

NEIGHBORS



Will Moreau Goins of Columbia wrote the grant for federal funding to build the village, which will be north of Dillon County near the South Carolina line. He is sitting in one of the longhouse replicas.

Columbia man making village reality

By DOROTHY MOORE
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Will Moreau Goins of Columbia calls the soon-to-be Indian Museum and Village in Maxton, N.C., a "living village."

Goins, CEO of the state's Eastern Cherokee, Southern Iroquois and United Tribes, wrote the grant for federal funding to build the village, which will be north of Dillon County near the South Carolina line.

There will be an educational museum and historic replica village, with American Indian docents who know the folkways and history of the Tuscarora Indians. This tribe was part of the Iroquois League, which was the first regional demo-

cratic governmental body to operate successfully in the United States, Goins said.

"(They) had an impact on the development of the U.S. politically, socially and culturally," he said. For example, Benjamin Franklin studied their form of government and adopted some of the ideas for his Albany Plan of Union, which was followed under the Articles of Confederation.

Goins said the village will perfect for field trips. "It's a full interactive learning experience." The village is already under construction, with hopes to open by early 2003. In a year, all the longhouses, which were religious and political centers of American Indian life, will be built.

Attractions will include bead-

work crafts, a dugout canoe, storytelling, songs and more.

Goins is developing the learning component and working with the living history interpreters.

The docents are researching the culture of the Southern Iroquois Tuscarora, who inhabited North Carolina and the Upstate of South Carolina. Around 1700, the Tuscarora Wars began. By 1711, many in the tribe moved to New York to become the sixth nation of the Iroquois Confederacy.