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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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COST CUTTING MEASURES UNDERWAY AT LUMBEE RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

by Bruce Barton

Red Springs-Seldom has one man had the positive effect on an organization that Rev. Elias Rogers has had on the direction of Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, the member owned electric cooperative based in Red Springs.

He also asked that the general manager be put on a limited expense account of \$1,000. monthly. Until his request, the general manager, Derl Hinson, had an unlimited expense account without any accountability to the board.

one Black and one white. The president of the board, J.W. Hunt, is also an Indian. Employment has also been extended to Indians since Rogers was elected to the board. An Indian, Ronnie Hunt, is the assistant manager of Lumbee River. Indians also serve as service manager, comptroller and other key positions.

General Manager Hinson also agreed to continue reviewing telephone bills, deployment of on call vehicles, overtime, merit increases, inventories and training of employees and cash flow.

electric rates has been set by the Robeson County Clergy and Laity Concerned May 24 at the Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton. The meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Leaflets distributed locally ask the question: "Your electric bills crushing you? Come and find out...why our electric bills are so high...who sets our electric rates...how our rates are set...what we can do to stop higher rates...what is unfair about rate setting today."

result in the first significant changes in utility laws since the 1970s. "It's the number one thing we've been hearing about in this office for the last month," said Joseph Pell, chief political aide to Governor Jim Hunt. "They (the public) are saying 'we can't stand this any more. It's hard times.'"

Once denied membership on the board of directors because of his race as an Indian, Rogers recently presented a number of cost cutting measures to the board of directors of LREMC. After a number of special called meetings, the board did, in fact, adopt a number of measures designed to cut expenses.

Rogers also asked management to cut their salaries by 10% and cut all other employees by 5%. He also asked that all merit increases and cost of living increases be frozen immediately.

Cost cutting measures at LREMC forerunner of public cries for ways to cut costs of public utilities.

Utilities, politicians feel public rage on rate laws and high bills

Said Rogers, "I am proud that LREMC had the good sense to get busy in this area of concern to our consumers. High light bills are killing all of us. We need to do everything we can to cut costs now and in the future."

Said a typical consumer, "My light bill is ridiculously high. I'm glad some thing is being done about it, even if its too little too late."

Original proposals presented by Rogers Rogers, who had to sue for the right to be seated on the board of directors in the early '70's, at a meeting in February called for the board to eliminate committee meetings except on the day of regular board meetings in order to save per diem costs paid to board members for each meeting they attend.

And he asked that all vehicles be parked after regular work hours except those used by the general manager, assistant manager, engineer and superintendent. Until his request employees drove a number of company owned vehicles home after regular work hours.

Recently the North Carolina Utilities Commission, stung by public criticism of escalating utility costs, has ordered the state's nine largest utilities to come up with ways to trim costs.

What the LREMC Board of Directors agreed to do to cut costs.

Anthony Locklear is shown receiving the Tommy Martin Award. Ralph Ward, football coach is shown making the presentation.

Capacity crowd turns out for Pembroke Senior High School Athletic Banquet



DeVane for the House

Danny DeVane

Hoke County Commissioner Danny DeVane of Raeford announced recently he would run for state representative this year.

After an extended legal battle, Rogers won an out of court settlement from LREMC in 1973 in excess of \$10,000 for discriminating against him in attempting to deny him a seat on the board of directors. At the same time, as part of the settlement, the cooperative agreed to add three at large board members, and the use of proxies was outlawed. Rogers has served on the board since then, even serving a number of years as president of the board before being ousted at last year's annual meeting by J.W. Hunt.

And they decided "to park four vehicles previously driven home after regular work hours by the foreman of the crew line, the foreman of the under ground crew, the load management representative, and the communications specialist."

Ryan Tuck is shown above receiving the Timmy Sampson award. John Sampson is shown making the presentation.

Best All-Around Female Athlete--Wendy Locklear.

Best All-Around Female Athlete--Wendy Locklear.

DeVane is aiming for one of the three seats of the 21st District in the House. The district is composed of Hoke, Robeson and Scotland counties. The incumbents are David Parnell, William Gay and Horace Locklear, all Democrats and all Robeson County residents.

Huel Locklear, 37, of Pembroke, whom the FBI had described as "armed and extremely dangerous," was arrested without a struggle Monday, an FBI spokesman said.

Investigators learned Monday that Locklear would be driven by a friend from Pembroke to Dillon. Tailing the car, they saw it pull to the side of the road in a rural area just before 3 p.m., Pence said.

Wendy Locklear Award Winner

Special awards were presented to Parnell, Gay and Locklear, and to Jenny Carnichael, basketball, volleyball and softball.

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