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THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

Around County

Lumbee Tribal Government Point of Contention at Indian Unity Conference

The North Carolina Indian Commission will meet at its regularly-scheduled meeting during the North Carolina Indian Unity Conference. The Commission met this morning with Paul Brooks, Chairman of the Commission, presiding. It will be the first outing for Gregory Richardson, A. Bruce Jones' replacement as executive director of the Indian Commission.

A point of contention, a hot bed of controversy, is: who will represent the Lumbee Indians? The Commission has before it a request from the newly-constituted Lumbee Tribal Council and Dr. Dalton Brooks, Tribal Chairman, to designate it as the official representative of the Lumbee people. LRDA, a social action agency in Pembroke, is resiting the Lumbee Tribal designation, contending instead that they are the tribal government. A ruling is not expected at Thursday's meeting.

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 Indian 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.

Eddie Hatcher Denied Parole

Eddie Hatcher, one of the men who took hostages at a Lumberton newspaper in 1988, will remain in prison for at least another year.

The Post-Release Supervision and Parole Commission notified Hatcher on March 2 that he was denied parole, commission spokesman Tracy Herrin said.

Hatcher and Jimmy Jacobs held staffers of the Robesonian newspaper hostage for 10 hours in February 1988. They said they wanted to draw attention to their allegations of drug trafficking and corruption in Robeson County. State investigators never found evidence to support the allegations.

Hatcher, 37, is serving an 18-year sentence on a charge of second degree kidnapping. He has been denied parole every year that he's been eligible. He will be up for another parole review in February 1996, Herrin said.

Jacobs was sentenced to six years in prison and was paroled in March 1992.

The reason Hatcher was denied parole is confidential under state law, Herrin said.

Hatcher is scheduled to be released by the Department of Correction on August 10, 1997, she said. He has earned time for good behavior as well as 345 days of jail time while he was awaiting trial.

Oklahoma's Kelvin Sampson touted as National Coach of the Year



Oklahoma coach Kelvin Sampson is getting nominations for national coach of the year after his team wound up a remarkable 23-8 in his first season at the helm of the Sooners basketball program. The Sooners are in their first NCAA tournament in three years.

Sampson was named Monday as the US Basketball Writers Association's Henry Iba national Coach of the Year.

"Kelvin is the kind of guy we need in college basketball," said Kansas coach Roy Williams. "He cares about the kids, competes hard and doesn't cut corners."

The Sooners were in the national Invitation Tournament the past two seasons under Billy Tubbs, now coach at TCU.

We received a note from Coach Sampson recently and he as usually, bragged on his players. "Our kids constantly find ways to win. I'm very proud of this team - not because of the wins and losses but because of their dedication and desire. They are great kids to work with!"

Robeson Native Plays With Bill Monroe at Blue Grass Event

Carson Lowry of Evansville, Indiana recently accomplished a dream he had for 54 years. At that time he was a 12 year old Boy Scout attending a program at Pembroke Graded School. Blue Grass legend, Bill Monroe, was performing. Lowry remembers the event well. "I asked him to sing 'Footprints in the Snow,' and he did. I was thrilled. He was always my favorite singer. I remember it like it was yesterday."

Recently Lowry was playing at the International Blue Grass Music Museum in Orangeburg, Kentucky. Monroe was there also to receive an award. Monroe once again sang "Footprints in the Snow" for Lowry. And Lowry had the added thrill of perform along with Monroe as they sang other favorites together.

Lowry is a County Blue Grass enthusiast who performs County Blue Grass picking the first Sunday in each month in Evansville, Indiana. Lowry reminds us "Dreams do come true."



Union Chapel students literally bounced over themselves and teachers as they celebrated 100 days of school for 1994-95. The Student Services Management Team planned an array of activities for the student body for this special occasion.

Prizes were given for may 100 FIRSTS. There was a 100 yard dash sponsored by the P.E. Teacher, Ms. Cindy Oswalt; the first 100th student to go through the lunch line received a prize; several stations around the school campus were monitored for the 100th student passing. Those who had attended 100 days of school without an absence (both students and teacher) were rewarded.

During the drawing for those students and staff who had attended school for 100 perfect days, Pharon Bullard in Ms. Annie Gavin's second grade received \$5 cash and a box of Valentine's candy. Ms. Paul Harris, kindergarten teacher, also received a gift for 100 days of teaching.

Sponsors for these activities were Pepsi Company and Union Chapel PTA. These two groups donated drinks and money for prizes.

Shown left to right: Miss Paul Harris, Seth Lowery (drawing the winning names) and Pharon Bullard.

Judge Dexter Brooks appointed to Commission of Race Relations

Robeson County Resident Superior Court Judge Dexter Brooks was appointed as a member of the Commission on Race Relations in the Legal Profession. The Commission is a joint effort of the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers and the North Carolina Bar Association to investigate and make recommendations for improvements on race relations in the profession. The Commission will investigate the status of race relations in the legal profession, issue a report of its findings and make recommendations to overcome problems identified by the study.

Judge Brooks was appointed to the Commission by joint action of the presidents of each of the sponsoring organizations. He is a long-time associate member of the Association of Black Lawyers and presently serves as a Vice President of the Bar Association. Judge Brooks also earlier served on the Commission on Minorities in the Legal profession established by the Bar Association designed to promote the participation of members of racial minority groups in all affairs of the legal system.

From This Side of the Aisle

by Bruce Barton

This is the second in a three part series highlighting a brief look at Pembroke as the Jubilee town continues to celebrate its centennial.

Indian Mayors Now in Control in Pembroke

Recent figures show that 2,573 citizens live within the city limits of Pembroke; that includes 84.5% Indian, 11.8% white; and 3.3% Black. It has been that way for sometime in



Delton Jacobs of Maxton has a lot to smile about these days. Jacobs just paid \$10 for a new 1995 Harley-Davidson Sportster when he held the winning ticket in the Biggs Park Mall Harley-Davidson/Red Cross Raffle recently. Jacobs, shown with his 6-year-old son, Holden, says he bought just one ticket, #516 at Tomlinsons on February 6th. Proceeds from tickets sales benefit the Robeson Chapter of the American Red Cross.

Revival Planned at New Bethel

Revival will be held at New Bethel Holiness Methodist Church March 19-24. Sunday night service will begin at 7 p.m. with weeknight services beginning at 7:30 p.m. There will be special music each night. Evangelists will be Rev. S. Dufrene Cummings, pastor of Union Chapel Holiness Methodist Church and Rev. Steve Jones, pastor of Harpers Ferry Baptist Church.

New Bethel Church is located on Iona Church Road between Rowland and Fairmont. The pastor, Rev. James H. Woods, and the congregation cordially invite the public to attend.

Gospel Sing planned at Prospect UMC

Prospect United Methodist Church will be the site for a Gospel Sing on Sunday, March 19 at 7 p.m. Prospect UMC is located on Route 3, Maxton across the road from Prospect School. The sing will feature Mr. Charles Bell, the Royal Blood and the musical groups of Prospect UMC. The public is invited to participate in this evening of good gospel music. For more information, call the church office at 521-2111. The pastor, Rev. Bill James Locklear, and the congregations extend an invitation to the public to attend.

Lumbee Smoke Signals

by Wendy Moore Ledwell

A matter of great controversy, Lumbee representation, will be an issue before the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs. Since the induction of the duly elected Tribal Government there has been much ado in regard to the role of LRDA as tribal representative. The Indian Commission quarterly meeting, to be held March 16 at 9 a.m. at the Indian Unity Conference in Fayetteville, will focus on this issue.

Tribal Government officials, tribal members, LRDA board members and other interested onlookers will be in attendance. Both parties will offer closing arguments in regard to their contingency for the role as legal tribal representative. This meeting promises to hold those in attendance on the cliff's edge. Both parties are hoping for a decision by the commission Thursday, but rumor has it that a decision is not forthcoming. I pray that this will not be the outcome, for our people need to move forward and this issue has only stagnated the process. We have more important business at hand, for in reality the decision was made on July 2, 1994 by the Lumbee Tribe. So let's GET THE LEAD OUT!

Tribal Council District 9 Meeting Set

Garth Locklear, Tribal Council representing District 9 on the Lumbee Tribal Council will hold a district meeting on Saturday, April 1st at the Pembroke Court house. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m. Information will be provided to tribal members relative to the activity of the tribal council and input from tribal members will also be received. Councilman Locklear encourages tribal members to attend.

Pembroke. (1990 Census). The Indian Mayor and Council reflect the mostly Indian population.

But it wasn't always that way. Note this weird letter from McLean & Stacy, a law firm in Lumberton that back then often "spoke" for Pembroke on legal (sic) and political matters, addressed to Gov. Clyde R. Hoey on May 13, 1938.

"Dear Governor Hoey:

An act of the General Assembly of 1917 provides that the Governor shall, on the first Monday of May of each year, appoint a mayor and four commissioners of the town of Pembroke. A majority of the voters of the town are Indians and ever since the passage of this act in 1917, there has been some feeling of resentment on the part of a great many Indians in Pembroke. This grew and grew until the issue had to be met by the white people of the town of Pembroke. The town board with some of the leading white citizens and some of the leading Indian citizens had a meeting and finally decided that they would agree to have a Primary Election in the town for the purpose of recommending to the Governor, for appointment, the mayor, who should be a white man, two white commissioners and two Indian commissioners, so in accordance with this agreement, they had the town primary on May 10, at which time, the voters nominated: For Mayor-G.E. Bracy

For Commissioners- B.F. Cole, E.B. Daniel, C.E. Locklear, J.C. Oxendine.

"We think it would be in the interest of peace and harmony for the best interest of the town of Pembroke if you would appoint the officers nominated in the town primary on May 10. Of course, you understand, there is no law authorizing this town primary and it is merely a plan worked out by the leading white and Indian citizens for an expression of opinion of the majority of the voters of the town as to who they would like for you to appoint as officers of the town.

With much respect and very best wishes, we are

Very truly yours,
"McLean & Stacy
"by H.E. Stacy"

(Gov. Clyde R. Hoey Papers, Pembroke Mayor and Commissioners Appointments, Box 53, NC State Archives, Raleigh, NC)

Indian continued to agitate for change in Pembroke. Finally, in 1947, Rev. C.E. Locklear was elected to serve as the first "Indian" mayor of the mostly "Indian" town of Pembroke. Rev. Locklear took office in 1948, serving with distinction until 1954. Indians have continued to serve with distinction as mayor ever since, with the astute and progressive Mayor Milton Hunt now in office. Mayor Hunt serves with an all-Indian council, including Councilmen Larry T. Brooks, Greg Cummings, Harry Oxendine and Larry McNeill. The town is in the capable administrative hands of Indian town manager, McDuffie Cummings.

Here are the mayors and their years in office since Mayor C.E. Locklear:

C.E. Locklear- 1948-1954
J.C. Oxendine-1954-1961
Samuel Locklear 1961-1963
J.C. Oxendine- 1963-1967
Earlie B. Maynor- 1967-1973
Juddie A. Revels 1973-1975
Reggie Strickland 1975-1979
James A. "Pete" Jacobs 1979-1983
Milton R. Hunt 1983-

The mayors pictures are on display at Pembroke's Town Hall. C.E. Locklear, J.C. Oxendine and Earlie B. Maynor are deceased; the others continue to lead active lives in the Pembroke community. Samuel Locklear owns and operates Locklear and Son Funeral Home; surprisingly, another former mayor, Juddie Revels, Jr., also owns a funeral home-Revels' Funeral Home. Revels is also the owner of Lumbee Memorial Gardens, the modern perpetual care facility near Moss Neck. Reggie Strickland, on the mend from heart problems, continues to enjoy his retirement from his days as manager of PSU's Student Book Stores. "Pete" Jacobs is the tax supervisor for Robeson County. Milton Hunt is now Pembroke's longest serving mayor in his 12th year. Mayor Hunt, a close political ally of Gov. Jim Hunt, continues to operate his successful "Hunt's Dry Wall" business.

Pembroke, contrary to what some may say, has prospered and grown dramatically under the leadership of these "Indian" mayors. May it continue to be so as the "Indian" capital of Pembroke enters her second century.

More next week!