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TWENTY-FIVE CENTS



Youth and Children of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church Present "Christmas Yesterday and Today"

The children and youth of Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of the Union Chapel Community, presented the Christmas Play, "Christmas Yesterday and Today." The play focused on the birth of Christ from the view of four orphaned boys of Bethlehem and a family of four sisters and their mother of today.

The entire play is done from the children's perspective and is based on the true meaning of Christmas as it relates to children with lessons of love for all adults.

The four young orphan boys of yesterday received a baby goat from the innkeeper at the stable where Mary and Joseph stayed. The baby goat's mother had died and the four boys promised to take care of the baby goat. When they arrived back at their dorm, their dorm mother told them absolutely "No" they could not keep the goat. She told them to take the baby goat right back to where they got it. The four boys returned to the Innkeeper and promised to take care of the baby goat if he would let them keep it there. One little boy observed the baby goat had no manger to feed from. They promptly decided to build him one. When they return with the manger, they find Mary and Joseph in the stable with Mary hold baby Jesus in her arms. The young boys decided to give their newly made manger to baby Jesus for a cradle. The four boys then knelt in front of baby Jesus and were healed of their infirmities. This was Christmas past.

Christmas today was the story of four sisters and their mother as she explained the true meaning of Christmas to her children. The sisters come into the room where the Christmas tree is and the presents are now under the tree. The young ladies rush to get their presents and eagerly call for their mother to come in and see the tree and presents. As their mother came in, she reminded the children to pause and think about the true meaning of Christmas. The virgin birth, God becoming man as baby Jesus, the life of Jesus, and finally his death and resurrection. Such great love was shown by Jesus to do all of this for humanity. The mother reminds the sisters to show love to each other and to other people too. To be the obedient children God would have them to be and to be grateful for a home and she reminded them of what a home should be. The sisters concluded that the real meaning of Christmas is Jesus Christ and His love for us.

The young lady who narrated the play finished by saying "All God asked was for us to give Him our best. Are you giving your best to Jesus? HE gave His best for you."

The play was sprinkled with many lovely songs by the youth, poems by the youth and children, and giving of gifts at the end.

The play was directed by Mrs. Jerry Cummings along with the help of parents and members of Mt. Calvary. The children and youth concluded by singing "Go Tell it On the Mountain." Pastor Kip Woods then gave an invitation to anyone who would like to accept Jesus as their personal savior. He then asked everyone to stay for refreshments. The gospel message didn't stop there. During a clean up time, there was prayer with and witnessing to four of the youth about receiving Jesus as their personal savior. The play was not only a great blessing to the children and youth, but also the church and community of Union Chapel. (Text and photo by Harold G. Dial)

Pembroke's Radio Shack Holds Grand Opening



Radio Shack Grand Opening located in Ace Hardware on December 4, 98 had a good turnout this Christmas Holiday month. Miss Amanda Faircloth, Junior Miss Lumbee, sang a beautiful Gospel melody as people came in and mingled and shopped. Even though she was a bit under the weather she showed stamina and grace as she performed.

Teresa Cummings, Manager of Radio Shack, stated she appreciated the support the community has given Ace Hardware and hopes they will support their new addition, the Radio Shack as well. Cummings stated "We're here to supply your electronic needs and help with any problems."

From Left to Right: Joel Williams (sales associate), Teresa Cummings (manager), Tim Hanna (district manger) for Pembroke's Radio Shack.

Lumbee Writers and Artists' Works Solicited for Upcoming Anthology

by Wendy Moore Cummings

In all the world it can be said that artists are truly America's unsung heroes. It is through the creative flow of verse, song and brush, that inspiration is sparked. Artists have been the motivators of people from all walks of life -- from the playhouse to the White House. Though their sparks have ignited the fires of some of this nation's greatest personalities, their value has yet to be acknowledged. Whether by chance or design, few opportunities exist for aspiring artists to pursue their creative talents -- especially artists of color.

During the Native American Renaissance of the latter sixties, American Indians began to seize some of the few opportunities offered. Now we are telling our own stories, singing our own songs, creating our own works of art, and even publishing such works. Though some American Indian artists have taken advantage of limited opportunity, still many of our most promising artists fall through society's strategi-

cally implemented cracks, either due to the lack of funding and/or lack of interest to promote those who show potential. The fact of the matter is simply art, for most American Indian artists, just doesn't pay the bills. If each tribe were to solicit works from its tribal membership, one just might be surprised how many talented American Indians there are within each tribe -- surely enough to create a tribal anthology. This would allow American Indian society to display its plethora of artistic creativity.

It is for this reason that I am soliciting works from any Lumbee Indian without regard of residence, education or social status. I urge Lumbees from all walks of life who feel the desire to contribute to the artistic expression of Lumbee pride to do so by submitting your best works. Chosen works will be compiled into a two part series anthology consisting of literary works and, visual arts and crafts. The anthology will be entitled **Lumbee Artistry Breaking Through the Buckskin**

Curtain. The literary series will be entitled *Frybread for the Spirit*, while the visual arts will be entitled *With These Hands*. Both works are to be published by **RENEGADE PLANETS PUBLISHING**, an American Indian owned company. Deadline for submissions will be August 1, 1999.

It is my hope to educate the American Indian and general publics of the unique talents of the Lumbee community from both rural and urban perspectives. For many years we have been veiled behind the Buckskin Curtain of controversy and mystery, but regardless of our circumstance we have not allowed our creative fires to be quenched. The Buckskin Curtain, like the proverbial Iron Curtain, must come down.

To request more information write:

Lumbee Anthology
P.O. Box 1685
Pembroke, NC 28372



From left to right: Jo Tudor, Children's Librarian from Lumberton; Chris McCormick a.k.a. Santa Claus, and Vinita Clark, Santa's Elf.



Children are shown enjoying the Holiday Spirit at the New Public Library in Pembroke.

Santa Claus visits New Pembroke Public Library

Santa Claus made his first appearance at the new Pembroke Public Library on Thursday, December 17, 1998. Over 65 children and their parents attended this special event. Playing Santa's helpers were Mrs. Mattie Locklear, Head Librarian, Jo Tudor, Children's Librarian from Lumberton, Vinita Clark and Chris McCormick. Children were first treated to a Christmas Story by Ms. Tudor and then Santa Claus made his grand appearance. Free pictures were taken with the man from the North Pole. The event ended with

Christmas treats and gifts from Santa.

"I cannot remember having this many children for a program here" said Mrs. Locklear. Many parents took the time to get their library cards and children became familiar with the new library."

Pre-Christmas Celebration Native American style

On December 5, 1998 at the Cultural Grounds a local group of people were decorating trees for the holiday. The theme was the Native American perspective on Christmas. The trees were decorated with natural styled fabrics, cotton cloth, and other articles of Indian traditions. With each year there is a desire to see more people being active in the decorating of the trees, the Native American storytelling and other activities.



This Holiday Season a blessing was bestowed on The Chicora-Waccamaw Pow-Wow that took place in mid-November. Chief Harold (Running Wolf) Hatcher stated that for the last five years it has rained when they held their pow-wow. This year the weekend of festivities was beautiful weather warm in the day and a slight chill in the evening. Hatcher stated that they smudged their grounds with a traditional clay pot made with materials from the area, also the turn out of people was very satisfying to see. There were people from many places who came to join in the dancing, drumming and display of artistic wares.

The God's Eye

In the lives of the Native People, God has existed as the Creator from which all things originate.

We are directed in life by the Creator, With the four direction: East, West, South and North. We have two others that guide us, The celestial and maternal directions: Heaven and Earth.

The colors of this God's Eye reflect the directions. The East is the morning color yellow, the place of the Sun, Who wakes life with the coming Spring.

The West is the color of strength, black for our Ancestors, When fall becomes the time to remember our dead.

The South is the bountiful color red, the land of the harvest, From where life is emboldened in the Summer.

The North is the frost color white; where the winds dwell. It is home of the mighty Winter, which lays the earth to rest.

The Sky holds the place of the Sun and God. It is where the Eagle flies and sage smoke rises taking our prayers, To the Creator.

The Earth is our mother. Looking down, we walk on Her back and we receive life from her bosom. Her womb holds our dead and Gives us life in one continuing cycle.

This God's Eye represent our Cross. It reminds us of what path we should follow, and from what Direction we have come.

When woven around the crossed wood, in prayer, We see God. We see life.....

Through God's Eye.



Local Artist Karl Anthony Hunt from Pembroke NC, was their displaying his diverse abilities as a prolific painter and pottery designer.



Chief Harold (Running Wolf) Hatcher in front of his teepee located on the grounds of the Chicora-Waccamaw Pow-Wow.



Earl Many Skins (Fire Keeper) Mr. Earl Carter, a Lumbee, was keeping the fire burning continuously for the duration of the Pow-Wow in Loris, SC. Dressed in Southeastern Traditional Clothing he struck a striking figure as he walked the grounds.