

The CAROLINA INDIAN VOICE

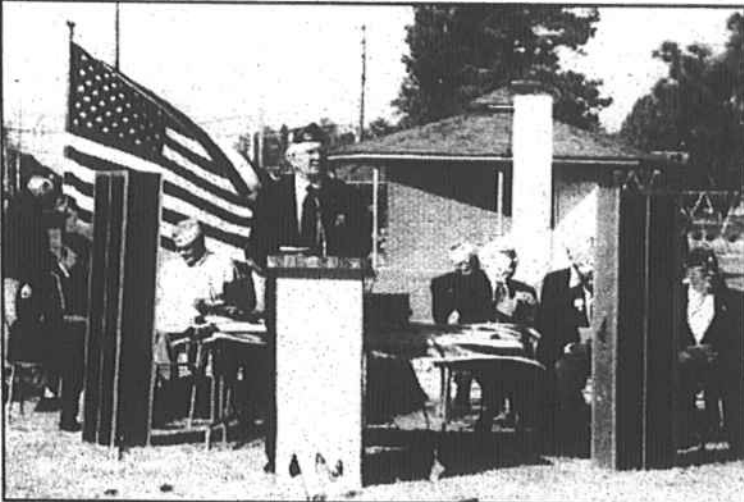
"Building Communicative Bridges In A Tri-Racial Setting"

VOLUME 28 NUMBER 46

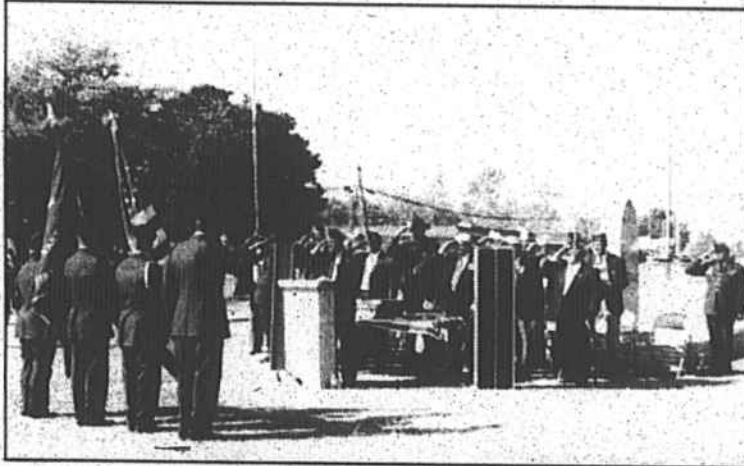
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2001

25

Scenes From Pembroke's Veterans Day Celebration



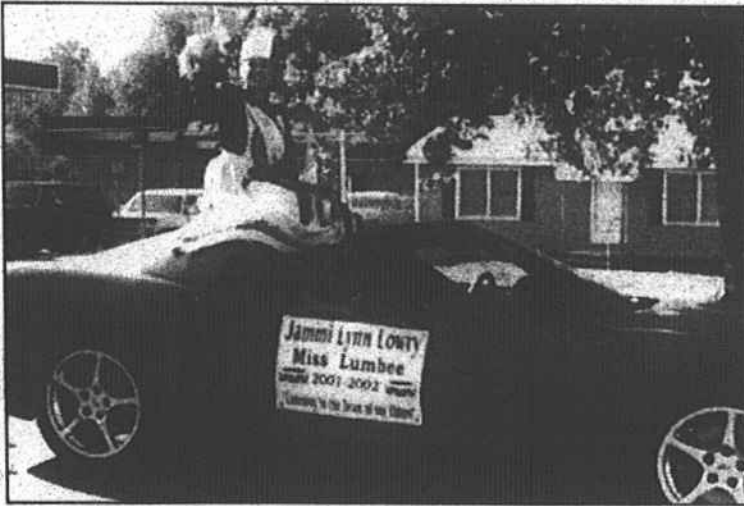
Grand Marshal Cleve Cox also served as guest speaker at the ceremony held in the town park.



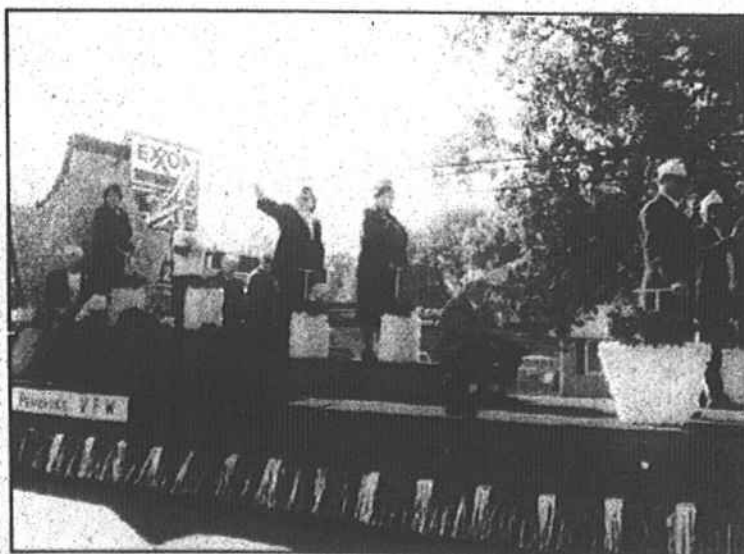
In a ceremony in the Pembroke Town Park the Pembroke VFW honored their fallen comrades of past wars.



Enjoying the celebration after the parade were left to right, Burnice Blanks, Pembroke Town Manager McDuffie Cummings and Pembroke Mayor Milton Hunt. Hunt is also Chairman of the Lumbee Tribe. (Photos by Francine Chavis)



Miss Lumbee Jammi Lynn Lowry waves to onlookers.



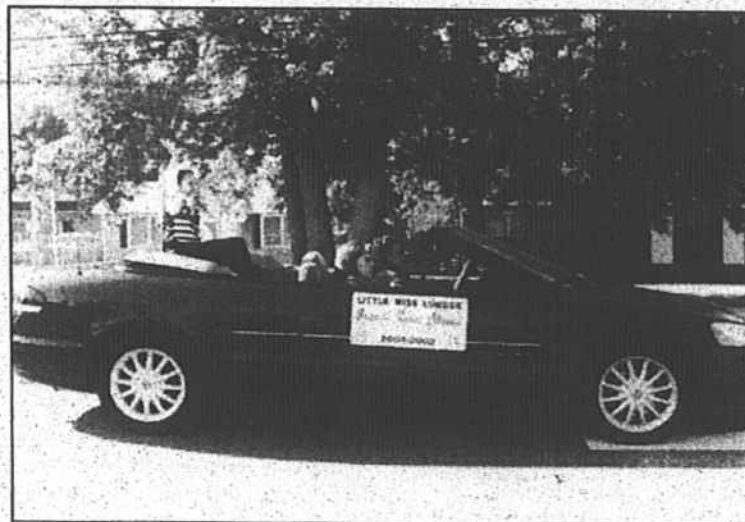
Representatives of the Pembroke VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary.



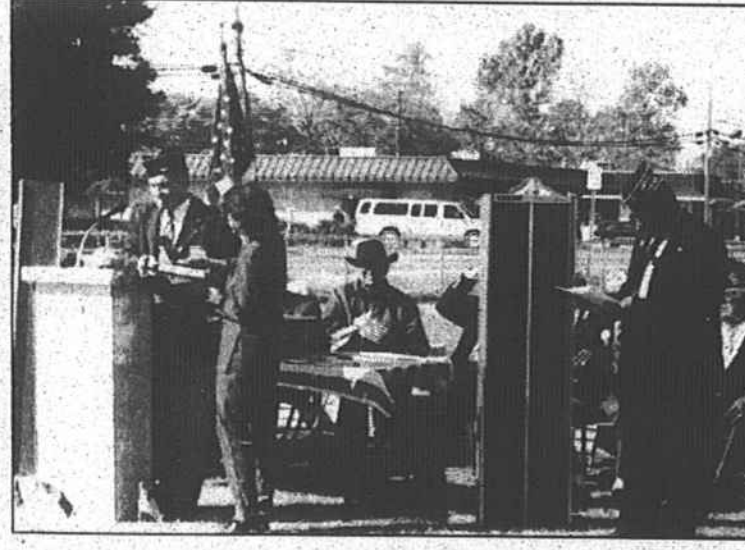
Jamestown Enterprises participated in the Pembroke Veterans' Day Parade with this float showcasing the Pembroke Cub Scouts.



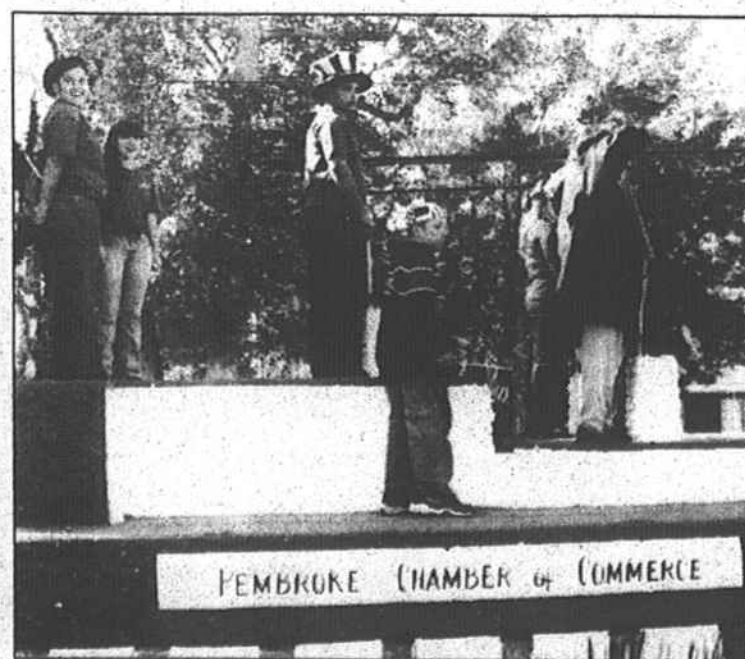
Prospect School was honored for the best marching band in the parade. Archie Oxendine, VFW Chaplain, is shown making the presentation.



Little Miss Lumbee Brandi Renee Chavis also participated



Purnell Swett High School received the honor for the best high school marching band. Archie Oxendine, VFW Chaplain is shown making the presentation.



The Pembroke Chamber of Commerce observed the occasion.

Our Tribal Constitution

by Cynthia L. Hunt

On Friday, November 09, 2001, the constitution of the Lumbee Tribe was ratified as the official tribal governing document. There were approximately over 2000 tribal members who voted in the tribe's constitutional election held Tuesday, November 06. Now, it is important for us as tribal members to take an in-depth look at the document that will govern Lumbee tribal affairs - our newly adopted constitution.

Preamble- The Preamble is merely an introduction to the document that states its purpose as being to establish a tribal governmental structure.

Article I Territory and Jurisdiction - Article I defines the tribal territory and the tribe's jurisdiction. This is one of the most important provisions in any tribal constitution.

Tribal territory is the geographic boundary of the tribe. The Lumbee Tribe is a political entity and it is measured geographically, in terms of the land it occupies. If an individual or group of individuals own land, it is called property. However, the land occupied by a political entity and recognized by other political entities is called territory. This territory may be the result of a treaty, executive order or statute. The Lumbee tribe has never had any treaties with any governments nor have they been the subject of any executive order. In terms of statutes, the legislation passed by the state in 1953 and the federal government in 1956 recognizing the tribe as Lumbee does not use the term tribal territory. However, both acts define territory by "the Indians living in Robeson and adjoining counties... shall be called Lumbee."

Tribal territory is defined in our constitution as "the State of North Carolina." However, there are currently representatives outside of the state. For example, Roderick Locklear represents District 17 which includes all states east of the Mississippi and Daucey F. Brewington represents District 18 which includes all states west of the Mississippi. It is important to note these tribal council members will not be removed from the tribal council because of this language. All members on the current tribal council will serve, as "at large" council members without regard to district boundaries from which they were elected, until the first set of elections held under the constitution, which will be November 2003.

There was much debate and discussion regarding the definition of tribal territory during the process to adopt the constitution. Tribal members voiced much concern over the tribal territory being defined as the State of North Carolina. There are many reasons for this concern. The traditional and historical territory of the Lumbee tribe has always been defined as Robeson and adjoining counties. This definition, by no means, denies that the tribe has considerable populations in urban areas of North Carolina or other parts of the United States. Tribal members should know that there is not a tribe in the United States with a tribal territory of this magnitude. A tribe's territory needs to be restricted to its historic land base.

In addition, it is important for a tribe to have the support of governing officials when seeking federal recognition. If the tribal territory includes the entire state, such support will be virtually impossible to sustain. Officials will view such a vast tribal territory as cumbersome and historically unprecedented. Federally recognized Indian tribes, whose support is needed in our efforts to obtain federal recognition, would be wary to support any efforts for federal recognition if the tribal territory was so broad as to include the entire state. Other state recognized tribes would be opposed to this for the same reasons. Some tribes may view this as an invasion of their tribal territory.

It is imperative for tribal members living outside of Robeson and adjoining counties to understand that they will be allowed to vote in any and all tribal elections. Changing tribal territory does not affect their rights as a tribal member. Tribal officials, the chairman and council members, must reside in the tribal territory. However, all enrolled Lumbees can vote in tribal elections regardless of where they live. Lumbees who live outside the tribal territory will vote in their home district, that is, the district they originally came from.

Lastly, tribal members now have the authority to amend the document since it has been ratified. There is a fair and simple amendment process included in the constitution. The first amendment to the Lumbee constitution will be to change the definition of tribal territory to reflect the tribe's historical territory of Robeson and adjoining counties. If you would like to participate by signing a petition for this amendment, please telephone 910-521-2826.

Next week we will continue our in-depth look at the constitution by reviewing the provisions regarding the tribe's jurisdiction.

Rural Broadband Technology Center

Jane Patterson and Billy Ray Hall, leaders of the e-NC initiative, presented a check for \$500,000 to representatives of the rural Broadband Technology Center on Wednesday, November 7, 2001, at the N.C. Rural Economic Development Center in Raleigh, N.C. The telecenter will be located in Lumberton, N.C., and will serve Robeson, Bladen, Columbus, Cumberland, Hoke and Scotland counties.



Pictured left to right are: Billy Ray Hall, Mark Peever, Michael Cummings, Greg Cummings, Linda Adams and Jane Patterson.

Maxton Plans Christmas Parade

The Town of Maxton is again making plans for an exciting and wonderful Christmas Parade for this upcoming holiday season. Participation in the parade is free. You may also purchase Booth Space for \$30 for food and \$35 for food and crafts and \$25 for crafts.

The town office is now accepting call in entries for the parade through December 5, 2001. When you call, make sure you leave a telephone number where you can be reached and the name of a contact. Please call between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. The Town of Maxton welcomes cars, floats, bands, marching groups, trucks, etc., in the parade. Line-up will start at Townsend Middle School on December 8th around 8:15 a.m.

Saturday, December 8 in the date of the Maxton Parade. For further information call the Town Office of Mrs. Delia Quaison at 910-844-3431 during the day.

Volunteer for Robeson County Partnership for Children

The Robeson County Partnership for Children is seeking volunteers with backgrounds in early childhood education to assist with child assessments for WINGS, a kindergarten readiness curriculum. After training, volunteers would assess selected children currently enrolled in day care facilities. For more information, contact the Partnership at 738-6767.

Oxendine & Locklear Family Reunion

On November 24, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Deep Branch Annex Building next to Deep Branch School we will get together for our family reunion. Please contact: Jeff Oxendine at 521-3346, Dollar Bill Oxendine at 422-8129, Viola Oxendine at 521-4590 or Leola Oxendine at 521-8032 for more information.