

Editorial And Opinion Page



AS I SEE IT

Bruce Barton

'Strike at the Wind!' opens July 7

I love 'Strike at the wind!' I always have, and I always will. I love it so much that I allowed Director David Oxendine to talk me into playing "Papa" Allen Lowrie (Henry Berry's daddy) another season, after I had said last season would be my last hurrah!

This is the 23rd season and a lot of veterans have returned to showcase the exploits of Henry Berry and Rhoda Lowrie and all of their friends and foes during the Civil War era when the outdoor drama is set. Let me introduce you to some of them.

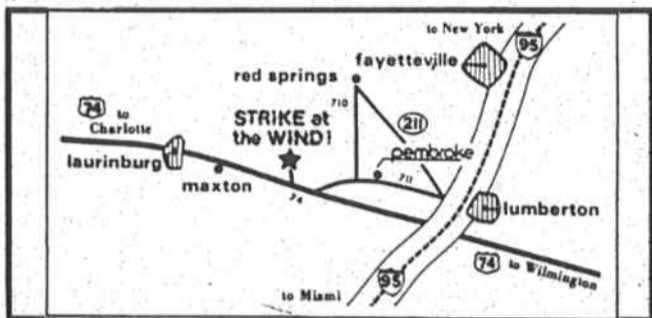
Randolph Umberger's "Strike at the Wind!" features the regal Micah Sampson as "Henry Bear" and Misha Eddings as the lovely and irrepressible Rhoda.

The delightful Robert Bryant returns for another season (his 23rd) as Shoemaker John. The director, David Oxendine, finds himself doing double duty as he pontificates as Sheriff Rueben King too.

Another staple, and beautiful to behold, is Carol Oxendine as the Leader. She is stately and wonderful in this role.

And, of course, I play "Papa" and get killed every evening under the stars throughout the summer. The season runs from July 7 until August 11.

Here's how to find us:



I believe tickets are \$8 for general admission with Senior Citizens \$6 and children under 12 \$4. Call (910) 739-0516 for more information about special rates and performance times etc.

The season opens July 7 at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater on the grounds of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center in the Red Banks Community, approximately 3 miles west of Pembroke.

The drama plays every Friday and Saturday nights throughout the season, with a special performance set for August 21. The gates open at 7:30 p.m., with performances beginning at 8:30 p.m. Most nights there will be special pre-show entertainment, beginning at 8 p.m. Hope to see you there!



Shown above are (left to right) Willie French Lowrery, composer of the wonderful music, David Oxendine, the director and Sheriff Rueben King, and Corbin Eddings who plays a mean and nasty Colonel Brant Harris.

One of my favorite characters in the drama is the decent but vacillating Rev. Hector McCord played by the wonderful local actor, Steven V. Pate.

MORE NEXT WEEK. I hope to see you under the stars again this year.



This photo was taken at a recent rehearsal. Shown, let to right, are townspeople Margo Hunt, Brandi N. Barton, Laury Chavis, Edwin Sampson-Scott, and Henry Berry Lowrie (Micah Sampson). They are emoting, you know! And invite you to make plans to meet them again this year at 'Strike at the Wind!'

MONEY TALKS

Traveling U.S. Shoppers Can Get Money Back

(NAPS)—When you shop overseas, you're paying more than many believe you should. The reason is value-added tax (VAT), which is automatically charged at point-of-purchase on most of the goods you buy in more than 90 countries around the world.

It's a lot easier to get a refund of value-added tax than many people realize.

When you leave for home, you're entitled to a refund of the VAT you paid. However, few know how to get this money back. In fact, an organization called Global Refund estimates that \$50 million in VAT annually goes unclaimed by American travelers.

Fortunately, with only three steps you can claim the refund:

- At stores displaying "tax-free shopping" signs, ask for a Global Refund Cheque when you buy an item.

- When you leave at the foreign airport, have customs stamp the cheque.

- At home, cash the cheque at a nearby Cash Refund office—or mail it in and receive a check or credit on your credit card.

Before you go shopping in Europe or elsewhere on holiday or business, consult Global Refund, which is active in 29 countries, to find out how you can get money back on your purchases abroad. To receive a useful brochure, call 1-800-KNOW-VAT or visit the Web site at www.globalrefund.com.

Along The Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

LUMBEE: a nation of Native Americans whose traditional homeland is in southeastern North Carolina; also, any member of that nation. ANTHOLOGY: a collection of poems, stories, excerpts, etc.. CREATIVE WRITING: writing which shows imagination and artistic inventiveness. LUMBEE ANTHOLOGY OF CREATIVE WRITING: a collection of poems, stories, excerpts, etc. written by Lumbee people and showing imagination and artistic inventiveness; also, a project of the Native American Resource Center.

Several months ago we were approached by two Lumbee writers, Daystar Dial (a former staff member of the Native American Resource Center) and Barbara Collins (a former reporter for the county's only daily newspaper), about the possibility of our doing a project which would produce a Lumbee Anthology of Creative Writing. This was, of course, a good idea, and one which had been talked about for some time by several people in the Lumbee community who are interested in creative writing.

It is a good idea for more than one reason. For one thing, it is always good to encourage individual artists (including writers) to continue developing their artistic skills. The best way to do that is for them to keep producing in whatever medium (or media) they work. It is also important to encourage artists to bring their works out where other people can share and

enjoy them. These things are explicitly part of our mission here at The Center.

A Lumbee Anthology is also a good idea from a broader point of view. The Lumbee Nation is a culture unto itself. While it clearly shares things with other cultures, there are also ways in which it is unique. One of the best ways to celebrate that culture — both in terms of its similarities to other cultures and in terms of its uniqueness — is through its art. For years we at The Center have endeavored to showcase the visual arts of the Lumbee (painting, sculpture, basketry, ceramics, etc.), and occasionally we have also been able to feature some creative writings in our exhibits. For example, our current exhibit by The SPIRITWORKS! Group (*Walking in the Spirit Circle*) has some excellent poetry in it. But it is time now for a collection of Lumbee creative writings by various writers to be compiled and published — to celebrate another facet of the living culture of the Lumbee people.

And there is yet another reason for a Lumbee Anthology of Creative Writing. Fifty or a hundred years from now, when the grandchildren of people alive today are looking back into their past for a word from their ancestors — a sign of what it meant to be Lumbee, of how it felt to be Lumbee, or just of how the world and things in it looked from a Lumbee perspective at the turn of the twenty-first century — wouldn't it be good for there to be a Lumbee

Anthology of Creative Writing on which to reflect?

I suspect that this will not be the last Lumbee Anthology of Creative Writing. But from where I sit it promises to be the first. Already we have received works from more than a dozen Lumbee writers. We hope there will be more coming in very soon.

Do you have a poem in your head, or a story to tell? Write it down and send us a copy. Do you have a poem written by Uncle Joe or Aunt Mary? Send us a copy. Was there a story which Old Grandmother or Old Grandfather used to tell when you were a child, and which you remember well enough to tell again? Write it down and send us a copy. It doesn't have to be serious. It doesn't have to be funny. It could be about anything. It might not even be true; some of the best stories aren't (of course, some of the best stories are).

But time is running out. We need to receive your submissions soon. Just think of the wave which might be generated by throwing one pebble into a lake, and how that wave might reverberate on some distant shore.

Mail your entries to: Lumbee Anthology, PO Box 3758, Pembroke, NC 28372. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).

Indian Health Service Feasibility Study May Impact Fayetteville, Lumberton & Pembroke in Southeast NC

The NC Commission of Indian Affairs is pleased to see that the Indian Health Service (IHS) is finally taking steps to address Indian Health Issues in North Carolina. According to Greg Richardson, Executive Director of the commission, North Carolina Indians have not benefited from the programs and services offered by the IHS because flawed interpretations of federal regulations by IHS. He indicated that the IHS only provides health services for federally recognized Indians, which leaves all other Indian citizens without these much-needed services.

The National Council of Urban Indian Health (NCUIH), was awarded a contract from the U.S. Indian Health Service (IHS) to conduct a study of three new urban sites regarding the feasibility of expanding IHS funding to establish three new urban Indian Health programs. This feasibility study was done as a follow-up to a 1989 American Indian Health Care Association report entitled "Evaluation of Potential Site Locations for New Urban Indian Health Care Programs". From this initial 1989 report, there were several urban cities that were identified as having a large urban Indian population that was potentially in need of an urban Indian health program. Of those urban cities identified, the IHS selected three and commissioned a study to research the feasibility and need of an urban Indian health program in those areas. The three urban sites chosen for this study were:

- Fayetteville, North Carolina;
- Lansing, Michigan; and
- Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

The National Council on Urban Indian Health subcontracted with Kauffman and Associates, Inc. (KAI), to actually do the research and conduct the study on these three urban sites chosen.

The first of the three sites to be researched was the Fayetteville urban area, which included the adjoining Coharie Indian communities, located in Harnett and Sampson counties and the adjoining Lumbee Indian communities in Robeson, Hoke and Scotland. The researchers found that there were five main counties surrounding Fayetteville, within a sixty-mile radius, which had large American Indian populations, which included the above referenced counties. According to the 1998 U.S. Census Bureau information, the five counties surrounding Fayetteville, had a combined American Indian population of 60,846. The counties included in the study composing the Fayetteville area, were Cumberland, Sampson, Hoke, Robeson and Scotland Counties. The American Indian community in the Fayetteville area included many tribal groups' however, the Lumbee and the Coharie Tribes were the largest groups represented. The Lumbee, a North Carolina state recognized tribe, has the largest tribal membership in the area, with over 50,000 enrolled members. There

tribal members reside mainly in the five county area surrounding Fayetteville, with the largest number living in Robeson County. Robeson County alone, has 47,079 American Indians living there, according to the July 1, 1998 U.S. Census Bureau numbers. The Coharie Tribe, composed of about 5,000 members, are scattered throughout the Fayetteville area, but the main headquarters for the Tribe is in Sampson County, just to the west of Fayetteville. Besides the Lumbee and the Coharie, there are a variety of other tribes represented in the area, mainly due to Fort Bragg. Fort Bragg is a military base located just outside the city limits of Fayetteville, many American Indians are stationed at this base, which contribute to the American Indian community in the area. The five county area surrounding Fayetteville has an American Indian community that is diverse and made up of a variety of tribal members, from both state and federally recognized tribes.

In the Fayetteville study it was determined that a majority of the American Indian population in the five county area, did not have health insurance, despite the fact many of them were employed. Although the county health departments offered some direct health care services, the wait time for county services is usually 3 to 6 months minimum. In several counties in the area, there was a shortage of health care services and providers, whether or not a person had insurance. This was especially true in Robeson County, which ironically, has the largest American Indian population of 47,079 in the entire Fayetteville area. The closest IHS clinic is 7 hours away, on the other side of the state at the Eastern Band of Cherokee Reservation. However, due to the fact that most of the American Indians in the Fayetteville area are members of state recognized tribes, they would not be eligible for IHS services unless an IHS urban Indian health program is established in the area. It was concluded that an urban Indian health program should be established in the Fayetteville area. However, it was recommended that the program be located in either Pembroke or Lumberton in Robeson County over the actual city of Fayetteville in Cumberland County. In addition, it was determined that the American Indian Community in Robeson County, deemed to have more infrastructure, organization and partnerships already in place to facilitate the establishment of an Indian Health Service Program in that area.

For additional information regarding the study contact:
NATIONAL COUNCIL OF URBAN INDIAN HEALTH
501 Capital Court, N.E.
Suite #100
Washington, DC 20002

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Sebastian J. Ciacchella, M.D., M.P.H., F.A.C.O.E.M.
Medical Director, Occupational Health Services

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Business & Industry representatives are invited to attend our Good Morning Chamber June 27th • 7:30 - 9:00 am

in the Occupational Health Department Community Health & Rehabilitation Center

