

Yours Truly

by Lew Barton
Knight of Mark Twain

It seems a long time ago since I received my Mark Twain award. Nobody paid it much attention. It was as though one of those was received every day of the week.

Well, they aren't. And I'm one of the most appreciative guys you might expect to find. It's just that way out here in the sticks is one of the most unlikely places you'd go in search of literary work.

But Mark Twain's ideas of a real writer weren't necessarily attached to some particular geographical location. You may find writing talent anywhere.

The way I figure it, my talent is nothing to brag about. But you would be surprised at the number of unsolicited telephone calls I get on any day. I probably wouldn't be able to do anything other than answer the phone if I had a public telephone number.

Sometimes people are shocked to learn of my connection. They want to know how one comes into possession of such a treasure. All I can say is I have been actively engaged in one way or another since I was 9. I am now 74. Enough said.

Questions choice of entertainment at Miss Lumbee pageant

Dear Mr. Executive Director of LRDA,

Let me first state that I am a Lumbee Indian and proud to be one. Although I have not lived in Robeson County for fifteen years my roots are here, as is my heart. The people here are, and will always be, my people. For that reason I feel compelled to write this letter to you. It is my sincere hope that you are able to accept this letter as a plea for uplifting our own people, not as a put down of other races. As a Lumbee I have experienced discrimination. This has made me more sensitive to the discrimination against others. This letter is not against any race, it is to express my dismay at our own peoples discrimination against our own race.

I come home frequently to celebrate the Lumbee Homecoming with family and friends. I always enjoy the celebration and renewal of identity that comes from being with others of my race. The Miss Lumbee pageant is always a highlight during my visit. This year, although the pageant was well directed and produced. I was disappointed and dismayed by some of the so called entertainment.

The complaints and negative comments that I overheard concerned the band and the Michael Jackson impersonator. The band did not play well, many people wondered where they came from, how much money was wasted paying them, and why they were mostly white. For an Indian pageant? Many people could not tolerate the poor playing and left the auditorium just to get away from the music. The older people in the audience were offended by the antics of the young black man who imitated Michael Jackson. Only the very young people enjoyed he vulgarity that was displayed. This was not appropriate entertainment for a pageant celebrating the selection of a young "Lady" to represent the best of the Lumbee.

I have to question the decision to include talent from other races during a pageant that is for the Lumbees. Do we Lumbees not have talented young people? Are we so lacking in performing ability that we must have vulgarity and poor music from other races to emphasize our own lack of talent?

I was impressed by the singing of the three Lumbee gentlemen who did perform. The Carter Man sang the old standards beautifully. The Hunt Boys, obviously twins, sang country and modern equally well. Junior Miss Lumbee performed her tap routine exceptionally well. To me this shows our people are talented and professional caliber performers.

I missed the talents of Brenda Williams and the Lowery girl, both of whom have performed at past pageants. I know that there are several bands in the area which consist of Lumbee members. Why could

one of those bands not been selected to play? It is true that it is important not to discriminate against other races but, especially during an all Indian pageant, Lumbees know Lumbees. We also know what the heart of our own people needs during our own celebration. It is true that the audience consisted of people from all races. This would have been a perfect time to show the talents our people possess, not to prove we are so lacking in talent that people from other races must be hired to perform to conceal our shame.

The contestants for Miss Lumbee were all lovely and talented. The winner of the title seems to be an exceptional young lady and should serve honorably as Miss Lumbee. If we are to show the world that we Lumbees are worth the effort that has gone into trying to achieve federal recognition, all I can say is that we must begin here at home by emphasizing the talent and ability our own people have.

I was told, many times, by my mother that the Lumbee people were the major force behind keeping our people down. Although I listened to what she had to say I was hesitant to really believe that we were our own worst enemies. After the pageant performances I now understand exactly what she meant. We as Lumbee must utilize our talented young people during our celebrations, not turn to those outside of our race to compensate for our own laziness in seeking out local, Lumbee talent. We must give ourselves a break before anyone else will. If we are not proud of ourselves, and respect ourselves, how can we expect anyone else to give us the respect we have struggled to earn?

One last thing I noticed was that the audience seemed to be smaller than in past years. We must promote ourselves, not turn our celebration into a generic display like most other pageants are. Sir help us all be proud of who we are and what we are, the Lumbee people.

Thank you for taking the time to read the concerns of one Lumbee person. I am praying that our tribe will soon achieve the federal recognition we have fought for these many decades. The work your organization has done to promote our people has not gone unnoticed but can easily be negated if fiascos like the pageant entertainment are allowed to continue.

Sincerely,
Evelyn Locklear Carder

'Tis Wise To Advertise



Robeson County 4-H members Kim Hunt (second from left) of Route 2, Pembroke; Amy Tippetts (third from left) of Lumberton; and John Wilson Jr of Shannan were delegates to the 45th Annual State 4-H Electric Congress July

13-15 at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington. Carolyn Morgan (left) marketing representative for Carolina Power and Light Company, and Vivian B. Wilson of Lumberton, a volunteer 4-H leader, accompanied the delegates.

Responds to criticism of J.J. Johnson

Dear Sir,

As a long-time friend and supporter of Dr. Joy J. Johnson, I must respond to the editorial in the 25 June 1992 edition of the St. Pauls Review. I feel that the editor does not know the same person that I know and respect.

Dr. Johnson has always been concerned with doing what was best for the county, not what was best for himself, as an individual. As a legislator he introduced a bill, over the strong objection of the other local legislators, to end the double-voting method of electing the former county school board. He helped the Cummings family seek justice when Jimmy Earl Cummings was killed by Deputy Kevin Stone. He supported school merger in the referendum of 1988, not because he would profit as an individual (he very obviously has not) but because it was the right thing to do.

As a member of the Board of Education of the Public Schools of Robeson County, and its first elected chairman, I would be the first to say that, in my opinion, lesser qualified whites have been hired over more qualified blacks and Native Americans. I challenge anyone to examine the facts, including the racial makeup of the staff and hirings over the past several years, and then make a reasonable argument that no such racial discrimination has taken place.

Dr. Johnson was not asking that lesser qualified blacks be hired. I very clearly heard him say that qualified blacks were being denied equal employment opportunity. When one looks at the racial makeup of the school system staff, I believe that he had a duty to speak out. It certainly is fair for a citizen to challenge the actions of a public board and a public official if the citizen reasonably believes that unlawful discrimination is taking place.

The editorial also complained that the people of the county were being portrayed as "loud, ignorant stocks" because of the actions of Dr. Johnson and the "demands of the Indian community" to keep open a golf course. I find it strange that the editor seems to have a problem with Indians or Blacks going public with their grievances while never condemning whites, such as Sheriff Hubert Stone and his minions, for similar such actions.

In closing, let me say that my friend is considered a radical in some quarters simply because he demands justice rather than sitting back and waiting for the powerful few to move with "all deliberate speed" to accord such to all persons, regardless of race or wealth. One does not build a sturdy "bridge" by allowing a racist contractor to refuse to hire the best qualified bridge builders because of their race.

Sincerely,
Dalton P. Brooks
Route 2
Pembroke, NC

Gala celebration planned

A Gala Celebration to celebrate ten years of service is being sponsored by the Southeastern Family Violence Center on August 29, 1992 at 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn in Lumberton. The guest speaker will be Marjorie Judith Vincent, Miss America, 1991. Dignitaries from around the state will be in attendance and the public is invited to join the celebration. For more information or to request invitations call 739-8622 or 277-2936.

Along The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knisk, Director PSU Native American Resource Center

Out of the era of failed federal policies of compensation, termination and relocation grew a sense among many Native Americans that they must take the matter of their sovereignty and protection into their own hands. The federal government had in many ways proved ineffective in its attempts to deal with the problems of Indian people. Thus Indian people began, again, to organize themselves for their own welfare.

Several organizations sprang up from the dissatisfaction felt in Indian communities, including the National Congress of American Indians (1944) and the National Indian Youth Council (1961); the mid-1960's saw numerous other groups formed, such as the American Indian Civil Rights Council, the Indian Land Rights Association and the Alaskan Federation of Natives.

One of the most militant of these new organizations was AIM, the American Indian Movement. AIM itself grew out of the efforts of a mostly-Chippewa (Anishinabe) group in Minneapolis, which had formed "patrols" to keep track of how Minneapolis police were treating Native Americans. Two of the principal leaders of the "patrols" were George Mitchell and Dennis Banks, and in 1968 they formally established the American Indian Movement.

AIM quickly became involved in Indian issues outside Minneapolis, and just as quickly was joined by Indian people from all over the country. In 1969 AIM was involved (with other organizations) in a move to impeach Secretary of the Interior Walter Hickel, for what they saw as his pro-termination attitude and policies. The next year the government

announced that termination would not continue as a federal policy. In 1972 armed AIM members blocked access to the convention center in Cass Lake, Minnesota to emphasize their wish for the

Chippewa Tribal Council to take an active stand on Indian fishing rights. In the same year, AIM was directly involved in protests in Nebraska (following the murder of Raymond Yellow Thunder by a group of whites) and in California (following the killing of Indian leader Richard Oakes by a prison guard).

Also in 1972, AIM and other groups formed the "Trail of Broken Treaties" caravan, to bring national attention to the need for Indian self-determination and tribal sovereignty. Among their demands were a review of all broken treaties, the end of state jurisdiction over Indian matters, and the provision of all government services to the as-yet-unrecognized tribes and nations in the eastern U.S.

When the caravan got to Washington, D.C., most participants went to the Bureau of Indian Affairs

building to hold a demonstration. According to Olson and Wilson (*Native Americans in the 20th Century*): "When federal guards in the building tried to push some of the demonstrators outside, the affair quickly became violent - the Native Americans seized the BIA building, blockading all the doors and windows with office furniture. For six days they occupied the building, demanding amnesty and a return to tribal sovereignty. Files were seized and some BIA property was damaged. Caravan leaders claimed that federal agents had infiltrated the movement and had done most of the damage."

When federal authorities finally offered amnesty (and \$66,000 for transportation home for the demonstrators), the BIA siege was ended on 8 November 1972. But AIM did not simply disappear into the sunset the way some people obviously hoped they would.

In the next segment of *Along the Robeson Trail*, find out more about the history of the American Indian Movement. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Mrs. Anita S. Lowry, a teacher at Green Grove School was recently appointed to the Professional Practices Commission.

The Professional Practices Com-

mission advises the State Board of Education on the preparation and certification of public school professional personnel. The Commission solicits the recommendations to the SBE.

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Jill H. Graham



Ryan Elliott Locklear

Local students named Chancellor's Scholars

Two graduates of Purnell Swett High School have been named Chancellor's Scholars at Pembroke State University for the 1992-93 academic year.

They are Jennifer Lynn Graham, the daughter of Jill H. Graham, and Ryan Elliott Locklear, the son of Alex C. Locklear III.

As Chancellor's Scholars, they will have their full tuition and fees paid to PSU. They will take special courses, do a Master's type thesis, and receive special honors at commencement.

Graham has been a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club and "Who's Who Among American High School Students." She has also been co-editor of her school yearbook. A member of the French Club and Drama Club, she was also an outstanding athlete in high school. She captained her varsity basketball team and played varsity softball and tennis teams, being chosen the most important in the latter.

Locklear was a member of the national Honor Society and Beta Club, French Club, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Club and Outdoor Club and attended summer science programs at Appalachian State University and East Carolina University. He was also a Quiz Bowl participant. He played varsity baseball in high school and was also a member of the football team and school band. He was accepted to the N.C. School of Science and Mathematics at Durham.

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Garlic for the heart?
Medical folklore has long said that consuming garlic is good for the heart. And studies show that garlic does, indeed, lower blood cholesterol levels.
In six months, volunteers who consumed 1,300 mg. a day of deodorized garlic saw a drop of as much as 78 points in their blood cholesterol levels, while subjects who consumed no supplements had a three-point drop at best. No one knows how, but garlic may either slow the body's natural production of cholesterol or increase the amount excreted.
As your Personal Pharmacists, we can help you sort through the facts and fables of folk remedies.
Ask Your Friendly Family Pharmacist We Take the Time to Answer Your Questions
Your Pharmacy