

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE



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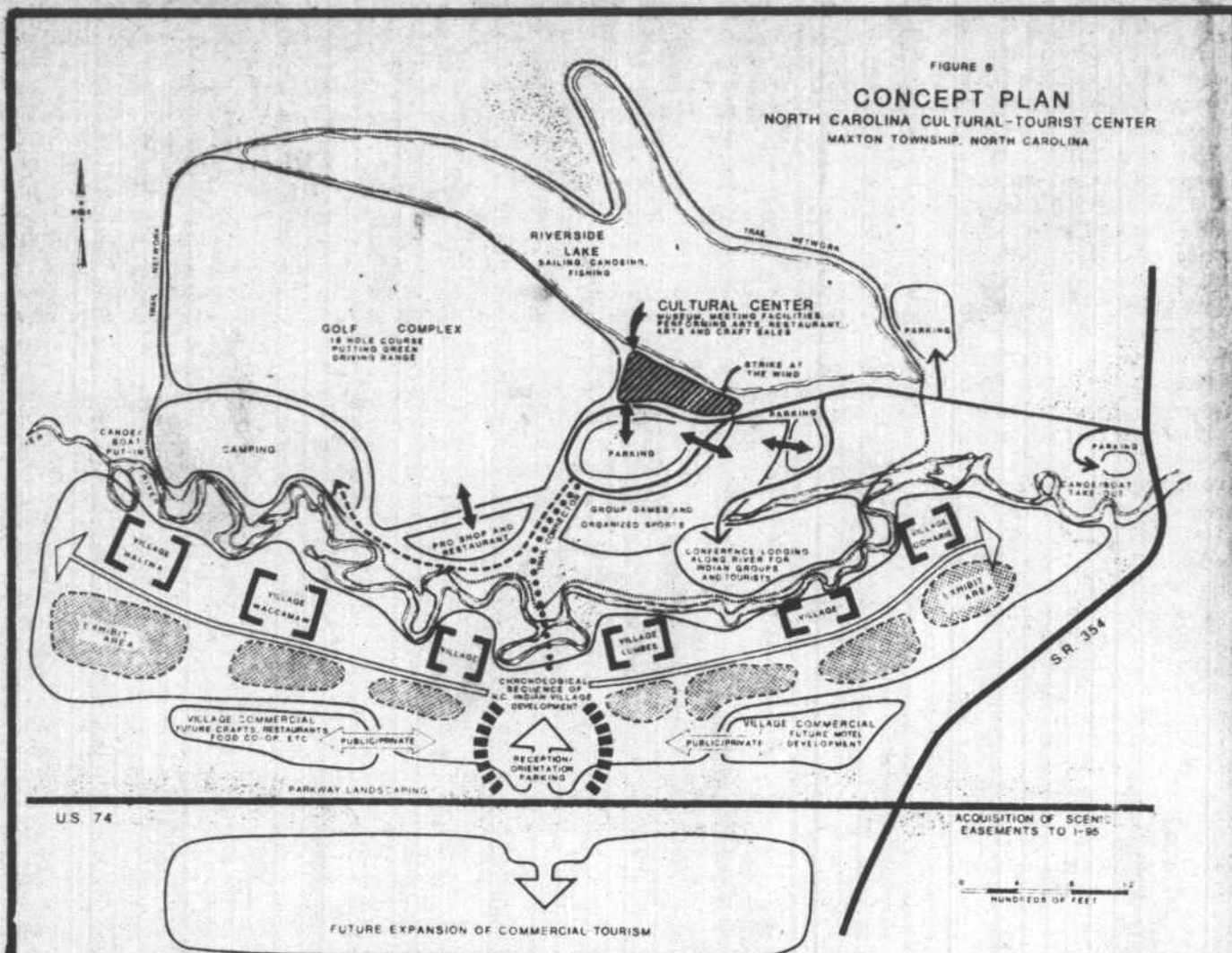
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"Building Communicative Bridges  
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 16, 1984



## INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER STILL IN THE FUTURE BUT MOVING AHEAD

"What you are looking at represents a dream that has been taking shape for the last seven years," said A. Bruce Jones, Commissioner of Indian Affairs. "A lot of careful planning, patience and dedication went into this design." Jones was referring to a colorful "bird's eye view" of the proposed North Carolina Cultural-Tourism Center. A large drawing, or "concept plan" (see illustration above) shows the different components of the overall design and how each part relates to the project's purpose. The variety of activities planned is impressive—strategically located parking areas surrounded by an array of recreational and educational activities: camping, canoeing, golf, the museum, a series of "living villages," a conference center and facilities for organized sports.

"I think it is especially important to remember one factor in the development of this plan," said Jones. "The initial step was taken by Governor Hunt when he asked the Commission to take the lead in developing plans for a major tourist attraction which could be built around the heritage and culture of Eastern North Carolina Indians. In addition, the Governor requested support from the Department of Commerce and the Travel and Tourism Division of the Department of Administration.

"The reason that Robeson County emerged as the most desirable location for such an enterprise is the direct result of two factors that immediately became apparent: (a) a series of traffic surveys demonstrated that the crossing of I-95 and U.S. 74 near Lumberton represented an ideal point to tap one of the State's major tourist flows, and (b) the Lumberton area contained essential resources, such as tourism accommodations, a vital Indian culture and a variety of tourism-oriented enterprises.

"From a purely practical standpoint, both the Governor's office and the Commission perceived the development of this project in relation to economy. Certainly, a Culture-Tourism Center would have a major impact on the income of a lot of people in this area. However, there were other reasons that were repeatedly stressed from the beginning. The proposed Center would also provide us with an opportunity to inform millions of non-Indians about our culture and traditions; and, most importantly, the plan that we evolved provides us with a means of promoting economic and cultural goals without exploiting our cultural and historical traditions."

During the initial stages of planning, the Commission of Indian Affairs acquired a feasibility study from Wilber Smith and Associates in Columbia, South Carolina. Through a series of marketing studies and as a direct result of the conclusions reached by Wilber Smith and Associates as a result of comparative data on similar centers, projections on construction costs and conservative estimates on projected income; the study concluded that the concept was practical, desirable, and potentially an economic

goldmine. In fact, the study indicated that the Culture-Tourism Center would be self-supporting after the first three years of operations.

According to Jim Lowry, Chairman of the Commission of Indian Affairs, planning for the Center was cautious and thorough. "We never perceived this concept as a gamble," said Lowry. "Every aspect has been carefully evaluated. For example, we have paid particular attention to other operations, such as the Museum of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians and the Oconaluftee Indian Village. Both of these successful operations have major advantages, but we also discovered disadvantages—problems that we would have the opportunity to avoid, such as inadequate traffic management, the development of expensive attractions with limited appeal, or a lack of diversity in the Center's activities."

This latter problem, the need for diversity, led to the Commission's decision to include facilities that are already in existence on or near the project site, including the golfing complex, the "Strike at the Wind!" facilities and the Riverside Lake complex. Generally, the Commission felt that a diversity of attractions would make the difference between a visiting audience that stayed several days as opposed to several hours. "As perceived at present," said Lowry, "The Culture-Tourism Center will have enough diversity to appeal to a variety of family interests, recreational, educational and entertaining."

The present status of the Culture-Tourism Center is as follows:

- The General Assembly has appropriated funds to purchase the land required for the Center. Planning in relation to this acquisition is moving ahead.

- Preliminary reviews conducted by the archaeology branch of the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources indicate that there are sites of archaeological and/or historical significance on the development. Should further investigation indicate that appropriate preservation measures are necessary, sites and/or excavations will be incorporated into the plans as a valid part of the Center's purpose: the preservation of the heritage and culture of eastern North Carolina Indians.

- The Curator of the Old Main Museum in cooperation with the Commission of Indian Affairs will coordinate planning in relation to the Center's museum.

The reality of the Culture-Tourism Center is still in the future. As planning progresses, the Commission will assume responsibility for keeping the Indian people of the state informed.

Riverside Country Club, the proposed site of the Indian Cultural Center, is located in the Red Banks Community, approximately 3 miles west of Pembroke, and is home of "Strike at the Wind!"

### River Fest Day Planned

The Robeson County Recreation and Park Commission is sponsoring its first annual 1984 Lumber River Fest Day on Saturday, August 25. There will be a two hour canoe float down the Lumber River starting at Hwy 72 Wildlife Station, near the Cancer Institute, down to Stephens Park in Lumberton. The float will begin at 9 a.m. and finish at 11 a.m. Anyone wishing to use a canoe must contact the Recreation Department prior to the event. Canoes are limited so reservations will be made on first come first served basis.

The Lumber River Fest will begin at 11:30 a.m. at Stephens Park until 4 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available.

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### Miss Lumbee receives Scholarship



Lee Ann Oxendine, Miss Lumbee 1984 is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Oxendine of Rowland, NC.

Ms. Oxendine received the title of Miss Lumbee at the Miss Lumbee Scholarship Pageant held on July 6 at the PSU Performing Arts Center. In addition to the scholar-

ship, she received her crown, a trophy and a wardrobe when she participated in the Miss North Carolina Pageant in June of 1985.

Miss Lumbee, a rising junior at PSU, is shown receiving a check from Florence Ransom, chairperson. [Photo by Elmer W. Hunt]

### County School Board elects new Attorney

On 5-4 vote

The Robeson County Board of Education met in regular session Tuesday afternoon and fired Earl Homer Strickland as school board attorney, replacing him with Gary Lynn Locklear, a Lumberton attorney.

The motion was made by Ronald Revels and seconded by Bill Oxendine. Also voting to fire Strickland were Dr. Dalton Brooks, Dr. Gerald Maynor and Charles David Locklear.

Voting "no" were board chairman Pete Clark, David Green, E.B. Morton Jr. and J.R. Musslewhite. New member Catherine Leach abstained. Board member Rufus Graham was absent.

Some board members seemed surprised by Revels' motion, especially, David Green, as the action occurred just before adjournment.

Green remonstrated, according to local news reports, "This would have appeared to have been an executive session issue, and then we could ask reasons why, but it was not done."

He added, "It would seem that if there was a desire to fire the attorney, it looks like the board members should have the courtesy of knowing before hand."

Morton, another member who eventually voted "no" asked why Strickland should be fired.

Revels answered, "because he serves with a firm that represents the county commissioners," inferring a conflict of interest.

Green injected, "Way tonight? Is it because we have a new board member (Catherine Leach)? Is this the welcoming party?"

But board member Charles David Locklear interrupted, and reminded Green that "each board member has a right to vote however they wish."

It was reminiscent of the way former attorney Dexter Brooks was fired when he was replaced by Strickland, only the players were different.

Strickland is a member of the law firm Ward, Strickland and Kinlaw. Joe "Pete" Ward is county attorney, and Hal Kinlaw represents the board of elections.

Strickland was quoted as saying, "I had no idea it was coming. I will abide by the decision of the board. I served at the pleasure of the board and enjoyed it."

#### IN OTHER MATTERS...

John Norman Sampson, suspended as principal of Deep Branch Elementary School, has been re-assigned to work in the school's maintenance department. Purnell Swett, Superintendent, said Sampson was assigned his new duties in July at his current salary until the investigation is completed.

### ST. JUDE BIKE A THON SET FOR SEPTEMBER 15

Mrs. Vera Lowry, Chairman of the local "wheels for life" bike-a-thon, announces that the fund raising effort for St. Jude's Children's Hospital has been scheduled for September 15.

Local children, youth and adults are encouraged to ride their bikes in the bike-a-thon which will begin at Pembroke Junior High and end at the Cancer Institute near Lumberton.

Check points will be set up along the way with refreshments for the riders. Each participant is encouraged to find sponsors, with all proceeds going to St. Jude's.

The Bike-a-thon committee has met twice in planning sessions, once at Sheff's in Pembroke and Sunday at Sandy Plains United Methodist Church. Serving with Mrs. Lowry are Rev. Simeon Cummings, co-chairman, and Cleo Maynor, treasurer.

St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital is located in Memphis, Tennessee and is the brainchild of entertainer Danny Thomas. It is the largest children's cancer research center in America and is dedicated solely to the conquest of diseases of children.

Mrs. Lowry, and her band of volunteers, encourages everyone to participate in this worthwhile cause.

### GUILFORD NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOC.'S 8TH ANNUAL POW WOW

You are respectfully invited to attend and participate in the Guilford Native American Association's 8th Annual Pow Wow to be held on September 28 and 29, 1984. The Pow Wow will be held at Camp Uwharrie, the Boy Scout Campground located near Jamestown, N.C.

Please let your intentions to set up a craft or food booth be known. Each trader who sets up a booth will be asked to make a donation for raffle of not less than \$25 value. Food booths will be charged a flat \$25 fee for the two days. The sale of food items will be limited so that only one food booth will be selling each variety of food. Authorization to sell a type of food will be assigned on a first come, first served basis. Application form must be returned by September 20, 1984, keeping in mind that consideration for food booths will be given in the order they are received.

Please share this information with dancers and other people that you feel may be interested. Keep in mind that there will be over \$1,000 in prizes given away in the dance competition.

Your attendance and participation, which will make this the best Pow Wow ever, will be greatly appreciated.

For more information call Ruth L. Revels at (919) 273-8686.

#### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

A public hearing will be held at 7 p.m. on August 21, 1984 at the Annex Building of Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. to discuss LRDA's plan to use a Community Services Block Grant for fiscal year 1984-85.

A report on the proposed use of the Community Services Block Grant funds is available for public inspection at the office of Kenneth R. Maynor, Executive Director of LRDA. The report will also be available at the public hearing. Persons interested in reviewing the report should visit the office of Kenneth R. Maynor or attend the public hearing. Public input and comments on the report are welcome.

The following is a summary of the LRDA plan: LRDA proposes to use the Community Services Block Grant (1) to provide social services outreach to low-income Indian people; (2) to assist the operations of 14 Indian senior citizens chapters; (3) to provide home repair services to low-income Indian families in substandard housing; (4) to assist Indian families to participate in the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program and other public assistance programs; and (5) to assist low-income families to purchase food at a lower cost through food co-ops.

This 14th day of August 1984.  
Ben Jacobs, Planner  
Lumbee Regional  
Development Association, Inc.

### PLATE SALE AT ASHPOLE CENTER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

The United Methodist Men of the Ashpole Center United Methodist Church will hold a plate sale, Friday, August 24, from 11 a.m. until, in the Pembroke Town Park. Chicken and barbecue plates will be sold for \$3 each. Proceeds will be used by the United Methodist Men for special needs in the church and community.

### BAKE SALE AND YARD SALE AT PEMBROKE ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH

Pembroke Assembly of God Church will host a bake sale and yard sale in the Pembroke Town Park on Saturday, August 18 from 7 a.m. until. The public is invited to participate. The pastor is the Rev. Larry Lowry.

### Church plans Plate Sale

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Pembroke Church of God will sponsor a plate sale on Friday, August 24, from 10:30 a.m. until... A singing will be held the same night at 7:30 p.m. Featured singers will be Felix Deal and Family, Lacy Freeman and Family, the Cavell Family, and the Hunt will be the musician. All singing groups are encouraged to attend. The plate sale will continue through the singing... A free will offering will be lifted at the singing. Proceeds from the singing and plate sale will be used for the building of the fellowship hall.

### Indian Commission sponsors Successful ABE Project

by Bruce Barton

The N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, in conjunction with community college ABE/GED programs in the targeted areas, is having a real and lasting, and positive impact among Indians who wish (and need) to participate in these programs.

The Indian Commission is operating adult education projects in Scotland, Hoke, Halifax, and Warren Counties with the goal to lower the high illiteracy rates among Indians in these counties. Ron Oxendine is project director with Barbara Barton serving as recruiter/counselor in Hoke and Scotland Counties and Shirley Richardson fulfilling the same critical role in Warren and Halifax Counties.

The Commission reports favorable and positive interaction with ABE (Adult Basic Education)/GED (General Equivalency Diploma) programs administered by Richmond Technical College, Halifax Community College, Vance-Granville Community College and Sandhills Community College who are cooperating with the Indian Commission to bring ABE programs to the Indian community in the respective areas.

According to Oxendine, the working relationships with the community colleges and technical colleges in the respective counties have been "positive and lasting."

The goal last year was to recruit and enroll 120 Indian adults in Scotland, Hoke, Halifax and Warren Counties who suffer educational, economic and social deprivation in the local ABE/GED programs.

The Commission reports "good results" and lauds Oxendine and Counselors Barton and Richardson for a successful year. The program continues and is gearing up for another school year.

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