

THE CAROLINA INDIAN V

POST OFFICE BOY 1075

PUBLISHED BACH THURSDAY

25c PER COPY

PEMBROKE, N.C. 28372

THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1982

COST CUTTING MEASURES UNDERWAY AT LUMBEE RIVER ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

by Bruce Barton

VOLUME 10 NUMBER 19

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.

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.

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.

> DeVane for the House



Danny DeVane

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

He stated that he was "not representing any special-interest group. I'm running on my own. Nobody asked me to run. I want to serve the people."

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.

Parnell has announced he would run for the State Senate seat held currently by Sam Noble.

DeVane, 36, is a native of Bladen County and a graduate of White Oak High School. He came to Raeford in 1969 as manager of Raeford Department Store, and in 1970 opened DeVane's, a clothing store, in Raeford. He is now in the real estate and auction business and s an auctioneer. Last year he sold DeVane's to John Howard while he also to St. Eugene Hospital, where he was was in real estate and auctions, placed under observation.

DeVane served as a Fayetteville Locklear was indicted May 4 by a

DeVane served as a Fayetteville liceman for 21/2 years and also was in the clothing business before moving to Raeford. He is married to the former Alice Smith, a Cumberland County tive. They have one child, a son, Baptist Church of Reeford.

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

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.

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.

Rogers also requested that all uses of credit cards be monitored by the board on a regular basis.

He cailed for all hiring to be suspended and asked that labor be doubled up where ever possible to save Rogers said,"I am concerned about

high utility bills like everyone else. It is Koger, commission chairman. time that we did something about run away spending by Lumbee River." Lumbee River, in the past few years,

has been split badly in its voting. Rogers and Derl Hinson, the general manager, seem to be the focal points of disagreement. Hinson has survived a 7-5 vote at least one time calling for his ouster.

Rogers, who is considered almost a legendary figure because of his civil rod of contention. Some like him; some do not.

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.

Rogers was the first Indian or Black ever elected to the board of directors of LREMC and is given the lion's share of credit for opening up the cooperative to Indians and Blacks and others denied the right to serve on the board because of their race and status in life.

Since Rogers was elected, Indians have become the dominant force on the board. 10 of the 12 members presently serving on the board are Indians, with

Huel Locklear, 37, of Pembroke, whom

the FBI had described as "armed and

extremely dangerous," was arrested

without a struggle Monday, an FBI

than 100 agents and was a high priority,

because Locklear allegedly had fired

armor-piercing bullets at federal agents

In that shootout, Pence said, Locklear spparently was shot in the left buttock.
When picked up Monday, he was taken

said Special Agent Robert L. Pence,

The search for Locklear involved more

spokesman said.

Huel Locklear

captured

Locklear was indicted May 4 by a federal grant jury in Charleston, S.C., for the Jan. 21 robbery of a Southern Bank and Trust Co. branch in Hollywood, SC.

When agents tried to arrest Locklear May 7 at the home of a relative, he filed across a field, Pence said. When agents pursued be allegedly turned and fired give up, Pence said.

He also asked that the general one Black and one white. The president of the board, J.W. Hunt, is also an Indian. Employment has also being 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.

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

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

A two day hearing was held this weel in Raleigh in which the public utilities were told to appear before the commis sion and explain what they were doing t hold down high electric and other utility bills. "Really, it's put them on notice, w think they should be doing something ntain costs in this oconomy," said Bob

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

After a number of special called meetings, the board of directors took the following action in response to Roger's proposals. They agreed, at a special March 13 meeting, to "schedule committee meetings whenever possible, on the day of the regularly scheduled monthly rights law suit against the cooperative a meeting." And "...have management's few years ago, seems to be a lightening expense account reviewed quarterly by the finance committee and have finance committee report to the full board."

The general manager, Derl Hinson, was also instructed to "review the status and expenditure of any and all credit cards used by the cooperative and report to the board on a regular basis.

The board also "postponed further action on merit increases and cost of living increases for employees and staff members pending review and action by the policy committee."

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."

A freeze on hiring was instituted through 1982 and it was "further resolved that vacancies might be fiiled only where employees leave or resign and where absolutely necessary to fill (said) vacancies."

three armor-piercing bullets before

Locklear was indicted again May 11 on

up to 10 years on each count.

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. The driver surrendered upon seeing the

law enforcement agents, but Locklear

remained in the car, hiding in the trunk "No effort was made to acsault the vehicle," Pence said, "but if was over 9 degrees and it was felt that it was the

Forty-five minutes to an hour later, 25 FB1 agents and aberiffs' deputit from two states waited, Locklear knocks

three charges of assaulting a federal

officer. If convicted, he could be jailed

disappearing into nearby woods.

General Manager Hinson also agreed electric rates has been set by the result in the first significant changes in to continue reviewing telephone bills, deployment of on call vehicles, overtime, merit increases, inventories and training of employees and cash flow.

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

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."

Locally, a district-wide meeting on fair

Robeson County Clergy and Laity utility laws since the 1970s. Concerned May 24 at the Sandy Grove Baptist Church in Lumberton. The you? Come and find out...why our electric bills are so high...who sets our Said Rogers, "I am proud that LREMC electric rates...how our rates are set... do everything we can to cut costs. The had the good sense to get busy in this . what we can do to stop higher consumers we represent deserve nothing rates...what is unfair about rate setting less." today."

cain about their rapidly escalating is being done about it, even if its too little electric bills, and the outcry soon could too late."

"It's the number one thing we've been hearing about in this office for the last meeting is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. month," said Joseph Pell, chief political Leaflets distributed locally ask the aide to Governor Jim Hunt. "They (the question: "Your electric bills crushing public) are saying 'we can't stand this any more. It's hard times.""

Rev. Rogers agrees. "It's up to us to

Said a typical consumer, "My light bill The heat is on. Consumers are raising is ridiculously high. I'm glad some thing

CAPACITY CROWD TURNS OUT FOR PEMBROKE SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC BANQUET



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



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



by David Malcolm

A standing room only crowd packed the Pembroke Senior High School Cafeteria Saturday night for the school's annual athletic awards banquet.

Dr. Dudley Flood, Assistant Superintendent of the N.C. Department of Public Instruction, humored the audience made up of PSHS athletes, their parents and friends, and other well wishers, but never went far from the main point of his speech on the importance of setting goals

Bill James Brewington, assistant princpal of PSHS, introduced the coaches who in turn presented awards in their respective sports. Varsity certificates were given to underclassmen participating in all sports, while seniors received plaques.

The 1981-82 coaching staff at Pembroke includes: Ralph Ward (varsity football), Charles Graham (junior varsity football and basketball), James H. Locklear, Sr. (varsity basketball--boys), Jenny Carmichael (girls' basketball, volleyball and softball), Al Parnell (boys' and girls' tennis), Ronnie Chavis (baseball), Aaron Cotten (track), MSG Richard Knox, Ret. (rifle team) and Rita Locklear (cheerleading).

Au-Three Rivers Conference selections: Felecia Carter, Sheila Regan (volleyball) Sissy Revels (cheerleading); Sheila Regan (girls' basketball); Ryan Tuck, Roscoe Charles (boys' basketball); Anthony Locklear, Eric G. Locklear, Ryan Tuck, Randall Jacobs (football); Lee McRae, Ryan Tuck (track).

Football: MVP -- Anthony Locklear, Most Improved--Chris Graham, Best Offensive Player--Michael McCartney, Defensive Player of the Year-Randall Jacobs, Mr. Gutty Award (JV)--Mark Jacobs

Basketball: MVP-Roscoe Charles, Most Improved-Ryan Tuck, Best Hustle (JV)-Patrick Bullard

Basketball [girl's]: MVP--Sheila Regan, Most Improved -- Daphne Russ. Volleyball: MVP-Michelle Urbansky, Most Improved-Felecia Carter.

Softball: MVP-Shirleen Smiling Tennis: MVP-John Wayne Locklear, Most Improved-Jimmy Locklear.
Teamle [girl's]: MVP-Tricis Carter,

Most Improved--Susan Lowry.

Baseball: Most Improved--Eric Lock-

Tracks MVP-Lee McRae, Most Is

proved--Gregory Smith.
Cheerleading: Most Spirited--Jo
Lynn Locklear, Most Improved--Bread
Locklear, Most Spirited (JV)--Tamin