

# WHAT NEXT???

Politicians are always interesting in Robeson County. It has long been our position that politics dictate much of what goes on the Robeson County Judicial System... On Monday with the arrest of Barry Nakell, UNC law professor on charges we were even more convinced the judges again ruled the day in of Robeson... We found it interesting that after driving two hours to turn himself, the Robeson County officials felt the need to handcuff Nakell... This simple procedure was no more, in our opinion than a statement from the powers that be that continue to make political statements and show "force of power"... We could not help but compare this arrest with one not so many months ago of Leroy Locklear. He was convicted of drug charges involving more than \$1 million worth of marijuana... To our knowledge, Locklear was never treated by local law enforcement as a "convicted felon." We don't recall that he was ever publicly handcuffed and paraded around as was Nakell... But we have come to accept these political displays as par for the course in good ol' Robeson... We could only imagine on Monday the smiles and chuckles by our local sheriff, our illustrious (sic) superior court judge Joe Freeman Britt by nakell's arrest. After all, Nakell has been and continues to be a "thorn in their flesh..." Attempts have been made to discredit Nakell, to take his license to practice law, and other forms, as we view it, of intimidation... While we have felt at times that Barry Nakell was not being realistic when he proposed, in our opinion, to right the wrongs of Robeson's judicial system. We were astounded with the spectacle that we felt was being made of him as he appeared to pull ten days in the county jail as a result of contempt charges. No where is it written that a man does not have to be shown simple courtesy and respect, even if he is going into the Robeson County Jail to pull a sentence imposed by a judge. We are

of the opinion that Nakell had demonstrated that he had no intention of running away from authorities. He had demonstrated this by driving himself from Chapel Hill to "turn himself in..." As usually happens in these situations, however, the people who laugh first, usually laugh shortest... Nakell was released on Tuesday after less than 24 hours on a "writ of habeas corpus." Loosely interrupted that means "release that body... you are holding him illegally." In our opinion, it is not unusual for a person to be held "illegally" in the Robeson County Jail... If those who control the politics in the state (in our opinion Joe Freeman Britt is one of the strongest politicians in the state) have their way, Nakell may indeed return again to the Robeson County Jail... We hope that Nakell was there long enough to understand that the laws of the land are not necessarily the laws that govern Robeson County... We have felt that Nakell stepped over the boundaries when he subpoenaed over 100 people for a disciplinary hearing before the State Bar... But that was never to say that we disagreed with his overall assessment that something was "terribly" wrong with the overall judicial system and law enforcement in our native land... Nevertheless, we expect that of Joe has been reminded once again that he is not as much in control of "the politics" as he might think... And in that there is hope... Having said all that, we are forced once again to remind him that he serves as Superior Court Judge against the wishes of the majority of the voting citizens in this county... Always we want him to know that we know... He was not the choice of the people and serves only because of the tragic death of Julian Pierce, our choice for Superior Court Judge... And another election will come... And in 1994, of course, we will have the opportunity once again to vote against... And hope ties itself there... in another day... a better day for all of us.

## Reflections

By

Alta Nye Oxendine

### THE NEWS

**The Good News.** Mother has been thoroughly enjoying all the special attention she has gotten as a result of turning 95 last month.

After the worship service on Sunday, January 19, the church she now attends, Ruby Valley Baptist, had a covered dish meal in her honor. Then, on her birthday, January 23, my brother Russ surprised her by suddenly appearing in his Volkswagen from his home in Denver. That night her second party was held at the Church of the Valley, the Methodist church we used to attend in the 40s and 50s. Many relatives were present to share in the fun and fellowship. Pictures were taken of Mother with Aunt Clara (her brother's wife) now 84 and Aunt Grace (Daddy's sister) who will be 90 in June.

The next Sunday at Ruby Valley Baptist Church the congregation counted as she dropped 95 cents into the Birthday Bank.

Besides her two celebrations (each with a special birthday cake), Mother received a number of practical gifts and many, many pretty cards.

**The Not-So-Good News.** Shortly before her birthday, Mother hurt her back when she started to fall. Since then it has been very sore... Now she is getting physical therapy treatments and spending a lot of time on her heating pad. We all hope she will be back to her normally active lifestyle soon.

If anyone would like to drop her a note, the address is now: Alta R. Nye, 175 Gien Lane, Twin Bridges, MT 59754.

## THE COACH'S CORNER

### NORTH CAROLINA OVER DUKE?

They play Wednesday night at North Carolina. By the time this prediction comes out on Thursday, if the presses don't break down, the game will be over with and Carolina the winner. Duke is riding the crest of the wave with 8-0 in the ACC Conference and 17 and 0 over all. And she is ready to lose their first game. They will be facing Carolina as an underdog. And we never find Carolina as an underdog. If you think Duke students are tough contenders, Carolina students will be unsurpassed in cheering Wednesday night. And the pressure Carolina will put on the Devils will be too great to overcome. This game is no doubt the high light of the season but because it is a home game for the Tarheels it is a must for them. And because Duke is No. 1 in the country ratings, the Tarheels will be all the more inspired to knock them off. I can't help pick N.C. the winner. How about you?

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**DEAR FRIENDS:** Are you aware that the Lumbee recognition bill has passed the House, and the Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs, and will come up on the floor of the Senate soon? After years of frustration, we may get our recognition instated.

However, the word is that the White House will veto the bill. To prevent that happening, you need to write today to: **President George Bush**, The White House, Washington, DC 20505 and tell him to sign the Lumbee Bill. Thank you very much.

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# A Long The Robeson Trail

By Dr. Stan Knick, Director PSU Native American Resource Center

One of the most common misconceptions about traditional Native American culture concerns the so-called "peace pipe." Countless books and movies about interactions between Indians and non-Indians include references to smoking the "peace pipe." Visitors to the Native American Resource Center sometimes ask to see a "peace pipe," or comment on one of the "peace pipes" on display.

What most people don't seem to realize is that these pipes were traditionally used on various occasions, not just those having to do with "peace." They might be more properly called ceremonial pipes, or medicinal pipes. But what did Indians in traditional times smoke in their pipes?

Another common misconception is that Indians smoked tobacco exclusively. In reality, they used a wide variety of herbs and other plant materials, and the percentage of tobacco used was probably pretty small. Often a little tobacco was mixed with other plants. Here is a partial list of smoking materials from Indian cultures all over America.

One popular herb is now called angelica (*Angelica atropurpurea*). It has a sweet smell and taste, and is sometimes mixed with tobacco. Another is bristly crow-foot (*Ranunculus pennsylvanicus*), which grows in wetlands, and which was a favorite autumn smoke. Yet another is dittany (*Cunila origanoides*), also called "mastin-jay;" this one is a member of the mint family which was smoked as well as chewed.

But one of the better known smoking herbs is called kinnikinnick (also called bearberry, *Arctostaphylos uva-ursi*). This plant is an evergreen shrub, related to heaths. Although the name "kinnikinnick" originally meant a blend of sumac bark, spicebush, tobacco, and bearberry,

the word has come to be used by some Indians to refer to bearberry alone. According to *Native Harvests* by Barrie Kavasch, Chippewa folks combined bearberry with red willow and smoked them to get rid of headaches. However, among some western tribes, the word kinnikinnick has come to refer only to red willow.

Corn is of course one of the best known Indian plants, but not many people know that part of it was also smoked. In traditional times some tribes took the silk-like threads (cornsilk) from female corn flowers and made that into a smoking mixture. Some even rolled it into cornhusk cigarettes!

Although a number of mints and other herbs were smoked for their soothing and pleasant taste, many other plants were smoked for more purely medicinal reasons. One such plant, also used in the form of teas and decoctions, is called "life everlasting" (*Gnaphalium polycephalum*). It is said to have an aroma similar to that of hickory, and was used for headaches. Some early shamen also believed that this herb "cleared and strengthened the voice, and provoked the urge to sing" (*Native Harvests*, p. 162).

So, although native tobacco (*Nicotiana rustica*) was widely grown and smoked by Indian people, there were many other plants used in ceremonial and medicinal pipes (including dogwood and sassafras bark, and the leaves of smooth sumac and sunflower). (Extreme caution is necessary with most of these plants, since some parts of them can be hazardous to your health.)

For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

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