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# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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THURSDAY, MARCH 2, 1995

## Around the County

### Registration Planned at Union Elementary

On Thursday, March 23, 1995, from 8 a.m. until 12 p.m. Union Elementary School will have kindergarten registration for all children in the school district who will be 5 years of age on or before October 16, 1995.

It is very important that you register your child at this time. North Carolina law requires that you bring the following information with you: a completed shot record; physical exam (these forms may be obtained from the school office); social security card; official birth certificate (not mother's copy); tribal enrollment number (for all Indian students) (Not required by North Carolina Law).

Parents are encouraged to contact the school for further information by calling 521-4272.

### Art Contest to be Part of Unity Conference

An art contest to recognize the talents of American Indian artists in North Carolina will be one of the many highlights of the 20th annual North Carolina Indian Unity Conference. Sponsored by United Tribes of North Carolina, the conference will be held March 16-18 in Fayetteville.

Persons who wish to enter the contest must be American Indians who are currently residing in the state. Entries may be submitted in six categories: original drawings, paintings, basketwork, wood carvings, beadwork and quilting.

Cash awards and certificates will be presented to the first and second place winner in each category. All entries must be submitted to one of the North Carolina Indian tribes/organizations no later than March 15.

All contest entries will be displayed during the North Carolina Indian Unity Conference. Judging will be held March 16 and awards will be announced during the conference on Saturday, March 18.

The North Carolina Commission of Indians Affairs, a member organization of United Tribes of North Carolina, is helping to coordinate the contest. The commission is housed in the N.C. Department of Administration.

For more information on contest rules and regulations, contact Kerry D. Bird at the Commission, 217 W. Jones Street, Raleigh, NC 27603-1336, or call (919) 733-5998.

### Mass Choir to be part of Pembroke's Centennial Celebration



The Committee planning the Centennial celebration for Pembroke continues to meet weekly (Wednesday evening from 5:30-6:30 at the town hall), finalizing a year long 100th birthday celebration.

Plans so far are to have a gala celebration on March 8, complete with a Pembroke Memorial Mass Choir under the direction of Ms. Delora Cummings and Ms. Teresa Williams. Daniels' Bakery is donating a huge birthday cake to commemorate the special day of incorporation.

Artist Delora Cummings has also been commissioned to do a painting designed to capture the history and essence of Pembroke.

In other matters, a committee was formed to write the history of the town. For further information, contact Councilman Greg Cummings at 521-00190 or Councilman Harry Oxendine at 521-9429.

Ms. Delora Cummings and Ms. Teresa Williams are co-chairing the March 8 gala centennial celebration and are sending out the following notice to area churches:

Pembroke Centennial Celebration Committee, Mass Choir, March 8, 1995-4-7 p.m. Pembroke Town Park-Kick Off-100th birthday.

All members to be assembled from local Pembroke churches. Rehearsal will be independent with one dress rehearsal at Berea Baptist Church on Sunday, March 5 at 3 p.m. Music will be provided before "independent rehearsals and should be brought to dress rehearsal.

Church robes are requested to be worn at the birthday kick off on March 8. Robes will be provided for those without one.

Mass Choir is open to any interested individual who would like to help make the kick off a success. If you have any questions, contact Ms. Teresa Williams at 521-2755.

### Graham to Receive Eagle Award

The Prospect Boy Scout Troop and Ms. Sandra Graham request the honor of your presence at the Eagle Court of Honor for Barry Gerard Graham on Sunday, the twelfth of March, 1995 at new Prospect Methodist Church, Hwy 710, west of Pembroke. A reception will follow. Graham is also the son of Brawleigh Jason Graham.

### Christian Concert Coming to PSU

The Baptist Student Union at PSU is sponsoring a Rap Fest '95, a Christian concert on Tuesday, March 28, in Moore Hall Auditorium.

The free concert begins at 6:30 p.m. and is open to the public. It will end at 8:30 p.m.

The two headline groups are "Checkerz," a group from Las Vegas and the "Choir Boys" from Raleigh. Other features include the music of PSU's own Voices of Victory Gospel Choir, Trinity, and two STEP shows by Kappa Alpha Psi and Phi Beta Sigma fraternities.

For more information, call Ron Sanders at 521-8777 or 1-800-484-4037/2274.

## Where Are They Now?

### A Closer Look at the Spiritual Career of Rev. Claudie Dial



by Bruce Barton and John R. Brayboy

A new feature in the Carolina Indian Voice: Where are they now? This week we look at the spiritual career of Rev. Claudie Dial.

Maxton, NC-Surprisingly enough, Rev. Claudie Dial has been living in Maxton for the last five years with his wife Ernestine, who has faithfully shared his ministry and life for the past 22 years. Rev. Dial notes that his wife had established three churches before he met her at a revival at St. Pauls Assembly of God where she was serving as pastor in 1968.

A youthful "75 1/2", Rev. Claudie

Dial continues to preach the gospel and build churches. Prior to returning to the area, he worked and ministered in the Southern Pines-Aberdeen area. The Dials were active members of Page Memorial United Methodist Church in Aberdeen for fourteen years. Rev. Dial served as associate pastor their last two years there.

John Brayboy and Bruce Barton recently visited the Dial home and interviewed Rev. Dial and his wife concerning their interesting life in the ministry.

Rev. Claudie Dial remembers growing up in the Antioch Community in nearby Hoke County. The

second oldest son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Dial. Elisha Dial was the son of the late Marcus and Elizabeth Harris Dial of the Prospect community. He counts many of the Bartons of Robeson County as cousins, as well as Adolph Dial, another cousin whom he reveres. "Adolph Dial is a man who has never forgotten his roots, and is a man of dignity and honor. I'm proud to count him as my cousin and friend."

In a long-ranging interview, Rev. Dial looked back at a life of ministry beginning with his "acceptance of Christ" as his Lord and Savior at the tender age of 18 on August 12, 1937. He remembers being saved during a six-day revival at Mt. Elim (in nearby Hoke County). He remembers that "41, including me, were baptized" following the service led by Rev. Chesley Maynor.

He recalls wonderful days in the Antioch community and can remember worshipping at Jacobs' Point, and attending the old Antioch School. Rev. Dial simply says of his mother, "She lived the life before us." Of his father, he remembers him as "stern but fair."

Rev. Dial was previously married to Essie Mae Bryant for 29 years and they were proud parents of 11 children, nine surviving.

He was licensed by the Burnt Swamp Baptist Association in 1941, and he was ordained as a minister in 1949, but began preaching at the age of 22.

Rev. Dial has had some spiritually uplifting experiences, beginning with 2 1/2 years in the service. He was released from active duty in 1945.

He has had a great ministry among Native people, including two years (1982 and 1983) in the Peace Corp in

the Fiji Islands near New Zealand with his wife, Ernestine.

"Preacher Claudie," as he is fondly known, has ministered to Indian people throughout his life as an evangelist in Oklahoma, Florida, North Carolina (among the Cherokees), North Dakota, Arizona, and elsewhere. He has also ministered to the Mia Indians in Central America, Belize, and has an on going ministry there where the Dials have helped build a Christian Life Center Church. The Dials also helped build a church in Old Mexico in 1990.

It seems that Rev. Dial and his faithful partner, Ernestine, are always involved in building a church. They are now in the process of building a church between Laurinburg and Hasty, the seventh church they have built, as well as at least five homes for paragonages, etc. The church, Christian Life Center, is non-denominational and "based on God's word."

But "Preacher Claudie" is still best known in Robeson County Indian circles for his tent ministry with Rev. Wade Locklear from 1947-55. Those are days Rev. Dial looks back on with great joy. "Many people were saved and baptized," he simply recalls.

A master carpenter, "Bro. Claudie" looks ahead, not behind. "The Lord has richly blessed me. Every day with Jesus has been sweeter than the day before."

Rev. Dial and his wife, Ernestine, will be going to Guatemala in Central America in May to continue their ministry with the Indians there. They solicit our readers' prayers. Rev. Dial's final thoughts are of his wife, Ernestine, and God: "Without her, and God, of course, none of this could have happened."

### Chancellor's Scholars

Pembroke-Three Robeson County senior's have been named Chancellor's Scholars at Pembroke State University for the 1995-96 academic year. Jessica Clark, a senior from Lumberton Senior High, Ronnean Deese, A senior from South Robeson High in Rowland, and Brandi Kaye Warriax, a senior from Purnell Swett High School in Pembroke.

Clark is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dexter Clark of Lumberton. Clark is undecided in her major.

Deese is the Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Deese of Rowland. Deese plans to major in mathematics.

Warriax is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Warriax of Maxton. Warriax plans to major in biology or psychology.

Chancellor's Scholars at Pembroke State University receives \$3000 per year to attend PSU. This almost covers the full expenses of a student living on campus with a full meal plan.

Chancellor's Scholars take special courses, do a Master's type thesis and receive special honors at commencement.

### Local Artist Captures Historic Moment



Artist Shantonia K. Chavis stands beside her painting entitled "The High Sheriff"

by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear

Studying the history of the Lumbee Nation is important to Shantonia Kai Chavis of Pembroke. The 20-year-old Lumbee recently captured a piece of her people's history on canvas when she painted Glenn Maynor taking the oath of office as Sheriff of Robeson County.

In the 18 x 24 original montage Maynor is flanked by his wife and mother. Judge Dexter Brooks is shown administering the oath. Also appearing in the painting is a younger Maynor during his tenure as a police officer, and supporters who attended the historic event last December 5th on the steps of the Robeson County Courthouse in Lumberton.

Chavis, a Pembroke State University senior art student, says she re-

ceived encouragement from family, friends and professors to create the piece.

There was a personal reason, too. "Glenn Maynor is my sheriff. He's also my cousin," she gleams. "Creating the piece of art was my way of paying tribute to him...to show my pride in his accomplishment in being elected Robeson County's first Native American sheriff."

Chavis says before beginning work on the piece, she sought the endorsement of Sheriff Maynor. After receiving it, she began earnestly working on the project. In between classes at PSU where she currently carries an 18-hour course load, spliced with a 20-hour weekly work load at a local grocery store, the energetic student worked on the piece in her home

studio located a mile north of the PSU campus.

Chavis has not yet made a decision to sell the original. Instead, she is currently offering limited edition prints of the original to the general public. She holds first market to the 500 prints published. "I've been very pleased with the interest shown them by the general public," Chavis says. "Sales have been very brisk."

Chavis says prints of "The High Sheriff" can be seen and purchased at the upcoming Indian Unity Conference scheduled for March 16-18 in Fayetteville. They can also be obtained from her by contacting her agent/father, Ted Chavis at 910/321-3523 during daytime hours, or her residence night: 910/521-3823.



Sheriff Glenn Maynor endorsed the painting of "The High Sheriff," a montage of his taking an oath of office.

### American Red Cross to sponsor Blood Drives in local area

The Robeson County Chapter of the American Red Cross will be holding the following Blood Drives. For more information please call Patricia Brayboy at 738-5057.

- South Robeson High School, Friday, March 3- 8:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Red Springs High School- Tuesday, March 14- 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Robeson Community College, Tuesday, March 21, 10 a.m.- 3 p.m.
- First Presbyterian Church, 1002 Chestnut Street, Lumberton, Friday, March 24- 2:30 p.m.-7:00 p.m.
- Pembroke State University, Thursday, March 30, 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- Tabernacle Baptist Church, Hwy 711, Pembroke, Saturday, April 1, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.