

Are you an expert on antiques?

Some of the pieces donated to the Raeford-Hoke Museum are not readily identifiable. That's why the folks of the museum committee are asking for help from our readers.

In an earlier issue, we featured photos of some pieces that have been identified; they are an ice pick (identified by out-of-stater Jean Hampton, whose grandmother was a Raeford resident and who was a frequent visitor to the area; an apple peeler, verified by the Museum of the Cape Fear; and an ice shaver.

Also featured was a picture of a small pitcher marked as "Made in Occupied Japan." It was also marked exclusively as a Souvenir of Raeford, NC.

Additional information was provided the committee through an article from "Collector's Guide to Made in Japan Ceramics" by Carole Bess White.

Preserving our Past Raeford/Hoke Museum

Seems Americans wanted the frivolities of what-nots after the heaviness of World War II; this combined with a need for the economic recovery of Japan led to the manufacture of ceramics that were shipped to the U.S. in large amounts.

All items were supposed to be marked as having been made in Occupied Japan or Japan before they left Customs.

In addition to donated items, the museum committee accepts monetary donations: at Raeford-Hoke Museum, 315 North Main St., Raeford, NC 28376; send to the attention of Betty Smith, assistant city manager.



Historians at the Museum of the Cape Fear could not identify this item. Can you? If so, call the Raeford-Hoke Museum at 875-2270.



Raeford Yard of the Month

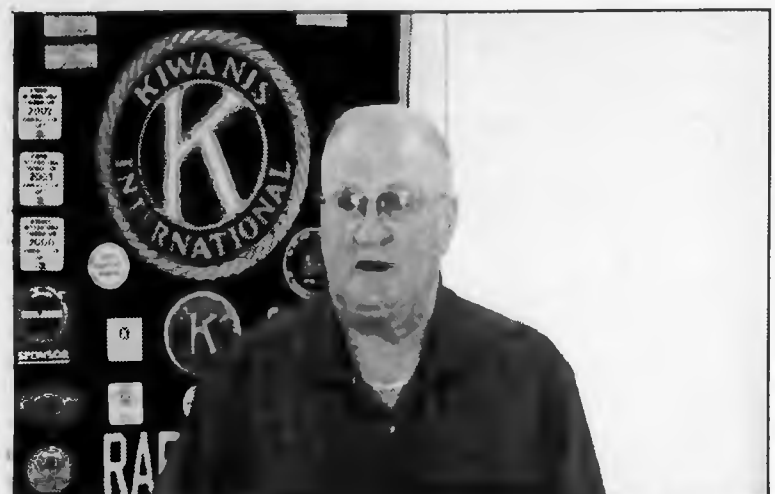
Spring is bursting at the seams in the Birch Circle yard of Gene and Marylee Chalaire. Pansies, hyacinths, jonquils, Bradford pears and more are blooming in this month's beautifully landscaped Raeford-Hoke Chamber of Commerce Yard of the Month.



Perhaps this was a tobacco stringer? Anyone who knows for sure what its use was, call 875-2270.



This donated item was used as a turpentine paddle. (Just checking to see if you are on your toes.)



Mayor Bob Gentry

Kiwanians hear from mayor

The March 13 meeting of the Kiwanis Club of Raeford was called to order by President Mike Lucas at the Raeford Civic Center with a song, the pledge and a blessing.

Tony Austin, who was responsible for the program, introduced the Mayor, Bob Gentry, who highlighted some of the activities regarding the city. First, was the old hotel and at this time it appears the hotel will be demolished. Several individuals have shown interest in developing this site, but there is no definite contact at this time.

The Downtown Revitalization and the Museum committees have been very active. As noted recently, a \$90,000 grant was awarded to the commission. No funds are yet in hand but discussions are underway as to the best avenue to take regarding downtown. The museum committee recently agreed to proceed with the purchase of the McLauchlin-McFadyen house. A \$50,000 loan will be obtained to complete the purchase. Studies are underway to offer memberships along with other events for the year. Funds are necessary because of the necessary operational expenses.

Kiwanis Komer

Harold Gillis

Look for future announcements. Water lines will be installed in the near future from McLauchlin Chapel on Highway 20 up to Oakdale Gin Road and then proceed down Oakdale Gin Road to the corner of Prospect and 401 Business. A new elevated water tower will be erected in that area and, as a result, the water tower near the Raeford Fire Department will be disassembled.

The proposed shopping center was mentioned, and the city is working with the county in providing the necessary water and sewer.

A certificate of appreciation was presented to the mayor after a few questions. The club learned firsthand about activities of the city. Thanks, Mayor! Come again.

"Happy Dollars" and 50/50 were also received.

Lumbees

(Continued from page 1A)

step in our attempts to receive full federal recognition."

The Lumbees are the largest Indian tribe east of the Mississippi River.

Supporters

U.S. Senator Elizabeth Dole, and Congressman Mike McIntyre of Lumberton have introduced bills in the Senate and the House of Representatives to secure federal recognition for the Lumbees.

"When I was campaigning for the U.S. Senate, I made a promise that I would support full recognition for the Lumbee Tribe," Dole said. "I made that promise because it was the right thing to do. It is right because this tribe has been unfairly denied for decades.

"It is right because the regional economy has suffered through floods and drought, reduced farm commodity prices and lost manufacturing jobs."

U.S. Senator John Edwards and Congressman Robin Hayes have also pledged to back the bills of Dole and McIntyre on behalf of the Lumbees.

"It is time to right that injustice," Edwards said of repeated denial to the Lumbees.

Edwards also praised McIntyre for "leading the fight to give the Lumbees the respect and dignity they deserve."

Baker thanked Dole, McIntyre, Edwards and Hayes for their assistance. If successful in obtaining federal status, a financial infusion possibly exceeding more than \$100 million could be distributed by the tribe in the Cape Fear and Sandhills regions. It would provide improvement programs to benefit tribal members and other citizens indirectly as well, Baker said.

History

"For 115 years, Congress has denied rights to the Lumbees for special health, housing, economic and educational opportunities that are available to Indian tribes such as the Eastern Band of the Cherokee in North Carolina," Baker said. "In 1956, the Lumbees were unofficially recognized by Congress, but the language in the Lumbee act denied the tribe benefits awarded to other Native American tribes across the nation."

Hoke resident Mike McNeill, a Lumbee, serves as Hoke's district representative for the legislative branch

of the Lumbee Tribal Council. McNeill is the equivalent of a U.S. congressman to the Lumbee Tribe.

According to Baker, McNeill perceives compacting of the Lumbee territory and the potential of federal tribal recognition as an advantage for all Lumbees. Some Lumbees who reside in Charlotte, Raleigh, Baltimore, Maryland and even New York state could be qualified for future benefits.

"No (federal) services will be denied to any one who is a Lumbee," McNeill said of out-of-territory tribal members. "That is a misconception."

"There were rumors Lumbees outside the service area would not be eligible for benefits. That is not true. They will receive services as long as they are eligible."

Baker echoed McNeill's comments. In order to become eligible, he said, Lumbees must be enrolled as tribal members. They must also prove their Indian lineage, producing names of family ancestors who were enrolled in the U.S. census of 1910. Lumbees must also provide birth certificates of their relatives and other identifications, demonstrating also that they are living in the Lumbee Indian way of life, Baker added.

Benefits

"There will be tremendous benefits to Hoke, Robeson, Scotland and Cumberland counties — regardless of a person's ethnicity — because the counties will reduce their tax liabilities and burdens when Lumbees are federally recognized," Baker said. "If a Lumbee is currently on Medicaid or Medicare or receiving assistance from Social Services, those tribal members will no longer need to receive assistance from the county."

"They will receive assistance through moneys the federal government will provide to the Lumbee Tribe to administer to its people. That is of great savings to local governments."

Casino?

While some businessmen have speculated on the possibility of operating a future gambling casino, Baker said the tribal council has doubts about a gaming venture.

"Gaming is not forbidden in the Lumbee Constitution," Baker said. "However, the tribe would prefer to concentrate on economic development rather than building a gambling casino as some have proposed."

"There are negative aspects of gaming that occur in a community when a casino is established, and we are family- and economically-oriented. We prefer to purchase land in a zone for

business development."

Baker said numerous steps are involved in opening a casino. The tribe would have to vote on the issue in a referendum. The Lumbee Tribe would petition the U.S. Secretary of the Interior to authorize land being set aside for a potential casino. Then the governor of North Carolina would have the final say, he said.

Status

According to Dole's information officer, the Lumbee bill Dole introduced has been referred to the Senate's Indian Affairs Committee. Once the bill is reviewed and accepted, it will be sent to the Senate floor for a vote. There are some minor technical differences in the language of McIntyre's bill. It requires the House and the Senate merge the two bills into one by a conference committee before final approval may be granted.

Baker said other advantages could improve the Lumbees' opportunity for enrichment and health if these bills are approved as one.

"We could be eligible for education scholarships for our children that they are currently excluded from receiving because they are not recognized by the federal government," Baker said. "Some of our Lumbee children cannot currently pursue higher education because they do not have the resources or family incomes to assist them."

Baker said medical care and other historical aspects of the Lumbee traditions could be preserved and also be improved for the tribe if they are

recognized by Congress.

"Lumbees who cannot afford health insurance, or do not have it, would then be covered by the federal government," Baker said.

"We could represent for all times our way of life while promoting the educational, cultural, social and economic well-being of the Lumbee people."

Baker said existing land owned by Lumbees would still be taxable by the county where they reside. The federal recognition would not allow Lumbees to reclaim any land they alleged they previously owned by virtue of their heritage. Only future land purchased, set aside as tax-exempt, and in trust by the U.S. government for specific economic development or tribal sovereignty would not be taxable, he said.

"However, by contracting with EMS, fire and police services in our counties, the local governments would benefit by additional tax incentives if we set aside land for small business development," Baker said. "We are seeking more economic exploration."

Baker said since 1988 the Lumbees have attempted five times to receive federal recognition due to them.

"To be fair, we have to go through the legislative process to achieve recognition," Baker said. "We think that once we do complete that process that we should receive full rights, benefits, and privileges that other federally-recognized tribes receive."

Milton R. Hunt of Pembroke is the Lumbee tribal chairman — the same to the Lumbees as the president of the United States.

College Circuit

Inducted into Phi Eta Sigma

Edmund Culp was one of approximately 50 Campbell University students inducted into Phi Eta Sigma National Honor Society. Phi Eta Sigma is nationally recognized for academic excellence and social and personal responsibility.

Members must have achieved a 3.5 or better grade point average in their first collegiate year and be active in extracurricular activities.

Culp, who is a pre-pharmacy

major, graduated from Hoke County High School with honors. He was also a North Carolina Scholar and played varsity tennis and soccer.

Culp is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Culp of Raeford.

Founded in 1887 and located in Buies Creek, Campbell University is North Carolina's second largest private institution and the second largest Baptist university in the world.

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HOKE COUNTY INDIAN EDUCATION will hold a public hearing on Monday, April 7, 2003 at 7 pm for the purpose of electing new members for fiscal year 2003-2004.

The hearing will take place at the Indian Education Office, 116 W. Prospect Ave., Raeford, N.C.

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