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DeLora Cummings, SATW Guest Artist Art Auction To Be Held June 26

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
SPECIAL TO THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE
Come next Tuesday night some lucky bidder will claim a masterpiece of art, and a husband and his five children will reclaim the artist mother and wife they gave up six months ago to paint it.

"I promised by family that after June 26 I wouldn't pick up another artist brush for the remainder of this summer," says DeLora Cummings, this year's guest artist of "Strike at the Wind!" The 41-year-old Lumbee Indian was commissioned by Robeson Historical Drama earlier this year to create on canvas a painting which is being offered for auction at the fifth annual SATW auction dinner next Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. at the new Holiday Inn in Lumberton. The event is the largest fund-raising project for Robeson Historical Drama, the sponsor of the outdoor drama which depicts the times and life of Henry Berry Lowrie, an Indian leader whose leadership brought social and economic change to Robeson County during the post-Civil War era.

Cummings promises that her 4 x 5 foot painting of "finest oils and Belgium linen" is one in which all peoples of Robeson County can identify with. "I didn't want the painting to focus exclusively on 'Strike at the Wind! So I made it 'Strike at the Wind!' and so much more." She says her task became one of a broader focus encompassing people, history and education.

The petite native Robesonian says while she'd always wanted to create a commissioned piece for SATW, the actual contract to do so was frightening. "The demand on me to create something so big for so many people and for it to raise so much money really did frighten me." The demand became a labor of love for the artist who says she personally sees the finished product as a token and contribution to her beloved Indian people. "It also becomes that little something I can leave here for my children, grandchildren and all my Indian people to enjoy and appreciate."

The artist/educator assures a lot of research went into the making of her commissioned work. "I talked with

numerous people, consulted books and even researched fabric materials because I wanted the work to show texture and color...a lot of color."



...*"As an artist, what I paint, why I paint and how I paint are the results of everything I am, everything I've experienced, every person I've known, and everything I have seen, felt, smelled, heard and touched."*
DeLora Cummings

She says her family became an integral part of the project. "My family is very supportive of my interest in art and accepted extra responsibility during the past half year." Working from a studio in her home, she donated a minimum of two hours each evening to the painting. As the work progressed she says the hourly commitment increased. "I'd never before gotten so involved in a piece of work as with the SATW assignment. Sometimes I would paint until 3 a.m. and not tire at all. I'd go to bed, get up and go to my regular teaching job and couldn't wait until my two-hour painting time in the evening."

She says as the work took focus, the painting became the Cummings family secret. The artist adds that she often employed the ideas and services of her children. "I worked with still-life, and when I needed something special to incorporate into my work they were eager to go outside among nature and find the particular items I needed. I feel my artistic contribution to today's society is sharing my love for mankind, nature and all the beauty around me."

She continues, "As an artist, what I paint, why I paint and how I paint are the results of everything I am, everything I've experienced, every person I have known, and everything I have seen, felt, smelled, heard and touched."

Since giving up the painting to the SATW committee six weeks ago, Cummings says she has been busy putting the final touches on 20 other works of art which will be shown at the June 26th auction dinner reception. The Pembroke State University graduate says she originally worked in oils, which later expanded to a variety of mediums. In the early 1980's she began to focus on watercolor and has worked exclusively in that medium; except for commissions requiring differently.

Cummings is a member of dozens of organizations, including the National Art Educators, Robeson-Community Art Guild and Lumber River Art Guild in which she is president.

She has received many awards, most recently, the Dick Blick Artist Award. Her artwork was selected by the Rising Star Publishers to be printed into a collection of greeting cards. Much of her artwork has appeared in various books and brochures, most notably in *North Carolina's 400 years: Signs Along the Way*. She teaches art in the Public Schools of Robeson County at Purnell Swett Senior High and has given private lessons to gifted and talented children. She has worked as a commercial artist for several years and served as judge in Art contests.

Tickets to the Art Auction are still available. For more information, call the Strike at the Wind office, (919)521-3112.

Cultural Center Receives Grant

by Ben Jacobs

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center is pleased to announce that it has received a \$30,000 grant from the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation of Winston-Salem, North Carolina.

According to Dr. Helen Scheirbeck Development Director of the Cultural Center, the grant is for general operational support for the Center and will be used to help the Center in meeting its match of a \$200,000 grant from the Administration for Native Americans, Department of Health and Human Services. The federal grant is effective July 1, 1990.

Dr. Helen M. Scheirbeck expressed the thanks of both the board and staff of the Indian Cultural Center to Tom Lambeth, Executive Director of the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. She stated despite the "political" and related setbacks, the Center's course has been chartered and remains fairly well on schedule. It is through support of foundations like Z. Smith Reynolds and our friends, Indians and non-Indians, and the public at large that the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center becomes a reality in North Carolina.

WELCOME HOME LUMBEES



Little Miss Lumbee Phyllisia Danielle Locklear will relinquish her crown on Wednesday, June 27 at the annual Little Miss Lumbee Pageant. The pageant will be held at the PSU Performing Arts Center. Seventeen girls will be vying for the title. Admission is \$5 person and the event begins at 7:30 p.m. The Little Miss Lumbee Pageant is only one of the many activities planned during the 1990 Lumbee Homecoming June 23-30. The contestants are shown below.



Tubatha Lashelle Hunt
Mr. & Mrs. James Hunt



Charly Janene Lowry
Mr. and Mrs. George Lowry



Randi Michelle Hunt
Mr. and Mrs. Randy Hunt



Terica Brooks Lowery
Ms. Wanda A. Lowery



Victoria Stacia Lowry
Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ray Lowry



Lakeshia Ariella Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. William Jacobs



Nichole Danielle Ozandine
Mr. and Mrs. Garry Ozandine



Misty Lynn Jacobs
Mr. and Mrs. Gregory Jacobs



Erica Kay Cummings
Ms. Kimberly Kay Cummings



Jessica Nakeish Cummings
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Cummings



Crystal Nicole Lowery
Ms. Dollie Lowery & Ronald Bullard



Bras Taylor Locklear
Mr. and Mrs. Eli Locklear



Deidra Carol Locklear
Mr. and Mrs. Densel Locklear



Melissa Danielle Locklear
Ms. Theresa Locklear



Brandy Renee Jones
Betty L. Campbell & Lee V. Thomas

LITTLE MISS LUMBEE PAGEANT JUNE 27