

# THE CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS

## Rev. C. Locklear seeks election to Lumbee River EMC Board



Rev. Clester Locklear, Evangelist with the Lumbee River Holiness Methodist Conference, has announced his bid for election to the Lumbee River EMC Board of Directors. He has filed for one of the three at-large seats on that Board.

Rev. Locklear is a Missionary Representative to South America with the Lumbee River Conference and also serves as affiliate pastor at New Prospect Holiness Methodist Church. He has been associated with the Lumbee River Confer-

ence for thirteen years. He has made several missionary trips to South America and is presently involved with a missionary effort in New York. He is dedicated to the cause of Christ and continues to share the Gospel with the world.

In making his announcement, Rev. Locklear released the following statement:

"I have been encouraged by many people to seek election to the EMC Board. After much prayer and meditation I have decided to offer the member-consumers of EMC a choice for the at-large position on the EMC Board. If the consumers are happy with the status quo, then they should vote for the board to remain the same. However, if they are interested in making a change, I am available to serve.

"There are many problems that I feel need addressing on that Board and I would like the opportunity to address the issues. I know that it is unrealistic to think that electric bills will ever be lower than they are now. But there are several ways to prevent a steady increase in the

price of electric services.

"The running of an electric cooperative is big business and should be approached as such. I would, if elected, endeavor to bring sound, fiscal, business sense to the decision making process.

"As we enter the twenty-first century, we are in a more advanced technological age than we have ever experienced. The rapid advancement of technology is demanding on our cooperative as we strive to provide efficient electrical service to homes, businesses and industry. With the expansion and growth of industry in our service area, it is necessary for the EMC to meet these growing demands for efficient service.

"If elected, I will be one of twelve members of the decision-making body of EMC, but I assure you that I will be a vocal member and I will make decisions with the best interest of our membership in mind.

"I leave you with one of my favorite scriptures, II Timothy 2:7 Consider what I say and may the Lord give you understanding in all things."

## Recordings of elders bring Lumbee history and culture alive

PEMBROKE -- The words of Lumbee tribal elders have been saved for future generations.

A collection of 35 CDs containing interviews with numerous Lumbee elders is now available to the public at The University of North Carolina at Pembroke's Native American Resource Center. The interviews, conducted by the late Adolph Dial, Lew Barton, Dexter Brooks and others, are more than 25 years old and have been hailed by scholars as an important historical, cultural and linguistic collection.

The announcement was made by Dr. Stan Knick, Native American Resource Center director and Dr. Linda Oxendine, chair of UNCP's American Indian Studies Department, who helped bring the project home to Pembroke. The recordings and a CD player were donated by Frank and Mary Doris Dial-Caple, Dr. Dial's daughter.

Instrumental in bringing the recordings to UNCP was North Carolina State University Professor Walt Wolfram, Wolfram's program, North Carolina Language and Life Project converted to CD format the

fragile and aging reel-to-reel tapes.

The goal of restoring the recordings of tribal elders is to preserve the rich heritage of history, dialect and culture of the Lumbee people. Approximately 70 people, many now deceased, were interviewed for the original project.

Among those interviewed include: Rev. D.F. Lowry, Mr. James E. Chavis, Mr. Rand Bullard, Mrs. Nancy Lowry Revels, Mr. Claude Lowery, Mr. John Godwin, Mr. Elisha Dial, Professor Clifton Oxendine, Dr. Dial, Rev. Robert Mangum and many more. Some of those interviewed were in their late 80s and 90s.

Dr. Knick said the recordings are a good fit into his collection of Native American art and artifacts.

"The tapes are no less significant than the artifacts we find in the ground," Knick said. "These are important windows to the past."

Knick said the tapes will be used by both descendants and researchers.

"The descendants of these people will probably be very interested to hear the recordings," he

said. "Every one will come to the listening room with his own reasons and conceptual framework: the linguist, the anthropologist, the descendant and the historian."

Dr. Oxendine agreed, saying the tapes are another resource available to scholars in the community to help provide additional insight into Lumbee history and culture.

The sound quality of the CDs is superior to the tapes and some of the interviews are transcribed. A catalogue of the CDs will be available soon, Dr. Oxendine said.

Dr. Knick praised Ms. Dial-Caple for her contributions.

"On behalf of the Native American Resource Center and its public, I want to express our appreciation for the gift of the CDs and the equipment to play them," he said. "Mary Doris is carrying on the traditions of her father - by supporting this institution and by making accessible Mr. Dial's research."

The recordings may be heard by the public by appointment. Dr. Knick said. Call the Native American Resource Center at 521-6282 for more information.



## Named to Outstanding Young Women of America

April Locklear has just received the prestigious honor of Outstanding Young Woman of America for 1997-98. April won this honor for scholastic achievements and community service. Her community service is the dedication to helping people with HIV/AIDS and organizing different HIV/AIDS projects. April is now a member of an exclusive group that is only made up of 1% of eligible young Americans. Her name and profile of achievements will be listed in the volumes of Outstanding Young Americans and will be distributed to different libraries, universities, and corporations nationwide.

April is the daughter of Harry and Barbara Locklear of Pembroke. She is a Senior at UNC Pembroke majoring in Psychology. She is also a dance student at the School of Ballet in Lumberton under the direction of Lauren Jolly and a private voice student under the direction of Matilda Whitfield.



Dr. Linda Oxendine (center) chair of UNCP's American Indian Studies Department, poses with Dr. Walt Wolfram and Dr. Natalie Schilling-Estes of the North Carolina Language and Life Project. The project assisted UNCP in acquiring recordings of interviews made 25 years ago with Lumbee Tribal elders with Dr. Adolph Dial, the recordings will be housed on campus in the Native American Resources Center in Old Main.

## Revival begins at Riverside Church

Revival services will begin at Riverside Independent Baptist Church on September 14, 1997 and run through September 19th. Sunday night services will begin at 6:30 p.m. and Monday through Friday services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Speakers for the revival will be Rev. Davey Locklear and Rev. Mickey Lowery. The pastor, Rev. Jerry McNeill, and the congregation extend a cordial invitation to the public to attend.

## Open House to be held at Riverside Christian Academy

Open House will be held at Riverside Christian Academy and Riverside Christian Day Care Center on September 20 at 10 a.m. until. Food will be served. There will be basketball and volleyball for children of all ages. Guest speakers will include Senator David Weinstein, Sheriff Glenn Maynor and Congressman Mike McIntyre, as well as Dr. Dalton Brooks, Tribal Chairman and members of the tribal council.

## West Robeson U.M. Church to hold 10 year Celebration

West Robeson United Methodist Church will hold their 10 year anniversary at the current location on September 14, 1997.

The Pastor and the members of the church invite you to fellowship with them. Sunday School begins at 9 a.m., Worship Service begins at 10 a.m. and Dinner on the ground will be after the worship service. There will be a afternoon singing beginning at 2 p.m.

Submitted by Erwin Jacobs

## Revival Services at Union Chapel

Union Chapel Community Baptist Church will have Revival Services September 14-17, 1997.

The Sunday Morning Service will start at 11 a.m. Sunday Night Service will begin at 7 p.m.

Rev. Lindbergh Chavis will be the Guest Speaker.

The public is welcome.

The Rev. Jimmy Strickland is the Pastor.

## reunion planned

The Steve and Magnolia Maynor family reunion will be held Saturday, September 13, 1997 in the Pembroke Elementary School Cafeteria at 3:00 p.m. Reservations should be made by calling 521-6666, 521-4271, or 738-3309. Relatives are encouraged to attend.

## A report on the 1997 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly from Rep. Ron Sutton, District 85

The 1997 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly is now history. It was only two days shorter than the previously longest session in state history. The session began with unusual circumstances due to the political make up of the Senate and House.

The Senate had a majority of 30 to 20 in favor of the Democrats. The House having had a Republican majority of 68/52 in the 1994-96 term now had a slimmer majority of 61/59. The slim Republican margin fueled speculation of a deadlocked House that would produce nothing but gridlock and as time would tell, that speculation was far from true. This turned out to be a most productive long session.

In this article I will report on and analyze some of the major legislation before the General Assembly this past year with an emphasis on specific actions in the House. In addition, I will give some insight as to why and how certain issues and activities were successful or unsuccessful.

The session began with the customary selection of House leadership. Prior to the first day of the session there were numerous behind the scenes discussions, negotiations, promises and commitments as to the Speaker candidate each of us would support. A vote along party lines, the way one would generally expect, would have meant the Republicans would retain the

leadership and have a Republican Speaker. It is important to note, the party in power has significant advantages and controls. They control House floor seating, office assignments, committee assignments, committee chairman assignments and control of the flow of bills through the House. Naturally this is an important function to have - House leadership.

There are some dissident Republicans that were reluctant to support the Republican leadership slate and gave hope to the 59 Democrats that they would vote to select a Democrat Speaker. This would have meant much more power for the Democratic party. Obviously, there were some Democrats who felt they could vote with the Republicans thus negating any such move by the dissatisfied Republicans. The lobbying the last few days prior to the session convening was extensive and went late into the night on several occasions.

There were commitments on both sides but all the Democratic commitments fell apart when the first Democrat left his party establishment and voted for the Republican Speaker. As soon as that happened, we Democrats knew that all hopes for a Democratic Speaker were lost because we were previously told by the Republican dissidents they would not come over to our side on this critical vote if any of our Democrats swayed. On the date of the actual vote

three (3) Democrats voted for a Republican Speaker. The three were: Rep. Dewey Hill, District 14; Rep. Walter Church, District 47 and Rep. James W. Crawford, Jr. of District 22. Each did so for their own reasons and were rewarded in some manner through committee appointments or other perks.

The session began with several major issues before us. At a state wide level some major issues were the Excellent Schools Act, Smart Start funding, environmental issues, campaign reform, tax cuts, transportation needs, congressional redistricting, welfare reform, economic development and the requirement to develop a balanced budget for the 97-98 term.

On a local level some pressing concerns were congressional redistricting, economic development, funding for a UNC-P dorm, funds for the Southeastern Farmers Market Complex and the May 12, 1997 deadline facing the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center Board.

As a member of the minority party I was pleasantly surprised when I received my committee assignments. The speaker asked each of us to list by priority, our seven choices. He assigned me to five committees I listed thereby allowing me to participate in areas of my interest.

My committee assignments are: Appropriations, sub-committee on transportation; Ethics; Judiciary II; Congressional Redistricting

and State Government, sub-committee on Military, Veterans and Indian Affairs.

The first major agenda item for me was getting the NC Indian Cultural Center some breathing room for fund raising. As has been explained in previous articles, by prior legislation the Cultural Center Board was to raise 4.16 million dollars by May 12, 1997. A failure to raise the money meant that title to all the Cultural Center lands located near Red Banks, west of Pembroke in Robeson County, would revert to the State of North Carolina with a right to do with it as the state desired. The Cultural Center Board had not raised that amount and needed an extension of time to avoid the reversion.

My bill passed both chambers and was signed into law by the Governor. This gave the Cultural Center Board an additional four (4) years to raise money but also reduced the amount to be raised from 4.16 million to 3 million. It also directed that the NC Indian Cultural Center Board be completely reorganized by the end of this year. The NC Commission of Indian Affairs was given oversight of the activities of the NC Indian Cultural Center Board and final authority on appointment of Cultural Center Board members.

This sweeping legislation was a product of discussions and inputs from various sources. However, the final product was what I be-

lieved to be in the best interest of the NC Indian Cultural Center, the Indian people of NC and the citizens of this state. Throughout the entire process I made it adamantly clear to all concerned that I have a strong desire to see the NC Indian Cultural Center a reality and my position has not wavered from that posture.

My second initial major concern was that of Congressional Redistricting. Since the US Supreme Court had declared Congressional District Twelve (12) unconstitutional, that meant the General Assembly had a April 1, 1997 deadline to redraw all the congressional lines to make them conform to the Court's ruling. Even though our congressman and congresswoman serve in Washington, D.C. the N.C. General Assembly draws their district lines. It would be impossible to redraw district lines for one district without affecting other congressional lines. So a complete redrawing of the lines was necessary.

North Carolina's Congressional Delegation consist of 12 members, including our own Congressman Mike McIntyre, District 7 and Congressman Bill Hefner, District 8. As a member of the House Congressional Redistricting Committee, I had a special commitment to look out for Robeson and Hoke Counties. I worked closely with both Congressman McIntyre and Hefner and their staffs during the

entire process.

It should be stressed that I was genuinely concerned that as many as possible of the Indians in and around Robeson and Hoke Counties should be in the same voting district. Naturally I knew that there may be some splitting of counties in order to get the districts to balance but every effort was made to keep Hoke and Robeson Counties in at least the same posture as before. Basically that was accomplished but there were some slight changes in the two counties between Districts 7 and 8. However, for the most part our two congressional districts came out in good shape. You may recall from previous news articles, had I not been on the House Congressional Redistricting Committee, two of the key predominately Indian precincts in Robeson County, Oxendine and Prospect, would have been changed from District 7 to District 8. Fortunately, through alertness and prompt action, I was able to forge a return to the status quo, thereby keeping most of the greater Indian voting block together.

Upon concluding these two significant events, I began to settle down to other matters. One of the responsibilities of a member is to prioritize issues and bills. While other issues were just as important as the previous two, they did not have specific suspense dates as did Congressional Redistricting and the NC Indian Cultural Center matter.