

Wisdom from the Country

by W. D. "Wiz" Locklear

Rounding up some mean hosses
I'm mighty grateful to Miss Wendy Ledwell for telling us about this hoss business. I don't know any Ledwells, Miss Connee, but I checked into Miss Wendy's background and found she was a Moore from Prospect. I reckon I have suspected as much. Ain't seen a Moore yet that weren't standing for the good of the people. Well, I ain't seen the boys down at the store yet this upset since Mr. Pierce was killed. They don't take too kindly to the Jones (A. Bruce) man on the LRDA board calling them a bunch of hosses.

Now, I once knew a man I farmed for who looked like and of mule I use to plow some years back, but I wouldn't call him one. At least not where he could hear me. I sort of figured the Jones man wasn't all that bright, but now I'm beginning to wonder what kind of Governor we got up there in Raleigh letting his head man on Indian business call the people a bunch of hosses.

I had a woman to stop me the other day and say, "Wiz, you need to leave them people alone at the LRDA, or they're going to cut out your taters." Well, I had just come from the LRDA where I got some chicken backs and something called egg rolls, whatever that is. But if it comes down to being

called a hoss and them wanting to put me and the wife in a corral or eating taters and chicken backs, me and the wife would just as soon do without.

I've been studying that we all need to get together and find this old corral the Jones man is wanting to put all of us in. I don't know where it's at, or how big it is, but we need to find it and get rid of it. Knowing them LRDA people, it is probably hid somewhere so the people won't know about it. They seem to want everything else hid from the people. So I reckon they've got this corral hid as well.

But the boys down at the store have got them a different notion. Instead of helping me find this corral like I asked them, they're wanting to go out and build one of their own. They're figuring to round up this Jones hoss, and a few more like him, and shut them up to keep them from a breeding amongst the people. Problem is, I don't believe there's enough bobwire in our county to hold some of these mean hosses.

Anyways, the boys are thinking that this Jones hoss, and that there county commissioner hoss, along with the used car hoss, and the hoss from Fayetteville, need to be rounded up and put in this corral they're wanting

to build. Now, I argue against this 'cause I reckon once we get these hosses shut up in a corral, we're gonna have to keep them fed. Ol' Wiz has fed them enough already with his tax money, and he's getting mighty tired of it. I reckon you know that about 15 of them packed up from the LRDA and spent a whole week out there in "Sin City, Nevada." I've heard they throwed away \$20,000 of our taxpayers dollars out there. It is a mighty shame on the people, Miss Connee. But, I reckon if the boys git them rounded up and into this corral, I could spare them some of them taters and chicken backs I got from the LRDA to feed them.

One of the boys at the store said he'd like to see them shipped somewhere up North to one of them glue factories. But Ol' Wiz intends to hunt down that corral they're wanting to put us in, Miss Connee. When I find it, I'll sure let you know so you can get the word out to the people. Meantime, we all need to be keeping an eye on Miss Cynthia and this delegate, Miss Wendy. Lord knows that I don't want to turn on my TV set and see this "Unsolved Mysteries" a hunting for them.

Yessir, there are some mighty mean hosses out there and the people need to be a bit more serious about these things. As for Ol' Wiz, he's gonna keep his eyes peeled and his back to the wall. Ya'll need to the same thing.

represented with regards to tradition, crafts, art, education, etc. Each family in the group will have space for a blanket or table to display their trade items.

Camping will be free and primitive camping is preferred. Lodges of any style will be given first preference in the inner circle of lodges. Tribal members camping behind the tribal elder or chief's lodge will locate their site in a pie shape that will be marked off. There will be a area designated for modern campers, trailers, motorhomes, etc., however no hook-ups will be provided.

It is the vision of the organizers of this gathering to form an INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS to promote at least four of these gatherings in the four sacred directions of North Carolina. The four proposed sites are: NORTH - DURING THE WINTER MONTHS IN THE HALIWA-SAPONI HOMELAND; EAST - DURING THE SPRING MONTHS IN THE WACCAMAW-SIOUAN HOMELAND; SOUTH - DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS IN THE LUMBEE-CHERAW HOMELAND; WEST - DURING THE FALL MONTHS IN THE CHEROKEE HOMELAND. We need at least two (2) elders from each tribe who believe that the traditional ways of our people must survive. To accomplish this we must educate the young, the middle-aged, and elderly people in the traditional ways of the NATIVE PEOPLE. It is not the intent of the INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS to change anyone's religious beliefs but to reinforce the respect for the Spirit beliefs, respect for the environment, respect for all animals, and harmony in all that you do. Any elder or qualified Indian educator (Traditional) wishing to be a part of this group is needed and all help will be surely appreciated. The group will have no dues, and no costs, however, we will have the satisfaction of knowing that we have done our best to bring the knowledge of the traditional ways to someone who truly wanted to learn. We envision an elder sitting under an arbor talking of the old ways to people of all ages and these people getting inspired and wanting to learn more. We are hoping that the wisdom of the elders will be spread to all NATIVE PEOPLES in this manner, so that we can eliminate the pollution of the environment, crime in our neighborhoods, and the needless slaughter of man and animal.

If your child or you wish to learn dancing, drumming, singing, arts,

crafts of any kind there will be demonstrations throughout the day and night during the gatherings. These demonstrations will be unscheduled and will probably be conducted upon request. It is acceptable to trade for a lesson although it is not required. By qualified elder or educator (mentioned earlier), we mean the following: (1) a person that has the support of their tribe in planning one of these gatherings; (2) a person who will make a commitment to help other members in their endeavors; and (3) a person who understands that it is the education of others not material gain that is important. The INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS will be committed to helping each community represented in sponsoring a program. Aid and support for all NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLE regardless of band, group, tribe or nation that comes in peace with a strong sense of direction for our future as a people is the goal we strive to achieve.

We will not tolerate the vices that destroy the inalienable right of every person to enjoy their life in spiritual friendship and peace. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR ATTITUDES will not be allowed anywhere on the grounds and this includes campers. This GATHERING is a tribute to the GREAT SPIRIT, therefore we will aid and encourage all who attend to always be on their best behavior while the spirit is near. We know that the spirit will be present and will give many blessings. Let us pledge to be ready to accept all of the blessings that will be delivered with a clear heart.

We really want the INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS to work and it will with the help, support and representation of all of the NATIVE AMERICAN TRIBES IN NORTH CAROLINA. A peaceful and loving attitude will be a key to success. Each member of the INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS will have an equal voice around the circle and all decisions must have the support of all members. In this manner we will speak as one voice or group. This may sound idealistic but it is not, it will not be easy but with a commitment to our young and all our people it will work.

For further information:

Call Ray Spotted Turtle or Painted Turtle at (910) 521-4178
Wild Turkey at (910) 521-3002

or you may contact the Carolina Indian Voice - % Wild Turkey, P.O. Box 1078, Pembroke, N.C. 28372 (910) 521-2826



CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE AND THEIR EFFORTS

I have been reading the articles about the service being performed by the Constitutional Committee and was impressed with their efforts. I decided that I would attend one of their sessions to experience the process that they are working through. In the following paragraphs, I will share with you my personal assessment of the meeting that I attended.

First, I was struck by the bond between the members of the committee. Here was a committee whose delegates were chosen by the church communities of Robeson County, adjacent counties, and other organizations outside the general area of Robeson County, that had already established a special kinship and sense of purpose and direction. I found it quite interesting to sit back and observe the interpersonal relationships that had already developed. Here was a group of people with varying backgrounds (economically, educationally, professionally, politically and religiously) that work like a fine tuned engine. I don't mean to imply that all these delegates always agree on all the issues, but they do show a mutual respect for each other's opinion. This mutual respect leads to some interesting discussions about the issues being discussed.

Second, I was struck by their

concern that this constitution had to truly protect the Lumbee-Cheraw people against individuals and organizations that might not have the interests of the people at heart. During their discussions, it was quite evident that these individuals are extremely concerned that fairness to all Tribal members and the opportunity for them to participate in their Tribal government will be guaranteed. They are struggling to ensure that the Tribal government has the flexibility to function efficiently, and at the same time will be responsive to the will of the people. The delegates are also concerned about controls to ensure that the people of the tribe have the power to remove any elected officials found to be unfit for office. As one leaves these meetings there is a feeling of excitement for and anticipation of the completed Constitution.

Third, I would encourage all who have an interest in this important process to attend these meetings, because they are open to interested parties. I personally feel that this document should be important to all Lumbee-Cheraw people. Also please attend any community meetings that are established to discuss the Constitution. All Lumbee-Cheraw people should have a chance to comment on the Constitution and the community meetings provide this opportunity.

In closing, I would like to thank the delegates for their efforts.

WHAT - REBIRTH OF THE TRADITIONAL SPIRITUAL GATHERINGS

WHERE - NORTH CAROLINA INDIAN CULTURAL CENTER, PEMBROKE, N.C.

WHEN - FATHER'S DAY WEEKEND JUNE 16, 17, 18, 19th

WHY - TO PROMOTE AND EDUCATE THE PRINCIPALS OF NATIVE AMERICAN TRADITIONAL LIFE...

WHO - SPONSORED BY THE INTERTRIBAL COUNCIL OF ELDERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

A tribute to the Great Spirit, father of all the Indian Nations is being planned for the weekend of Father's day June 16, 17, 18, & 19.

It will open Thursday (evening/afternoon) with the lighting of the Ceremonial Fire by Lumbee fire keeper Many Skins. No special time since all activities taking place during the weekend will be on "Indian Time". "Indian Time" is defined as sleep when you are tired; wake when you are rested; eat when you are hungry; dance when inspired by the Spirit or you are looking for the blessing of the Spirit; Pray when you need to and socialize, barter, and learn as much as you can as your time allows.

Speaking of bartering, it is the Indian way - you have what I need, I have what you want, we swap. Cost should not be a factor because the primary reason for the barter is want or need. There will be nothing for sale. If you have a need, we are sure that you will be satisfied with any barter that you agree on. There will be food available day and night for the people at the Cultural Center. Participants will trade help in the promotion, care, and education of the "Gathering" for their meals. Visitor should bring a Non-perishable food item in exchange for a meal ticket for each item. We hope to have a clothing exchange organized. Bring in your outgrown school and winter clothes and warm jackets (all sizes) in good condition and exchange for items that will fit next year. There will be designated areas for tribal elders, chiefs, artists, craftspersons, etc. at the gathering site. The separation is only intended only to show the differences and similarities of the various tribes

Rebirth of the Traditional Spiritual GATHERINGS

A Tribute to the Great Spirit, Father of all Indian Nations (All day and all night Thursday; Friday, Saturday, Sunday until evening)

June 16, 17, 18, 19, 1994

North Carolina Indian Cultural Center

There will be dancing, drumming, singing, storytelling and demonstrations occurring day and night. No schedule of events. All time is "Indian time."

*NO VENDORS (SELLERS) Traders (Bartering Only)

*No Admission
*No Prizes
*No Competition

Anyone can barter for any item displayed. Anyone wishing to trade Native made crafts etc. bring Blanket and set up FREE.

CAMPING IS FREE. Lodges of any style have preference at the site. Primitive camping preferred. NO HOOK UPS Separate area for trailers, motorhomes



Drums, dancers, singers, storytellers, craftpeople, artists, elders, middleage and the young people are more welcome and much needed.

Grand entry Friday morning, Closing Sunday evening.



One item of non-perishable food will entitle one meal ticket.

ALL food and clothes gathered will be donated to The Robeson County Church and Community Center.

Sponsored in part by Title V, IEA Program, Intertribal Council of Elders and the Carolina Indian Voice

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