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TROOP 327 NOW TROOP 27

On Sunday afternoon, Feb. 21, the Native American Resource Center at PSU held a fiftieth anniversary celebration and scout exhibit in honor of Boy Scout 327. The program was hosted by Mr. Henry Smith, one of the four original Eagle Scouts to come out of the troop.

Troop 327 began on January 31, 1938 with sixteen boys and two adult leaders, Scoutmaster Gaston Revels and Assistant Scoutmaster Walter Pinchbeck. Pinchbeck became Scoutmaster in 1940 and remained so until the 1970's. Today the Troop will be renumbered 27 in honor of reaching its fiftieth year. It is the oldest Troop in the district and the second oldest Native American Troop in the Nation. On display in the scout exhibit were historical documents, artifacts and photographs.

"Let's get this doggone meeting going!" That's what Walter Pinchbeck would always say. He loved that word, "doggone." With those words Mr. Smith opened the celebration. After a moment of silence in memory of four deceased Eagle Scouts, the Pledge of Allegiance and the Scouts pledge, Dr. Stanley Knick welcomed the community, saying that the hardest part of mounting the exhibition was having to choose between literally hundreds of fascinating pictures and documents.

Greetings were extended by the Mayor of Pembroke, Mr. Milton Hunt, who declared Feb. 21, 1988 "Boy Scout Troop 327 Day." Greetings were also received from Mrs. Mary Pinchbeck Teets and Mr. Tommy Dickson of the Central District Boy Scouts office in Lumberton. These were followed by special recognitions to community members and organizations, scoutmasters, Eagle Scouts, and recipients of the Silver Beaver award over the years.

These ceremonies were followed by humorous accounts of scouting over the years in ten year segments. Former scouts told of carrying their live chickens with them on camping trips before there were coolers, or visits from parents and supporters when they had to give up their precious chicken dinner, of camping activities, and tales told around the campfire, and of Walter Pinchbeck's loving concern for his charges. The former scouts all remembered Mr. Pinchbeck as a stern disciplinarian as well as a fatherly man. He wanted his boys to think about what they would do with their lives. Mr. Pinchbeck's son, a Life Scout himself, told of his early resentment of the boys who got to go camping with his father, and his growing understanding of what the Boy Scouts was doing for the boys of the Pembroke community.

After this brief history, an announcement was made of the Walter Pinchbeck Memorial Fund to raise \$10,000. When these funds are raised a marble stone will be inscribed with his name at the Bowers Boy Scout Camp.

From the Resource Center the commemoration moved across the street for the re-dedication of the recently restored Scout Troop Hut. Funds were also requested for further improvements and transportation for the Boy Scouts. Thanks were given to all those who helped to restore the hut and refreshments were shared. The event was closed with the lowering of the flag by the Boy Scouts of Troop 327. Throughout this event it was clear that this Troop has meant a great deal to the development of citizenship and leadership in the Pembroke community. Congratulations, Troop 27.



Mayor Milton Hunt is shown proclaiming February 21, 1988 "Boy Scout Day in Pembroke, NC."



Chuck Jacobs is shown being presented Certificate by Henry Smith for his work in restoring the Scout Hut as part of his Eagle requirements.



Scout insignia painted by Walter Pinchbeck that hangs in the Scout Hut.



Ira Pate Lowry, center, is the only living original troop committeeman. He is shown with Mrs. Zelta Sampson (for James Albert Sampson) and Dorsey Lowry.



Scoutmasters of Troop 327-Kenan Locklear, present Scoutmaster; Dr. David Brooks; Doug Hunt; Joan Lowry for Stanford Lowry; William Pinchbeck for Walter Pinchbeck.



Mary Pinchbeck Teets

JACKSON TO APPEAR IN ROBESON

The Rev. Jesse Jackson will be in Robeson County on Monday, February 29. He will arrive at the Lumberton Airport at 12 noon. A fundraiser will be held at the Old Foundry Restaurant in Lumberton at 1 p.m. The cost for this event will be \$25 per person.

A rally is planned at 3 p.m. in Pembroke at the Performing Arts Center on the PSU campus.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

BURLIN ROGERS

EDITOR'S NOTE: We are rerunning last week's article "Whatever Happened to Burlin Rogers" by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear because of errors at the press rendering the copy to be unreadable. Our apologies to both Ms. Locklear and Mr. 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.

Lacking 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. Attending Native American pow-wows has become a favorite past-time. And every chance he gets, he motors to his native county for some foot-tapping, hand-clapping gospel sings.

The energetic Rogers says he enjoys good health and feels it his duty to stay physically fit. A night's dancing once a week helps. "I love to dance," 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 bars and watch 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 of 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 sly grin, he adds, "Give me God's nature and throw in a little adventure."

Assembly On Drug Prevention Planned

Foobie D. Robot will host a March 1 assembly on drug prevention for parents.

The war against drugs is getting a big boost from a nationally known Robot TV star.

On March 1 at 7:30 p.m. Foobie D. Robot will conduct a drug prevention assembly called "The Million Dollar Machine" in Pembroke.

The assembly will be held in Moore Hall at PSU to educate parents and other interested persons in the community about drug prevention awareness.

The program is hosted by Foobie D. Robot, recognized by most school children for his role in the hit television show "Silver Spoons."

Since Feb. 2 Foobie has been guiding students in Robeson County elementary schools in self-awareness, inter personal skills, decision-making, substance abuse, refusal skills and human potential.

In addition to delivering an anti-drug message, Foobie will demonstrate how to make good decisions and also examine the ways to avoid the influence of peer pressure.

Foobie also tells children that each of them own a "Million Dollar Machine," the human body.

The session will be sponsored by the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs in the Dept. of Administration and Southeastern General Hospital in Lumberton.

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 Tuesday, 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.

FAVORING MERGER

Speaking before the Kiwanis Club at their Tuesday night meeting Superintendent of Robeson County Schools Pernell Swett said the Board and he both favor merger. Principally for the children's better opportunity for an equal education. The pros and cons will be presented by Dr. Darrel Spencer on February 29th at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Education Building.

All are invited to attend. Program Chairman Albert Hunt presented the speaker. Facts without emotion will be presented, bearing in mind a whole new accreditation process, a new taxbase evaluation is taking place in terms of the number of students whose family income is second from the bottom in the state, the average income being very low thus tying education in with solving the economic problems of the area's industry, farming and jobs, with new machines replacing workers. We've got nice new schools in the Pembroke area and have made progress, but the economic factor is the main concern, merging will help this condition, and should be seriously thought out, thus giving our children better opportunities for an equal education.

Henry Ward Ozendine presented new members and their wives-Larry R. and Leleta Chavis of the Lumbee Bank and Mitchell and Rosalind Lowry of Pembroke.

Kiwanians Marshall Locklear and Pete Jacobs are Marshall is in Duke and Pete is resting at home. Our progress are with them and also with Zen Ozendine who just passed away.

Presiding: President Garth Locklear; Invocation: Albert Hunt; Song Leader: Ray Lowry; Reporter: Ken Johnson.