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In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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N.C. Indian Unity Conference To Be March 17-19 In Raleigh

The Thirteenth Annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference will be held March 17-19 at the North Raleigh Hilton in Raleigh, NC. The yearly gathering of North Carolina Indians is sponsored by United Tribes of North Carolina, a statewide organization.

This year's conference highlights include a forum of workshops, awards banquet, and a pow-wow. Issues to be presented include education, employment, economic development, and other vital concerns of Indian people in North Carolina. The theme of the conference is "Planning Our Paths for the Future."

Special conference speakers include: the Honorable James Martin, Governor of North Carolina; John Sam, Director, Office of Indian Education, Washington, DC; and a panel of the 1988 candidates for Governor of North Carolina.

The inter-tribal pow-wow will be held on Thursday, March 17, at 8 p.m. The awards banquet will be held on Friday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

Registration forms are available from the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs, Post Office Box 27228, Raleigh, NC 27611-7228; Telephone (919) 733-5998. Registration is \$45.00 per person; \$30.00 for senior citizens and students. Dance tickets are being sold separately for \$5.00. Pre-registration forms must be postmarked by March 7, 1988. The public is invited to attend.

West Lumberton Kiwanis Help Those In Need

By Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special To
The Carolina Indian Voice

The West Lumberton Kiwanis Club figures the best way to achieve its purpose is to help people in need, walk with them through some trouble some times.

"The way we help those in need is not always done through simply giving money," says former club president Horace Hunt.

Since 1984, West Lumberton Kiwanians have walked with the channel of service to mankind. Sponsored by the Pembroke Kiwanis Chapter, the club began with 20 charter members. H. Dobbs Oxendine, Jr. was charter president. The chapter currently has 24 members.

Hunt says Kiwanis International is strict in its membership qualifications. "We just don't admit anyone to our club, because we're very active in the community. A prospective member must be in good standing within his or her community."

A recent ruling by the international organization allows female membership to the traditionally all-male clubs.

The Lumberton-based chapter has been active in its community. In addition to making charitable donations, during the past two years they've constructed eight residential ramps for severely handicapped citizens. Several driveways have been paved as well.

For the past two winter seasons, club members have cut and hauled dozens of loads of firewood for elderly and handicapped people. All projects have been financed solely by the club's treasury

and members' labor. Club officers are President James Erle Chavis; Vice-president Wendell Lowery; Secretary Horace Locklear; and Treasurer Earl Collins. The club meets each Monday 7 p.m. Old Foundry Restaurant, Lumberton. Membership is by invitation.



Kiwanis member, Charles David McNeil saws firewood at a recent woodcutting.



Kiwanis officers deliver firewood to elderly citizen. Left to right: Josh K. Steen, helper; Wendell Lowery and James Erle Chavis.

SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS PERSONS

By Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special To The Carolina Indian Voice

His uncle taught him all the trades of a business, now Larry Locklear competes against his uncle in the common business of installing aluminum and vinyl siding on residential and commercial dwellings.

In 1971, Locklear's uncle took him under his wing and introduced him from the ground up to the techniques of proper siding installation. "It definitely was from the ground I started," laughs the 35-year-old businessman.

"I began cleaning up the debris left on the ground." He later was promoted to a ladder and assisted in actual installation. The Pembroke native says he thought he knew how to take a hammer and drive a nail until he began the siding craft.

"Some people say anyone can drive a nail, but it's not that simple," he adds. "There's a nailing technique we call flip hammering."

A fast learner, Locklear quickly understood all the techniques of the siding business. He became intent on learning all aspects of home improvements and enrolled at Robeson Technical Institute where he studied carpentry. With study and on the job training he became a do-it-all carpenter. He even learned roofing. A few years with a regional construction company gave him added experience in construction.

He formed his own business, Larry Locklear's Home Improvement and brings seven years experience to his customers. He says "freedom of time" was a major factor in going on his own. And adds that being self-employed enables him to set his own hours. A typical work week for the Lumbee Indian is 50 hours. He is sole owner and operator and spends most evenings meeting with customers to discuss specifications on jobs.

He rarely argues with the customer's selection. "I leave the final decision up to them. Siding isn't cheap. Once it's cut, it's cut and can't be returned," he explains. While the color white is the most popular, he tries not to recommend colors. "Color selection is a one-time thing. It's something the customer has to live with," he adds.

Defense Fund Opening Office

An office for the Robeson 3 Defense Fund will open on Thursday, February 18, in Pembroke, N.C. The office will be located in The Gathering Place beside the Post Office and Shoe Store in Pembroke. Office hours will be 9:00-5:00 from Monday-Friday and night hours will be announced. The office is being opening in order to coordinate the efforts to raise funds primarily for the defense of Eddie Hatcher and Timothy Jacobs. In opening the office, Ms. Thelma Clark, mother of Eddie Hatcher, stated: "It is important that the public know that the Defense Fund is being well coordinated and managed in a professional manner. The office will allow us to keep close records and accounting of all funds raised. The office will provide a place that the public can come, give their donations, and find out what is going on with the case. Receipts will be given with each donation and the book-keeper for the fund will issue weekly and monthly reports beginning next week. What Eddie and Timothy did, they did for all of us. We now have an opportunity to help them in their time of need."

A Post Office Box has been established for the Defense Fund. The Box Number is P.O. Box 1389, Pembroke, N.C. 28372. A phone will be placed in the office and operable next week.

The Robeson Justice Committee, a new citizens support group which is coordinating the petition drive, will hold a Press Conference at the Gathering Place in Pembroke at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 18. This press conference will respond to the decisions made at the Bond Hearing, report on the petition drive, and share information on the plans of the Justice Committee. The Press Conference is open to members of the media and the public.

For more information, call Thelma Clark or Connie Brayboy at 521-2826.

LARRY LOCKLEAR'S HOME IMPROVEMENT

Locklear admits counselling becomes a vital part of his work in dealing with customers. He points out that vinyl is rapidly gaining on aluminum in main coverings for residences. "Vinyl offers a broader range of warranties." Aluminum is ideal for wrapping trim work like window casings and sills.

"We try to eliminate as much painting for the homeowner as possible. With a complete job, the only things needing painting are sashes and doors," he says.

Other services offered by Locklear's business are gutter installation, window additions, building additions as well as substractions. "You have to learn to do a little bit of everything in home improvements," he comments.

Locklear recommends that the homeowner in need of replacing windows should look at the advantages in having vinyl or aluminum replacement windows installed. "They are permanent and upkeep-free. Thusly eliminating maintenance costs." The business offers them with insulated or tinted panes. For wooden windows already installed in need of maintenance, coverings are available. Another service offered is storm window installation.

With a laugh, Locklear says, "There's no such thing as an assigned territory in which to practice this business. My uncle trained me to hang siding as well as hang with the competition."

For service contact:
Larry Locklear's Home Improvement
Post Office Box 549
Pembroke, North Carolina 28372
Telephone: 919/521-8854



Larry Locklear works on a "complete" job in Lumberton.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

Burlin Rogers



Burlin Rogers enjoys a swing in his backyard.

By Barbara Brayboy-Locklear
Special To The Carolina Indian Voice

"Don't dare me to do anything! If you do, I'll try hard to do it," says daredevil Burlin Rogers.

The 68-year-old's curious mind has taken him on many an adventure throughout his life. Growing up on a farm in the Hopewell community of Robeson County lent little social excitement for the Lumbee Indian. In between farm chores and attending classes at Hopewell and Cross Roads schools, he worked as a carpenter's helper with a construction company building homes under the Government's Resettlement project in 1936.

Looking for a better paying job and a little excitement, the 18-year-old moved to New Bern to live with relatives. There he found a job, but something else came along which he liked better—a circus.

"The circus was based in New Bern and was leaving for a tour of several states. I got a chance to join it and signed on as a partner in one of the 'cook' tents," he laughs. He says the German owner needed an assistant cook, and he was willing to learn. The tour was to take the farm boy through Virginia, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania. The traveling and having to put up with hard-to-please circus patrons took its toll on Rogers, and a year later he left the circus behind.

He says he hooked up with a buddy and hitch-hiked to Florida. "I didn't mind doing it, 'cause I'd never been to Fla. and always wanted to go," he recalls. Once there he took a short course in tractor trailer driving. The stay lasted a little over a month. He figured he didn't like the assignment and returned to Robeson County.

It never bothered the adventurer to come home. "My mother was always glad to see me," he smiles. He was one of nine children born to Willie French and Mandy Jane Rogers.

In 1940, Rogers and a "bunch" of local boys volunteered for military service in the U.S. Army. During a furlough to his native county, he gathered addresses of girls and returned to camp to share them with his buddies. Among the addresses was that of Martha Jacobs, a Lumbee Indian. When Jacobs received a letter from a complete stranger, a soldier buddy of Rogers's, she ignored it. Curious-minded Rogers learned of the incident and became determined to write one to her. "I've never seen a girl yet that I could write to and not get an answer," he boasts.

He got an answer in the mail shortly thereafter. A few furloughs later, Rogers married the dark-haired girl he couldn't get out of his mind.

After service, the couple settled on a farm outside Rowland, N.C. The farm could not support the growing family, and the war veteran took on construction work. He joined a union and followed various assignments for several years before being lured to Norfolk, Va. by a brother in construction.

In 1959, the father of five founded Rogers Construction Company in Virginia Beach and began his own general contracting business. Twenty-eight years later, the businessman went into semi-retirement. He outright denies being retired. He still draws on his carpentry skills and does occasional small jobs for old friends.

His 12-acre tract of land in Suffolk, Va. where he lives keeps him busy in the flower and vegetable gardens. The widower takes care of all household duties. He lost his wife of 38 years in a fatal auto accident in 1982. Much time is donated to his eight grandchildren who live in the area.

Travel consumes much of the grandfather's time. Standing Native American pow-wows has become a favorite pastime. And every chance he gets, he motors to his native county for some foot-tapping, hand-clapping gospel singing. The energetic Rogers says he enjoys good health and feels it duty to stay physically fit. A night's dancing once a week keeps him in shape, he comments. He says he learned to dance when he was in the military.

"When I joined the service, I was a farmer. I didn't drink. And there was nothing else to do but sit in the field and wait for other guys drink." He says he knew there was a better life than drinking. So one day he "moseyed" into a dance studio and announced, "I'm a farm boy. Can you teach me how to dance?" He says while the fox trot is his favorite style dancing, he can do any of it when it comes to dancing.

The self-professed adventurer says, "Don't give me the city with its bricks and concrete. Give me the countryside with its woods and beautiful lakes." Then with a shy grin, he adds, "Give me God's nature and throw in a little adventure."

Cub Scouts Celebrating 50th Blue & Gold Anniversary

For the first time in the history of Robeson County a group of Cub Scouts will have their own special day. In honor of the 50th Birthday of Cub Scout Pack 32, the Pembroke Town Council and Maynor Milton Hunt have proclaimed February 23rd as "Cub Scout Pack 327 Day" in Pembroke.

This special day comes in addition to other honors which include: a State Flag from Governor Jim Martin; and letters of honor have been received from Governor Martin, Senator Jesse Helms, Representative Martin Lancaster, Congressman Charlie Rose, & N.C. Representative Daniel Levine.

Businesses supporting this Pack for their 50th Blue & Gold Anniversary Banquet are: Lumbee Regional Development

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