

Welcome to Lumbee

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

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 Lumber designation and those who choose to label themselves Lumbee Indians.

The Carolina Indian Voice supports Lumbee Homecoming with all the enthusiasm we are able to muster. We disagree with Mr. Douglas W. So, welcome home, Lumbees 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 oming 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.

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 bee'le or "Tuscarora" or 'Cherokee." The names mean little to me; it is the integrity of

the legislation naming us this or that that really matters.

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.

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

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 print-ed. She had forgotten to list Curtis Pierce and Jerry Hunt as auditors and Cindy Locklear as one of the Entertainers.

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 Lumbee year's Miss 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 Native people and a member of the Lumbee Tribe. I'm the father of a very dear 19-year-

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 occured 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 Perces, spoken long 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 Perces died Sept. 21, 1904. Before he died he spoke these words:"If the 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 ahould have equal rights upon it. You might as well expect the rivers to run well expect the rivers to backward as that any man who was born free should be content when penned up and denied liberty to go where he sienses. If you the a horse to a sienses. If you the a horse to a

take do you expect it to grow at? If you pen an Indian on a mail 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

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 nner. With one sky above. And one country

obey every law or submit to

Brannon "Brings Shame... to Judicial System"

Jesus Christ sowed the seeds of discord in the society of His day by introducing a new commandment, "Love your neighbor as yourself." The legal system of that day 'crucified Him on a cross.'

Almost eighteen centuries later our founding fathers imbedded into the Declaration of Independence the words, "All men are created equal."

Two hundred and three years after our nation's system was founded upon those words, a judge, in Robeson County, North Carolina, is reported to have stated to a "Lumbee Indian," against whom he was about to impose an extremely harsh sentence, the words, "Some people with an education, but without brains have been sowing seeds of discord here for a long

Anyone familiar with the history of the tri-racial makeup of Robeson County, and the recent protestations of certain Indian leaders and groups of alleged physical abuse by members of the State Highway Patrol of young Indian men accused of minor offenses, knew that the judge was really signalling to the citizens of the county that he regarded such protesting Indian leaders and groups as being without brains! That was pretty strong language for a judge of a criminal court to use in a racially sensitive case.

It is reported that the judge in question then asserted to Tony Blue. "Those who were with you in the beginning have now fled the field of battle leaving you without funds to face the music."

If, what the judge was next reported to have said, was really said by him, it was an assertion of power that the United States Constitution and the entire body of law in this country would firmly prohibit him from exercising, "If they were here I would send them to jail!" God forbid such a thought! The expression of the thought by a sentencing judge in a public courtroom in the State of North Carolina brings great shame to the Judicial System of a proud

I was astounded by the reported comments made by the sentencing judge. I can understand why the Robeson County structural system that some of us older Indians knew and feared in our youth, as did our fathers and grandfathers before us, now in turn, fear the dismantling of that system by the educated, thinking, Indian leaders of today...but that should be a social, political and economic struggle... a matter of persuasion.

Our judicial officers should be restrained, objective and judicious. Judges should in no way use the power of the bench to attempt to curtail or control free thought or free speech of any racial group by calling their leaders educated people without brains and threatening them with jail.

> Sincerely. **Brantley Blue**

LETTERS MUST BE SIGNED AND AUTHENTICATED. PLEASE INCLUDE ADDRESS AND TELEPHONES IF APPLICABLE.

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 vounded men and women will ever go to God above and that all people may be one people.

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

# LETTERS TO THE EDTOR

# Says He Was Trie 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.

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 experi-

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 where abouts at that time and

orded the sheriff's departto tell them to go home becase they were not needed in cort. Now that is the kind of jutice that the Indian peop get in Robeson County.

I to get a new trial and they all me it will cost 7 or 8 thousand dollars which is imposible. Mr. Donald W. was my attorney in se with no offense him under the circumtowar stance and him being an think he did a great Indian job. If had not been for Mr. William Lowery those white people would have put me to death fo 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 his. All I know is that he lives on a Lumberton Route. May the Lord bless Mr.

I know that I will be punished or this but it is okay. Just like you had in your paper article it won't hurt anyway. Mr. Barte, I guess we will just have to leave it in the hands of the Lord. If you think this is worth printing in the newspaper I would appreciate it. Send mea copy and keep up the good work.

### Yours truly. Paul Lowery

P.S. Mr. Barton, I have a question. There were two men who got the death sentence on a 6 year dd's testimony in court. But in my case there was an a year old who identified the man who did the crime. And Mr. Joe Freeman Britt would not accept her testimony in my behalf and she was an eye witness. Would you call that justice?

# A TUSCARORA VIEWPOINT

To the Editor:

Concerning the Lumbee Homecoming, I read with quite considerable interest the article concerning or about "Questions Lumbee H coming." Since when did a Lumbee Nation exist? Since when did an Indian tribe, since the coming of the white man, change its name so many times? Who gave you or us (so they tried) that name?

Only a handful of people who chose themselves to be profiteers at the discretion of the white man? My father, L.M. Maynor along with a number of others is recognized by the BIA.

The Cherokee tried to be peaceful with the Tuscarora but since they showed not too many signs of resistance to the white men's gradual encroach ment upon their lands, they became mortal enemies.

So how in the name of all the gods, with their superiors intelligence, strength and wisdom, could the Cherokee make slaves of Tuscaroras?

Even now Tuscarora is a feared name because my fore fathers told me what their fore fathers did to the white settlers taking their land. Stealing, plundering, raping, murdering? Impossible to believe this, feasible yes. There is no such name to other American Indians as "Lumbee." It is simply a fallacy, a

Recently I took a trip among two Indian tribes. I was going to buy some presents (souvenirs) for my folks. I walked up to this (it was in an Indian village) lady. She said, "I know you are an Indian. But from where?"

I said. (just for the record) "I'm a Lumbee Indian from Robeson County. Pembroke..

She said, "We've heard of them but we don't know

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

I said, "How about Tusca-

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

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

Washington, D.C. I asked one lawyer to define for me a Lumbee. The reaction was ridiculous!

The article by a Douglas 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

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 Tuscororas were the most warlike tribe the white man encountered here along the East

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 "Lum bee" 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 almalgamation of tribes, Croatoan, Cherokee, Hatteras and Tuscarora, but in the iurisdiction of most mainly Tuscarora.

All the friends (whites) I meet with 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!

Jesse J. Maynor

# To A Teacher And Her Husband

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

> TO A TEACHER AND HER HUSBAND

You wanted a baby and it ly come, and surely things will

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 probab-

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.

Thursday, July 5, 1971

Vicuna fleece is so fine that 2,500 strands placed side by side would not equal an inch.

"The ballot is stronger than

# 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 entertain ment 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 Ms. Ella Deane Lowry Oxendine. Dedra is employed with H.L. Brewington 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

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