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North Carolina Statewide Indian Heritage Month Celebration Planned at Cultural Center

Strong high-pitched singing voices...accompanied by the rhythm of the drum and tinkling bells... accompanied by the rhythmic movements of dancers clad in brightly multicolored regalia...set against a backdrop of the Lumbee River, teepees, tents, families, friends, smiles and laughter. These are the sights and sounds of the Pow Wow to be held September 15 and 16 at the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.

TRADITIONAL PIPE CEREMONY

To the Indian the pipe is a sacred object. For the Indian there is just the pipe, the earth they sit upon and the open sky. The spirit is everywhere. Sometimes it shows itself through an animal, a bride or some trees and hills. Sometimes it speaks from a stone, or even from the water. That smoke from the pipe goes straight up to the spirit world. But this is a two-way thing. Power flows down the through that smoke, through the pipe right into your body. It makes your hair stand up. That pipe is not just a thing, it is alive.

Touching the bows made of smooth red pipe-stone, red like the blood of the people sharpens the senses that the forefathers who once smoke this very pipe are right there with them.

PURPOSE OF THE POW WOW

The Pow Wow is the Indian's way of expressing visual Indianness. To the observer, this appears as entertainment. The religious overtones are not apparent, and perhaps this is one reason why the U.S. Government has never tried to stop Pow Wows. Besides dancing and singing, one of the main purposes of the Pow Wow is to renew old friendships and also to create new friendships.

Hope that Indian people could revitalize their reservations came with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934, which repealed all remaining laws suppressing Indian culture. As a ceremonial expression of the renewed pride, an increasing number of Pow Wows began to emerge among all the Indian tribes.

today's Pow Wow is a direct ancestor of the national, formal War Dance. The revival of Pow wows has spread to every community with an Indian population.

At the Old Style Dance Festival and Pow Wow, September 15th and 16th, of the Lumbee Tribe, traditional customs and symbols will be conspicuously present; giveaways, feasting, and sharing meals with friends is lavish; the many dancers and teepees that circle the dancing arena fill the air with the aroma of a pow wow.

Each day begins with a Grand Entry, a flag raising ceremony and opening prayers followed by dance contests. Throughout the course of the two days, individual members of the states' tribes will express a "giveaway" ceremony. This expression of thanks may

commemorate an event or an accomplishment, and includes the giving away of gifts.

THE DRUM

The Drum is composed not only of the instrument by the head singer and other singers. Indians regard the drum as the oldest thing he remembers and it is looked upon as something that has always been with him. The drums considered to be the grandmother and to be looked upon with respect and dignity. There shall be no profanity around the drum and no one drinking may approach the drum. Humility is a must. Any person who sits at the drum must feel in his heart that he is no better than any other person sitting around him.

Women singers are limited to the role of "chorus singers"; that is, singing behind the men seated at the drum, recognizing the drum's sacred significance.

Songs are sung from memory and learned only by listening. Songs are sung in unison no harmony. In songs that may use words and carry a message, just enough are used to carry the primary concept. Songs are short in length and are often repeated many times.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES

Ray Littleturtle. Littleturtle is a Lumbee-Cheraw traditionalist. He has served as Master of Ceremonies at numerous pow wows throughout the East Coast. He also lectures throughout the country on Indian culture and religion.

Currently he sponsors the Lumbee Cheraw dancers. Traveling with the group throughout the United States to various pow wows and cultural events.

HOST DRUM

The Running Water Singers of Fayetteville will serve as the host drum for the upcoming pow wow. Since forming seven years ago, the Running Water Singers have made a name for themselves throughout the country within the pow wow circuit.

IMPORTANCE OF THE EAGLE FEATHER

The eagle is a majestic bird that flies high into the sky, almost into the presence of the Great Spirit. Since the eagle flies so close to the spirit, he is able not only to carry the prayers of men upward, but can also bring the power and grace back to man. Even though eagle feathers are hard to obtain, and are illegal for non Indians to possess, they remain a sacred part of Native American ceremonies.

The eagle is held in a place of honor. To wear the eagle's feathers and to imitate high flight helps the dancer to share in the honor and partake of the power of the eagle.

Much of the regalia (Indian attire) has eagle feathers as the most important part of each dancer's regalia. The more eagle feathers on oneself, the more tradition that dancer carries.



Nahir Locklear, the reigning Miss Lumbee, is the 18 year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Denzel Locklear of Pembroke. Currently Nahir is a freshman, majoring in Business Administration at Pembroke State University.

When she isn't lifting weights, Nahir enjoys reading Lumbee history and spending time with the elders of the tribe discussing tribal culture and traditions.

Nahir is shown above dressed in the traditional Lumbee Cheraw dress, designed and custom made by Bennie Sue Clark of Hope Mills. She is also wearing a silver croun, the front of it has an ear of corn, tobacco, the Lumbee River, Old Main and an Indian head etched against a scalloped border with a sun burst design. The croun was designed by Lumbee silver smith Ponce Chavis of Pembroke.



Terica Brooke Lowry, Little Miss Lumbee, is the six year old daughter of Wanda Allen Lowry of Pembroke. Terica attends Pembroke Elementary School where she is in the first grade. She is an accomplished gymnast who enjoys dancing at pow wows and representing all 40,000 Lumbee Indians.

Terica is shown wearing a traditional Lumbee Cheraw dress and a crown esigned and created by Bennie Sue Clark of Hope Mills. The dress, shawl and crown are styled in the beaded floral hroquois design.

Lumbee Regional Development Association. "We want to give area students opportunities to share and celebrate the North Carolina Indian Heritage," said Jacobs.

"Students will enjoy performances by the Lumbee-Cheraw Dancers," said Jacobs. "The event will have over 14 artists and craftspeople who will demonstrate a variety of interesting and exciting arts," he said.

Jacobs said students who attend the school program will see many entertaining and educational activities. They will enjoy an outing at the beautiful, scenic environment of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center.

Farmers To Be Honored During Celebration

The North Carolina Indian Cultural Center will be the official site for N.C. Indian tribes to hold special tribal ceremonies to celebrate North Carolina's Indian heritage past and present September 15 and 16.

Governor Jim Martin has proclaimed September as North Carolina Indian Heritage Appreciation Month and all the tribes and organizations in North Carolina will be having special ceremonies. All are open to the public to highlight their contributions and heritage in North Carolina's development historically and currently.

The official event in which all tribes and organizations will jointly participate will be here in Robeson County at the Cultural Center. The public will have an opportunity to see traditional American Indian dancers and traditional foods and crafts will be for sale.

A special ceremony will be held to honor all farmers of Robeson and adjoining counties for their many contributions to society in producing food for all citizens livelihood. This will be a traditional Indian Ceremony in which the dancers will honor these farmers with a "dance of prayer" to the Great Spirit for their contributions and bountiful crops that feed all the people.

Tobacco and corn will be used as part of the ceremonies since both symbolize ancient crops native to the heritage of North Carolina Indians and of which have been major products in the development of North Carolina economically.

All farmers are asked to come out and be honored in this special ceremony at the cultural center. The ceremony will be Saturday, September 15 at 7:30 p.m. for farmers and will be conducted in a traditional decorum.

Also as part of the two day event, dancers will perform traditional native dances and compete for over \$6,000 in prize money. The events will focus on ancient dance and art forms of North Carolina tribes. This will be an excellent opportunity for the public to learn more about North Carolina Indian tribes and their heritage in celebration of the North Carolina Indian Heritage Month proclaimed by Governor Jim Martin.

Indian Heritage School Day Sept. 14

A special program for school students will be held Friday, September 14 in conjunction with the North Carolina statewide Indian Heritage program.

The special program will feature Indian festival dancing, demonstrations and displays of traditional and contemporary Indian artifacts and craftspeople and exhibits from Indian tribes and Indian museums. Willie Lowery, Lumbee folk musician, will give special performances. Indian story tellers will present legends and special films will be shown.

According to Ben Jacobs of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center, the school day program is sponsored by the Cultural Center, Robeson County Public Schools, and

14th Annual GNAA Powwow Planned

The traditional sound of Native American music welcomes you and your family to a festival of celebration of Indian Heritage. Guilford Native American Association is holding their 14th annual pow wow at the Guilford County Fairgrounds, off Penny Road, in High Point, North Carolina, September 21 and 22.

Native Americans from across the state and nation will compete in dance competition for more than \$4,000 in prize money for dancers and drummers. The Running Water Singers of Fayetteville will be the host drum. Many tribal dancers will be present including the Eastern Band of Cherokee, Lumbee, Haliwa-Saponi, Waccamaw Siouan, Coharie, Tuscarora, Cheyenne, Eno-Occaneechi, Sioux, Seminole, Western Band of Cherokee and others. Dancer registration will be held Friday, September 21 between 5 and 7 p.m. and Saturday between 10 a.m. and noon. Opening ceremonies and grand entries will be 7 p.m. Friday; 1 and 7 p.m. Saturday.

Gospel singing will be featured Saturday from 11 a.m. until 12 noon. Indian traders and craftspeople from all over the region will offer their art for sale and Native cooks will keep you filled with fry bread, Navajo tacos and other delicious foods. Camping space for tents and tipis and plenty of parking is available. Admission is \$2 per person, \$1 for senior citizens and children six and under admitted free. The general public is welcome. Since seating is limited the public is advised to bring blankets, folding chairs, etc.

No alcoholic beverages or illegal drugs will be allowed on the festival grounds. For further information contact Guilford Native American Association, Inc. in Greensboro at 919-273-8686.

This pow wow was made possible with a grant from the Greensboro Area Visitors and Convention Bureau.



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Exhibits Skills During Heritage Week



MIKE WILKINS, stone carver from Pembroke, displays some of his work on display at the PSU Native American Resource Center. Included are a "Lumbee Walking Stick" [which he holds], a figurine entitled "The Trilogy," and the image of a Klansman in memory of the routing of a Klan rally near Maxton by the Lumbee Indians in 1958. Wilkins will display his craft at PSU during "Indian Heritage Week" September 17-20.

Mike Wilkins, 31-year-old stone carver from Pembroke, became interested in the craft at the age of 10 watching the late Indian scoutleader Walter Pinchbeck whittling away.

Wilkins was fascinated by what he saw. And also by the carving skills of others like Arnold Richardson and Archie Lynch.

His carving skills became perfected as he grew older, and he now has three works on exhibit at PSU's Native

American Resource Center.

Wilkins will also exhibit his carving skills beginning at 6 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 18, at PSU's Lowry Bell Tower during "Indian Heritage Week." Lynch, a member of the Haliwa-Saponi Tribe of Hollister, will carve with him. A pow wow, sponsored by PSU's Native American Student Organization, will be taking place simultaneously at the same location.

"I carve what I see in the stone," said Wilkins. In other words, each stone has a message."

Such was the case of a piece of white soapstone from which Wilkins carved a figure of Christ which he calls "The Trilogy." The main figure is unquestionably Christ, but also a part of the carving is "the Father" on the left shoulder of Christ and the Holy Spirit at His feet. On the back of the figurine is a face which Wilkins describes as Satan. "At first, I was going to carve a fishout of this piece of stone," said Wilkins, but as he started to work he saw Christ emerge from the stone.

Another of Wilkins' works on exhibit in the Native American Resource Center is a "Lumbee Walking Stick." This twisted cane, meticulously sanded, has an Indian face on its top with a hand stretching out. Wilkins said he whittled away in the evenings at his leisure in carving it.

A third work on exhibit at the NARC is a piece of dark soapstone carved into the head of a Klansman. It is in remembrance of the Klan rally which was dispelled by the Lumbee Indians near Maxton in 1958. This work is entitled "True Warriors" and is dedicated to Wilkins' father, Daniel Wilkins; Walter Pinchbeck; Simeon Oxendine, who received special recognition for breaking up the Klan rally; and Henry Berry Lowrie, the Indian hero about whose life the outdoor drama "Strike at the Wind" is presented each summer near Pembroke.

"I really had to do some chiseling to do the one of the Klansman," said Wilkins.

Wilkins, who says he didn't become "really serious about carving until the last couple of years," says he has exhibited work at the Native American Center in Baltimore, the Indian Unity Conference in Greensboro and a pow wow in Hollister.

His educational background includes attending Central Piedmont Community College for one year and earn a diploma in electrical installation from Robeson Community College. He is now employed by Fleetwood Mobile Homes of Pembroke.

Wilkins' life is another that was influenced by that of Walter Pinchbeck, who died in 1977 after 28 years of service in the PSU Maintenance Department, most of it as department superintendent. Pinchbeck would be proud to see the work Wilkins is now displaying.