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## THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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

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## DISTRICT ATTORNEY SEEKS JUDGESHIP



District Attorney Joe Freeman Britt

Joe Freeman Britt filed Monday, January 4th, as a candidate for nomination as Superior Court Judge in the Democrat Party primary election to be held on May 3, 1988. While the seat is for the newly created Judicial District 16-B, Superior Court Judges serve statewide.

Britt, who is serving his fourth term as District Attorney for Robeson and Scotland Counties, was admitted to the practice of law in North Carolina and Florida in 1963 and the US Tax Court in 1964. His trial experience includes prosecution, criminal defense and civil litigation, with appearances up to and including the North Carolina Supreme Court. Having spent over 20,000 hours in the actual trial cases at the Superior Court level, he has consistently received the highest rating for legal ability in professional and confidential surveys.

Britt received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest

University, a Master of Science degree from the University of Tennessee and the Juris Doctor degree from Stetson University. A member of the visiting faculty for the National College of District Attorneys at the University of Houston Law Center, he received the Lecturer of Merit Award in 1984. He was named to the College's Distinguished Faculty in 1985, having conducted advanced trial technique workshops and having lectured extensively on varied topics involving courtroom dynamics and trial advocacy. In addition, Britt has taught trial seminars and Continuing Legal Education courses in seventeen states attended by lawyers from every state and territory and a number of foreign countries. In North Carolina, he has served as visiting lecturer for the Wake Forest School of Law Speakers Forum (Distinguished Alumni Series), the Duke Law Forum, Campbell Law School, the North Carolina Bar Association, the North Carolina District Attorneys Association and the American Association of Identification Experts.

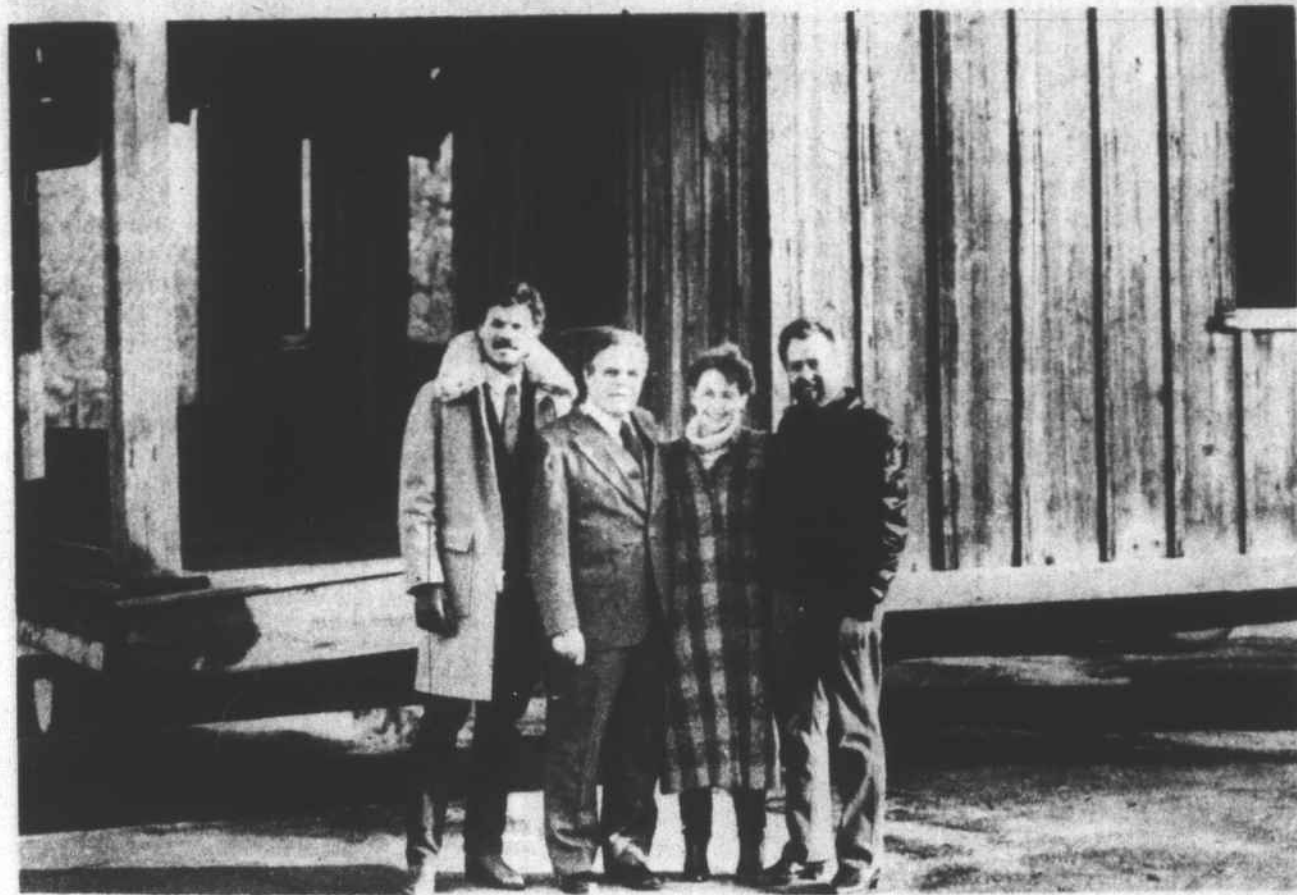
In the criminal justice field, Britt has served as President of the North Carolina District Attorneys Association and on the Executive Committee of the North Carolina Conference of District Attorneys, the Governor's Commission on Length of Sentences in North Carolina, the Federal-State Law Enforcement Coordinating Committee, and the Robeson Technical College Police Science Advisory Council. He has published a number of articles in professional journals concerning trial tactics and strategy, and he is co-author of a legal treatise unrelated to criminal law. Prior to election as District Attorney, he served as President of the Sixteenth Judicial Bar Association and as chairman of committees of the North Carolina Bar Association and the Robeson County Bar Association.

A former trustee of Pembroke State University, Britt has served on the Executive Board of the Cape Fear Council, Boy Scouts of America, on the Lumberton Board of Adjustments and Appeals and as Chairman of the Lumberton City Heart Fund Drive. A lifelong democrat, he served two terms as President of the Robeson County Young Democrats Club, on the Robeson County Democratic Executive Committee and as Precinct Chairman.

An Army veteran, Britt served on active duty with the 25th Infantry Division. He presently holds the rank of Colonel in the Army Reserve, having entered as private, and is a graduate of the US Army Command and General Staff College, the Industrial College of the Armed Forces, and the Air War College.

Britt is married to the former Marylyn Linkhaw of Lumberton, and they have two children, Joe, Jr., and Natalie.

## HENRY BERRY LOWRIE LIVES ON



Left to right: Robert Locklear, General Manager, Strike at the Wind; Adolph Dial, Professor, Pembroke State University;

Dr. Helen M. Scheirbeck, Director, N.C. Indian Cultural Center, Inc.; Jimmy Locklear, Donor, Locklear Trucking Company.

North Carolina Indian history received a bit of its past, when Jimmy and Frankie Locklear donated the Henry Berry Lowrie House to the N.C. Indian Cultural Center today.

The house was Henry Berry Lowrie's birthplace and childhood home. It was also the place which his wife, Rhoda Strong, called home at various times during their life together. Legends abound regarding the house and the famous Indian Robin Hood's hideout from the Home Guard of Robeson County as well as the tragic stories of "revenge," killing of Henry's Dad and brothers.

Jimmy and Frankie Locklear donated the house to the N.C. Indian Cultural Center, with the agreement that the house be restored as historically accurate as possible so that generations of Indian people and Americans all over this nation might learn about Henry Berry. Henry Berry Lowrie fought to free Indian people from bondage and give them an opportunity to be free, with the full rights accorded American citizens. This story is told each summer in the drama "Strike at the Wind" which operates from July 4th through Labor Day weekend.

Professor Adolph L. Dial, Chairman of the Native American

Lasting Impressions Of  
World War II

By Sam Kerns  
Special To The  
Carolina Indian Voice

This week concludes the series of articles on Mr. James Godwin as he remembered his experiences shortly after the dropping of the atomic bombs on Japan at the end of World War II.

After Mr. Godwin returned to the United States, he continued to have severe physical problems as a result of what he feels was exposure to the radiation during the clean-up after the bombs were dropped. It was around 1958 when he began to have ulcers on his legs and they started to become plaster-like, similar to the consistency of the old-timey plaster-like dolls. Mr. Godwin says that Dr. D.E. Ward of Lumberton treated him and cured the ulcer problem in 1972. He related that Dr. Ward indicated that he was not very knowledgeable about radiation poisoning.

One doctor at the VA Hospital wanted to amputate his legs due to poor circulation and the periodic tendency of his legs to turn black.

In January 1980 his legs and eyes became swollen and he went to the VA Hospital in Fayetteville, NC but relates that the doctors said that they did not understand what his problem was coming from. The VA never would admit that his problems were coming from radiation poisoning. He left Fayetteville and went to Duke Hospital where he has been receiving treatment but the doctors there seem secretive and will not tell him the cause of his problem. All of his medication was chan-

ged and he was given silverdene cream to use on the rashes which break out on his legs and arms. The cream is used to treat third degree burns and as a treatment for exposure to radiation.

Mr. James Godwin says that he is interested in finding out exactly what caused his condition because he is not service-connected disabled by the VA. He says that he has what is called an improved pension. As a result, his descendants, who are also having some health problems that could be attributed to his exposure to radiation, are not eligible for any medical treatment by the government.

One doctor at Duke told Mr. Godwin that he is like a walking time-bomb, subject to die from his illness any minute. When he asked the doctors for copies of his records they told him that they are classified. When he gave Dr. Frank Warriax a power-of-attorney to get his records he relates that Dr. Warriax was not successful.

James Godwin feels that he is part of a continuing study "by the VA into the long term effects of persons exposed to radiation. He also feels that the government is not treating Americans as they are treating the Japanese who also were exposed to radiation.

When asked if he had any ill feelings toward the US Government he said, "No. We had a job to do and we did it." He does feel that the government has a responsibility to take care of the medical treatment of all veterans and their descendants who are

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## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

## LAWRENCE LOCKLEAR

By Barbara Brayboy-Locklear  
Special To Carolina Indian Voice

His sharp wit leaves listeners in awe. And Lawrence Locklear says if he had finished high school like his father advised, he'd probably have been in Raleigh one day. "I may have run for office," the 93-year-old grins.

"I used to strike out walking at sunrise in order to finish the six-mile distance to old Barton School," he adds. He says he completed seven grades at the school which was located on the Pembroke-Wakulla Road in Robeson County.

Locklear, a widower, married the former Hattie Dew in 1919. There were four children born to the couple. One daughter lives today and is a patient in a local extended care medical facility.

The Lumbie Indian says he farmed for 27 years before giving it up. A former tenant farmer, he says, "I quit farmwork because I couldn't make a living at it." He says he worked jobs between a cotton gin and sawmill before going to public work at age 21. He spent 16 years doing construction work on Fort Bragg Military base and adds, "I knew how to take a hammer and drive a nail straight." Not content with only carpentry skills, he learned to finish concrete and asphalt. "I believe I built a thousand miles of highways during my years on the job," he remembers. "I could get a job when others could not."

A bicycle accident over 40 years ago left Locklear lame. It was after a long stay in a body cast that he was able to walk aided by a cane. He now walks with two canes because of severe arthritis. "Old arthritis pain hit me when I was 26 years old," he comments. He says he ignores suggestions from others who think he needs a walker. "I don't need a walker. Canes are better."

So as to push his point, he spritely stands up from his chair and demonstrates his cane-walking ability.

Eighteen months ago, Locklear became a resident of Sampson Rest Home near Island Grove Baptist Church. He says the best thing he does is stay around the rest home all week and go to his church on Sunday. He attends Freedom Assembly.

He has strong views on how people should live a Christian life. One thing they must not do is gossip. He says it gets on his nerves.

"It almost kills me. I call one a fool when he's running his mouth all the time about people." Pointing to his tongue, he exclaims, "I don't use this! And when one does, I don't want him. God don't want him and will not have him."

Tapping one of his canes against the floor, he laments, "Did you know a tongue tatter? There's no heaven for him." Locklear attributes his longevity to God and a longtime practice of respecting others. "I was good to my mother, and I always honored all old people."

Reclining on the edge of his bed, he continues, "If a man was black as tar, I honored him. If he was white as snow, I honored him. The way I look at it, we're all people, and God made us all." Tapping both canes together, he adds, "Why are you going to have race prejudice for? That's a sin."

An occasional bout with indigestion reminds Locklear to stay away from some foods. "I like vegetables, but I wouldn't eat pork meat if you were to buy it and give it to me." He says the fatal illness of his father influenced his decision to give up

pork consumption 44 years ago.

Most days catch Locklear dressed in his "week-end" (Sunday) clothes. He says he might as well wear them since he no longer needs work clothes. He retired 28 years ago.

Among the things he likes are non-gossiping people and listening to the radio located in his room.

For almost a century, the sage has received blessings from prayers he uttered decades ago, "I prayed to God to give me my wisdom, my knowledge, my everything."

Pearlean Revels Out  
As Elections Supervisor

At press time, Mr. Ray Revels, who was voted in Tuesday night as Supervisor of Elections for the Robeson County Board of Elections, was the only employee on duty. One source stated that some of the employees were out sick and others were on vacation. Full coverage of this story will run next week. We will also explore the politics in Robeson County which resulted in overlooking 16 years of service by Pearlene Revels and the hiring of Ray Revels. We will try to explore the reasons the only Indian on the Board of Elections, Adolph Blue, would vote against another Indian....

SUIT CHALLENGES ELECTORAL  
SCHEMES  
AND BOUNDARY LINES

At approximately 10 a.m. on December 30, 1987 plaintiffs' attorneys filed a voting rights complaint in the US District Court for the eastern district of North Carolina, Fayetteville division.

The complaint is for declarative and injunctive relief under Section 2 of the Voting Rights Act and the first, fourteenth and fifteenth amendments of the US Constitution.

The defendants are the members of the four city boards of education and the members of the Robeson County Board of Education. The Robeson County Board of Education is a party to this action due only to the fact that potential relief granted to plaintiffs in this action may affect their boundary lines. The Robeson County Board has an admirable record for equity in racial representation and their district plans are an example for all people.

The purpose of this action is to challenge "at large" electoral schemes and boundary lines that deprive large segments of our population an effective and realistic opportunity to participate in the governance of our educational systems. For example: the Lumberton School administrative unit elects 6 Whites, no Indians and 1 Black to its board with an at large system. The Lumberton City Council elects 3 Blacks, 1 Indian and 4 Whites with a district system. The "at large" system clearly works to deny Blacks and Indians an opportunity to serve on the board of education that governs a student population that is 54% Black and Indian. The "at large" system not only tends to elect representatives from one or two precincts but in some cases almost next door neighbors, thus denying true geographic representation.

This same scenario is repeated in the electoral process of St. Pauls, Red Springs, and Fairmont Boards of Education. We contend that these electoral processes are patently unfair and rob the educational community of the vital participation and interest of broad based segments of our population.

Our main objective is to increase the participation in and involvement with the education of all 25,000 students in Robeson County. Our county has staggering facility needs (72 million dollars), inequity in educational opportunity, and one of the highest illiteracy rates in the nation. We need a united effort to attack these problems. We need broad based, tri-racial teams to manage the effort.

A recent newspaper editorial sums up our position: "We can think of nothing that would make for a healthier politics, a more effective public educational effort, and a more wholesome public confidence in local government than...to put aside the anachronistic at large electoral system." (Fayetteville Times, Oct. 26, 1987, in reference to Bladen County) We feel that the same situation is applicable to Robeson County.