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Pembroke, NC

Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Mayor Milton Hunt of Pembroke, who welcomed the participants in the National Issues Forums Summer

Public Policy Institute to Pembroke State University, displays a forum T-shirt with the new PSU logo on it.



Bruce Mitchell of Winston-Salem, a friend of the late Walter Pinchbeck of Pembroke, is shown doing a colored pencil drawing of Pinchbeck from a portrait that hangs in the Walter J. Pinchbeck Maintenance Building at Pembroke State University. Like Pinchbeck, Mitchell was a Boy Scout leader, serving in the

Raleigh area during the time he and Pinchbeck became friends. Mitchell was visiting PSU for the National Issues Forums Summer Public Policy Institute, which was coordinated by Terry Hutchins, another old friend of Mitchell's. Describing himself as a folk artist, Mitchell had a display of various crafts at the institute.

First Public Policy Institute is an Unqualified Success

More than 200 people gathered last weekend at Pembroke State University to discuss issues of National concern and to learn a new way to talk about the public's business. These public discussions, called forums, were modeled after the New England Town Meeting where every citizen had the privilege of voicing an opinion and of having that opinion considered in deciding what should be done about matters that concern the entire group.

The process, called National Issues Forums, might have just as well been modeled after an even more ancient American governance

system called the American Indian Pow Wow.

Ten topics, ranging from the Health Care Crisis to Education and even Criminal Violence, were targeted for public discussion during the three day event. The participants came from all walks of life and from throughout the United States. The opinions expressed were as varied as the participants.

After intense and detailed discussions of the issues with due consideration being given to all viewpoints, it became obvious that there were things that most participants could agree on. Even people with widely

differing opinions found that they could agree on many important points. More importantly, it soon became apparent that people who did not necessarily agree were talking with each other and actually considering opposing points of view.

Most people are familiar with Donahue and with so-called public forums held by various governmental agencies. These have little in common with the forums held at Pembroke State last week. During the Pembroke Forums there was actually discussion, consideration and deliberation often resulting in some common agreement, called a "Public

lic Voice" by the leaders of the event.

Dr. Estus Smith of the Kettering Foundation which developed and sponsors National Issues Forums, told the group that the Pembroke State event was among the largest ever held. A highlight of the event was a public forum on criminal violence moderated by Jim Swartshoff, Vice President of The Kettering Foundation in Dayton, Ohio and Carolyn Penny, formerly a staff attorney in the California Court of Appeals. Local participants included University Police Chief Charles Bryant, Lumberton Police Chief Harry Dolan, in

Remembering youth at Brooks Settlement, Pow wows and Longhouse



I was born near Harper's Ferry Church in May 1934. As a young boy I worked in the tobacco fields and cotton fields trying to earn enough money to buy school clothes and shoes to get me through the school year. It was very hard for me as I was the last of 10 children in my family. Earning .10 cents a hour working in tobacco could not buy many clothes. I attended Harper's Ferry School through my grammar years. Miss Ophelia Hunt (Mrs. D. R. Lowry) was my first teacher she taught my brothers and sisters also. Upon completion of grade 7, I was assigned to Pembroke High School grades 8 through 12 were taught there.

Brooks Sr. When he became Chief we were renamed what is now called Lumbee. That took place in the late 1940's. We had two men come down from around Maryland in the Washington, D.C. area. One Chief Turkey Tayac, supposedly from the Piscataway Indian. The second was a man called Chief Red Wing.

The picture accompanying this article was taken by Chief Turkey on one of his many visits to Robeson County. It was the year of 1947 or 1948. That is me in the center (Erwin Jacobs) my cousin the late Ertle Brooks (son of Henry & Pollie Brooks).

My Aunt Lovely Locklear Brooks (wife of Chief Ralph Brooks) they are now deceased. Contrary to many articles stating the Lumbee name was adopted in 1956 is very misleading. As we had a song given us by Mr. Tayac we sang at our pow-wows it goes like this.

LUMBEE ALL RIGHT WE WORK DAY AND NIGHT WE PRAY THAT RIGHT. SOMEDAY WE MAY TAKE FLIGHT. RED EAGLE (CHIEF RALPH BROOKS) OUR CHIEF. IN HIM WE BELIEVE SOME DAY SOME NIGHT WE MAY TAKE FLIGHT. HI-WE, HI-WE LUMBEE LUMBEE!!!!

I have been away from my roots since 1952 but have never forgotten where my heritage lies. I came home 2 years ago and still are amazed at the progress our people have made.

ERWIN JACOBS

Dr. Bell is a pediatrician with the Choctaw Nation Hospital in Tahleah, Oklahoma. He spoke to the student son July 31st and was especially pleased to see four Lumbees and two

Coharies among the twenty students in the program.

Dr. Bell is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James F. Bell of Pembroke. His wife, Vicki, is Coharie from Maple Hill, NC.



Morgan Brittany Hunt is the nine-year old daughter of Johnny and Demetrius Hunt of Rowland. She attends Union Elementary School where she will be in the fourth grade. Morgan won a Little Miss NC Preliminary in Concord, NC recently which entitled her to compete in the Little Miss North Carolina in July in Lincolnton, NC. Morgan competed

in all areas of competition. She won Best Sportswear, Best Swimwear, Most Beautiful and second place in plant.

She also had private interview and on stage interview. She competed against 18 girls and placed first overall. Morgan is a former Little Miss Lumbee and also currently holds the title of Junior Miss Robeson County.

Aug. 20 is Church Night at SATW

The outdoor drama, STRIKE AT THE WIND! Has declared Thursday, August 20, as "Church Night". Those churches which participate will be recognized before the show begins.

The church group with the most people representing it will receive a plaque. Special discounts do apply for groups of 10 or more. Ticket prices for adults will be \$5 each and for children 12 and under will be \$3 each.

Featured artists for the pre-show entertainment will be THE ANCHORMEN, beginning at 8:00 PM. This well-known gospel singing group has performed nationally and internationally, just returning from an engagement in the Bahamas. STRIKE AT THE WIND! Begins at its regularly scheduled time of 8:30 pm.

Any church group that wishes to be represented at this event and would like to make reservations, please call the STRIKE AT THE WIND! Office at (919) 521-3112.

guest lecturer at Headlands

Dr. Joseph T. Bell, a Lumbee from Pembroke, NC was recently selected to speak as a guest lecturer at the Summer Headlands Enrichment Program in Mackinaw City, Michigan.

The Headlands Program is an eight-week study course for Native American students interested in health careers. The students are primarily rising college freshmen who have showed exceptional academic ability and motivation towards a health profession. The program teaches science and communication skills courses and exposes the students to Native American role models currently working in a health profession.

More About the Bartons..

by Bruce Barton

The article on Harker R. Barton ("Harker R. Barton, the Indians' first lawyer without a license") last week prompted more musings about the Bartons.

All Bartons in Robeson County, as far as this writer can ascertain, trace their lineage to Charles E. Barton and Elizabeth Cumbo Barton.

Squire Charles E. Barton, or C.E. Barton, as he is listed on documents (along with his family) is listed in the 1860, 1870 and 1880 census records as a farmer, although many marriage bonds and public documents on file at the Robeson County Courthouse list him as minister and appointed as a Justice of the Peace in 1868. The 1850 census lists him as a "white" from Maine. He had become a Mulatto as census takers then designated Indians by the time the 1870 census rolled around. The change in his race by the census

takers probably had everything to do with the company he kept. Barton, according to records, migrated to Robeson County from Maine (New England) and was respected as a leader among the Indians of Robeson County. It is conceivable that he was an acquaintance (possibly even an accomplice) of Henry Berry Lowrie, fabled hero and focal point of exciting outdoor drama, 'Strike at the Wind! Too, the fact that he was appointed a Justice of the Peace, and the fact that he migrated from Maine "up north" would indicate a Republican sympathizer. A discovered deed even mentions Charles Barton as one of the trustees of a Masonic Lodge in 1870.

Elizabeth Cumbo Barton, Charles Barton's wife, was the daughter of Charles Oxendine and Abby Cumbo. The 1850 Census lists Elizabeth with her mother. The father, Charles Oxendine, is shown living with Joseph and Sarah Chavis, near Allen Lowry (Henry Berry's daddy).

Elizabeth Cumbo Barton and Charles (or C.E.) Barton were the parents of 8 children, according to findings.

Charles Barton, born about 1812, died in the 1890s and was married to Elizabeth Cumbo.

Elizabeth Cumbo, born about 1830, died June 23, 1915, was daughter of Charles Oxendine and Abbie Cumbo. More on the Bartons next week.

In the meantime, a book entitled "The Barton Saga" is in the works by yours truly. If you have any information on the Bartons write the Author c/o P.O. Box 362, Pembroke, N.C. 28372.

Revival planned at East Maxton Church of God

The East Maxton Church of God, located on Highway 74, East of Maxton, will be holding revival with great expectations of a pentecostal experience beginning August 14 thru 16 with Evangelist Ricky Carter. Services will begin at 7:30 each night. The public is cordially invited to come.