

Along The Robeson Trail

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

Garry Barton's recent courageous article about the hazards of tobacco smoke encourages me to delve also into the clouds of that very delicate topic. Folks who are not ready to hear any more about the harm in smoking should probably skip ahead to some less-controversial part of the newspaper.

No one doubts the historical importance of tobacco in eastern North Carolina's economy. "King Tobacco" has been mighty good to a lot of people. And anyone who has ever walked by a tobacco warehouse as a child when the leaves are all laid out for sale will not soon forget that wonderful sweet golden smell.

It is well known that tobacco was originally a Native American plant which Europeans and the rest of the world "discovered." However, most people don't know that the plants in question are actually two different species of tobacco (the traditional Indian plant was *Nicotiana rustica*; the modern hybrid crop is *Nicotiana tabacum*). Even fewer people know that both species are members of the Nightshade family (Solanaceae), which includes some other well-known plants such as the poisonous belladonna, and vegetables such as red peppers and tomatoes.

It is well known that many Indian Nations use tobacco as a part of their ceremonies. In such a context, tobacco is literally a sacred plant. One

Creek legend tells of the Tobacco Warrior who received the plant as a gift from the Creator. But the traditional ceremonial use of tobacco bears little resemblance to the habitual smoking seen in today's society. To many people, what was sacred has become profane.

Habitual tobacco smoking in a household has negative impacts on health in a number of ways. Here are some examples of the effects of tobacco smoking in the Robeson County Native American community, based on research completed here in 1986:

- 1.) Indian children who have asthma are more than twice as likely to have come from a household with a tobacco-smoking parent than are Indian children who have not had pneumonia.
- 2.) Indian children who have had pneumonia are more than twice as likely to have come from a household with a tobacco-smoking parent than are Indian children who have not had pneumonia.
- 3.) Indian families who have a history of tuberculosis are more than twice as likely to live with a tobacco smoker in the house than are Indian families who do not have a history of tuberculosis.
- 4.) Indian families who have a history of pneumonia are almost three times more likely to live with a tobacco smoker in the house than are

Indian families who do not have a history of pneumonia:

5.) Indian families who have a history of "other respiratory problems" are almost three times more likely to live with a tobacco smoker in the house than are Indian families who do not have a history of "other respiratory problems" (problems other than asthma, tuberculosis and pneumonia).

And perhaps most alarming, in view of these connections between tobacco smoking and poor health: 6.) In a sample group of over 2,000 of Robeson County's Native American children, 63 percent live with a tobacco smoker at home!

These things are not imaginary. They are not based on studies done somewhere else (although studies elsewhere show very similar results). These are the simple facts as they are occurring here and now in the late 20th century along the Robeson Trail. Tobacco smoking in Native American families is hazardous to the health of more than just the smoker.

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

Say You Read It
In The Carolina
Indian Voice



Brooks, first Native American named to State Veterinary Board

In order to properly regulate the practice of veterinary medicine and surgery, there is established a Board to be known as the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board which shall consist of seven members. One of the members of the board is Mr. David E. Brooks. His resume includes the following (In 1978 he graduated from Tuskegee University, School of Veterinary Medicine with D.V.M. Degree, with high honors, 1976 B.S. Degree from School of Applied Science Tuskegee University, 1974 B.S. Degree from Pembroke State University, Major Chemistry, Cum Laude First Native American from the State of N.C. to earn D.V.M. Degree.

His work involves a Solo practice established, Pembroke Veterinary Hospital, in 1982 Built a new modern Veterinary Hospital. This facility was the first by a minority veterinarian in N.C. The first minority owned Veterinary Practice in Robeson County. From 1976-78 Student recipient work for Teaching Animal Hospital, Tuskegee University. 1976 & 77 Summer Veterinary training, Large Animal Clinic Tuskegee Veterinary School. Part Time in 1983-



David E. Brooks

84 Instructor Biology Dept. at P.S.U. Since 1981 he has farming interest in a 100 acre farm. Home and Community Work: He was born May 21 1953 and has been a lifetime resident of Pembroke minus 4 years in Veterinary School. He's been married to the former Wanda Jacobs since 1980 and has 5 children (Chamania, Sherese, Skegee, Sierra, Byron.)

He's a Christian and member of Bear Swamp Baptist Church, current Chairman of Finance Committee, Past chairman of Program Planning Committee, Two years served as Director of Young Adult Department. Eagle Scouter. 1982-84 Scoutmaster T-327 with Troop Number rising from 7 boys to over 30 boys. Program Committee for 50th Anniversary T-327, 1988.

Member of Pembroke Chamber of Commerce, served 2 years as secretary. Charter Member Robeson County Committee of 100. 1988 V.P. of Pembroke Elementary School PTA. Provide monetary support for many local beauty queen candidates. Hishobbies include (Carpentry work, Avid Duck and small game hunting, currently serving as charter chairman to the Pembroke Chapter Ducks Unlimited. Giving Motivational and Veterinary Medical Presentations to groups (schools, organizations, clubs and etc...).

Honors, Awards, Professional Societies, Boards: Professional Societies: 1978-Present Licensed to Practice Veterinary Medicine in N.C., Ohio, Alabama. 1978-Present Member of the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Association. 1978-Present Member of the American Veterinary

Medical Association. 1982-Present Affiliate member of the American Animal Hospital Association. 1984-Present Member of Robeson County Veterinary Medical Association (Served as secretary and call person for meetings). 1986-Present Charter

Member of the American Veterinary Dental Society. Member of Twin State Veterinary Medical Association.

Boards, Memberships: 1991-1993 Immediate Past President of P.S.U. Alumni Association. Lifetime member to Association. 1984-Present Member of Chancellor Club at PSU. 1988-1990 Member of PSU endowment Board of Directors. 1987-1989 Member Robeson County Health Department Board. 1985 initiated the Lifetime Athletic Booster Club membership at Local High School. "500 Club" member of Tuskegee University. Charter member of Pembroke Optimist Club. Honors, Awards: 1982-83 Recipient of the DSA given by Pembroke J.C.'s. Various certificates of merit and appreciation from Robeson County Schools, Association of American Indian Physicians. 1978 Recipient of the Upjohn Award in Large Animal for Proficiency in Veterinary Clinical Medicine.

1978 Recipient of Merck Award for highest GPA. 1977 Inducted into the Society of Phi Zeta. Honor Society of Veterinary Medicine. 1977 Inducted into Alpha Kappa Mu Honor Society. Beta Tau Epsilon chapter Tuskegee University. Dr. David Brooks is the only American Native to be appointed to the N. C. Veterinary Medical Board. The following is a letter from House Speaker Daniel T. Blue, Jr.:

Dear Dr. Brooks: Pursuant to the authority granted to me by North Carolina General Statute 90-182, I am pleased to appoint you to serve on the North Carolina Veterinary Medical Board. Your appointment is effective immediately and will expire on June 30, 1997.

I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity, and I am confident you will have much to contribute to the Board and to the people of North Carolina. Sincerely yours, Daniel T. Blue, Jr.

One Men in Uniform

August 17 (FHTNC)— Navy Airman Apprentice Robert L. Scott, son of Helen J. and Robert L. Scott Sr. of Route 6, Lumberton, NC, recently completed the Aviation Electrician's Mate Course. During the course, at the Naval Air Technical Training Center, Naval Air Station Memphis, Millington, TN, students receive

receive introductory instruction required to perform scheduled maintenance on naval aircraft including specialized training on electrical and electronic instrument systems. The 1991 graduate of South Robeson High School, Rowland, joined the Navy in August 1991.

August 13 (FHTNC)— Navy Airman Scott L. McLaurin, son of Peggy R. McLaurin of 2102 McMillan Ave., Lumberton, NC, recently reported for duty with Patrol Squadron-10,

Naval Air Station, Brunswick, ME. The 1988 graduate of Lumberton Senior High School joined the Navy in April 1989.

August 12 (FHTNC)— Coast Guard Seaman Apprentice Charles C. Causey, son of Barbara N. and Henry M. Causey Jr. of 1203 Turnpike Rd. Laurinburg, NC, recently graduated from Coast Guard Recruit Training Center. During the training cycle at Coast Guard Recruit Training Center, Cape May, NJ, students are taught general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training leading toward qualification in one of the Coast Guard's 26 occupational fields. Studies also include first aid, seamanship, Coast Guard history and regulations, close order drill and damage control. The 1987 graduate of Independence High School, Charlotte, joined the Coast Guard in May 1992.

Local student does internship at Supercomputing Center

Research Triangle Park, N.C., July 20, 1992— The Robeson Research Triangle Park is becoming an old friend to Pembroke Native Kenneth Brayboy. Ken gets up early every morning to make the 125 mile commute from Robeson County to his summer internship at the North Carolina Supercomputing Center (NCSC). Judges at NCSC selected Ken from a field of 80 applicants competing for five intern positions at the Center.

The daily drive doesn't bother Brayboy, a senior at Pembroke State University, because he's looking forward to his work at NCSC. Since May 29, he's been learning the complexities of supercomputing on levels far beyond those of college classrooms. NCSC's Education Specialist Tom Munk, the program director, explains, "The summer intern program doesn't teach interns basic computer skills. The students have come to learn computational science." Computational science permits scientists to make computer models of real life situations and then experiment with the model.

Working with experts at NCSC and mentors on Duke, the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill,

and the Environmental Protection Agency. Brayboy and his fellow interns take on research projects ranging from studies of supernovae in deepest space to carbon dioxide levels in the ocean. They are using the Cray Y/MP—a computer so powerful it can solve complex problems at speeds of up to 1.3 billion calculations per second.

Brayboy has been using the Cray to study how soil pollutants leach into wells and water tables. At the end of his summer internship, Ken will use the data collected to generate 3-D images of this process. Leaching can take decades, so the image is especially valuable to researchers, who can run experimental treatment programs and view the results in seconds.

Interns at the center not only learn, but they teach as well. For two weeks Brayboy and his fellow interns worked with five teams of four high school students and their coaches during the NC SuperQuest competition. The program gives high school students hands-on experience in supercomputing. "It's all been very exciting working with the NC SuperQuest team from Durham," Ken comments. He's interested in

teaching, so the opportunity to work with high school students was especially valuable.

The Summer Intern Program is part of a larger academic outreach program administered by MCNC. Applicants from secondary schools and universities participate in technical and administrative internships through these programs.

BACKGROUND: MCNC is a

private, nonprofit corporation in partnership with North Carolina business and industry. Through its three centers, MCNC promotes education, research and economic development in microelectronics, communications and supercomputing. The three centers are: The Center for Microelectronics, the Center for Communications and the N.C. Supercomputing Center.

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Measles: more than a rash
Measles involves more than just a little fever and a rash. It's a serious disease that can involve high fever, dehydration, sometimes pneumonia, and even brain damage or death.
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