

# "Through Native Eyes" Premier Attracts Crowd of 2000 at UNC-P Over Weekend

By Vinita Maynor-Clark

## The Henry Berry Lowrie Story Comes to the Big Screen

Saturday night began with a reunion of the technical crew and the cast of the documentary "Through Native Eyes." Also on hand Saturday afternoon were the members of the faculty of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro who were there to view the documentary and put a grade on the work of Mr. Van Coleman and Mr. Bernd Reinhart who did this project as part of the requirements to earn their Master's Degrees. The script was written by Coleman with two young ladies who did not show up for the premier due to a disagreement between them. Coleman is not a resident of this county and is not a Native American. These facts were very evident in this documentary.

The cast party was catered by Mrs. Laura Coleman, wife of the director. Elegant finger foods and punch were served by caterers as the cast members and crew reunited. "Eat, mingle, and take pictures because we will never be together like this again," Coleman commented. Many of us were glad to see the technical crew that we had grown to love during the filming, such as Sarah Westmoreland who served as production unit manager. Sarah, during the filming, always had the best interest of the actors at heart. She made sure that if anyone was hungry they would get something to eat, and if they needed medical attention, they got it.

Mr. Carnell Locklear who played the Schem (Narrator) in the documentary, opened the premier with these comments: "I love everybody, all my people." Then he invited Mr. Kenneth Oxendine to lead the audience in an opening prayer.

In the preview of the movie Coleman spoke about how to make a documentary and raise the money for the project. There were various actors who talked about how they felt that this movie was being made. Let me state for the record that my comments were recorded before I saw the final product and frankly I wish that I could take them back. In the preview were also some bloopers that the audience enjoyed.

After the preview Coleman recognized his technical crew, various cast members and gave the audience a demonstration of how the documentary was being made with the actors that comprised the Lowrie family. "I want everyone to stand up that had anything to do with the movie," Coleman commented. "Now I want everyone who got paid to remain standing," he continued. And with that comment there was not anyone who participated that remained standing. "Henry Berry Lowrie might have been buried for quite sometime but he is not buried anymore," Coleman stated, and with that comment the documentary began.

During the documentary there was laughter, cheers, comments and sneers from the audience as they were also surprised by some things and shocked by others. The biggest applause was when Lowrie was knocked out of the boat and came up beside it, went to shooting and the Homeguard

ran like a pack of dogs with their tail between their legs.

After the premier ended we learned there was a group of twenty four grandchildren of Lather and Mattie Locklear who participated in the documentary. Also that there was a high percentage of the cast who are members of the Tuscarora group that is led by Carnell and Robert Locklear, who will be receiving a portion of the profits from the film.

After the second showing of the documentary Sunday, there were questions among the young people that attended who were descendants of Lowrie who seemed to be really confused in regard to knowing if they were Lumbees or Tuscaroras.

Many comments were made by the audience that the documentary was well put together. Many pointed out that the documentary was not historically accurate and with that I agree. One person commented, "that movie does not change the Legend that my family has been told for 100 years. It tells some of it but not all of it. Henry did alot of good for the people around here. I wish that they would have told that too."

Audience members continuously stated "This is not historically correct. Everyone knows that Henry was hiding under the house when his father and brother were killed. We all know that there were ten children in the Lowrie household, but they only showed us three."

Other comments included: "I could not understand what they were saying. People around here don't talk like that. They sound like they are off of the Beverly Hillbillies."

Another person commented: "It is historically documented that when the Indians around here were rediscovered by the English settlers that they were speaking Elizabethan English, not the slang that was presented in the script."

"We did it, Cookie, now it is here for all of the world to see," Coleman stated. "I am glad that small part of his story was told," I replied.

I was really excited when this project began but the more I discovered during the filming, the more disappointed I became. I know of the positive things that Lowrie did and I could not find very many of his good points in the documentary. This documentary makes Lowrie appear to be a renegade, murdering, thief and gives the message "that if someone kills a person that it is alright to take justice into your own hands." In the end I would say that the script written by Coleman was not "Through Native Eyes" but rather his own.

Video copies of the movie are available for ordering. T-shirts with a portion of the Henry Berry Band on them will be available in the near future. The book entitled "The Historical Making of the Movie Through Native Eyes" that is written according to the Legend and not Coleman's script that we have known for 100 years are available at The Carolina Indian Voice and Mother Earth Creations in Pembroke.



## Yonnah Dawn Chavis and Phillip L. Locklear are engaged.

Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. (Wimpy) Chavis of Pembroke announce the engagement of their daughter, Yonnah Dawn Chavis, to Phillip L. Locklear of Wake Forest, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Locklear of Pembroke. The wedding will be at 6:30 p.m. May 22 in Harper's Ferry Baptist Church, Pembroke.

## Swett High School News

Mrs. Audrey McDowell's T.M.H students celebrated Dr. Scuss's birth by acting out the story "Are You My Mother?"

Merri Ashleigh Huggins, Amanda Bullard and Rachel Blue were selected as Students of Excellence which is sponsored by the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce.

FHA students participated in the parliamentary procedure competition and won at the regional level.

English III students in Mrs. Yvonne Dial's class worked diligently to complete their created publications consisting of their autobiography, pictures, coat of arms, and creative poetry.

Life Skills students of Yolander Thompson and Wendy Barton have observed Judge Carter's criminal court sessions to learn about the legal system.

Connie Locklear's math and Delora Cummings advanced art students are making and selling shirts.

Jonathan Chavis student designed the shirts with the school mascot and math/technology logo.

The JobReady Planning Committee sponsored Career Week. Over 60 representatives from businesses and industries made presentations.

Michael Stephen's Senior English students are using NC Careers and the Internet as resources for their Senior Projects.

Felicia Hunt's Marketing and Kim Branch's EC students toured Con-

verse Alamac and Robeson County Detention Center.

The Play Production I class under the direction of Mr. Steve Tyner, in conjunction with the SADD chapter, sponsored by Ms. Felecia Hunt and Ms. Ann Smith, presented a program of two-one act plays entitled, "Life's Worth Living", at the Carolina Civic Center, Tuesday, April 13, 1999. The two plays were thematically linked based on the idea of teenage drinking and driving and were presented as part of the Nationwide Insurance Prom Promise campaign designed to draw attention to the dangers of alcohol and driving amongst young people.

The CAMPS Program sponsored the Home and Garden show as various departments sold and displayed items within the areas. Some items sold included swings, picnic tables, candies, sodas, book marks, pizza, nacho and cheese, rice crispy treats, and cup cakes, which was held on April 15th.

The dance show case held at Carolina Civic Center with Karen Papa's dance class participating.

The faculty participated in a workshop on team building and stress at Sunset Beach April 16-18. The group learned about various strategies and approaches to work effectively in teams and ways to release stress. Principal Wesley Revels, and Susan Blackmon conducted the workshop and Mrs. Christy Strickland organized the event.

Purnell Swett's point guard Jonathan McIntyre signed a letter of intent to attend Winston-Salem



someone will tell the story and get it straight.

My book is selling really good. One woman commented that she got more information out of my book than she got out of the documentary. Copies are limited and they will soon be gone.

I sure do hope to see all of you at the auditions for "Strike at the Wind!" this weekend.

Our E Mail this week is on the subject of getting older.

Three ladies were discussing the travails of getting older. One said, "Sometimes I catch myself with a jar of mayonnaise in my hand, while standing in front of the refrigerator, and I can't remember whether I need it to put it away, or start making a sandwich."

The second lady chimed in with "Yes, sometimes I find myself on the landing of the stairs and can't remember whether I was on my way up, or on my way down."

The third one responded, "Well, ladies, I'm glad I don't have that problem. Knock on wood," as she

rapped her knuckles on the table, and then said, "That must be the door, I'll get it!"

Have a good week. Remember I love you and know that God does too.



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Viewing: The house may be inspected at the Robeson County Career Center, (Hilly Branch Community), 301-S of 74, Lumberton, N.C. starting May 3, 1999, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Time and Place of Sale: The house will be sold by public auction on Thursday, May 20, 1999, at 4:00 p.m. The sale will be held at the house site on the Robeson County Career Center campus at the above address.

Terms: 10% deposit required for successful bidder (Cash or Approved Check). 90% balance due within 30 days of sale.

**SPECIAL CONDITIONS**

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