

The Carolina Indian Voice

N.C.

"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

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Horace Locklear pleads guilty to misdemeanor charges

In a plea agreement reached before trial on Tuesday, Lumberton attorney Horace Locklear pleaded guilty to two misdemeanor counts of obstruction of justice in the highly visible case. The local attorney had been indicted on two separate occasions by a Robeson County Grand Jury on felony charges of obtaining property by false pretense and obstruction of justice.

Judge Sam Currin, as part of the agreement, placed Locklear on three years unsupervised probation, required him to perform 200 hours of community service and ordered that he pay \$1500 restitution to Leroy Locklear, convicted drug dealer who was used by the SBI to tape record conversations with attorney Locklear.

Attorney Locklear was prosecuted by Linda Morris of the Attorney General's office. Some questions had been raised as to her jurisdiction in calling for new indictments on Locklear. Many questions had been raised in previous motion hearings on the case relative to the administrative assistant to the district attorney, Martin McCall, having business dealings and connections with Leroy Locklear.

Locklear's attorney, Woodbury Bowen, defended Locklear as the victim of selective prosecution by the

judicial system in Robeson County. The Locklear case has presented much evidence of wrong doing by the judicial system into the public records of the Robeson County Courts.

Locklear's plea agreement brings that case to a close, but it leaves much attention on the "key" witness for the prosecution, Leroy Locklear who has pleaded guilty to trafficking marijuana and conspiracy to trafficking. Leroy Locklear had paid Horace Locklear \$1500 to represent him in the sentencing phase of his court case, although Leroy Locklear had already retained John Wishart Campbell to represent him.

Richard Townsend, Robeson County District Attorney, has said that Leroy Locklear has not been sentenced because his case was closely tied to Horace Locklear's case. Leroy Locklear's guilty plea carries a mandatory jail sentence of five years. This sentence can be avoided if the court determines that the defendant has provided "substantial assistance" to law enforcement in other drug cases. Judge Currin made no comment as to when or if Leroy Locklear would be sentenced. No date for sentencing has been set.

Jones completes Intensive Rural Development Course

Jones heads economic development programs being carried out by Lumbee River EMC and was a member of the first class graduating from the Rural Utilities Economic Development Academy. The Academy is designed to assist rural electric and telephone cooperatives which have staff working part time on local development programs.

The curriculum was presented by the Economic Development Institute, a nationally known center which trains and certifies industrial development practitioners. Jones studied 18 subject areas important to successful development programs.

The Academy was sponsored by the National Rural Electric Developers Association, which represents 1,000 rural electric cooperatives across the nation. "This is the first professional development program specifically available to persons in a rural environment," said NREACA President Ernie Faucett.

"Those attending have been given instruction in creating strategic plans, obtaining grants, the methods to use in packaging financial resources from several sources, how to select the best industrial prospects for an area, and how to support existing businesses to help them expand; also how to develop and operate a successful marketing plan," he added.

The Rural Utilities Academy is part of a multi-faceted commitment by rural electric cooperatives across America to actively assist communities and counties in reversing a loss of population and jobs which has been occurring in rural areas during the 1980s.



Randall Jones (right), assistant to the general manager at Lumbee River EMC, is congratulated by NREACA General Manager Bob Bergland, upon graduation from the Rural Utilities Economic Development Academy.

Randall Jones of Pembroke with Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, has completed an intensive 60-hour course in rural economic development held over a five-day period on the campus of the University of Oklahoma at Norman.

Open House planned at Sampson's Rest Home

Open House will be held at Sampson's Rest Home #3 on Saturday, March 3 from 2-4 p.m. The new facility will accommodate 12 patients and is the third facility of its kind owned and operated by Clifton

Sampson, Jr. The rest home is located on State Road 1580 in the Prospect Community. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Indian Burial grounds continue to be desecrated

Knoxville, Tenn.- The state is powerless to force a resolution with private landowners in preserving an Indian burial mound and 14th century village in Sevier County, state archaeological officials said Thursday.

"There is not a darn thing that anybody can do about it expect exert social pressure," said Jeff Chapman, chairman of the state's archaeology board and curator at the University of Tennessee's McClung Museum.

"We don't have any power all all, other than when they so in there and start plundering the burials," he said. "Then you are into something that is a felony."

Digging for artifacts has already occurred at the Sevier County site along Highway 66, about 30 miles east of Knoxville, although no charges have been filed.

Topsoil on the burial mound, thought to contain up to 1,000 Indian graves, has been bulldozed. And three men driving a truck with Sequatchie County license plates were spotted digging there in early January.

The excavation prompted a demonstration by the Nashville-based Alliance of Native American Indian Rights in Sevierville three weeks ago, and a stinging statement from the Tennessee Commission of Indian Affairs decrying "a spirit of greed and avarice (that) has appeared in the form of grave desecration."

At the same time, Chapman and state archaeologist Nick Fielder met with the property owners, John Parker and Kevin Pipes, who officially plan to build a subdivision on a 300-acre tract that includes the burial mound but also are known to trade in Indian artifacts.

As a result of the meeting, Parker and Pipes agreed to post signs at the site to keep artifact hunters away. There has been no evidence of digging since then, Chapman and

Fielder said.

Parker was asked in a telephone interview recently whether he and Pipes have decided what they will ultimately do with the site. "No we haven't, sir," Parker said. "I don't want to comment on that at all."

Fielder said he was disappointed at the delay in resolving the situation.

But he said, "In some ways it works to our advantage. The longer they have to think about it, the better the chance that they will do the right thing in terms of preservation rather than just bulldozing ahead."

Fielder said it's unlikely the state would buy the site, but it's been suggested to Parker and Pipes that they could claim a tax writeoff if they donated the five- to 10-acre Indian site to the state or the local historical society.

Although the state has purchased historical sites before, "we don't have a contingency fund that we can just step in on short notice," Fielder said.

"With the administration, lands that are not going to produce revenue are not very high on the priority list," he added.

Fielder called the site "one of the most valuable that we know about in East Tennessee," primarily because of its age--1300 to 1600 A.D.

It is believed to be the site of the pre-Cherokee Indian village of Tanasqui, one of the villages where Spanish explorers first encountered Native Americans in Tennessee.

"In terms of being able to answer questions on how the first Europeans affected Indian life, it would be a key piece in that puzzle," Fielder said.

DISTRICT LAY RALLY



Mr. Ira Pate Lowry is selected as pastor, Jerry Lowry, and Rockingham District Superintendent, Robert L. Boldridge, look on.



Ethel Johnson of Sandy Plains United Methodist Church receives a plaque from Robby Lowry and a handshake from District Superintendent Robert Boldridge, for being selected runner-up to the Lay Person of the Year, behind Ms. Johnson is her pastor, Debrae Cummings.



District Lay Leader Robby Lowry presents a plaque to Jean Chavis of Collins Chapel UMC, who was selected second runner-up to the Lay Person of the Year. Beside Ms. Chavis stands her pastor, Tyron Lowry. (Photos by William Lowry).



Prospect UMC receives the award for the most members present. Robby Lowry, Rockingham District Lay Leader, presents a plaque to Prospect Church's Lay Leader Gurney Hunt.