

# EDITORIAL AND OPINION PAGE

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Says He Was Tried For Crime He Did Not Commit

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This letter was received from Paul Lowery. He was recently convicted in the strangulation death of Mrs. Evelyn Small of Red Springs. Lowery received a life sentence.

I tried to get a new trial and they told me it will cost 7 or 8 thousand dollars which is impossible. Mr. Donald W. Buller was my attorney in that case with no offense towards him under the circumstance and him being an Indian, think he did a great job. If had not been for Mr. William Lowery those white people would have put me to death for something that I did not do. He was one of the jurors in my trial. I wish there was some way that I could thank him. All I know is that he lives on a Lumberton Route. May the Lord bless Mr. Lowery.

Convicted along with him was James Small. Evelyn Small's husband, who received the death sentence for masterminding the murder, according to District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt and the Robeson County Jury that convicted them.

James Johnson, who turned state's evidence in the case, was sentenced to 20 years. Yet to be tried is Shirley Scott, as an accomplice in the case.

**Dear Mr. Barton:**  
You probably don't know me, but I know you! My name is Paul Lowery. I was tried a few weeks ago in Robeson County. But right now I am at Central Prison in Raleigh. I was the leading article in the newspaper that you sent to James C. Jones.

I think someone should speak up for the people in Robeson County, especially for the Indian people because the rich over run the poor and send them up here to experiment on.

For example, take Mr. Joe Freeman Britt. I am an Indian and I am from Robeson County. I was taken in to court in Lumberton and tried for a crime that I did not commit. I had no witness to help me. Mr. Britt took the witnesses that I did have to testify to my whereabouts at that time and

### A TUSCARORA VIEWPOINT

**To the Editor:**  
Washington, D.C. I asked one lawyer to define for me a Lumbee. The reaction was ridiculous!  
The article by a Douglas Maynor in your paper said all Tuscarora in NC were driven from North Carolina. This is not true or will ever be true. The blood of those people will and shall always flow in our veins.

I know the history of my people too, much, much more than any of you younger ones will ever know. Anyone who or that knows anything about history, knows that the Tuscaroras were the most warlike tribe the white man encountered here along the East Coast.

Proud to be a Lumbee? Proud of what? How our fore fathers despised the name Croatoan! The name was used by the local whites as a maliciously, despicable name, even though it was a very honored Indian name.

Alas, again the name "Lumbee" forced upon us those of the few that thought them selves elected to do so by the Almighty!

Again, all Indians of Robeson County, we are an amalgamation of tribes, Croatoan, Cherokee, Hatteras and Tuscarora, but in the jurisdiction of most mainly Tuscarora.

All the friends (whites) I meet upon our borders say we should consider ourselves as "The Tuscarora Indian Nation of North Carolina."

Our forefathers escaped to these dismal swamps to escape the plagues of thunder guns of the white man. Some Tuscaroras fled to New York, but others came here to escape the rape of our land. We are the assimilation of tribes, but the fierce blood of the brave, dreaded Tuscarora still flows in our veins.

So come, one and all wise mer hoopla for a Lumbee, a white man given name. Stand straight, stand tall, be what you are, not a Lumbee, just another Indians-Indian-Indian. Preferably, a Tuscarora. Then we will be federally recognized. It will change our part of the country!

"Oh yes," she said. "They are our brothers."

So what federally are we to do with Lumbee? It's a fictitious name!

I sat along with he and others in the BIA Building in

Jesse J. Maynor  
Route 1  
Pembroke, NC

### AS I SEE IT by Bruce Barton



#### Welcome to Lumbee Homecoming!

the legislation naming us this or that that really matters.

The Carolina Indian Voice encourages "letters to the editor," even when we do not always agree with the opinions put forth by the letter writers.

Many Indian tribes were named after nearby rivers and other geographical markers, like the Eno, the Catawba, the Cape Fear Indians, the Pee Dee Indians, etc. etc. "Lumbee" is o.k. as a name, as far as I am concerned. What I would like to see is our federal recognition straightened out once and for all.

A case in point is a letter in last week's issue and another in this issue writing about Tuscarora lineage in the county, and disparaging Lumbee designation and those who choose to label themselves Lumbee Indians.

But I uphold the right of Mr. Maynor or any other letter writer to express themselves. I only give myself the same right not to necessarily agree with them if I choose not to do so.

The Carolina Indian Voice supports Lumbee Homecoming with all the enthusiasm we are able to muster. We disagree with Mr. Douglas W. Maynor, last week's letter writer, who said "To me Lumbee Homecoming is simply a mark of shame on the Indians of Robeson County..." I do not agree with Mr. Maynor. I look on Lumbee Homecoming with pride because it is a positive force, a good and healthy symbol. Too, it is good to set aside some time to share with our friends and relatives and to honor some of our own. It is good to be a part of Lumbee Homecoming. And Lumbee Regional Development Association (LRDA) is to be honored for sponsoring the annual event. It is the kind of positive thing they are supposed to be doing.

So, welcome home, Lumbees and friends. It will be nice to see you again.

Some are forgotten, in spite of one's best efforts...  
Ms. Florence Ransom is the harried but caring pageant director for the successful and popular "Miss Lumbee Pageant." She really cares about the pageant and the girls, and she tries very hard. But every year she forgets someone, and she doesn't want to.

This year she called us after the programs had been printed. She had forgotten to list Curtis Pierce and Jerry Hunt as auditors and Cindy Locklear as one of the Entertainers.

Too, I believe the Indians of Robeson and adjoining counties need unifying, not separation as will surely result from too much attention given to a name's name, such as "Lumbee" or "Tuscarora" or "Cherokee." The names mean little to me; it is the integrity of

So, we're listing them for her. Hey, Curtis, Jerry and Cindy, don't get too mad at her; she's trying her very best and she does appreciate the role you are playing in this year's Miss Lumbee Pageant. Really!

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### In-Mitt-Too-Yah-Lat Speaking For Me and My Native People

My names is Cardell "Bill" Spaulding. I'm one of the Native people and a member of the Lumbee Tribe. I'm the father of a very dear 19-year-old daughter.

I'm sentenced to die by the white man's gas chamber in Raleigh's Central Prison in the State of North Carolina. They called it murder, totally disregarding the fact that I acted only in self-defense. Whenever one of my Indian brothers die at the end of the white man's knife here in Central Prison, Warden Sam P. Garrison won't even let it be known in public. Warden Sam P. Garrison kept John Kent Hunt's murder here in Central Prison which occurred in 1976 out of the public. I'm sure his reason was that whenever an Indian brother gets killed at the hands of the whites, then Sam P. Garrison considers that an honor. As I lay here the very words of Chief Joseph, of the Nez Percés, spoken long ago, burns into my mind, flaming my heart and spirit and saddening me greatly. "As even to this truth beholds to me and my people, Chief Joseph of the Nez Percés died Sept. 21, 1904. Before he died he spoke these words: "If the white man wants to live in peace with the Indian he can live in peace. There need be no trouble. Treat all human beings alike. Give them all the same hand. Give them all an even chance to live and grow. All human beings were made by the same God. We are all brothers in the eye sight of God. The Earth is the mother of all people and all are brothers and sisters. And all people should have equal rights upon it. You might as well expect the rivers to run backward as that any man who was born free should be content when penned up and denied liberty to go where he pleased. If you tie a horse to a stake do you expect it to grow fat? If you pen an Indian on a small spot of Earth and compel

him to stay there he will not be content nor will he grow and prosper. I have asked some of the white men where they get their authority to say to the Indian he shall stay in one place while he sees whites going where they please. They cannot tell me! When I think of our conditions my heart is heavy. I see men of my race treated as outlaws and driven from country to country. Or shot down like animals. I know my race must change. We cannot hold our grounds with the white man unless every Indian brother and sister of our Native people stand our grounds and let the whites know that we've seen through their thin screen.

We can't do it with the blinds over our eyes. If all our people support each other then Dr. Paul Givens would remain in Illinois where he belongs. We, the Indian people of Robeson County, can only ask an even chance to live as other people of the land live. If the Indian breaks the law of the land then give the Indian the same justice as the big, rich white man would get. The laws are only used by the big, rich white man as a weapon against the poor white man to get to the Blacks and Indians. As a Native Lumbee Indian I ask my people to wake up. As we can see, the Bill Fridays and Joe Freeman Britts are creeping in and trampling us under ground. Let me be a free man. Free to travel. Free to stop. Free to work. Free to trade where I choose. Free to choose my own teachers. Free to follow the religion of my fathers. Free to think and talk and act for myself. And I will obey every law or submit to the penalty.

Whenever the whites treat the Indian as they treat each other we will have no more wars. We shall all learn to live and respect each other in the same manner. With one sky above. And one country

around us for all. Then God above who rules all will smile upon this land and send rain to wash out the Bleachy Spots made by all the hatred that the white man has had for our people for so long. For the time being we, the Indian Race, wait and pray. I hope and pray no more groans of wounded men and women will ever go to God above and that all people may be one people.

Sincerely,  
Brantley Blue

LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED AND AUTHENTICATED. PLEASE INCLUDE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE\* IF APPLICABLE.

Sincerely and cordially,  
Cardell "Bill" Spaulding  
835 W. Morgan Street  
Raleigh, N.C. 27603

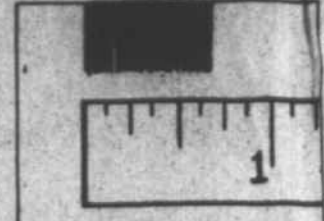
### To A Teacher And Her Husband

**Editor's note:** Donald Gene Oxendine, a 7th grader wrote the following in memory of his school teacher who suffered the loss of her first child. Donald is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Louie Oxendine of the Mt. Alry Community.

came, but now things will never be the same.  
Your baby did surely cost, but not it is surely lost.  
Don't worry or feel sorry you baby is in heaven, and when you get there you'll see it grow to be seven.  
Soon another one will probably come, and surely things will

have just begun.  
I feel sorry for you and your husband, you wouldn't be here if God hadn't gave His son.  
Your child didn't die because it will soon fly, it will be like a pigeon very high in the sky.  
I'll remember you and your husband in my prayer, while your baby is in the air.

**TO A TEACHER AND HER HUSBAND**  
You wanted a baby and it



Vicuna fleece is so fine that 2,500 strands placed side by side would not equal an inch. "The ballot is stronger than the bullet." Lincoln

## WAGON WHEEL STEAK HOUSE

3491 West 5th Street, Lumberton, N.C. 28358

Welcome Lumbees!

THE WAGON WHEEL STEAK HOUSE is proud to present "The Tribe" as live entertainment Friday and Saturday nights. We have one of the finest discos around on Sunday night. We are also proud to sponsor MISS DEDRA LOWRY in the Miss Lumbee Pageant.

Dedra, 18, is a 1979 graduate of Pembroke Senior High School. She is the daughter of Mr. Ella Deane Lowry Oxendine. Dedra is employed with H.L. Brewing Enterprises, and plans on attending R.T.I. at a later time to take up office practice.

THE WAGON WHEEL STEAK HOUSE (formerly Brian's Seafood) wishes luck to all the contestants, and a very happy and safe Lumbee Homecoming to each and everyone.

Best Wishes,  
THE WAGON WHEEL STEAK HOUSE  
Box 3491  
West Fifth Street  
Lumberton, N.C. 28358

## RANDOLPH UMBERGER'S STRIKE at the WIND!

EXPERIENCE!  
THE MOST EXCITING OUTDOOR DRAMA IN AMERICA!  
July 5th - August 25th  
Thursday, Friday and Saturday  
Pre-show -- 8 p.m.  
Show-time -- 8:30 p.m.

Located at the Riverside Country Club's Lakeside Amphitheatre, 3 Miles West of Pembroke, N.C. Just Off U.S. Highway 74. Watch for Signs!

The Story of the Lumbee Indians and Their Leader, Henry Berrie Lowrie in Robeson County During the Civil War and Reconstruction.