference for Church Musicians meeting at the American Baptist Assembly in Green Lake, Wisconsin this week.

Martin, son of Rebeauty and the late Rufus Martin of Pembroke, has served extensively in the music circle of the American Baptist Convention and is currently the Minister of Music and Youth at the First Baptist Church of Dearborn, Michigan.

The election of Martin makes him the

first American Indian to serve in this capacity. His background includes directing choirs at the Berea Baptist Church in Pembroke and he attributes his interest in church music to the leadership of that church. He served as Director of Music at the First Baptist Church of Wyandotte, Michigan until he was called to the Dearborn church where he heads the choirs there including the Joy Singers who have toured extensively through the United States.

The newly elected president is married to the former Nina Thompson and has two children, Jennifer, 13 and John, 10. The Martins reside in Southgate, Michigan.



Newly elected President, Jay Martin, gives recognition to past President at the recent Church Musicians' Conference at Green Lake, Wisconsin. Pictured left to right are Martin, Dr. Jet Turner, Head of Music Department, Louisiana College, Pineville, Louisiana; immediate past President, Jim Craven, Minister of Music, First Baptist Church, Los Angeles; and Sam Hood, Organist, Central Baptist Church, Springfield, Illinois.

## Hammonds For The Board Of Education

Mrs. Ruby Hammonds, belatedly but formally announces her candidacy for the Robeson County Board of Education in this week's issue of the Carolina Indian Voice.

Mrs. Hammonds is a housewife and a mother of six. She and her husband, Bill French Hammonds, and their children reside in the Saddletree Community.

Two of their children are attending college, I recently finished high school and 3 are presently attending high school. All attended Magnolia school.

Mrs. Hammonds served as chairman of the Health Occupations Committee at Magnolia School during the last year and has served for a year as a Vista volunteer.

Vitaly interested in education, Mrs. Hammonds said in her announcement, "I would like to see every child in Robeson County have the chance at an equal and quality education.

"Each school district and area of the county should be represented on the board of education. If elected, I promise to do what is best for the children to the very best of my ability."

## Candidates Night at LRDA

by Drenna J. Oxendine

"Candidates Night" was held on Tuesday, August 3, at the LRDA Annex Building in Pembroke from 7 till 10 p.m. This event was sponsored by the LRDA Educational Advisory Committee.

Invited guests consisted of candidates for local office--the Robeson County Board of Education, Board of Commissioners, State Legislature, District Judgeship, and County Register of Deeds. Those candidates present included the following: Thurman Anderson, Ms. Shirley Britt, Morris Britt, Ms. Ruby Hammonds, Ms. Laymon Poe Locklear, Ms. Lillian F. Locklear, Bernard Lowry, Robert Mangum, Ralph Hunt, L. Harbert Moore, Simeon Oxendine, David R. Green, Cornell Locklear, and Dr. Gerald Maynor (representing Tommy D. Sweet)-- candidates for County Board of Education; H. T. Taylor, Ms. Vera M. Lowry, Thomas D. McCallum, Bobby Dean Locklear and Ms. Aileen B. Holmes--candidates for County Commissioner; Horace Locklear and David Parnell--candidates for N. C. House of Representatives; Henry W. Oxendine and Craig Ellis-- candidates for District Judge; James B. Locklear and J. Earl Musselwhite-- candidates for County

Register of Deeds.

An informal reception was held prior to the program, which began at 8:00 p.m. The invocation was given by Rev. Robert Mangum, Director of Robeson County Church and Community Center. Opening remarks were presented by Ms. Christine Moore, Educational Research & Planning Co-ordinator, LRDA. Robert Locklear, Director of Community Food & Nutrition Program, LRDA, introduced several visiting guests and served as facilitator for the program. The individual candidates' presentation, which consisted of three (3) minutes for each speaker, was the highlight on the agenda. This was followed by a question and discussion session.

The program and publicity committee for this occasion consisted of Ms. Drenna J. Oxendine, Ms. Christine Moore, Ms. Shirley Locklear, Ms. Carmella Locklear, Robert Locklear, and James M. Chavis. Ms. Florence Ransom and Ms. Heanie Ransom were in charge of refreshments and the reception.

Approximately 125 persons from the various communities throughout Robeson County attended this event.