

# PEMBROKE NEWS

by Mrs. Bazie Hardin

The Rev. Ronnie Scott of Lumberton was the guest speaker Sunday at the Pembroke Church of God.

Mrs. Alma Garrity was honored Friday evening with a party for her birthday given by her parents, the Rev. and Mrs. C. C. Allen, Sr., and held at their home on Barker Street. Attending were Mrs. Henry F. Smith, and daughter, Leslie Smith, Mrs. Tony Jones and daughter, Kimberly Rene. Mrs. Hilda Faye Hunt and son, Ronnie. The honoree received several nice gifts.

Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Locklear of McColl, SC announce the birth of a daughter, Virginia Rosa, who weighed eight pounds and six ounces when born Friday, Nov. 5, at Scotland Memorial Hospital of Lumberton. Mr. and Mrs. Locklear also have another daughter, Alice Joy, three years old. Virginia Rosa is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baker Cummings of the Prospect Community. The paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Locklear of the McColl, SC area.

Mr. and Mrs. Bracy Cummings were visited for a week by their son, Mr. and Mrs. Bracy A. Cummings and children, Deandra, Derrick A., and Bracy III of Decatur, Alabama.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Jowers and sons, Chad and Marco, of Winston-Salem were dinner guests Sunday in the home of Mrs. Jowers' parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bracy Cummings.

A song service was held Saturday night at the Pembroke Church of God. Featured singers were the Mills Trio of Hollister. A solo was sung by Mr. Neill Frazier. He accompanied himself on the guitar. Also singing were the ladies chorus, and the young people's chorus and the Glory Road Quartet of the hostess church, The Rev. Jack Hunt is the pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Locklear announced the birth of a daughter, Misty Dawn, born Thursday, November 4th, at Scotland Memorial Hospital of Lumberton. The grand parents are Mr. and Mrs. J. P.

Locklear of the McColl, SC area and Mrs. Sally Locklear of Lumberton. Misty Dawn is the first child of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Locklear.

Mrs. Beulah Lowry has returned to her home in the McColl, SC area after a stay in the Marlboro General Hospital of Bennettsville, SC. Mrs. Lowry has relatives in Robeson County.

Little Miss Leslie Smith, daughter of Mrs. Henry F. Smith was in the first part of the week due to illness.

Mrs. Lela Locklear was accompanied by her niece Mrs. Mary L. Harding to Aberdeen Sunday where they visited with Mrs. Locklear's sister and Mrs. Harding's mother, Mrs. Ruby L. Brown. Mrs. Brown had the cast removed from her leg and is now recuperating at her home, but will have to use her wheelchair for a while longer.

A singing was held Sunday at the Harper's Ferry Baptist Church. Singing groups attending were The Pembroke Women's Chorus and the Men's Chorus, accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Hubert Oxendine, the Little People of Bear Swamp Baptist Church, accompanied on the piano by their great aunt, Mrs. Bessie Williamson, the Sampson Brothers from Thompson Baptist Church, and the Caravells Trio composed of Mrs. Lucy Jane Oxendine, Mrs. Bessie Williams and Mrs. Georgiana Davis, accompanied on the guitar by their brother, Mr. Kermit Chavis, and the hostess church choir.

Dinner guests Saturday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bazie Hardin were their sons, Mr. and Mrs. Elwood Hardin, and Mr. J. Benford Hardin, and a friend of Chapel Hill, Mr. Keith Kuhne. Joining in a men Saturday morning in the Bear Swamp Church area. Approximately 45 guests attended from Lumberton, Rowland, Maxton and Pembroke.

## UP FROM DUST AND DARKNESS

By Lew Barton 3rd Century Artist

### LURE AND LORE OF THE LUMBEE (CONT.)

The lure of the Lumber River Valley for displaced persons and even groups of displaced persons from 1650 until fairly recent years, is not the present, it is clearly evident. Because of its remoteness from the coast proper, where all European-Americans settled first, and continued to settle for well over a century and a half, excluding Sir Walter Raleigh's colonists of the 1580s, and also because of its unique geographical seclusion, this hideaway valley became a refuge and a haven, both for people who just wanted to be away from other people, and for those who had to be away from other people. An old Colonial Record (dated in 1754), describes the strange valley-island as an area completely surrounded by great swamps. And so it remained for many years after the approach of the white man, who eventually saw to it that it was completely ditched and drained, turning it into a mass of rich bottom soil excelled in richness and fertility only by the soil of the Nile River Valley.

But this original geographical distinction, along with the incredible denseness of the wilderness surrounding the area, for centuries made the Lumber River Valley inaccessible to anyone other than Indians or those who were Indian-trained in the ways of the wilderness. Because of the Tuscarora Indians, originally of Southeastern North Carolina but now of Niagra Falls, New York, no inland white settlements could be made until after their disastrous defeat in the Tuscarora War of 1711-13. They stood as an impassable barrier to all except the colonists now mingled with the Cherokees Indians, and even relationships between these two groups eventually went from bad to terrible.

During the Tuscarora War, a splinter group of Tuscarora led by Tom Blunt broke away from the Tuscarora proper, joining forces with the colonists under Col. Barnwell to finally defeat them. It was with this group that the Lumbee Indians also fought, and naturally the Tuscarora proper did not receive the Blunt Tuscaroras back into the fold with open arms after their defeat and their removal to Niagra Falls, New York. And so they, too, settled in the Lumbee River valley.

Also fighting on the side of the North Carolina colonists during the Tuscarora War were Cherokees, a handful of whom settled permanently in the Lumbee River Valley. A number of Mattamuskeets were captured from the Tuscarora camp and made prisoners of war. According to the Indian usage of the times, they were brought back to the Robeson area and eventually absorbed by the Lumbee Indians. Beginning his investigation of Lumbee Indian history in 1864, Hamilton McMillan interviewed Hatteras, Cherokee, Mattamusket and Tuscarora families, i.e., families having traditions of connections with these groups. Considering all at the time the Lumbee River Valley was a world apart, so to speak, it should be surprising to no one that many of the Indian customs were "lost."

However, in Robeson County today, there are still Indian words, Indian relics, Indian ways and Indian thoughts. And what is even more important than anything else is that there are still Indian people. Indian people with Indian hearts and Indian pride.

As for our Lumbee forebears they had been the target of bitter, two-way prejudice since their departure from "Roanoke (Island) in Virginia." This refers to the part of Virginia that was later cut off to form North and South Carolina, etc. Scorned by other Carolina Indians because of their absorption of the pre-Jamestown English colonists, and by later colonists because of our Indian blood, we were virtually driven to retreat farther and farther inland, although some of us remained permanently in what is now Sampson, a county named for John Sampson, one of the early English Colonists. (Cobay of 1587).

But when we reached the Lumbee River Valley, "on the head of the Little Pee Dee" River, as the 1754 Colonial

Edward Locates us, we could retreat no further.

The reason was simple. The Scotch took up positions on one side of us and French Protestants (Huguenots) took up positions on the opposite side (i.e., the South Carolina side).

And so our days of nomadism were ended at last. We stayed put simply because we were virtually compelled to do so. About 1730, the lines of settlers surrounding us began to tighten. By 1754, the settlers started complaining that we held our lands without title and without paying quits rents to the English government.

McMillan, Weeks, Olds and McLean, all scholarly men of undoubted historical knowledge and ability, agree that the Indians held their lands in common, and that such things as titles and grants were unknown to them "until the approach of the white man."

As late as 1913, Gov. Angus Wilton McLean, the only state Governor ever produced by Robeson, said that the Indians still held their original lands, by right of possession, such rights of possession having ripened into perfect legal title.

Down through the years there have been various mumblings and grumbings about this. While many another group of American Indians was either wiped out or driven into small reservations or little land value, the Lumbee people still clung stubbornly to their ancestral lands, although fair means and foul were employed to wrest their lands away from them. Some of it was lost, it is true; but for the most part, Lumbee Indians still remain in possession of their ancestral home land. This land possession has even survived the lein system of leaner days and harder times.

I can find no written evidence to support the claim, but it has been said that the word Lumbee is an Indian word of unknown origin for "hide away." One thing in that connection is certain, however. The Lumbee River Valley for many, down through the years, has certainly been a "Hideaway Valley."

And even the river was hideaway in the old days, meandering for 44 miles inside of Robeson County proper. Only the Meander River of Turkey is crookeder. The old Lumbee almost meets itself coming back in places. And as I said in recording "Lumbee River Legend," it still has many secrets buried in its dark, mysterious bosom.

## Fairgrove Senior Presides

Twelve students from Fairgrove School Library Club attended the 1976 Fall Southeastern District Meeting of the North Carolina High School Library Association (NCHSLA) at E.E. Smith High School in Fayetteville on November 18. Michael Sampson, a senior at Fairgrove School and President of the School Library Club, presided over the 1976 Fall District Meeting at Southeastern District President.

Delegates were welcomed to the District Meeting by Teresa Hearnandez, President of the E.E. Smith High School Library Club and Greetings were given by Principal J. R. Griffin, Jr. After officer's reports for 1976-1977 were held, New Officers for the coming year: Dee Bundy, South Veil High School, President; Paul Webb, Pine Forest High School, Vice-President; Sybil Dial, Southview High School, Secretary; Sam Rose, Pine Forest High School, Treasurer; and Cindy Wayne, Hallsboro High School, Reporter. Ms. Frances Solomon of Southview High School is the District Advisor for the NCHSLA.

Also attending from Robeson County were delegates from Magnolia School, Pembroke Junior High and Pembroke Senior High School. Other school affiliated with NCHSLA include Orrum High School Library Club and Parkton High School Library Club.

Attending from Fairgrove School were Ms. Ruth D. Woods, Advisor, Ms. Vivian C. Oxendine, Assistant Media Aide, and Gary Kearns, Media Aide, and members of the library club: Michael Sampson, Cynthia Hill, Geardine Maiden, Stacy Lewis, Ronnie Hunt, Edith Hunt, Easter Oxendine, Mable Jones, and Shawanda Oxendine.

## Career Guidance Week at Prospect High School

National Career Guidance Week is set aside each year to inform the students of different Career choices. The theme this year was "Experience the Future" emphasizing that many of the decisions which affect our Careers tomorrow are made today.

Grades 8 - 12 were assembled to hear speakers in various Careers. On Monday Mr. James A. Jones, Principal gave the welcome. The keynote address was given by Mr. Edison Mc Kay, Director of pupil personnel (Robeson County Board of Education). Representing the law profession was Mr. Arnold Locklear, attorney at law (Locklear, Bullard and Brooks, Pembroke NC); Mr. Howard Brooks, pharmacist, (Pembroke Drug Center, Pembroke); Mr. Laurin McCall, mechanics (Robeson Technical Institute); Ms. Barbara Hammond, and Ms. Mary Bateeman, Cosmetology (Robeson Technical Institute);

After each program questions were directed to the various speakers by the students. Mrs. Aggie Deese, Guidance Counselor and Ms. Janice Jackson, Talent Search Counselor were responsible for the program.

Wednesday was Military Day. Opening remarks were given by Mr. William C. Chavis, assistant principal. Recruiters from the various military fields were: Air Force, Sgt. Painter, Army, Sgt. Owens; Marines, Sgt. Bennett; Navy, Chief Campbell and with the National Guard was Sgt. Burns. Each member gave very informative speeches.

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## Two PSU Music Educators Receive Post

WINSTON SALEM -- Mrs. Doris B. Johnson, assistant professor of Music Education at Pembroke State University, has been elected to a two-year term on the Executive Council of the Higher Education Division of the N.C. Music Educators.

Appointed to a two-year term on the Educational Affairs sub-committee on Curriculum Study was Dr. Robert Romine, associate professor of music at PSU and University band director.

These new officers received their appointments at the annual meeting here of the N.C. Music Educators Association, Nov. 14-16.

Mrs. Marie Malloy representing the Nursing Department of Robeson Technical Institute and Mrs. Eleanor Fields, chief medical technologist (South-eastern General Hospital, Lumberton, NC).

Mrs. Johnson, a native of Dexter, N.Y., received her B.M. from Syracuse University and her Ed. M. from the University of Buffalo. She has been a member of the PSU faculty since 1966.

Dr. Romine, a native of Chariton, Iowa, earned both his B.S. and M.A. at Kirksville State Teachers College and his Ph. D. at the University of Iowa. He joined the PSU faculty in 1974.

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## New Poultry Queen

Miss Christa Gay Blanton, a University of North Carolina co-ed and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Blanton of Kenansville, North Carolina, is the new 1977 Poultry Queen. Miss Blanton will represent from time to time, the North Carolina Poultry Federation and the North Carolina poultry industry in city and country parades, fairs, exhibits, pageants, and poultry related functions all over the state. The lovely Miss Blanton is nineteen years old and has brown hair and green eyes. She is an accomplished pianist and is majoring in Psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

The North Carolina Poultry Federation has awarded the new poultry queen a scholarship and will further assist her during the year with her schedule as she represents the state's largest food industry and the state's second largest agricultural commodity with regards to the farm income. North Carolina ranks fourth among the states in the production of poultry and poultry products. The state ranks third in the production of turkeys, fourth in the production of broilers and fifth in the production of commercial eggs

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