

Traditionalists' and Elders' Corner

Native American Resource Center: "Sharing History and Culture"

by Connie Brayboy

The Indian Education Resource Center is a component of the Title V program of the Public Schools of Robeson County. The Center is located in the historic Pembroke High School, the first Indian high school in the state. Also housed there is the Indian Education Program. The Resource Center collects and preserves artifacts relative Native American history and culture. The Center is visited by the 10,000 Native American students in the school system and is dedicated to sharing local Native American history with the students, as well as the many other visitors who come by.

The Indian Education program has developed a curriculum on Indian history. This program also includes a component for adult education. In addition, cultural classes are held at the Resource Center four days a week. "This is part of our program designed to encourage students to stay in school," said Hays Alan Locklear, Director of the Center, as well as instructor of cultural arts and crafts. "We are not only encouraging Indian students to stay in school, but also working with those who have dropped out in the hope that they will return."

The curriculum, called a skills text, is available at the Resource Center.

Locklear, is a native of the Union Chapel Community. The 30-year-old Lumbee-Cheraw is the son of Hayes Locklear Jr. and Mary Louise Chavis

Locklear.

"I have been doing Art since high school," Locklear said. "I became involved with Native American art when I met Mrs. Lucy Jane Oxendine (of Lumbee Arts and Crafts). She taught me to do beadwork. I guess she started the fire."

Locklear continued, "The person who helped me to become known as an artists and was my biggest fun was Mrs. Adore Clark. We traveled all over the east coast to pow wows and festival. I also learned a lot from her sons, Tony and Cochise Clark. They taught me about myself as an Indian and introduced me to artists and crafts people throughout North Carolina."

Locklear takes his work very seriously. "If a person wants to learn arts and crafts, I am always willing to teach them what I know. That is the Indian way. We share knowledge. That is why I enjoy directing the Resource Center. It is an opportunity for me to share the history of my own people with many people."

Locklear has traveled throughout North Carolina teaching and demonstrating arts and crafts to school groups at pow wows, state functions, etc.

His work is available for purchase at the Guilford Native Art Gallery in Greensboro.; Daystar's in Southern Pines; at the PSU Native American Resource Center; at pow wows; festivals; and private shows.

"Being a Native American artist has given me the opportunity to travel,

meet new people, share my heritage with others, and to express myself in a creative manner," Locklear said.

He is the grandson of the late Buford Chavis and Ms. Atelia (Addie) Sampson Chavis; and the late Hays Locklear, Sr. and the late Phodie Woodell Locklear.

Locklear learned a lot from his grandparents and believes that the younger Indians should always listen, respect and honor the elders.

Prior to coming to the Resource Center as director in 1992, Locklear served as Arts Administrator for the United Tribes of North Carolina; and later served as Cultural Arts Coordinator for the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center. A graduate of Pembroke State University with a BA degree in American Indian Studies, Locklear feels that his experience is invaluable in his position as curator/coordinator of the Indian Education Resource Center and Indian Art Gallery.

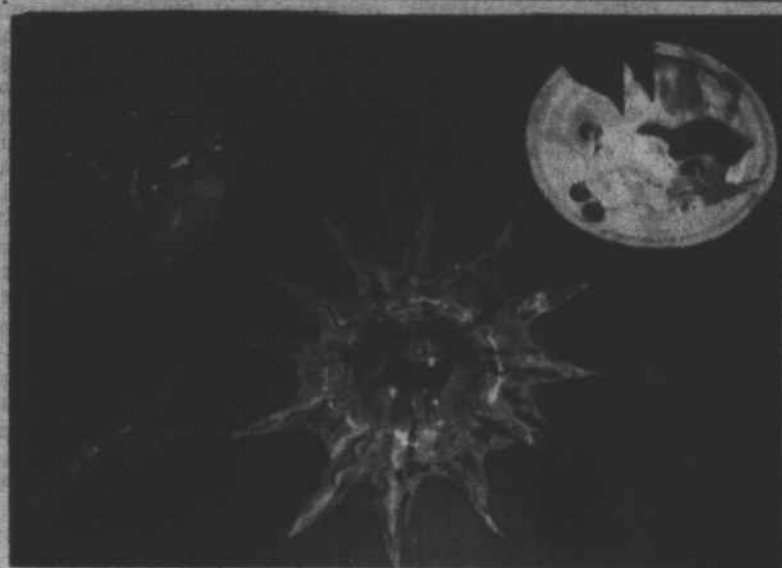
"I really enjoy my work," he said, "and feel that I am providing a much needed service, not only to the Native American population, but to the general public as well."

"Our history is unique and glorious. We are a proud people, and I enjoy sharing my knowledge with others," he continued. The Resource Center is open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. The facility is also used for community, non-political, meetings. For further information, Mr. Locklear can be reached at 919-521-1881.



Photos of some of the arts and crafts on display at the Indian Education Resource Center include: above, right, a tobacco pouch and china berry necklaces by local craftsmen; to the left is a wood carved msk and corn husks dolls; Below, right, is a photo of some of the pottery on display; shown left is a hand crafted hair ornament; a dream catcher and a medicine wheel.

Photos by Wild Turkey. Arts and crafts by Hays Alan Locklear.



ELDERS CORNER

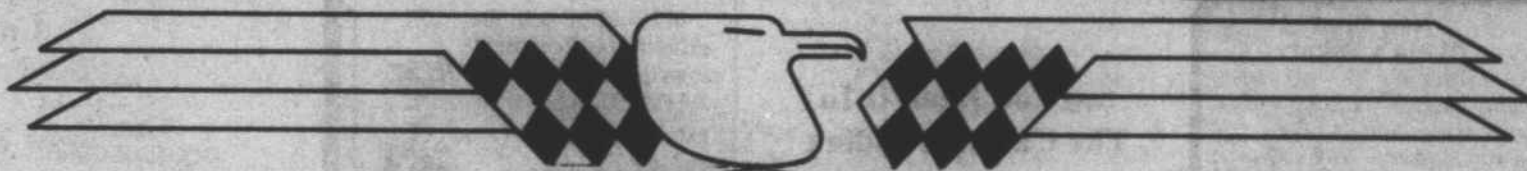
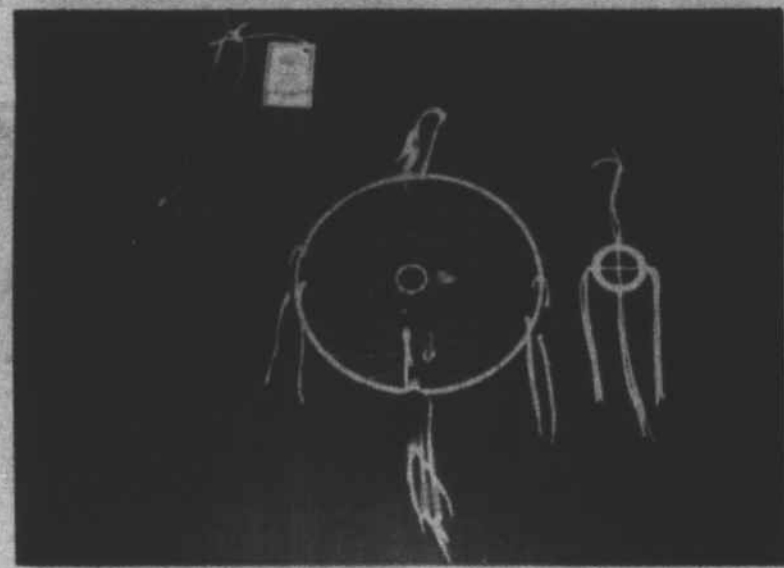
Elders and Traditionalists from other tribes and groups are encouraged to submit news releases about happenings, gatherings, powwows, what is happening with elders and children. Keep them noncontroversial and nonpolitical. Submit articles to: Carolina Indian Voice, PO Box 1075, Pembroke, NC 28372.

The Carolina Indian Voice is interested in the happenings among the other tribes, nations, and organizations.

Traditional Fire Ceremony to be part of Lumbee Pow Wow October 1-3

The Lumbee-Cheraw Elders Council will conduct the Traditional Fire Ceremony each morning at Sun Rise during the Lumbee Tribe's Annual Old Style Dance Festival and Pow Wow. The ceremony will be conducted each morning, October 1, October 2, and October 3, at Sun Rise. The Traditional Fire Ceremony which is a traditional means of blessing the dancers, elders, and those in need of a blessing, will also be conducted prior to each grand entry and at any other time during the day there is a need. The Fire Keeper will be there to aid anyone in need of a blessing. The Fire Keeper will be there 24-hours each day during the pow wow.

Elders from other tribes are encouraged and welcome to attend and participate in the ceremonies.



O GREAT SPIRIT

Whose voice I hear in the winds, and whose breath gives live to all the world the world, hear me! I am small and weak. I need your strength and wisdom.

LET ME WALK IN BEAUTY, and make my eyes ever behold the red and purple sunset.

MAKE MY HANDS respect the things you have made and my ears sharp to hear your voice.

MAKE ME WISE so that I may understand the things you have taught my people.

LET ME LEARN the lessons you have hidden in every leaf and rock.

I SEEK STRENGTH, not to be greater than my brother, but to fight my greatest enemy- myself.

MAKE ME ALWAYS READY to come to you with clean hands and straight eyes.

So when Life fades, as the fading sunset, my spirit may come to you without shame.

SO THEN WALK SOFTLY ON MOTHER EARTH

