

THE EXTENSION SCENE

BY EVERETT DAVIS

Agriculture has helped to make our nation a land of plenty. But many who work to provide this abundance are seriously or even fatally injured. According to National Safety Council estimates for 1988, work-related mishaps in agriculture accounted for about 1,500 deaths and 140,000 disabling injuries. Though it dropped slightly from 1987, agriculture still has the highest accident death rate (per 100,000 workers) of the major U.S. industry divisions. Its injury rate also is among the highest. Farming people also suffered from home, recreation, and traffic mishaps.

Many illnesses and lingering health problems among those who farm can be traced to excessive, unprotected exposure to dust, allergens, chemicals, toxic gases, heat, cold, noise, intense sun, insects, and long days sitting behind the wheel of hard-riding equipment.

This year's theme, SAFEing the Farm and Ranch, approaches safety in a very positive manner. "SAFEing" means to preact rather than react...to do the necessary things ahead of time that can reduce or even eliminate risk of accidental injury, property damage, and work-related illness. Put another way, "don't wait until the horse has gotten out to lock the barn door."

Accidents don't just happen "out of the blue." There are always identifiable factors that involve human actions (or inactions) and those related to machines, working or driving conditions, and such. Because accidents are caused, most can be prevented or their consequences moderated by practical measures.

Risk-taking is a major factor in many accidents. Though we know accidents are costly, we still don't always operate in ways that would reduce risk and help us avoid a major loss.

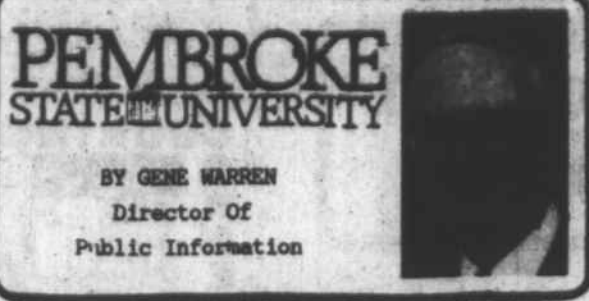
Aristotle defined courage as the "golden mean" between cowardice and foolhardiness. The person of courage recognizes danger but doesn't run into unnecessarily and acts on behalf of the greatest good. Following that advice, we should be safe when nothing is at stake worth risking our safety for.

No one would fault a person for laying his or her life on the line to save a drowning child. But where's the reward for most everyday risk taking? Usually motives are relatively trivial: to save a bit of time or effort (like not buckling a safety belt), to attract attention, to vent anger, to quench a thirst for excitement, to be the fastest away from the light.

Success in farming (and most endeavors) takes planning, preparation, perspiration, and perseverance. But a farmer or rancher who wants to stay in the "pink" physically and in the "black" financially should add another word beginning with "P"—PREVENTION...Prevention of accidents and illness.

In order to be safe around the farm, the following rules should be observed. (1) Be physically fit and ready for a safe day. Dress properly for each job, including the use of personal protective equipment (hard hat, safety shoes, respirator, protective goggles, et cetera) if the job or conditions call for it. Take work breaks to stay alert. (2) Be sure workers and family members are trained for the jobs they do. Recognize their abilities and limitations when assigning work. Keep children and non-workers off machinery and out of dangerous areas. (3) Inspect all equipment and facilities periodically, making needed repairs and correcting hazards without delay. (4) Read and follow directions and recommendations in operator's manuals and on product labels. (5) Focus on each task at hand. Watch what you're doing and where you're going. Inattention is a factor in many accidents. (6) Keep machinery shielding in place. Turn off the power before unclogging or attending to operating problems. (7) If your

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FOUR DOCTORS OF VETERINARY MEDICINE IN ROBESON COUNTY ARE ALUMNI OF PSU

Four doctors of veterinary medicine—all having graduated from or attended Pembroke State University—are working at different veterinary hospitals or clinics in Robeson County.

Two of the four own their own veterinary hospitals with one of those starting his own "from day one" after graduating from Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine in Tuskegee, Ala. All four are alumni of that school.

The door that was opened for one has helped others to follow. Their names: Dr. David Brooks, PSU class of '74 who opened the first Pembroke Veterinary Hospital in '78 "from day one" after earning his D.V.M. at Tuskegee; Dr. Curt Locklear, PSU class of '75 who opened his 4,000 square foot Southeastern Veterinary Hospital on N.C. Highway 211 north of Lumberton in April of this year; Dr. Terry Clark, PSU class of '85 who is employed in association with Dr. Milton Jordan at South Robeson Veterinary Clinic in Fairmont; and Dr. Michael Deese, who attended PSU from 1981-85 and is employed with Dr. N.G. Baird's Veterinary Hospital in Lumberton.

All say their educational experiences at PSU prepared them well to succeed at Tuskegee University's School of Veterinary Medicine.

Brooks, 36, who is serving this year as president of the PSU Alumni Association, told how Tommy Swett, PSU director of special programs, helped "to start the chain reaction" which allowed each to earn his doctorate of veterinary medicine.

"Tommy Swett introduced Curt Locklear and me to Dr. Ellis Hall, who was chairman of the admissions committee at Tuskegee and head of their large animal-small animal clinic. Dr. Hall was the one who said a person could or could not get into school," said Brooks.

Hall, who Brooks said was from Fairmont, opened the door of opportunity to them. Brooks and Locklear, who served as the path finders for the others, graduated with the highest honors at Tuskegee in '78 and '79 respectively.

"It was PSU which facilitated me, making me want to go on to school," said Brooks. "When I look back on my years at PSU, Andrew Ransom (now retired) of the physical Science Department is the professor who comes to mind. But the most important courses I ever took were high school geometry and college mathematics." Brooks, a Beta Club member while at Pembroke Senior High School, was chosen to "Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities" at PSU.

Locklear, 36, was employed with Baird's Veterinary Hospital for 9 and a half years before opening his own hospital. A magna cum laude graduate of PSU, he was chosen an Outstanding Senior at Pembroke Senior High School. "I received a real fine basic background from the Science Department at PSU," Locklear says. "The professors there encouraged us to do our best. Dr. Harold Teague and Andrew Ransom were especially helpful to me."

Brooks told how he and Locklear, who were roommates, used to arise at 7 a.m. on Sunday mornings to study prior to going to church.

Clark, 27, said "PSU provided me a good background to pursue my doctorate of veterinary medicine." He praised people like Tommy Swett in Special Programs, Dr. Harold Teague in chemistry and Dr. David Maxwell in biology for helping him. A 1980 graduate of Fairgrove High School near Fairmont, he was there the salutatorian of his graduating class and also a member of the National Honor Society and Beta Club. Clark earned his D.V.M. at Tuskegee last May.

Deese, 26, went directly to Tuskegee from PSU before graduating at the latter. He earned his D.V.M. last May. Valedictorian of his Senior Class at Prospect High School, Deese became a Chancellor's Scholar at PSU. "I believe I received a real good background at PSU," Deese said. "PSU offered a program that enabled me to complete my education and do so on a competitive basis. Particularly helpful to me at PSU were professors Andrew Ransom and Dr. Harold Teague (Physical Science Department) and Dr. Bonnie Kelley (Biology Department)."

PSU'S CHARLOTTE ALUMNI CHAPTER HOLDS RETREAT

The Charlotte Chapter of the PSU Alumni Association recently held a fun-and-fellowship retreat at the cottage on Lake Norman of Jesse Oxendine, former chairman of the PSU Board of Trustees.

Twenty-two people were in attendance. Among them was PSU's new chancellor, Dr. Joseph Oxendine, and Mrs. Oxendine. A three-sport athlete in college, Dr. Oxendine proved his versatility in athletics by water skiing and swimming across a portion of Lake Norman.

Glen Burnette, PSU director of alumni affairs, said a good time was held by all in the weekend of boating and other water sports and cooking out.

The list of those attending included: CHARLOTTE—Cathy

Locklear, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Lowery, Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Oxendine, William Earl Oxendine, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Winfree, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Wrinklewitch; CONCORD—Mr. and Mrs. Jack Locklear; PEMBROKE—Greg Bell, Darla Oxendine, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Oxendine, Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Oxendine, Dr. and Mrs. Joseph Oxendine; LUMBERTON—Glen Burnette, Dr. John Rimberg.

A formal meeting of the Charlotte Chapter of the Alumni Association is planned in November.

DR. WILLIAM FRITZ TEACHES AT SUMMER WORKSHOP IN MISSOURI

Dr. William Fritz of the PSU Music Department spent part of the summer teaching at a jazz residency workshop at Drury College in Springfield, Mo.

Highlight of the workshop was a series of seven concerts presented by the faculty jazz ensemble of which Fritz was part. Other musicians came from such distances as Los Angeles, New York and Dallas.



Three of four Pembroke State University alumni who are doctors of veterinary medicine in Robeson County are shown in front of PSU's historic Old Main building. Left to right, they are Drs. David Brooks, Terry Clark and Michael Deese. Unable to be present for the picture was Dr. Curt Locklear.



Here are the officers and members of the board of directors of the Pembroke Chamber of Commerce in a picture taken recently. Left to right, front row—Ron Brown, treasurer; Ann Lowry, vice president; and Dr. Charles Jenkins, president; back row—members of the board of directors: Bill Oxendine, McDuffie Cummings, Ken Freeman and Frank Daughtrey. Not present for the picture were Adeline Maynor, secretary, and Lindsey Locklear, a member of the board of directors. Jenkins, the new president, is vice chancellor for academic affairs at Pembroke State University.

Reflections By Alta Nye Oxendine

Pressure can build up, without any visible sign of a positive resolution. I, too, know something about this. As a harried, often-exhausted wife and mother, I would begin to feel that the pressures were more than I could bear. Before I realized

what was happening, I would find myself taking my pent-up frustrations out on my children—even though I had always planned to be the Perfect Parent!

Like most of the other Pembroke and Robeson County residents, I was shocked to hear about the hostages being held at the Robesonian on February 1, 1988. And, like many others, I have been shocked, over and over, by many of the events taking place since that time. I still can't understand such actions as writing letters to Gorbachev before the Moscow Summit and taking "documents" to the Soviet Consulate. But, although I've been told that he has some very enterprising ideas, I doubt that Eddie thought all of these things up by himself. Sometimes two or more heads (including those of lawyers) may be better than one in devising plans for the future. And, of course, most of these events took place after the February 1 takeover. As I understand it, Eddie is on trial for what happened on that particular day.

In general, I find lawsuits, especially those demanding hundreds of thousands (even millions of dollars) hard to accept. So far, I have not been able to think that way. I was shocked to read about the size of the lawsuit brought against the Los Angeles Police Department, by the ACLU on behalf of individuals who had been under investigation as part of a concerted effort to prevent any kind of subversive activity during the Olympic Games being held there in 1984. It would seem that the main purpose of such lawsuits these days is to financially cripple the targeted individual or group to such a degree that they are virtually put "out of commission."

However, just as I felt about Timothy Jacobs before and during his trial, for the sake of Eddie, each of the hostages, and for the future of all of us in Robeson County, as well as the entire state of North Carolina, it is my honest hope and my sincere prayer that the trial of Eddie Hatcher will be fair to all concerned.

I urge everyone in this county who believes in God to pray for all the parties participating in this trial, that God's will (not just yours, or mine, or Eddie's) may be carried out in the midst of these very difficult circumstances.



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