



# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

PEMBROKE, N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

ROBESON COUNTY



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## BRAWLEIGH GRAHAM ANNOUNCES FOR LREMC BOARD

Brawleigh Jason Graham, Tribal Administrator for the Tuscarora Tribe of North Carolina, announces his candidacy for election to the Board of Directors of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation for District 3. District 3 includes the townships of Back Swamp, Smyrna, Britts, Wisharts, Raft Swamp and Lumberton.

Graham, a 1972 graduate of Pembroke State University, has broad experience in community development and rural issues. As Tribal Administrator of the Tuscarora 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, Graham has also worked in the area of Labor Relations as a Compliance Officer for the North Carolina

Department of Labor, Wage and House Division, and as the Indian Manpower Project Director for the American Indian Study Center in Baltimore, Maryland.

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. 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."

## WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...

### Annie Bell Bullard

by Barbara Brayboy-Locklear special to THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

The biggest part of Annie Bell Bullard's life has been spent in helping "down and out" people who needed her during times of illness or death. And until about 12 years ago, the 86-year-old great, great grandmother obliged families as far away as Texas.

Bullard never formally studied nursing and says the ability to nurse must have been born in her. "I always wanted to wait (care for) on sick people," she says.

Her first experience in caring for the ill came while she was attending the Indian Normal School. A cousin whom Bullard affectionately called "Mama Delphie" fell ill and was hospitalized. The patient was allowed a release from the hospital under the condition that she seek homecare by a nurse. Bullard was drafted for the responsibility of nursing the patient back to good health. Bullard and her widowed mother, Marilda Chavis Locklear, moved in and lived with "Mama Delphie."

After graduating from school, Bullard was encouraged by her mother to accept an out of town teaching position. Instead, the 18-year-old Lumbee married Rodney Bullard, a man she'd known for years and with whom she'd church'd at New Prospect Church.

And for reasons she cannot explain 'til this day, the couple, all their married life, addressed each other as "Mr. Bullard" and "Miss Annie." "I don't know why we did it-just did," laughs Bullard.

A former military man, Mr. Bullard and his bride began a life in farming outside Pembroke. For years they worked the earth in order to support their growing family. When he died, she was left to raise their children, the youngest was 22 months old.

Bullard's father, Bently Locklear, had died when she was four years old. Her brother died in infancy. There were no other children. Her mother had moved in with "Mr. Bullard" and "Miss Annie" a few years after they were married. Bullard says her mother helped her raise

her children and lived with her until her death years later.

As the children grew up, Bullard gradually returned to nursing. She says her mother's willingness to help people in need influenced her to do the same. The mother-daughter home nursing skills became recognized throughout Robeson County.

Word spread and calls came from expectant mothers who were nearing their delivery dates. "Women back then always stayed home and gave birth. And after the child came, the mother stayed in bed for several days to rest," remembers Bullard. She says her role was to help out with the mother and child after birth.

It was during a prenatal assignment that Bullard was introduced, unexpectedly, to midwifery. "The doctor had been notified that my patient had gone into labor, but he was with another woman giving birth two miles away," she explains.

"The doctor didn't arrive in time. I got that one," she adds. She says she knew what to do. "I'd watched the midwife during my own deliveries." The home nurse was to miss attending church services three Sundays in a row that month because she was busy delivering the same number of babies. "Dr. Roscoe McMillian told me he ought to give me a license to deliver them," she laughs.

Shortly thereafter, Bullard was summoned to San Antonio to help after the birth of a child to her daughter-in-law and military-based son. After a few weeks stay in Texas, the grandmother was invited to spend a two-weeks stay with friends in New York. While there, she took a nursing job. "I went to stay for two weeks and ended up staying two years," she says.

After her longtime female patient died, Bullard moved back to her native Robeson County. There she resided mostly with her youngest daughter. Her stays were most times short because of appeals from others in need of a home nurse.

Her longest nursing assignment came from a local citizen living near the four-mile curve four miles east of Pembroke. She carefully packed her belongings, including her pedal sewing machine, her Bible which had traveled with her throughout

her many assignments and a formal letter of recommendation from a New York physician. She was to stay four years at that job.

Bullard says she never forgot people who had rendered support to her and her children during her young widowhood. Among them was Charlie Moore, her childhood school teacher and lifelong Prospect community resident. When Mrs. Moore's health began to fail, Bullard was hired to care for the wife of the man who had stuck by her when she lost her husband.

"Mr. Moore was as good a friend as I ever had in the world," Bullard affectionately comments. She was in the Moore employ for about two years.

There were several other nursing assignments before she retired in 1976 at age 75. And even though failing health does not allow her to actively assist sick people, she lends comfort through telephone calls to them. Family members sometimes drive her for short visits to shut-ins in neighboring communities.

She no longer sews on the antique sewing machine which sits in her rural Pembroke home. She keeps it as a reminder of times when it was necessary to sew for her seven children. Now a daughter tailor makes the dresses she wears. A longtime friend sews bonnets which she now wears as she did as a young girl growing up in a rural area. A niece has contributed to her headwear wardrobe as well.

Cataract surgery has enabled her to read the enlarged print in her Bible. She doesn't much care for television and usually plays it for the company of it. Recovery from a new fatal appendectomy five years ago has been slow, but the former church goer holds strong the Christian faith she professed 74 years ago.

When the nurse gets emotionally puny, she practices on herself. She recalls she was a very young child, her father gave her a four-page booklet entitled "The Life of Christ." "I toted it around until I wore it out. I didn't want a little doll baby. I just wanted my little book."

Yep! Memories of the words contained in the book serve as a big dose of medicine for the nurse who served others so well.

## 1988 LITTLE MISS LUMBEE PAGEANT SET FOR JUNE 29



Little Miss Lumbee Carmen Deese will relinquish her crown on Wednesday night as Lumbee Homecoming festivities begin.

The Little Miss Lumbee Pageant will be held on Wednesday June 29, at 7:30 p.m. at the PSU Performing Arts Center. Admission is \$5.00 per person.

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### LITTLE MISS LUMBEE CONTESTANTS



1. Leanna Nicole Carter Mr. & Mrs. Leeander Carter



3. Desiree Dawn Clark Mr. & Mrs. Elton Ray Clark



2. Rebecca Hammonds Chavis Mr. & Mrs. James D. Chavis



4. Tashina Dawn Harris Belinda & Henry Harris



5. Morgan Brittany Hunt Mr. & Mrs. Johnny R. Hunt



9. Terica Brooke Lowry Ms. Wanda A. Lowry



6. Danielle Locklear Mr. & Mrs. Lannie Dell Locklear



10. Nichole Danielle Oxendine Mr. & Mrs. Garry Oxendine



7. La Tura Angela Lowery Mr. & Mrs. Lennon Lowery



11. Tamara Anne Oxendine Mr. & Mrs. Louie Oxendine



8. Shonda Kay Lowery Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Maynor



12. Indee Denene Smith Mr. & Mrs. Webster Smith



Annie Bell Bullard, wearing a favorite bonnet, casts a smile.



13. Shelly Romita Strickland Mr. & Mrs. Ronald Strickland

### 1988 Awards Banquet Recipients Named

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. and Lumbee Homecoming 1988 proudly announces this year's four (4) Recipients as follows:  
1) Henry Berry Lowery Award - Mr. Ronald Hammonds, a resident of the Saddletree Community.  
2) Business Person of the Year

- Award - Mrs. Jane C. Oxendine, a resident of Pembroke, N.C.
- 3) Distinguished Service Award - Rev. Welton Lowry, a resident of Pembroke, N.C.
- 4) Advancement of Education Award - Mrs. Linda Hammonds, a resident of the Saddletree Community.

The 1988 Awards Banquet will be held on June 30, 1988 at the Pembroke Junior High School Cafeteria beginning at 7:30 p.m. This year's tickets are \$6.50 per person. Tickets can be secured by contacting Gary Deese, Awards Banquet Committee Chairman at 521-0354 or 521-0864. Admission tickets can also be secured "at the door" on June 30, 1988.

The General Public is encouraged to attend.

