

CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

Pembroke, NC

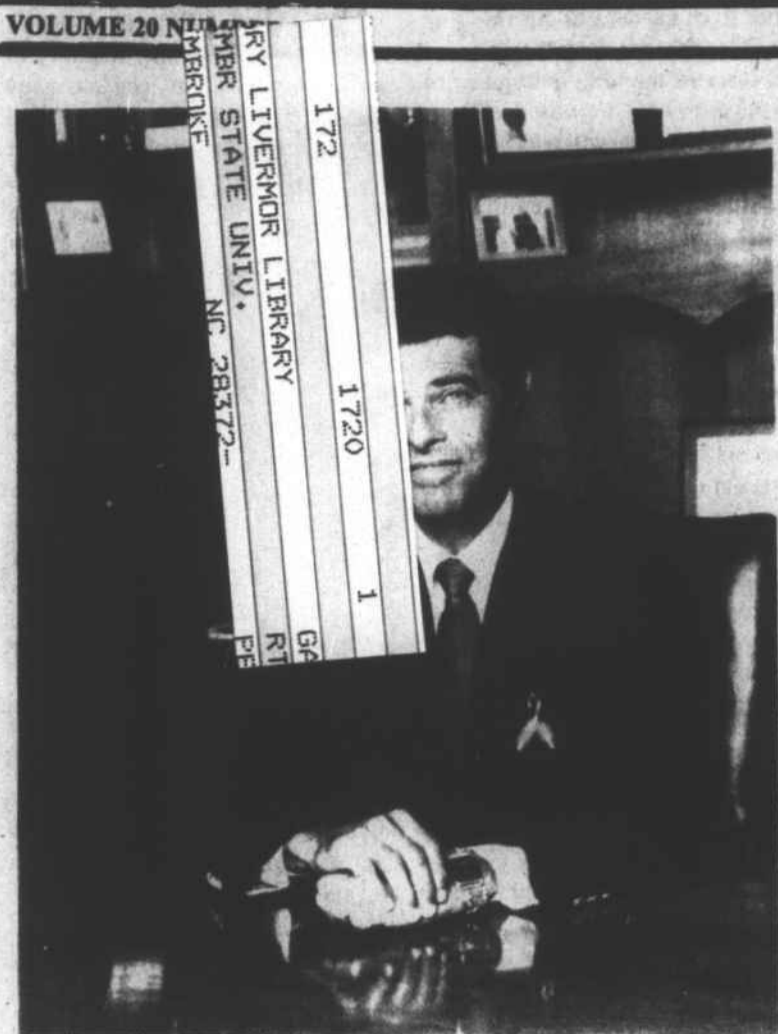
Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Ronnie Hunt, General Manager, Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation, is shown in his Red Springs office.

LREMC prepares for 52nd Annual Meeting of Members

General Manager Ronnie Hunt calls it "Democracy in Action"

by Bruce Barton
Pembroke-The 52nd Annual Meeting of the Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation (LREMC) will be held at Pembroke State University's Givens Performing Arts Center on Tuesday October 20, 1992. Registration begins at 6 P.M. The meeting will include reports of officers, directors and committees; election of four directors of the cooperative; and any other business which may properly be conducted. Entertainment will be provided by the Lumbee River Quartet and the Hunts. Ronnie Hunt, who serves as LREMC's general manager, calls the annual meeting "Democracy in ac-

tion." Hunt, the only Indian to head an electric cooperative in America, boasts that the annual meeting of the cooperative is "the last bastion of democracy left in America where members meet and make reasonable decisions about their utility." LREMC, one of 28 electric cooperatives in N.C., is the 4th largest in size with some 30,000 members in Robeson, Hoke, Scotland, and Cumberland Counties. The cooperative employs 105, and annually generates \$35 million in revenues. Hunt became general manager in 1983, and has also served as President of the N.C. Electric Membership Corporation, the power supplier

of all cooperatives in North Carolina. Hunt champions the mostly rural electric cooperatives, reminding the public that electric cooperatives like LREMC were begun by the members because private companies like CP&L would not serve them, in the early days, because of exorbitant costs of bringing service, and electric lines to the country side. Hunt says, too, that member-owned cooperatives keep private companies like CP&L honest, and provide competition to what would, otherwise, become a monopoly. The rural cooperatives like LREMC still enjoy strong support from Congress,

with Congressman Charlie Rose and Senator Terry Sanford in the forefront of those who champion their course. Mostly though, Hunt believes democracy is the best reason to keep LREMC operable. Hunt says, "Members own it (LREMC) and rightly have a say so in how it runs." He invites LREMC's members to come out "Next Tuesday Night at PSU and practice some democracy in Action". Bruce Barton was the founder of the Indian Voice, and served as editor in its infancy. He is now a history teacher in the local schools and occasionally writes an article when the urge and time permits.

Whatever Happened to.... Fannie Maynor Lowry

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear
Special to Carolina Indian Voice

The sunshine of last Saturday's Indian summershined on Mrs. Fannie Maynor Lowry's birthday party. She seemed to glow as more than two hundred relatives, friends and former neighbors came together to celebrate her 85th birthday at her former residence in Pembroke. It was her day-joy-filled. Greetings turned to remembrances. Stories followed embraces. Mrs. Lowry, born in Robeson County, was one of five daughter born to Luther and Luvella Wilkins Maynor. There was an equal number of sons born to the couple who raised their ten children on farms. Three of the children, daughters, live today. At an early age Mrs. Lowry was moved with her family to Clio, South Carolina where she completed two years at school. Under the influence of her mother, the family later moved to the Deep Branch community where Mrs. Lowry completed sixth grade at Deep Branch school. Another move took the Lowry family to the Pembroke Community.

remembers vividly the day the young distinguished Lumbee suitor stood beside "a big Plymouth" he'd borrowed from a professor. A few days later the couple was married in the home of the groom's parents. The Rev. Lonnie Jacobs officiated at the 1927 ceremony. Mrs. Lowry returned to the classroom at Green Grove School a year later where she and her husband lived in a faculty house on campus. After the third of five sons was born, Mrs. Lowry quit daytime teaching and accepted a nighttime government-funded teaching position whereas she taught basic education to soldiers at Pembroke High School. Her last full-time teaching position was at Oxendine School in the Wakulla Community. She gave six years to the profession before becoming a full-time homemaker. And though she never again returned to teaching full-time, she was regularly called to substitute. It became the delight of every student to have Mrs. Lowry as a substitute teacher because she was a noted storyteller. She'd learned the art from her mother who had years earlier gathered her children around the fire-side and told oral histories; among them that of the legendary Henry Berry Lowrie whom she'd known when she was a child, and on whose family farm Lowrie had sought refuge in he farm corn shuck pen. Mrs. Lowry admits to being adventurous during childhood years when she and her siblings would "do anything we wanted to do and get whipped by our parents afterwards". She speaks warmly of the immense encouragement, love and influence served up by her attentive mother. Out of the influence and teaching came a strong religious faith and upbringing. Sunday trips on a two seated horse buggy to worship at Deep Branch Church are well remembered. The miles walked to and from, too, remembered. And from the same maternal influence came an appreciation for fashion and the art for "dolling" up. "I always like to primp and learned to wear rouge...a little something here...and a little something there," she says gesturing towards her artfully made up face. A love for hats and gloves was perpetuated through decades at making them a part of her

standard wardrobe fare. Getting dressed in fashionable attire continues to be a part of Mrs. Lowry's daily routine. Two years ago Mrs. Lowry, a widow, and suffering from failing health, moved to Charlotte to be near her family. She has five sons. No daughters. She lives in a convalescence home where she gets daily visits from four sons who live in the area. She stays in touch with friends and family in Robeson County by telephone and letters. She is an avid reader and makes daily visits to the library in the home where she resides. And when she does return to her family owned house in Pembroke, she attends worship services at her beloved First Baptist Church where she formerly served as a Sunday School teacher and song leader. It was in the church she experienced great joy in singing. "Singing was my gift," she smiles. Thinking happy thoughts is a testament to Mrs. Lowry's long life. "There's something in life that's happy if one can find it, and it's left up to us to find happiness. "I've tired to show kindness to others. And that kindness has been returned me by others." And last Saturday's birthday tribute delivered heapings of kindness to the "Lady of Grace". Eight and a half decades worth. It was.



Mrs. Fannie Maynor Lowry

In the Armed Forces

October 7 (FHTNC)—Navy Seaman Cedric Pittman, son of Shirley Pittman of 58 Marion Rd., Lumberton, NC, has been in the Persian Gulf where he participated in Operation Southern Watch monitoring compliance with a United Nations ordered "no-fly zone" over southern Iraq. Pittman is serving aboard the aircraft carrier USS Independence, forward deployed to Yokosuka, Japan. United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 forbids repression of the Iraqi people by the Government of Iraq. The no-fly zone protects the Shia population of Southern Iraq. U. S. and coalition aircraft are conducting the monitoring. The U.S. Navy task force in the Persian Gulf includes the USS Independence and 18 other ships. Additionally, other Navy ships are in the Red Sea as part of the Maritime Intercept Force, enforcing UN trade sanctions against Iraq. Pittman is seen here signaling the USS San Jose during vertical replenishment. He is a graduate of Orrum High School.

Green Grove student graduates modeling school

Georgianna Jump, 8-year-old daughter of Tammie Chavis Jump of Rowland, recently graduated from the John Casablancas Modeling and Career Center in Charlotte. The program included three-months of professional modeling instruction with a concentration in poise and etiquette. Georgianna is a third grade student at Green Grove Elementary School in Mrs. Beva McDowell's class. She will compete in the Junior Miss Robeson County Pageant November 28, 1992. She is the granddaughter of Mrs. Agnes Chavis and the late George Chavis. She has two sisters, Mia Lynn, 13 and Jenny, 7.



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