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SLIGHTLY IRREGULAR



Adolph Dial featured in **U.S. News & World Report**

by Gene Warren

PEMBROKE--"U.S. News and World Report." a national publication with nine million readers. has in its July 9 issue (now on the newsstands), a two-page spread on the 400th Anniversary of North Carolina's founding. But it has something very much extra pertaining to Pembroke State University. On two-thirds of one page is an interview with Adolph Dial, chairman of Pembroke State University's American drama is now in its ninth Indian Studies Department, entitled: "Lost Colony'-A Mystery Now Solved?"

Dial, 61, states as part of this interview that he believes that he is a descendant of Virginia Dare, the first English baby born in America. "The oral traditions are clear that her family survived and that the Dials around here may be her descendants. Even today, if you pronounce Dare with a Southern accent, it sounds very much like Dial. And I believe that I am a descendant of Virginia Dare, Encyclopedia two years ago, too."

Dial also states there is evidence that the colonists at Roanoke Island "joined friendly Indians and eventually intermarried with them. Those Indians, now called the Lumbees, are centered in what is now southeastern Indian country.

Pembroke State University has evolved from a tiny school 1887 and will celebrate its port" follows:

week. The article appearing in founded by these Indians in "U.S. News and World Re-

LUMBERTON - A new Democratic primary for the Robeson County Board of Education District 6 seat will be held July 31, according to an order from the state Board of Elections.

The state board last month voided the results of the May 8 primary and ordered a new one based on the Robeson County Board of Elections findings that ineligible voters cast ballots in the race for a seat on the county school board.

Incumbent Pete Clark was the unofficial victor over Larry Chavis Jr. in the primary. Chavis lost by 40 votes and challenged the results.

The new primary date for the district, which has eight precincts, was announced Monday at a county elections board meeting.

All District 6 residents registered to vote are eligible to cast ballots in the new primary, according to the state board's order.

Last month, the local board found that in Lumberton's sixth precinct, 166 ballots were cast for the District 6 seat although there were only 25 people listed in the poll book as being eligible to vote.

centennial in 1987. Dial, who has taught at Pembroke State since 1958 as a history professor, has spoken all over the nation about Lumbee Indians and other American Indians. He coauthored a book on the Lumbees in 1975, entitled: "The Only Land I Know." He is chairman of the Robeson Historical Drama, Inc., which has sponsored the Indian outdoor drama, "Strike At

Commenting about the magazine article, included below

season.

The Wind," since 1976. The

in its entirety. Dial said: "I think any time one has an opportunity to provide national coverage to the University or Lumbee Indian people, it's great. I always welcome such an opportunity and am grateful to 'U.S. News and orld Report' for publishing this interview." Dial, who had an article

published in World Book says he is tremendously pleased over "publicity of this magnitude" appearing in a publication that has an international circulation with bureaus all over the world. Appropriately enough, the article came out at the same

time as the Lumbee Indians' North Carolina" or Lumbee annual Homecoming at Pembroke during Fourth of July

Page 7, The Carolina Indian Voice - Thursday, July 5, 1984

"Lost Colony"-**A Mystery** Now Solved?

Although the English first landed on Roanoke Island, N.C., in 1584, it was not until 1587 that a fullfledged settlement of more than 100 men, women and children was established. When the next English ships returned to Roanoke Island in 1590, they found the site abandoned.

Here Adolph Dial, chairman of the Department of American Indian Studies at Pembroke State University, N.C., and a Lumbee Indian, explores possibilities of what became of the legendary "Lost Colony."

Q. Professor Dial, what happened to the Lost Colony? Did It really disappear without a trace?

A No. There is overwhelming evidence that after the colonists were left on their own and possibly faced starvation, they joined friendly Indians and eventually intermarried with them. Those Indians, now called the Lumbees, are centered in what is now southeastern North Carolina. Very strong oral tradition handed down from one generation to the next holds that the Lumbees are the colonists' descendants.

Q What evidence is there of that? A For one thing, the Englishmen

who returned to the site of the abandoned colony on Roanoke Island found the word CROATOAN carved in wood. The colony's returning governor, John White, took that as a sign the group had moved to an Indian area called Croatan, which was occupied by the Hatteras Indians, who are ancestors of the Lumbees. The notion seemed to be in keeping with a plan to move that White had discussed with the colonists three years earlier. White was not unduly concerned about the group's safety, but he was unable to locate them before a storm forced him to leave.

Q. Were there contacts between the Lumbees and any other early settlers?

A Yes. An adventurous man named Morgan Jones claimed to have walked across the Carolinas in the 1660s, and he said he was captured and then befriended by Indians who spoke English. His description of the area sounds like Robeson County, N.C., the heart of the Lum-

bee settlement. Then when the first big wave of Scottish immigrants reached the Cape Fear Valley in the 1730s, they were astonished to find a group of English-speaking people already living there in European-style houses and tilling the soil in the European fashion. Many of them were blue-eyed and light-haired. Those people had—and their de-scendants still have—English family names that were exactly the same as the lost colonists had, such as Brooks,

Sampson and Jones Q. What happened to the language? A They had apparently integrated so completely that, even though they continued to prize the Indian part of their heritage, too, they passed along the English language in the form that was spoken in the 16th century

Nearly 100 years ago, historian Stephen Weeks studied this Robeson County group and was struck by their extraordinary old speech patterns. He noted that they began telling the old traditions this way: "Mon [man], my fayther told me that his fayther told him. .

Q. If all this has been known so long, why is there still a widespread idea that the Lost Colony was wiped out?

A It suits the purpose of some romantics who are more intrigued by a supposedly unsolved mystery than the facts. The legend defies the findings of travelers and historians who have been saying for hundreds of years that the descendants of the lost colonists were alive and well in North Carolina

Q Are there any clues as to what happened to Virginia Dare, the first English baby born in America?

A Yes. The oral traditions are clear that her family survived and that the Dials around here may be her descendants. Even today, if you pronounce Dare with a Southern accent, it sounds very much like Dial. And I believe that I am a descendant of Virginia Dare, too.

Weatherization grants available

The Red Springs Neighborhood Service Center, contract is effective July 15, sponsored by Four County 1984. Community Services, Inc. has been awarded a new wea- includes installing storm the home, add \$1,740 for each

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Walter De Maria, a Californian conceptual artist, once had an exhibition in a German art gallery consisting of three rooms filled with dirt.

