

# CAROLINA Indian Voice

"Promoting Communications Between Indians and Nations"

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## A Front Page Editorial of The Carolina Indian Voice

### The State of Things In Ol' Robeson

**Editor's Note:** This is the first of a series of editorials about the state of things in Ol' Robeson. The articles will, unblushingly, contain opinions of the editorial staff of this newspaper. You can depend on that.

As we see it, the races have not been so polarized since ante-bellum times. There are those in our midst, in all three racial camps, who love mean-spiritedly to pit race against race.

Take the fuss about felons in the classroom. It's not about that at all. It is mostly about, as some see it, the abrasive, independent administrative style of Indian Superintendent Purnell Sweet. And, most importantly of all, the likely election of Democratic Indian sheriff's candidate Glenn Maynor in November. Some of our Anglo-Robesonians (not all of them!) believe Robeson County will dislodge and return to the seas if a darkly-hued person becomes sheriff of Robeson County. It ain't so, readers. Honest to God, when Glenn Maynor becomes sheriff on November 8, we'll all get up the next day and go about our business like we've always done. We editorially promise it.

It's a logical expectation that Glenn Maynor will be the next sheriff. Only unbridled racism will keep that historic event from happening. After all, Robeson County is made up of about 105,000 citizens, according to the 1990 Census. Of that number, about 40% of them are Indian and 25% Black. Ladies and gentlemen, dear readers, for those of us not good in math, that's 65% when you add the Indian and Black citizens together. Let's be realistic about it. It makes perfect sense to us for an Indian such as Glenn Maynor to be sheriff. A little understanding and common sense is all we need here in Ol' Robeson to straighten out, as we see it, this race-driven county. Look ahead, for God's sake! We see people of all hues and colors in responsible positions in days ahead. Is it heretical, for instance, to entertain notions of a Black register of deeds in the future; or more Black and Indian judges and

commissioners? Of course, it isn't.

Remember, too, Glenn Maynor, a Democrat, is facing a white, and a Republican, James Sanderson in November in the sheriff's race. People are saying that whites are going to abandon the democratic ticket in November. We hope not. After all, nearly 46,000 Robesonians are registered Democrats, only 4,165 are Republicans.

Until now, the Democratic Party has heralded itself as the party of the little guy, the working people, the down-trodden, yes, and minorities too. Have they been lying to us all these years, and just tricking us out of our votes? We hope not. But where are the Democratic leaders in the Sheriff's campaign? Some of them have joined the Sanderson and Republican ranks. We hear. Are they visible? Where are the "Democratic" Party ads? What is the local Democratic Party leadership doing for Glenn Maynor? Is Lum Edwards, whom Maynor defeated in the May run off, now supporting a candidate? We don't know, but it has been reliably reported to us that Edwards let Sanderson have all of his signs from his losing campaign, so they could be painted over from "Lum Edwards for Sheriff" to "James Sanderson" for Sheriff. That's disturbing, to say the least. When will the local Democratic Party speak up for Glenn Maynor?

As we sum up this first editorial of a series entitled "The State of Things in Ol' Robeson," let the Democratic Party be aware that many of us - including many Indians and Blacks - are watching and waiting to see what will happen in November. Let the record, too, show that we will not blindly follow the Democratic Party ever again, especially, if that party throws us out with the dirty water of racism in November.

We speak to the better angels about us. Let the Democratic Party be true to its history; let all Robesonians turn from the rancor and ill will of our racist past. In our opinion, a vote for Glenn Maynor is a vote for racial harmony and progress in Ol' Robeson.

### Locklear to Run at Large at EMC

Lumbee River Electric Membership Corporation has received one additional nomination, by petition, for the 1994 election of members of its Board of Directors, scheduled for October 18 at Pembroke State University.

Larry Locklear, of Shannon, has been nominated for the At-Large seat on the Board. Mr. Locklear's nomination met requirements of LREMC bylaws by the submission of a petition with signatures of fifteen or more co-op members not less than 25 days prior to the annual meeting of members.

Since recent changes in the co-op's bylaws eliminated nominations from the floor at the meeting, the

ballot is now complete for the election.

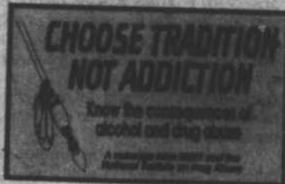
Co-op members will be permitted to vote immediately after registering, between the hours of 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. Following is the slate of candidates for LREMC's Board of Directors:

District 1. Incumbent James Dial of Rt. 1, Maxton; and Haynes Deese, Jr. of Rt. 3, Rowland.

District 5. Incumbent Ronald Hammonds of Rt. 8, Lumberton; and Ambrose Locklear, of Rt. 3, Lumberton.

District 6. Incumbent John Elebee of Raeford; and Proctor Locklear, Jr. of Rt. 1, Parkton.

At Large. Incumbent Lacy Cummings of Rt. 1, Pembroke; and Larry Locklear of Shannon.



### Maron Guest Speaker at Writer's Symposium



Margaret Maron, award winning mystery writer, was the featured speaker at a recent North Carolina Writers Symposium hosted by Pembroke State University.

A native of Johnston county, Maron read excerpts from her latest work, answered questions about her writing, and autographed copies of her book at a reception following the event.

Maron has won The Edgar Allen Poe Award, the Agatha Christie Award, the Anthony Boucher Award and the Macavity Award. Her recent novels, including "Bootlegger's Daughter", "Southern Discomfort" and "Shooting at Loons", have a North Carolina Setting.

This symposium was the second of two events, the first featuring Lumberton native Jill McCorkle.

The North Carolina Humanities Council awarded Pembroke State University a grant to support the North Carolina Writers Symposium.



### Charles Bell Releases Latest Gospel Album: "Message of Hope"

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Donning a traditional Native American design long shirt and holding a feather fan in his hand, Charles Bell stands on a bank of Lumber River.

He poses for the camera's eye. And for his Lord, Jesus Christ.

The scene is the photo shooting session which produced the cover for the recording artist's latest gospel album, "Message of Hope."

Choosing the site was not a difficult choice, because the Lumbee Indian vocalist says he has a deep spiritual connection to the river and when revisiting it, he becomes a small boy again.

"I thought of my people and the lifeline of the Lumbee River through our land. My memories were also of the moment in time that Jesus became my Lord and I made a commitment to send forth His word of song."

And send forth the message he does.

Bell is a veteran recording artist whose love for gospel music was nurtured from age 10 by eight older brothers and sisters growing up on a tenant farm in the Powersville community north of Lumberton, North Carolina. It was there he often gathered with his extended family inside a packhouse or around a tobacco barn and sang gospels.

The 46-year-old native Robesonian's latest solo gospel album "Message of Hope," was released this summer in the United States and Canada. The artist wrote three of the 10 works appearing on the album produced by Dirk Johnson and recorded at Maggard Sound Studio in Big Stone Gap, Virginia and Studio 120, Nashville, Tenn. The cassette tape is available from local stores and businesses.

Bell says he was inspired to write the album's title song last year after observing grieving friends of a teenage suicide victim.

"It concerns me deeply that suicide is on the rise among teenagers throughout America and in Native American communities. In composing the lyrics and music in the piece, I was trying to reach teenagers and parents in bringing a message of hope to them," Bell says.

Though now a solo recording artist, Bell originally performed with gospel

groups. He cut his first of three gospel albums with the Crystalite Gospel Singers 24 years ago. The group performed throughout the area and appeared weekly on a regional television station where they performed a half hour gospel show. For 18 years the artist was the piano player and sometime lead vocalist for The Scott Sisters, now The Singing Scotts.

Bell has performed in numerous concerts with other entertainers including the Speer Family; Singing Cooks; The Kingsmen Quartet; Happy Goodman and others. He has performed throughout Canada where he appears regularly on the syndicated television program, SPIRIT ALIVE which originates in Toronto. Bell recently returned to his rural Pembroke home after a weeklong Camp Meeting gospel performance in Toronto. He is currently completing plans for a video produced by SPIRIT ALIVE to be released and aired internationally in late winter. A scheduled performance this winter will take him to Oklahoma where he will administer gospel song to fellow Native Americans. He also has an upcoming Thursday night performance at the Robeson County Fair.

Blessed with a baritone voice strikingly and markedly similar to the late Elvis Presley, Bell continues to enjoy the success that his former album, "When Elvis Reign'd Supreme" released last summer brings. The album's song, "One More Chance" was recently released nationally to 1,500 radio stations.

A modest man, Bell does not dwell on his professional success, but on his mission in doing what he calls "The Lord's Will" which is witnessing for Christ through gospel song... and winning souls to His kingdom.

"I felt a real Christian spiritual connection recently when I performed for several church audiences in non-Native American communities throughout Robeson County. I was honored to be invited to their places of worship to administer through gospel song.

"I love all people.

"If all the success in my recording career ended today, the journey which has given me peace and contentment would be reward enough for the work I've done."

### Locklear-Lowery VFW Post to Celebrate 50th Anniversary

The members of the Locklear-Lowery VFW Memorial Post #2843 of Pembroke, North Carolina will be celebrating the Post's 50th Anniversary during the first week of October.

VFW Post #2843 began on October 9, 1944 with 16 Native American members. The charter members were all Indians of Robeson County. The Post has now grown to more than 430 members and is now multi-racial.

The week long celebration begins with a VFW Awards Banquet at the Pembroke Jaycee Hut at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 4th. The public, desiring to attend should contact a Post member or Mr. Archie Oxendine of Pembroke.

The next event is a VFW Gospel Singing at the Pentecostal Holiness Church, Pembroke, at 7:00 p.m., Friday, October 7th.

groups. The public is invited to attend this singing.

The 50th Anniversary celebration will culminate with a Flag Raising Ceremony and Time Capsule Preservation Ceremony at 2:00 p.m. Sunday, October 9, 1994 at the VFW Post just north of the Town of Pembroke on Union Chapel Road. Brigadier General Selectee James T. Carper, NC National Guard, will be the principal speaker. Colonel Carper is the Commanding Officer, 30th Infantry Brigade located in Clinton, North Carolina.

The time capsule to be stored on the Post grounds, is scheduled to be opened in 50 years. However, certain items in the capsule are to be restored in another capsule and opened in the year 2094.

A reception will be held in the VFW Post building immediately following the ceremony. The public is invited to attend.

The Post membership is using the 50th anniversary of the Post to honor past and present members as well as past and present members of the Ladies Auxiliary. Come out and join the community in honoring VFW Post #2843 on the occasion of this historic event.

### Walk-a-Mile-For-A-Child Fundraiser To be held Saturday

The Lumbee River Very Special Arts would like to invite you to participate in their Walk-A-Mile-For-A-Child on Saturday, Nov. 12 at Pembroke State University.

The walk begins at 8:30 a.m. in front of Old Main and finishes at Old Main at about 11:30 a.m. Each participant is asked to donate \$50 to walk. Proceeds will benefit the children of Robeson County at the Lumbee River Very Special Arts Festival held on April 4, 1995.

The Lumbee River Very Special Arts enrich the lives of people with disabilities by allowing them to express themselves through drama, dance, music, literature, and the visual arts.

For more information contact Hope Sheppard at (910) 521-6252 or Ross Sampson (910) 521-6254.

Next April's Lumbee River Very Special Arts Festival will focus on providing opportunities for individuals with disabilities, as well as provide instruction to others dealing with the disabled and making the public more aware of the disabled's accomplishments.

Refreshments will be served and everyone is invited to attend.

### Pembroke Day Successful

by Elizabeth Williams, PSU Intern

Pembroke State University was the host to more than 2000 guests at the fifth annual Pembroke Day held on campus last Wednesday. The Town of Pembroke gathered to share information on services available to the college students and faculty.

Co-ordinator of the event was the Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Dr. Diane Jones. "There seemed to be a great deal more socializing and fellowship this year," commented Jones. "The day was a great success and we were very pleased with the overall participation."

More than 100 display and activities were displayed this year, varying from University's fraternities sororities soliciting new members to local shops and vendors.

The university had many departments participate including the Baptist Student Union, the Air Force ROTC, WPSU-TV, PSU Ambassadors and the Pembroke Raiders.

Hope Sheppard, secretary of Development and University Relations at PSU and proprietor of Lumbee Arts and Crafts in Pembroke, set up her booth at Pembroke Day. "I like Pembroke Day because it gives me a chance to converse with students and let them know about my business. Many of the students aren't even aware of what is out there, so many of us are off the main path for students."

Other community booths included:

Bob's Jewel Shop, Crafts and Creations, Pembroke Furniture, the United Way, and the N.C. Cultural Center.

The health care booths were a huge contributor to the proceedings. Professionals from Robeson County and even Cumberland County were there including the American Cancer Society, the Rape Crisis Center of Robeson County and the Cumberland County AIDS Speakers Bureau. Seventy one people participated in the blood pressure screening, while 40 people had their cholesterol checked. Other screenings for blood sugar, bone marrow, weight, eyes and breast exams got very favorable responses as well.

Entertainment abounded at Pembroke Day! Dana Lowery, Miss Pembroke State University, sang the musical selection "Cabaret," while Lorna McNeill performed three vocal numbers. O.B. Dobie the Clown was a towering success with his antics and balloon creations while Willie Lowery captured the crowd's attention with his musical medleys.

A barbecue style lunch was provided by Marriott Food Services Corp. Kurt Hoffman, Food Services Director of Marriott, and his staff served 952 pounds of fried chicken, 560 pounds of BBQ pork and 320 pounds of baked chicken as well as baked beans, slaw and brownies.

Pembroke Day achieved its goal with resounding success. What else could come of "food, folks and fun!"