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"Building Communicative Bridges
In A Tri-racial Setting."



ROBESON COUNTY

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THURSDAY, JULY 30, 1987

LUMBEE BANK NAMES NEW CHIEF Larry R. Chavis In, Curtis Pierce Out



LARRY R. CHAVIS

tution since its inception in 1971.

The bank's board of directors moved quickly, naming Larry R. Chavis, a vice-president of accounting at Southern National Bank, as his replacement. Chavis, 39, began his new duties Monday.

Chavis noted that "I look forward to the challenge at Lumbee Bank," expressing optimism with the bank's "bright future."

Chavis, a Lumbee Indian like Pierce, is a deacon and church treasurer at Reedy Branch Baptist Church, and is on the school advisory council at Green Grove School; he and his wife, Loretta, and their two children live in the Centerville area, off Highway 74 between Lumberton and Fairmont.

Pembroke-In a surprising move, Curtis Pierce has resigned as president of Lumbee Bank, leaving the bank last Friday after being associated with the predominately Indian-owned financial insti-

Sampson All-Star coach

Associated Press

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Washington State University's new head men's basketball coach Kelvin Sampson will coach his first game since becoming head coach of the Cougars in England.

The Pacific-10 Conference named Sampson the head coach Thursday of an All-Star team which will go to England for six games over a 12-day period in August.

The team will begin practice at the University of Washington on August 5. The players include Anthony Cook of Arizona, Dave Immel of UCLA, Chris Munk of Southern California, Rick Osborn of Oregon, Hartmut Ortmann of California, Brian Quinnett of Washington State, Jeff Sanor of Washington, Bill Sherwood of Oregon State, Arthur Thomas of Arizona State and Howard Wright of Stanford.

The team will play five games against club teams following a contest with the English national team on Aug. 13. The clubs will be Hemel Watford, Aug. 15; Portsmouth, Aug. 16; Kingston or Tenarisse, Aug. 18; Kingston, Aug. 19; and Manchester United, Aug. 21.

Assistant coaches will be Joe Cravens of Washington and former WSU assistant Ron Righter now of Southern California.

The trip will mark the fourth time in five years that the conference has sent an all-star men's basketball team overseas. Previous tours, and records, include the Soviet Union in 1983, 2-2; Australia in 1985, 1-6; and Scandinavia in 1986, 8-0.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Kelvin Sampson is a former athlete at then Pembroke Senior High and PSU.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ned Sampson, still live in Pembroke.

He is married to the former Karen Lowry. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Von Lowry, also live in Pembroke.

Graham Announces For LREMC Board Of Directors



BRAWLEIGH J. GRAHAM

Mr. Brawleigh Jason Graham, Tribal Administrator of the Tularora Tribe of North Carolina, announces his candidacy for election to the board of directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Cooperative for District 3. District 3 includes the townships of Back Swamp, Smyrna, Britts, Wisharts, Raft Swamp and Lumberton.

Mr. Graham, a 1972 graduate of Pembroke State University, has broad experience in community development and

rural issues. As Tribal Administrator of the Tularora Tribe he has been successful in the development of Hope House, a crisis center for runaway and homeless children. In addition, the Tribe has initiated an economic development project, A-Z Chemicals, and several other community development programs.

A native of Robeson County, Mr. Graham has also worked in the area of labor relations as a compliance officer for the N.C. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division, and as the Indian Manpower Project Director for the American Indian Study Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

Mr. Graham, who is running at the request of many people in the area, stated, "I am running in order to more adequately represent people in my district who are concerned about the ever escalating cost of electrical power; 2) late charges; 3) answering complaints quickly; and 4) working on new ways to lower costs for members. I am

committed to listening to the concerns of members, and ensuring that their complaints are responded to in a proper manner.

"Being a member of the LREMC Board must be more than an honor, it has to be seen as an obligation to participate in the long range planning for our rural power needs, and to encourage innovative management. I believe that I can provide the energy and vision necessary to meet the needs of all the people, not just a select few. I

am committed also to fair and equitable treatment of all employees."

Mr. Graham, whose home church is Deep Branch Baptist Church, has been involved this spring in an ecumenical evangelism program in the nation's capital, Washington for Jesus.

A campaign committee is being formed with representatives from each area of the district. Further announcements will include opportunities for supporters to participate in this campaign.

LRDA OFFERS NEW SERVICE

Pool Facility Grand Opening Held

LRDA announces the grand opening of a new pool facility for the communities of Robeson, Hoke and Scotland counties.

LRDA has renovated and repaired the pool facility owned by the state as part of the proposed N.C. Indian Cultural Center located at the former Riverside Country Club across from the Strike at the Wind amphitheatre. The official grand opening ceremonies were held Saturday, July 25 at 1 p.m.

Representatives from the three boards that made this new service possible were invited to attend opening

ceremonies. This included representatives from the LRDA board (the facility's sponsoring board), the N.C. Indian Cultural Center board, and the NC Commission of Indian Affairs board.

The public is invited to come out and use the new facility. The pool will be open Monday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. and on Sundays from 1 p.m. 8 p.m. The pool will operate under all state and local ordinances to ensure the health and safety of the public using the facility.

LRDA is proud to be able to provide this new service to the community.

Open Election Scheduled

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. will conduct an Open Election on August 27, 1987 to nominate a member to serve on the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs' Board of Directors for a three (3) year term. Mr. James Sampson, Jr., a resident of Fairmont, NC, currently serves in that capacity.

Voters must reside in the following townships: Lumberton (Townships 1-8); Rowland; Union; Thompson; Gaddys; Alfordville; Back

Swamp; Fairmont (Township 1 & 2); Smyrna; Britts; Orrum; Marietta; Sterlings.

Criteria for voting: must be Indian; must be 18 years or older; must reside in above districts/townships. The election sites are being identified and will be announced at a later date.

Anyone interested in running as a candidate should declare their candidacy no later than August 17, 1987 at the Executive Director's Office with Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc

ONWARD TO 5,000!

Our countdown to 5,000 subscribers continues this week with the following:

- 76. Laney Emanuel, Charlotte, NC
- 77. Nina L. Mendez, Texas
- 78. DJ Cunningham, CT
- 79. Bobby Hammond, NY
- 80. Willa Cummings Wells, Texas
- 81. Southeastern General Hospital, Medical Library, Lum-

- berton
- 82. Bobby Allen Lowery, Shannon
- 83. Celia Thomas, PA
- 84. Bertha Pinchbeck, Pembroke.

Won't you join us in our effort to countdown to 5,000 subscribers? Purchase a subscription for yourself and your friends.

A REVIEW OF "STRIKE AT THE WIND!"

By Stanley Knick
It was a perfect evening. A slight breeze drifted across the lake. The stars were out in all their numbers. The frogs and crickets harmonized their familiar summer song. Even the shadows seemed friendly. On such an evening, all the world was a stage, set for the drama to unfold.

And unfold it did--not like paper, thin and crumpled, superficial and contrived--but rather like a tapestry, woven with care, rich with symbols and images. It was a tapestry telling the story of a people, who lived off the land, who loved the land and did not think of owning it. It was a tapestry which captured the imagination--which filled the mind with all kinds of things: adventure; excitement; romance; tragedy; struggle; longing to be free; a sense of belonging; a sense of balance in nature; a natural kind of caring for fellow human beings.

In the faces of the players it was easy to see that they had, if just for the evening, become the characters they portrayed. They knew the history, and

made the audience know it, too. They felt the emotions, and made the audience feel them, too. They believed in the sister causes of Justice and Freedom, and their performance made the audience experience those beliefs. No one was uninvolved. When Injustice reigned for a time, the audience buzzed with tension. When Justice came back around, the audience roared with delight. When Romance appeared, couples suddenly seemed to sit a little closer. When Music held center stage, heads nodded, bodies swayed, feet tapped. When Hope became the promise, four hundred hearts heard the future calling. And when the play was over, the audience exploded into applause.

And the final, charmed scene was when the players came out into the crowd. Characters who had seemed bigger than life became like us, just human beings, sharing in the celebration of the moment. The dead arose; the lost returned; the circle completed. It was a perfect evening.

of the present facilities of the Odum Home. He has served as Associational Superintendent of Vacation Bible School for several years, Training Union Director for the Association, and President of the Preachers and Deacons for several years.

Not only is Mr. Lowry active on a local level in the Baptist churches, but also on a state level. He has served on the North Carolina Baptist General Board, and as a committee member of the North Carolina Christian Board of Higher Education.

As a member of the North Carolina Christian Board of Higher Education, he acted when it was presented to approve the Baptist Student Union Building being built on the campus of Pembroke State University. It was later presented to the General Board on which he was a member and he responded in favor of the project and asked the Board for its approval.

Along with teaching and ministering Mr. Lowry has been strongly involved as a member of the Lions' Club, the Chamber of Commerce, Committee Member of the Boy Scouts, the Robeson County Association of Retired Educators, the North Carolina Association of Retired Educators, the National Association of Educators, the Pembroke State University Alumni Association, and the Robeson County Democratic Party. In 1975, he was voted "Lion of the Year" by the club's members. He has served as President of the Lions' Club, the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, President of the Pembroke State University Alumni Association, and chairman of his local voting precinct. As a civic leader, Mr. Lowry served as one of the beginners of the Indian Child Welfare Association and President. In 1973, Mr. Lowry was listed in the 1973 edition of Who's Who in North Carolina.

Because of Mr. Lowry's pride in himself and his ancestry, he was interested in starting the Robeson County Historical Society. He was a charter member. He was also a member of the original cast in "Strike at the Wind" an outdoor drama about the Lumbee Indians.

In the construction of the Bell Tower on the campus of Pembroke State University, Dr. Paul Givena, Chancellor of Pembroke State University, stressed the need of ten thousand dollars to complete the tower to its original height. Mr. Lowry suggested a plan for a banquet as a fund raiser to get the money. The committee paneled the plan with Mr. Lowry acting as chairman. He gladly accepted and the record verifies its success. He has served on the University's Kickoff Banquet, (a scholarship fundraiser), and the Board of Directors.

In 1983, the Alumni Association of Pembroke State University presented Mr. Lowry the Distinguished Service Award for service and dedication to PSU.

Mr. Lowry has always been interested in his community and PSU. When the college made its final land purchase, it was Mr. Lowry, who persuaded his father to sell the land to the college. He also persuaded him to sell the county land for a high school. This purchase allowed school officials to make the only campus in the nation with an elementary, high school and college facilities.

These are just a few of the contributions he has made himself available to give to his people.

As a young man, with many roads before him, Mr. Lowry chose to remain in Pembroke and be a builder of his people. He saw a need and an opportunity to be of service. With strong determination, he launched out and has proven himself to be of service whenever needed.

STRIKE AT THE WIND SPECIAL EVENTS CALENDAR

- BY Vinita Clark
Publicity Coordinator
- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Senior Citizens Night | Friday, August 7 |
| Robeson County Bicentennial Night | Saturday, August 8 |
| SATW Reunion Night | Friday, August 14 |
| (Former castmembers and supporters) | |
| Church Night | Saturday, August 15 |
| Family Night | Friday, August 21 |
| N.C. Industry Night | Saturday, August 22 |
| N.C. Employees Night | Friday, September 4 |
| PSU Night | Saturday, September 5 |

Special discounts will be available for groups who purchase 10 or more tickets.

Reservations and information on these nights may be obtained by calling the Strike at the Wind business office at 521-3112 Monday-Friday 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

National Education Association Leo Reano Memorial Award Presented to Welton Lowry

WELTON LOWRY

On September 26, 1912, Mrs. Flora Locklear Lowry and Mr. Billy W. Lowry became the proud parents of their first born, Welton Lowry. He attended school from the first grade through two years of normal in Old Main, located the campus of what is now Pembroke State University, Pembroke, NC. After PSU became a four year college, Mr. Lowry returned and received a B.S. Degree in Elementary Education, and continued his education until he obtained a major in English. He later attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, East Carolina University, and George Peabody in Nashville, Tennessee, where he received his M.A. Degree in Educational Administration in 1951.

Thirty years were spent in the educational systems of Bladen and Robeson Counties. During his work in Bladen County he had the opportunity to motivate the "Awakening" of a group of Indian people. Through his endeavors; a new school called "Wide Awake" was built and the people recognized a greater understanding of the value of education.

After leaving Bladen County as a school teacher and administrator in 1940, Mr. Lowry joined the Air Force. He, and Mr. Herbert Oxendine made the "Charlotte Observer News" as being the first Indian Flying Cadets in the Air Force.

In 1945, Mr. Lowry became the principal at Piney Grove School. There he worked until 1959, fifteen years. He left this job to work at Pembroke Graded School. Here he worked for two years and then moved to Union Chapel for four years. He then moved to Pembroke Senior High, where he taught for eight years and retired in 1976.

Mr. Lowry was presented three plaques in appreciation for his service to education. One of these plaques was in recognition of his participation in the First American Caucus of the National Education Association in Atlantic City, New Jersey. This Caucus was instrumental in the formulation of the National Indian Education Act (IEA) Legislation.

On January 4, 1953, Welton married Mary Deese. The two of them have four children, Rose Marie, Virgil Owen, Flora Gail, and William Allen.

Education has always been high on the value chart for Mr. Lowry, but there was another value that huddled closely to his heart. That, of course, being the spiritual values of man. Not only did he concern himself with teaching and guiding academically, but has led many to their spiritual awareness and preparation through a ministry of forty-five years.

In the year 1962, Mr. Lowry began work at West End Baptist Mission in Lumberton, the only Indian church in that area. This was a mission church being sponsored by Reedy Branch Baptist Church until it became a chartered church of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. The enrollment of the mission in 1962, was approximately seven. Today, it has a membership of eighty and an average attendance of approximately one hundred and ten. This church could possibly be considered the most modern among the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association.

The congregation of West End Baptist Church reached its overflow by the year 1976. It is now re-located in a new church on approximately three acres of land, and has a seating capacity of approximately two hundred people and is valued at approximately \$180,000.00.

To honor Mr. Lowry, the newest section of the church, the sanctuary, was named "Lowry-Hunt Sanctuary," in honor of him and the oldest member of the church.

On September 11, 1984, the mayor of Lumberton, NC proclaimed September 30, 1984, as Welton Lowry Day in the City of Lumberton. This was done in recognition of Mr. Lowry's varied and many contributions to so many in the city of Lumberton area.

Mr. Lowry served as Moderator of the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association for Association years 1975-1976 and 1977-1978. The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association consists of forty-nine Indian churches of eastern North Carolina. Mr. Lowry has served on various committees within the Association. He served on the building committee that helped plan the associational building and the new Indian cottage on the Odum Home campus. It is recorded in the North Carolina Baptist Convention Minutes that Mr. Lowry made the motion for the Odum Home, located in Pembroke, to become a part of the North Carolina Baptist Orphanage Homes, but remain at the present location. This was accepted and was the beginning



The 21st Annual National Education Association's Human And Civil Rights Awards for 1987 were presented at an awards program on July 3, 1987 at the Bonaventure Hotel in Los Angeles, California. The 1987 Leo Reano Memorial Award was presented to Rev. Welton Lowry. The theme for the awards program was "Advocacy in Action." The Leo Reano Memorial Award is presented annually to an individual who has demonstrated leadership in resolving social problems, particularly as they relate to individuals of American Indian/Alaska native heritage.

Leo Reano Memorial Award

Leo Reano (died 1971) was a teacher, an artist, and an interpreter. As a member of the All Pueblo Council and the NEA Council on Human Relations, he made great contributions to the improvement of education. A member of the San Domingo Pueblo tribe, he dedicated his life to securing educational opportunities for American Indian students.

This award is presented to an individual who has provided leadership in resolving social problems that relate to individuals of American Indian/Alaska Native heritage.

An individual must have engaged in activities relating to one or more of the following:

- promoted educational equality for American Indian/Alaska Native children
- assisted schools in gaining knowledge about federal legislation affecting American Indians/Alaska Natives and making appropriate use of this knowledge
- assisted schools in developing programs that enhance American Indian/Alaska Native children's education
- worked to eliminate the misuse of federal funds set aside for American Indian/Alaska Native education
- promoted, designed, and coordinated training programs for counselors and teachers of American Indian/Alaska Native students.

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