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The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well in the Lumbee Indian camp

Lowry Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Chevrolet-Geo, Inc. driven by Robeson Native-Jim Lowry

by Bruce Barton

Thomasville-Jim Lowry, now 47, has learned a lot about business since he graduated as Valedictorian of his Pembroke High class in 1962. But he's not sure that anyone ever taught him the art of deal making better than his late and beloved father, Rev. Harvey Lowry and uncle, James Fulton Lowry. Lowry still remembers working with his uncle James Fulton "running an oil truck from morning til night in the evening after school, and in the summers. Delivering oil to people who need it is a great way to learn the ins and outs of business," he recalls.

Jim Lowry, who opened his second automobile dealership in Thomasville, North Carolina in April, is a member of the growing tribe of Lumbee Indians with entrepreneurial blood coursing through their veins.

Lowry, whose mother, Myrtle Lowry, still lives in the Union Elementary School area, remembers the values she and his father, the Rev. Harvey Lowry (now deceased) taught him growing up in Robeson County. "Our parents definitely taught me and my brothers how to work, and instilled Christian values in us that are still a part of wherever life has carried us in pursuit of dreams and careers."

Jim Lowry is the oldest son, and has three brothers-Robbie Lowry, manager of the Social Security District Office in Rockingham; Harvey Lowry, Jr., a coach and teacher in the county schools; and Rev. Jerry Lowry, following in his father's footsteps as a Methodist minister. He pastors First Methodist Church in Pembroke.

After graduating from Pembroke High School (then an all Indian school), Jim Lowry studied for a year at Pembroke State University, then became one of the first generations of Indian students "to go off to college." Lowry graduated with honors from N.C. State University with a B.S. degree in Aeronautical Engineering in 1966.

His work experience, after college, included stints with Lockheed Aircraft Corporation and General Electric.

Lowry was very successful in the world of work, eventually rising to and serving as manager in Florida and North and South Carolina for General Electric, supervising a staff of 35 people in eight offices.

But the dealmaking he learned at the knees of his father (also a successful entrepreneur, as well as a Methodist minister) and his uncle continued to inspire him to take a risk and go "out on his own." An entrepreneur is one who risks his own money in business. And Jim

Lowry eventually took the plunge. With the help of his other mentor, High Point businessman and car dealer, George W. Lyles, Jr. Lowry opened Lowry Chevrolet in Tryon, NC in 1977. Lowry remembers, "There's nothing like running one's own business. There is risk and excitement galore!"

Lowry ran his successful car dealership-Lowry's Chevrolet-for ten years, but politics and his developing business relationship with Lyles caused him to sell out his Tryon interests and join the Lyles Companies in High Point as vice president and general manager of six automotive business operations, including Dollar Rental Car franchise and dealerships featuring Chevrolet, Buick, Oldsmobile, Pontiac, Jeep-Eagle, and Rolls Royce.

Long active in Indian affairs and Democratic Party politics, Lowry has served a stint as chairman of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs, and is an ardent supporter of Jim Hunt in his bid for another term as governor. While governor, Hunt enticed Lowry to serve a year as state purchasing officer in 1982-83.

Still serving on the Indian Commission, Lowry has also become an active member of the General Motors Minority Dealers Advisory Council. Recently appointed to the council, which answers directly to GM President Jack Smith, Lowry just returned from a meeting with the GM leadership in Michigan.

Lowry is married to Phyllis Locklear, formerly from Pembroke and the daughter of the late Bracy and Ruby Locklear. They are proud parents of two children, Chad, a rising junior at Duke University; and Jayne, who works in fashion and retail merchandising.

Lowry says, "any success I've had is due to my family, and my raisings as an Indian in Robeson County. The business world is a good place to express one's heritage and one can go as far as ingenuity and hard work will take you."

Lowry is proud of his Indian heritage. He believes his Robeson roots taught him a good work ethic, and a good moral base, which have always been positive traits and influences away from home.

Lowry also believes that Thomasville is the right place to be-smack dab in the High Point, Winston-Salem, Greensboro triangle. "This triangle always has, and will continue to experience great growth in this triad."

Lowry, always active in the Methodist Church, says his business travels have taken him, still sports many of the values taught him at home. He suggests that "There is good in every person...and my role in life-and goal-is to help people satisfy their needs and deliver their goods."



JIM LOWRY



Native American Youth Princess visits Lumbee Homecoming

director of the Substance Abuse Prevention Program of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs; Ruth B. Locklear of

LRDA's Tribal Enrollment Office; Bruce Barton, history teacher at Purnell Swett High School; Maybelle Elk, Director of Indian Education for the Public Schools of Robeson County; and James Hardin, executive director of LRDA; and Sylvia Sanderson, NASA Club Advisor.

Crystal is the daughter of Elaine Feder of Pembroke.

Crystal's academic and extra-curricular activities are extensive. The has won perfect attendance certificates while a student at Union Chapel School; Pembroke Middle School; and Pembroke Junior High.

She was recognized for Outstanding Academic Achievement by the Presidential Academic Fitness Awards Program; given a certificate of appreciation for the valuable contribution to outstanding cheerleading; belonged to the National Junior Beta Club while a student at Pembroke Junior High; served as treasurer for Student Government; and received a Certificate of Merit for outstanding contributions to the Summer Science Program for the Gifted at Appalachian State University; special recognition from the Social Studies Project at Pembroke Junior High.

While a student at Purnell Swett High School she was honored for Athletic Participation Award for girls track. She has also danced with the Lumbee Cheraw Dancers and participated in other civic and cultural activities.

Among the visiting queens at the Lumbee Homecoming celebration during the July 4th week was Crystal Lee Feder, the reigning Miss North Carolina Native American Youth Organization Princess.

Crystal flew home from Cornell University in Ithaca, New York to be part of the festivities.

Crystal is at Cornell University for the Native American Indian Youth Program.

Among her many accomplishments include being selected as one of 30 youths who participated in the nation's premiere Native youth environment project called the Earth Ambassador Program.

As an Earth Ambassador, crystal attended and intensive four day environmental training session at Wilder Forest, located outside St. Paul, Minnesota, June 8-11.

The Earth Ambassador Program is designed to train American Indian and Alaska native youth to become spokespersons in promoting a health environment

on local, state and national level. In its second year, the program equips youth with leadership techniques to help them increase people's awareness about the importance of taking care of the environment.

The Earth Ambassador program is sponsored by the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY), a non profit organization serving the leadership needs of Native American youth. Based in Oklahoma City, UNITY's mission is to foster the spiritual, mental, physical and social development of Native youths and to build strong, unified and self-reliant Native American through involvement of its youth.

Crystal, a student at Purnell Swett High School, has a long and impressive academic record, as well as representing the Lumbee Indian culture and heritage.

She was nominated as Outstanding Indian Student of the Year in 1992 by such distinguished persons as: Kerry Bird, project



Shown above is Tara Lowery, local artist, who was commissioned to produce the art work for the annual Art Dinner and Auction for Strike at the Wind. The fund raiser was held recently. Lowery is shown left. The painting was purchased by Dr. and Mrs. Jeff Collins of Pembroke. They are shown right. The painting was auctioned for \$6,000.

Henry Berry Lowrie gun?

Preston Locklear, locally known as "Daniel" is shown above displaying a gun that has been in his family for at least three generations. Mr. Locklear says that the gun belonged to Henry Berry Lowrie, legendary hero of the Robeson County Indians. Mr. Locklear says that Lowrie gave the gun, a single barrel, to his grandmother, who in turn gave it to his mother, Amanda (Mandy) Locklear. Mr. Locklear inherited it from his mother.

Mr. Locklear says that his grandmother, Rachel Locklear, would feed Lowrie and his band during their reign following the Civil War. He says that the famous Lowrie and his grandmother were first cousins.

Mr. Locklear says that Lowrie also gave his mother a double barrel gun, which his brother inherited.

Mr. Locklear and his wife, shown behind him, Blonnie Jones Locklear, live in the Antioch community in near by Hoke County. He was born at Moss Neck and later moved to Red Springs.

Locklear is also the son of the late Berry Locklear. He is the grandson of Robert (Maxim) and Elizabeth (Rachel) Locklear of the White Hill community. He is also the grandson of Patrick and Cortilia (Essie) Locklear.



Jim Lowry, far right, is shown with two associates-A. Bruce Jones executive director of the N.C. Commission of Indian Affairs; and Jane Patterson, then secretary of Administration. Lowry presently serves as the board of directors of the Indian Commission, and answered directly to Ms. Patterson when he was the state purchasing officer in the early '80s.