

Celebrating 100 Years of Indian Education in Robeson

Editor's note: Our Indian Renaissance began with passage of 1885 N.C. Laws, Ch. 51 designating Robeson County Indians as "Croatian Indians" and providing for an Indian School System. Read the Carolina Indian Voice weekly as we tell this remarkable story throughout 1985 in celebration of our CENTENNIAL OF EDUCATION.

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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY

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PEMBROKE RAILROAD DEPOT DECLARED "HISTORIC"

The Pembroke Railroad Depot, long abandoned by the Seaboard System Railroad, was declared an "historic property" by the Pembroke Town Council Monday night following a joint public hearing by the council and the Pembroke Historic Properties Commission.

The Historic Properties Commission was represented by Bruce Barton, the chairman of the newly organized organization energized by town ordinance November 5, 1984. The railroad depot is the first building designated as an "historic property."

Barton said, "It would be a shame to turn our back on our history." The depot was built initially in 1888. In response to queries from the council on possible legal liability, Barton said, "As long as we do what's right I see no danger of legal fees... but I do see a way to help the town in restoring the stately building." The building, since being abandoned by the railroad, has become a gathering place for vandals and has suffered the ravages of neglect.

Barton said his plans are "to enter into serious negotiations with the railroad" on possibly securing title to the building and begin a serious fund raising project. The railroad officials have been adamant that the building must be moved, and have publicly declared that they will give the building to a responsible party like the commission if it is moved. Barton noted, following the meeting, that "the building's location is part of its historical significance."

Barton promised to present fund raising plans, and options available, in the next issue of the Carolina Indian Voice. In the meantime, donations are being solicited. Those wishing to contribute may do so by mailing checks payable to: THE PEMBROKE HISTORICAL PROPERTIES COMMISSION Post Office Box 1075 Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

Or you may call 521-2826 and contact Bruce Barton for further details.

PSU Trustees stand pat on Name Change, but recommend working closer with Indian Commission

by Gene Warren

The PSU Board of Trustees, who last October unanimously endorsed changing the name of the school to the University of North Carolina at Pembroke, at their regular March meeting Friday heard a presentation against that change by Lonnie Revels of Greensboro, chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

In his remarks Revels noted that Pembroke State has 528 Indians among its student body of over 2,000 students. "This is 52 percent of all Indians enrolled in the UNC System," Revels said, giving Pembroke State by far the largest Indian enrollment.

"Therefore, any action--positive or negative--will affect more than half of the Indian students in the UNC System." (Note: PSU's total enrollment is made up of approximately 60 percent white, 24 percent Indian, and 14 percent black.)

Revels said the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs, in action adopted Thursday, suggests to the PSU Board of Trustees that they: (1) draw their request to the UNC Board of Governors for the name change; (2) undertake a professional market analysis for the best recruitment methods for PSU; (3) develop a promotion and marketing strategy based upon the study; (4) develop a viable community relations program that will bring town and gown together for mutual benefit; and (5) request an impartial study of curriculum development needs so that PSU can create demand for its product in the educational market place. "This was part of his three page statement."

Mrs. Geneva Parnell, chair person of the PSU Trustees, thanked Revels for his presentation and referred comment on the matter to a

special committee of the Trustees which was appointed last October to work with the Indian community concerning the name change.

The six member committee met immediately after the full trustee meeting and agreed that the Board of Trustees had made their decision in October in support of the name change and the vote was unanimous. "As far as that issue is concerned, it is over with," they agreed.

However, the committee, chaired by Dennis Lowery of Charlotte and including five Indians among its six members, recommended that an advisory committee be set up on a permanent basis "to listen to input from the N.C. Commission on Indian Affairs and bring a closer relationship with it and LRDA."

"PSU TRUSTEES STAND PAT ON NAME CHANGE..."

Along with Dennis Lowery, other members of the six person committee making these recommendations were: trustees James Hammonds, Lumberton; Burlin Lowry, Cary; Grady Oxendine, Pembroke; Willie Thomas, Lumberton; plus Dr. James B. Chavis, PSU vice chancellor for student affairs.

Burlin Lowry said, in supporting PSU's stand on the name change: "The better we make this University, the better it will be for Indian students and all the rest. I felt that way before and I continue to feel that way."

Chavis, who like the others expressed the desire for closer cooperation with the Indian Commission, closed with this quip: "We must agree to disagree without being disagreeable."

ROBESON: A WORLD DIVIDED

by Lew Barton

In Robeson County, North Carolina, we live in three different worlds. The largest is white, the second largest is Indian, and the third largest is Black, if you measure them according to population. If you want to divide them even farther, you can lump them into four groups: white, Indian, Black and other because there is a fourth group too.

Together, non-whites comprise the majority. But they don't do anything else together, if you get my drift. Politicians see to that! End of story.

An out-of-Robeson news paper reporter once summed up the situation this way: "Robeson is a politician's heaven and a voter's hell."

I guarantee against any possibility of a really significant Indian-Black political coalition, the politicians become lagos, sowing distrust, mistrust, prejudice and hatred. And they have been quite successful!

I wrote a poem about it once:

IAGO

by Lew Barton

Oh-Iago! Our surpeme foe!
Form without a soul!...How can I know, like Othello's...
Thou wilt not steal my control?...
Steal thy villain! Pencillin...
Stamps out germs and death...
But no medication stamps out...
They diseased and putrid breath!

As Americans, we all live; move and have our being under, through and by the political process. Imperfect

though that process is, however, it is not as imperfect as we would have under kings and dictators. I therefore share in the typical American contempt for royal leadership we see reflected in what many Americans call a seat on a comode: They describe the ultimate toilet process as "sitting on the throne." There is always room for improvements in the political process, in media coverage, and the like. But there is amply opportunity to improve short of allowing Jesse Helms to become controller and dictator over an independent television network!

I'm glad the problem has been resolved.

In this country, nobody controls the press, and that is one of our most beautiful and most-redeeming virtues. Destroy that and you will become a dictatorship.

In spite of our many differences in Robeson County, North Carolina, though, no one has ever attempted to control the press. The reason is simple. We believe in freedom of expression, all of us! And we all realize that where there is free expression, there can be no free elections. I pat us all on the back for that basic understanding of the process of democracy!

Why, even my big currie dog, Toshia, might growl at you if you said the word "take-over" in her presence. Or at least she would if she knew what the word really means...dictatorship!!

To Compete in Mrs. North Carolina Pageant

Brigitte B. Cummings of Pembroke, North Carolina is a contestant in the Mrs. North Carolina America Pageant which will be held at Kenan Auditorium on campus of UNC-Wilmington on Saturday night, March 30, 1985.

Brigitte is the wife of Raymond Cummings and will compete with 24 other married women from all across the state for the title now held by Carolyn Dodd-Prince of Wilmington. Bridgette will join the other contestants in swimsuit and evening gown competition during the pageant.

Tickets for the pageant will be available the night of the show at the box office. Entertainment will include former Miss North Carolina, Susan Griffin Fisher, television personality Bill Thompson and the Mrs. North Carolina Dancers choreographed by Jodi Benton of Wilson, N.C. The winning contestant will compete on national television in Reno, Nevada in the Mrs. America Pageant this coming July.

Jefferson Awards March 26

You are cordially invited to attend the WTVD Awards Day Ceremony honoring "Neighborhood Heroes" Tuesday, March 26 at 10 a.m. at the WTVD-11 Studios, 411 Liberty Street Downtown Durham, NC (Adjacent to the county library).

The Peggy Mann Award and the Jefferson Awards will be presented during a live telecast at 10 a.m. Brunch will follow at 10:30 a.m.

Pre-registration set at LRDA's Learning Centers

LRDA is sponsoring pre registration for the 1985-86 school year at the Lumbee Longhouse Learning Centers located at Fairgrove, Magnolia and Pembroke areas on

April 12. The child must be between the ages of 3 and 4 and Indian only. For more information call Marilyn Locklear, Indian Education Director at 521-8602.

ATTENDANCE AT INDIAN UNITY CONFERENCE LARGEST EVER

by Ben Jacobs

About 800 people attended the various activities of the Tenth Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference held last week in Fayetteville. According to Kenneth R. Maynor, Executive Director of LRDA, one of the co-sponsors

of the conference, the attendance was the largest ever and the event was a great success.

Over 500 people gathered Friday night for the conference banquet to hear remarks by Arlinda Locklear, an attorney for the Native American

Rights Fund of Washington, D.C. Ms. Locklear spoke of the conditions of Indian legal affairs in the nation and the outlook for the future.

Ms. Locklear is the only Indian woman to ever argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court. She won two cases in

the Court for Indian tribes. In 1984 she was named one of 50 recipients of the Ladies Home Journal American Heroine Award.

An added feature of the conference banquet was the presentation of community service awards. Nominations

were accepted from tribal organizations about the state and five awards were presented. Four were presented to Lumbees.

Earlie Maynor, former mayor and distinguished senior citizen of Pembroke, received the Indian Elder Award. Maynor was cited for his volunteer work in the public schools, his efforts in business, his service to the town of Pembroke, and the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

Earl Hughes Oxendine, retired teacher, of Pembroke was presented the Distinguished Service to Education Award. Oxendine was lauded for his service on the National Advisory Council on Indian Education, the North Carolina Board of Education, and his service to the Indian community and the schools of Hoke County.

H. Dobbs Oxendine, Jr. of Lumberton was presented the award for Economic Advancement of Indian people. Oxendine was cited for his efforts in establishing Indian businesses in Lumberton. Oxendine's businesses currently include car sales, auto body repairs, service stations, auto salvage, apartment and mobile home rentals, and real estate. Oxendine was also recognized for his achievement in civic and community

affairs. Another Robeson native, Nora Jean Dial of High Point, was presented the Outstanding Indian Student Award. Dial was lauded for her involvement in high school and community affairs, and her outstanding academic and civic achievements.

W.R. Richardson, Chief of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe was presented the Distinguished Service to Community Award. Chief Richardson was cited for his work in promoting the interests of Indian people with the Haliwa Tribe and the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs.

Governor Jim Martin was the key note speaker for the conference general assembly Friday afternoon. Gov. Martin endorsed the proposed Indian cultural center at Red Banks and spoke of other areas in which his administration would serve the needs of Indian people. The proposed center will include historical exhibits, Indian arts and crafts, and other attractions that focus on the culture of Indians.

Gov. Martin explained how his proposals to the General Assembly will benefit Indians. He promised that Indian people would not be left out in appointments for government jobs and commissions.

During his appearance at the conference, Gov. Martin

presented Lonnie Revels, a Pembroke Native who is a Greensboro City Council member, a certificate of appointment to Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NC Commission of Indian Affairs.

Dr. James B. Chavis, Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs of PSU, addressed the conference Thursday. Dr. Chavis spoke to the conference theme "Memories of our past--visions of our future." He spoke of the struggle of Indian people to progress to where they are today. He gave comments on direction for the future.

Lindsay Warren Jr., Chairman of America's 400th Anniversary Committee, and an attorney of Goldsboro, was the keynote speaker Friday morning. He told of the activities of the America's 400th Anniversary Committee and its plan for observing the state's Indian heritage in 1986. The committee had designated 1986 as "The Year of the Indian" in its four year celebration 1984-87.

A highlight of the conference was the talent show held Thursday night. Representatives of the various Indian organizations performed but the Lumbee River Center for the Arts stole the show. The Center Touring Company presented a daz-

ling program of music, song, and dance. A pow wow was held afterwards with traditional Indian dancers participating from all about the state.

Four cultural workshops which focused on the theme Reverence for the Web of Life were held at the conference and supported by a grant from the N.C. Humanities Committee. The work shops addressed the concerns of Indian people for the preservation of their native values and beliefs and the natural environment. Several scholars from about the state and nation were involved.

The conference was also assisted by a grant from the N.C. Council on the Status of Women which funded a workshop "Economic Concerns of Indian Women." LaDonna Harris, nationally renowned Indian leader of Washington, DC was the main speaker for this workshop.

AEROBICS CLASSES BEGIN

Aerobic classes will be taught at Pembroke Junior High School on Tuesdays and Thursday nights from 7:30-8:30 beginning March 21 and lasting through April 23. Registration fee is \$10. Instructor is Rebecca Lowry. The event is sponsored by the Robeson County Recreation Department.



Martin, Right, With Revels At Indian Conference In Fayetteville