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## LOW RENT HOUSING SURFACES AGAIN AT PEMBROKE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

The Pembroke Town Council met in regular session Tuesday night. The meeting was changed because of Labor Day.

The Council heard a report from Vic Josephs from the Lumber River Council of Governments. Josephs gave the council a run down on a number of possible funding sources.

The town also continued the contract of John Holmes, a town planner from the N.C. Department of Natural and Economic Resources.

The Council also discussed the possible sites of a Maintenance Building and scheduled a meeting Saturday morning to look over some possible sites.

### BUT, AS USUAL LOW RENT HOUSING DOMINATED THE MEETING

As usual, a number of town citizens appeared in opposition to the additional 100 units of low rent housing (and a day care center facility) now on the drawing board.

Bob Brewington, who previously served on the town council, appeared as spokesman for those citizens opposing the additional 100 units of low rent housing.

Brewington said, "We appeared before you earlier and asked you some questions. We are wondering if you have the answers."

And they did. Town attorney, Arnold Locklear, at the behest of Mayor Reggie Strickland, arose and read letters from Clinton Thomas, Jr., Executive Director of the Housing Authority and Redevelopment Commission of Pembroke; Erle Knox Chavis, counsel for the Housing Authority; James F. Bullock, senior deputy attorney general; and Harris J. Winklestein, area council for the N.C. Department of Housing and Urban Redevelopment.

Thomas, who has raised the ire of a

number of Pembroke citizens said in his letter, "I think our town can ill afford the consequences of this agency breaching the contract for this development...For some approximate two years this agency has been planning this development after formal announcements of its funding in our local newspapers by our Congressman, Charlie Rose. Not once, during this period have I heard objections to this grant. Yet here on the eve of a municipal election and bid letting of this program certain few have come to the front to challenge its propriety. I think it's only fair to ask the question, WHY? I only hope that what I feel is the silent majority knows the answer to that questions..."

But Brewington and the other citizens who appeared were not easily swayed from their contention that the town has enough low rent housing and "cannot afford" the latest 100 units.

Attorneys, Chavis, Bullock, and Winklestein, respectively representing the local housing authority, the attorney general's office, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, concurred in the opinion "that any failure to diligently further the completion of the project will be a 'substantial breach' of the contract between the housing authority and the government."

Winklestein, area counsel for HUD, ended his letter of opinion by saying, "Should such a breach occur, the government would view it most seriously and would look to its legal remedies."

Thomas explained that a public hearing had been held in Pembroke and before the N.C. Utilities Commission. Also, he noted that some \$300,000 had been committed toward planning and developing the 100 additional units of low rent housing, day care center, and recreational complex. Additionally, as someone noted from the audience, the final forms had been signed earlier in the day toward condemning the property that the units will be built

upon. The land, belonging to Mrs. Bonnie Locklear, is approximately 19 acres. According to information presented at the meeting Tuesday night, the land was condemned for \$4,500 an acre.

But opposition was evident by the anger of many of the citizens who appeared before the council. Said Brewington, "Breach of contract? What does that mean? We are interested in terminating these latest low rent housing units...You can't find 1/3 of the people in favor of these units as those against it...we want to stop the units. The town can't afford them..."

Mayor Reggie Strickland brought the discussion to a halt by saying, "I feel we have enough like you but I feel we have gone to the point of no return..."

Those opposed to low rent housing left unhappy and angry at, as one of them said, "the power of Clinton Thomas, Jr.--who seems to be running things."

But, according to town attorney Arnold Locklear, "Things have gone too far now." The opinion of the attorneys who expressed an opinion on the matter is that the additional units will be built unless court action stops them. Brewington said after the meeting, "This is not the end of it. Pembroke has enough low rent housing." The group affirms

that the majority of town citizens have signed a petition opposing further low rent housing in Pembroke.

### IN OTHER MATTERS-

The council hired a new policeman, Harold Hunt, to replace Querlon Cummings who recently resigned.

The committee named by Mayor Reggie Strickland to study the feasibility of Cable TV for Pembroke met in a brief session after the council meeting with Town Manager, McDuffie Cummings. No action was taken, and Cummings is to schedule a meeting with a representative of the Cable TV Company in the near future.

## A Report... Robeson County's Indian Education Project

By Ruth Dial Woods, Project Director

After a busy summer of planning meetings with the Indian Parent Committee and a series of public hearings in eight school districts, the final project application for the Title IV-A Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project was approved and funded by the U.S. Office of Indian Education effective August 1.

The planning efforts of the Indian community through its participation in the Robeson County Indian Education Needs Assessment (RCIENA) has been hailed as the most successful of any Title IV-A project in the Nation by Project Officer Lloyd Elm of the U.S. Office of Indian Education, with sixty percent (69%) of Indian parents, Indian students, Indian teachers, Indian school administrators, Indian businessmen, and Indian members of the Robeson County Board of Education responding to the questionnaires distributed last May.

### PURPOSE

As programmed, the Robeson County Compensatory Indian Education Project proposes to conduct the following programs and activities for Indian students during this year:

A. Youth Development and Individual Awareness training for Indian students to increase their awareness and understanding of their Native American heritage, develop positive self-concepts, and provide individual and group counseling services on personal, social and educational problems.

B. Cultural Enrichment will provide special programs in music, art, and arts and crafts.

C. Educational Enrichment will provide classes for accelerated Indian students at Magnolia/Piney Grove and Fairgrove/Green Grove in grades 7-12, and individualized tutorial reading programs in grades 4-12 in all schools.

D. Native American Studies will be piloted in Magnolia, Piney Grove, Orrum, Long Branch, Proctorville, Rex-Rennett, Parkton, Rowland, Ashpole and Southside schools as an experimental and demonstration project for curriculum development in grades K-12.

E. Supportive services will be provided by Community Referral Specialists who will be responsible for arranging appointments and providing transportation for medical and dental services for Indian students.

Also, special field and resource trips will be planned to broaden the experiences of Indian students in developing an awareness of their Native American heritage. Youth seminars and workshops will be scheduled for Indian youth utilizing local and national Native American resource persons, and county wide exhibits and performances will be scheduled in December and May where Indian students will exhibit arts and crafts, artwork, handicraft, and will perform in all-Indian bands and choral groups.

### STAFF

Although staffing for the project is not yet complete, the program is being implemented on a phasing schedule.

The administrative staff consists of Ms. Ruth Dial Woods, Project Director, Mr. Grady Locklear, Director of Education, and Mr. Donald Locklear, Coordinator of Youth Development and Supportive Services.

## Warriors Play Orrum Friday Night

### FIRST HOME GAME OF SEASON

Smarter from their loss in the season opener at Rowland, the Pembroke Senior High Warriors take on the Orrum Raiders in their season opener at home.

According to reports, the Raiders might be better than Rowland who whipped the Warriors 20-6 last Friday night.

Head Coach Ned Sampson said, "We can move the ball and we have two

In the season opener at Rowland, the

Warriors did not have any trouble moving the ball up and down the field (they gained 160 yards on the ground, including a 44 yard scamper from scrimmage by Billy Thompson) but a number of fumbles and penalties hurt their scoring chances.

The only score by the Warriors came on a 95 yard kick off return by Julius Meekins in the second period.



Mr. Rodney Ransom and his son-in-law, William B. Cummings, were "looking at some timber" when they heard a clamor off in the distance about 50 yards. They discovered "two rattlesnakes fighting like two Cobras in a Tarzan movie."

The rattlesnakes were discovered near an old, dilapidated tobacco barn on the Old Red Springs Road (near Mt. Tabor Church). Both rattlers measured 61 inches long and weighed more than five pounds each. One of the rattlers had 12 rattlers intact while the other had lost most of its rattlers in the fight.

Said Mr. Ransom, "I had never heard of rattlesnakes fighting but these two were: they were almost erect as they struck over and over at each other." Finally, Mr. Ransom ran into the snakes with his truck. The impact killed one of the rattlers and his son-in-law killed the other with the limb of a tree.

Mr. Ransom and his step son, Freddie Jacobs (right) display two giant rattlesnakes discovered "fighting like two Cobras in a Tarzan movie." [Bruce Barton photo]

## people and places and things

### RECORD 2,334 STUDENTS ATTENDING PEMBROKE STATE

A record 2,334 students have registered for classes at Pembroke State University this fall, 147 more than the school's previous record of 2,187, established last year.

Of the 2,334 on roll, 2,153 are full-time equivalent students, meaning they are taking a full load of at least 12 semester hours. Of these FTE students, 2,098 are in-state students, and 55 are out-of-state.

The university's housing office reports that 600 students are living on campus. This, too, represents a record. Many other students are living in apartments and fraternity houses in the town of Pembroke.

### CATAWBAS GET INTERIOR SUPPORT FOR LAND CLAIM

Solicitor Leo M. Krulitz has asked the Justice Department to file suit on behalf of the Catawba Indians of South Carolina to recover about 15 square miles surrounding their present 630 acre reservation. In 1763 the tribe gave up its aboriginal territory in return for Great Britain's assurance that they would have unimpaired possession of the 15 square mile area. The United States when it succeeded Great Britain did not abrogate this treaty or the tribe's right to the land. In 1840 the tribe entered into a treaty with the State of South Carolina giving up title to 140,000 acres. The conveyance, however, was void under the 1970 Non-Intercourse Act because the Federal Government was not involved and did not give its consent of the transfer. Interior has supported similar land claims in Maine and in New York.

### GERARD DISCUSSES PLANS FOR BIA

Interviewed by Jim Largo for the Albuquerque Journal, Forrest Gerard, President Carter's nominee as the first Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs, expressed confidence that he will be confirmed by the Senate this month. His hearings are scheduled for September 9, 12 and 13. Gerard said his first task in the office would be to appoint his staff and then he would begin the long anticipated reorganization of the BIA. He said that the recommendations of the American Indian Policy Review Commission would be used "as a sort of road map to reorganize the BIA. It calls for some radical changes." Gerard said he believes the fundamental responsibility of the BIA is "carrying out the trust function to the Indian people." He expressed concern about a "serious backlash" growing out of legal victories in the western United States. "What it comes down to, I believe, is that the trustee (BIA) is going to have to stand even more firmly on those Indian legal rights," Gerard said.

### V.F.W. NEWS

The 8th District of the V.F.W. of North Carolina on August 31 sponsored a birthday party for the patients of the V.A. Hospital in Fayetteville, N.C. for the month of August. Birthday cards were given, Bingo played, cake and other refreshments were served. The following members from Post 2843 and auxiliary attended: Sally Brooks, Stella Locklear, Daisy Demery, Katie Collins, William Chavis and Lacy Collins.

Locklear-Lowry Post 2843 lost a dutiful and faithful member with the passing of Comrade Boyd Strickland of Route 1, Pembroke, N.C. Post members acting as pallbearers were: Monroe Lowry, Milford Oxendine, Dan R. Jones, William C. Chavis, Buddy T. Johnson, Lacy Collins, Lee Ancil Maynor and W.D. Oxendine.

Monthly meeting Monday, September 12, at the Post Home at 7:30 p.m. All post and auxiliary members are asked to attend. Membership dues are now being paid for the coming year 1978. Supper will be served.

New Assistant Coach, Ricky Locklear, an All American Defensive Tackle at Elon College, exhorts the defense to tighten up. Locklear, who handles the defense for the Warriors will have to shore up on the defense to stop the Orrum Raiders Friday night in the season opener at home. Game time is 8 p.m.

### CUMBERLAND COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN PEOPLE HOLD ANNUAL POW WOW

The Cumberland County Association of Indian People held their annual Pow Wow and Festival Friday and Saturday in Fayetteville. A large turnout of Indian people and friends from throughout the state turned out to take part in the sundry activities, including a Saturday morning parade through downtown Fayetteville, that emphasized the cultural heritage of the Indian people.

Chief James P. Jacobs led the festivities, and displayed his ceremonial headdress during the parade down Hay Street Saturday morning.

### MISS LUMBEE SEES REWARDING YEAR AHEAD



Brenda Hunt.

She's 5'5" and just turned 18. Brown curls frame a petite face with slightly painted lips and huge brown eyes highlighted by just a touch of make-up.

She has an indelible voice that touches and melts the hearts of many.

She is Brenda Hunt, Miss Lumbee.

Having held the title for a mere two months, Brenda feels she's already had a taste of the glamour and can foresee a rewarding year ahead of her.

When traveling or at home in Pembroke Brenda finds that she is often confronted with the question, "How does it feel to be Miss Lumbee?" A question which she finds hard to answer: "I feel proud and honored to be chosen to represent the Lumbee people," she says, and adds "It makes me feel good inside to stand up and say I'm Brenda Hunt and I represent the Lumbee Indian people."

A freshman at Pembroke State University, Brenda feels that her education is very important. "I realize that I will have to make a lot of sacrifices during the year but I feel I can fulfill the obligations of my class work and that of being Miss Lumbee," she says.

Holding the title of Miss Lumbee is very important and a big job according to Brenda. But with the support of her sponsors, the Pembroke Jaycees and LRDA, she feels that the job will be an easier one. "Knowing people are behind you and cheering you on makes things more exciting and more meaningful," Brenda says.

Already Brenda has been a visiting queen at five pageants throughout N.C. She was in attendance at the Miss Aberdeen, Miss Statesville, Miss Maiden, Miss Hendersonville, and Miss Fayetteville pageants, along with her chaperone Miss Florence Ransom. At three out of five of these pageants, she was a guest entertainer and performed three songs: "Brown Skin Child" from "Strike at the Wind", "My Heart Belong To Me" by Barbara Streisand and her talent winning number, "Feelings."

As the year continues, Brenda feels that she will mature and grow and that by the time her reign is up in July, she will be able to say she did her best while Miss Lumbee.