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Robeson County

"Building communicative bridges in a tri-racial setting"

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Question President Brings National Attention

As an aftermath to President Bill Clinton's not being able to answer a 14-year-old girl's question about Lumbee tribal recognition Saturday on ABC-TV's live interview program with young people, ABC sent a television crew from Atlanta to Pembroke State University Monday to do a follow-up on the subject.

ABC correspondent AL Dale questioned Dr. Adolph Dial, former state legislator and professor emeritus of PSU's American Indian Studies Department, in front of PSU's historic Old Main Building, about the topic. Among others present for the interview was Gertrude Lowry of Pembroke, grandmother of Adrian Andrade of Fairfax, VA., the girl who asked the question of the president on national TV Saturday. His reply was that he was not knowledgeable about the subject, but would have his staff check into the matter.

The interview at PSU was on ABC's national evening news anchored by Peter Jennings Monday evening. ABC asked and received permission from WPSU-TV, Pembroke State University's public TV facility, to set up equipment for editing and transmitting the interview to New York for use on the national network. Dr. Oscar Patterson, PSU director of telecommunications, said he received a telephone call Sunday night about ABC's coming to PSU on Monday and requesting the use of WPSU-TV's studio.

Adrian Andrade is the daughter of the former Ellen Lowry, a native of Pembroke, and Ronald Andrade. Adrian had been a volunteer for the National Congress of American Indians during the summer in Washington, D.C., said her grandmother, and her name had been given to ABC as a possible candidate for the interview program.

Gertrude Lowry knew her granddaughter was going to be on and was watching intently on Saturday.

"ABC had contacted Adrian's parents and interviewed Adrian a couple of times by telephone prior to her being on the program," said Mrs. Lowry. Asked how she felt when she saw her granddaughter on the national program, Mrs. Lowry responded: "I screamed. It was great. However, I was afraid she was not going to have an opportunity to ask



Gertrude Lowry

a question because it was getting late on the program."

The grandmother was very happy when Adrian did have the opportunity to pose her question about why the Lumbee Indians have not been given federal recognition. "I was thrilled that she was that much concerned about her people," said Mrs. Lowry. "We hope it will help our cause."

Mrs. Lowry said Adrian's home received telephone calls from all over the country Saturday afternoon and Saturday night. "Adrian received calls from many newspapers and one TV channel. She also received calls from as far as Seattle, California and Missouri. She was really excited over it all," said Mrs. Lowry, who lives only about two minutes from PSU, is a good friend of PSU Chancellor Joseph Oxendine and has two sons, Dwyane and Herbert, who are in their junior years as religion majors at PSU. Mrs. Lowry is married to Herbert (Jimbo) Lowry who is in the hospital at Duke.

In ABC-TV's interview of Dial, he traced how Indians have been discriminated against through the years. "I returned from the way in 1945, had six battle stars, but was denied admission to UNC-Chapel Hill because I was Indian," Dial said. "We have been denied so many things because we were Indian and have been denied recognition."

Asked why federal recognition is important, Dial replied: "Because it is something we deserve, something we are. We are Lumbee Indians. We feel we deserve recognition the same as any other Native American group. They are giving recognition to other tribes, and this is something we also deserve."

Dial pointed out that this request is not a Johnny-come-lately request. "Indians occupied this territory 12,000 years ago. I can take you into Old Main (a historic PSU building which houses the Native American Resource Center) and prove it with archaeology. We have been here on the Lumbee (now called Lumber River) many centuries ago," he said.

Dial said on the interview he believes President Clinton will do something about this issue. "I expect his administration to support recognition for the Lumbees," Dial said. "I think he's a great humanitarian, and I think he'll do it."

Asked if the size (40,000 Lumbees) is a detriment because of the federal court that would be involved in their getting recognition, Dial responded, "We can't help that there's 40,000 of us. That should have nothing to do with the recognition. We are not seeking money. We are seeking pride, and we are seeking identity and proof to the country who we are."

Other Lumbee Indian leaders present while the Dial interview was taking place were: Dr. Ruth Dial Woods, a member of the UNC Board of Governors; Ruth Locklear, director of Lumbee Tribal Enrollment; James Hardin, executive director of Lumbee Regional Development Association; Cynthia L. Hunt Locklear, Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc., who represents the Lumbee tribe in its bid for recognition; Chancellor Joseph Oxendine; and Dobbs Oxendine, Jr., Chairman of the Federal Recognition Committee.

In its commentary, ABC news said, "Many say the reason the tribe has not been given full recognition by the government is money." Ruth Locklear, in her statement on the program, agreed, "The government has refused to formally acknowledge the relationship with the tribe for fear of cost," she said.

ABC news also said, "Full recognition would give the Lumbees access to government funded scholarships and other programs."

Others were interviewed by ABC news in its follow-up to a 14-year-old girl's questioning the president about the Lumbee Indians.



Dr. Adolph Dial (facing camera) is interviewed by ABC News in front of Pembroke State University's historic Old Main building in response to a question about Lumbee recognition asked by a 14-year-old girl of President Clinton Saturday on national television. The interview was to air on ABC news, hosted by Peter Jennings, on Monday evening. (PSU photo by Bobby Ayers.)

Cancer Research Program Underway in Native American Community

Cancer researchers at the Bowman Gray School of Medicine of Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem say the incidence of cervical cancer in Lumbee women could be reduced by increased effort to eliminate several risk factors that their research has identified. Dr. Mark Dignan, a co-director of the Native American Cervical Cancer Prevention Project and an Associate Professor of Family and Community Medicine at Bowman Gray, says his project's federally-funded household survey of nearly 1,000 Lumbee women, age 18 and older, revealed the following barriers to preventing the disease:

- Only 62 percent of the women surveyed stated that they go for annual medical examinations, and only 63.1 percent reported having a medical examination within the past 12 months.
- A little more than 3 percent of the women reported not having a regular source of health care.
- A high prevalence of smoking: 60.6 percent (compared to the U.S. average smoking rate of 25 percent).

Medical research, Dr. Dignan said, shows a possible link between smoking and death from cervical cancer. Commenting on his project's research findings, Dr. Dignan said these barriers to preventing cervical cancer among Lumbee women can be addressed by implementing "a carefully developed, personalized health-education program" on the risk of cervical cancer and the value of obtaining regular Pap smears to detect it.

"We at Bowman Gray think knowledge is important, and that women have to know about cervical cancer and how it's prevented," said Dr. Dignan. "We know that if women have Pap smears so cervical cancer can be detected early, it can be cured in nearly all cases. By putting off having Pap smears, women actually are putting themselves at more risk." Dr. Dignan and his staff have a five-year grant from the National Cancer Institute to study the problem of an excess number of deaths from cervical cancer in Native American women in North Carolina. (More Native Americans die of cervical

cancer than does the rest of the U.S. Population.)

The project began in July, 1990, approximately one year after it was endorsed by the Lumbee Regional Development Association. The researchers plan to accomplish their goal of reducing the number of Lumbee deaths from cervical cancer by:

- increasing the proportion of Lumbee women who obtain Pap smears (at intervals determined by their health-care provider); and
- increase the proportion who go for follow-up treatment when needed, (if they have been told their Pap smear result showed any abnormal cells in the cervix, the entrance to the womb).

Preparatory work for the project involved interviewing about 125 adult Lumbee women who live in Robeson County and are officially-enrolled members of the tribe. Collecting this information helped the project team to develop procedures for its more recent household interviews.

"We asked women a whole series of questions on health care and cancer," said Dr. Dignan. "We recruited Lumbee women to collect data for the project by scheduling face-to-face interviews in women's homes. The interviews took about 20 minutes to complete."

Dr. Dignan also offered the following other statistics about the women the project team surveyed:

- Their average age was 43.1 years
- More than 70 percent of them were high school graduates
- About half reported incomes of \$14,000 or more per year

--Nearly 70 percent indicated that they were in "good" or "excellent" health

--About 85 percent were able to identify the Pap smear as a test for cervical cancer, and almost 90 percent reported that they thought they had a Pap smear during their last pelvic exam.

--Access to and utilization of health care by Lumbee women is high. A little more than five percent sought medical help from traditional healers, and those persons mainly used traditional medicine to augment western (conventional) medicine.

Now that the results of the Lumbee surveys have been analyzed, Dr. Dignan said the second phase of the project will focus on educating Lumbee women more on the importance of screening for cervical cancer. In home visits, trained project staff will use educational videotapes and printed materials to teach women about preventing cervical cancer. "Project staff will contact women to set up a convenient time and place to meet to teach them about screening," said Dr. Dignan. "They will visit women in their homes, or sometimes where they work."

After the education phase is completed, women will be interviewed again to measure the success of the educational program. The re-interviews will be carried out over the next two-and-a-half-years, Dr. Dignan said.

"At the end, we will find out what parts of the program worked best," he said, "and we will make them available to the community."

Spiritual Leadership

The Robeson County church community will unite for a 3 night revival aimed at inspiring local church leaders toward greater commitment to reaching their community for Christ. This is an annual interdenominational Christian event. Rev. Johnny Chavis of the Scyamore Hill church in Maxton serves as honorary chairman for the revival.

Ms. Janice Bryant of the Lumber River Holiness Methodist Conference has organized a Mass Choir from area churches. Special gospel singing groups invited include the "Bereans" from Pembroke, the "Tylers" from Maxton and the "Land B Singers" from Pembroke. The Rev. Robert Mangum, who now resides at Lake Junaluska, will be the preacher for each night. Rev. Willie Scott is pastor at New Prospect Church, located on Hwy 710, and will be this year's host for the revival. The community is urged to participate in this revival.

Federal Recognition: What It Really Means

In conjunction with the previous articles on federal recognition, listed below are several questions that are frequently asked by individuals.

Take a few minutes and test your knowledge on federal recognition.

Beginning next week a detailed response will be printed for the first question and further responses until each question is addressed. If you have any questions or comments,

please telephone Cynthia L. Hunt of the Indian Law Unit at Lumbee River Legal Services, Inc. The telephone number is (919) 521-2831 or 10800-554-7852.

- True or False.
1. Federal Recognition means that U.S. recognizes the Lumbee as real American Indians.
 2. Federal Recognition means free health care, free education, supplementary income from the Federal Government because you are an American Indian.
 3. If recognized, the Lumbee will lose title to their land and be forced to live on a reservation.
 4. Federal Recognition means the U.S. acknowledges the tribal existence of the Lumbee and its inherent right to govern itself and its members.
 5. The Lumbee is already recognized by the Federal Government as

- an Indian tribe, but is denied the customary federal Indian benefits.
6. Tribes can be recognized by treaty, or by decision of the Interior or President, or by Congressional Law.
7. The Federal Government requires one to the 1/2 or more Indian blood, speak native language, practice traditional customs in order to be recognized as an American Indian.
8. American Indian tribes are domestic sovereign nations.
9. Members of recognized tribe hold dual citizenship rights; first, as a citizen of the U.S. and, secondly, as a citizen of their tribe.
10. States have no jurisdiction over recognized tribes unless tribes have agreed to state jurisdiction.