

## Correction

in last week's issue of the Carolina Indian Voice, the cutlines for the following pictures were inadvertently switched. We apologize for the mix up and reprint them with the proper cutlines.

### LRDA supports Miss North Carolina, Lorna McNeill



Mr. Leroy Freeman, Chairman of the LRDA Board, is shown presenting a financial contribution to Miss North Carolina Lorna McNeill.

Lumbee Regional Development Association, Inc. passed a motion in support of Lorna McNeill, the reigning Miss NC at its monthly board meeting held July 3, 2000. McNeill, an enrolled member of the Lumbee tribe was crowned Miss NC on June 17, 2000 in Raleigh, NC. She is also a former Miss Lumbee. The agency has pledged financial support for McNeill who will be competing in the Miss America pageant in October.



### Miss North Carolina is filmed in her native surroundings

On Wednesday, August 2, 2000 Miss NC, Lorna McNeill, an enrolled member of the Lumbee tribe, spent the day at the NC Indian Cultural Center. McNeill was there with the Jeff Margolis Production Company of ABC. According to Ashley Rogers, Field Producer, the film is for the Miss America pageant to be aired in October. McNeill is the first Native American to hold the title of Miss North Carolina and the Production Company wished to film her in her native surroundings. McNeill will be representing NC in the pageant. Included in the film were members of the Lumbee youth cultural group performing traditional dance. Leroy Freeman, LRDA board chairman, along with members of McNeill's sorority, Alpha Pi Omega and her family, were also present to support McNeill. According to Freeman, "LRDA is proud to support McNeill and feels she is truly an ambassador for the Lumbee tribe."



### A Friendship Continues: The Story of World War II Buddies

By: Mary Jane Martin

What an exciting and joyous occasion to finally meet the family whom my dad had fondly spoken of for many years! As my son Robin and I traveled from Illinois and drove into Ms. Allean's driveway in Dec. '99, she met us with a great big smile and a warm embrace. We immediately felt we'd known each other all our lives, even though this was our first meeting. For the next few days we would share many heart-warming stories about two people we loved very much.

You see, during World War II, Ms. Allean's husband, Sgt. Edwin Locklear and my dad, Dennie Elkins stationed in Germany (1944-45) became best of friends. Since dad was older, the father of eight children, Edwin called him "Pop" and dad called Edwin, "Little Indian". They loved one another and my dad spoke of many "close calls"-times when only by the mercy of God their lives were spared.

Ms. Allean also shared stories that her husband had related to her about the good times and bad times these "War buddies" had experienced. As World War II ended, each received Purple Hearts and Medals of Honor for courage and bravery.

As the years passed, the two friends drifted in different directions, never forgetting one another, yet never to meet again.

In the years that followed my dad died and I had a strong desire to meet "the Little Indian" I'd heard so much about.

After much searching I found the address and wrote to Ms. Allean from Illinois in the fall of 1996, only to learn that Mr. Edwin was ill. He was overjoyed to hear from "Pop's" family, but saddened that his friend was gone.

My son and I never had the opportunity to meet Mr. Edwin, my dad's best friend. He also passed away thereafter. We (Ms. Allean, my son Robin, and I) made plans to meet in Dec. 99 at her home in Pembroke.

Since then we've made a recent visit and enjoyed every minute of it. Our friendship has blossomed which stemmed from two war buddies of long ago.

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