

The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chavers, President
Native American Scholarship Fund
Albany, NC



It's Hog Killing Time
I am glad my three girls did not have to go through what I had to go through in growing up. When we were kids, we had to work year round, go to school, and still make the grade.

One of my favorite memories is of hog killing time. This usually happened about this time of the year, just before Christmas. My Uncle Lonnie Revels told me a few years ago that not many people in Robeson County do this any more.

That is a shame. To me, nothing tastes better than sugar cured and smoked hams, shoulders, sausages, liver pudding and bacon. Unless it was hoghead cheese. Before you start to say too much, let me tell you I always loved hog head cheese.

I can just see some of you, screwing up your face at the thought. You are probably the same ones who would not eat cracklins and sweet taters, with a glass of butter milk to settle your stomach. I can't help you all.

You're the same ones that wouldn't eat chitlins. Not only that, you would not let a chitlin in your house. Couldn't stand the smell.

My grandma and I were the only ones in our whole family, I believe, that would eat chitlins. But we loved them, once or twice a year. And I

know the ones who turned up your nose would not eat pig's feet, pickled or not. I used to love them, too.

Being a certified city boy now means I will probably never have that good stuff again. But if Uncle Lonnie is right, and he usually is, hardly any Lumbees at all will, either.

I tell my girls about killing hogs now, and they almost revolt. Monica came home from Stanford the other day, and fell in on some tamales her mother and I had made. For those of you who do not know what a tamale is, it is some ground up hog meat with some herbs in it, put between some corn meal, and wrapped in a corn shuck. Any Lumbee would recognize everything but the cumin seasoning.

The first time Toni and I made tamales, I came home and thought I was at a hog killing. There staring out at me from a big pot on the stove was a whole hog's head. Toni had cooked that rascal down all day.

Then we stripped off the meat, made the masa (corn meal, into something like hoe cake mix, spread that on the corn shucks, sealed them up, and steamed them for an hour. I wouldn't trade a piece of smoked sausage for a tamale, but they are pretty good.

Out here, they sell for \$5 a dozen. If you want to make them to sell, you can sell them all day long. A tamale to a Mexican is better than Dixie Dew and hot biscuits to a Lumbee.

Killing hogs is hard work. It takes some scraping to get the hairs off the hide. You have to have some pine tags for the water, too, to loosen the hair up. We used to use jar lids, mostly, to scrape the hair off.

It takes work to manhandle a 200 pound hog around, too. And the water we used to have to pump would wear your arms out. We had to chop wood, too, for the washpot to boil the fat down to lard and cracklins.

It takes work to stir that fat down, and to drain off the lard once you have the cracklins out. It takes work to cut all the wood you need to cure the meat and cook the lard.

And it is nasty work. God may have made a smellier animal than a hog, but I don't know what it is, besides a skunk, which is good for little of anything. And when you have to get up to your armpits in hog guts, you really have to appreciate what you are making. I did, and would love to help with a hog killing somewhere, for part of the sausage. Call me if you need help.

The Coach's Corner

The Christmas Spirit
Pervades all our sports. Especially in the area of sportsmanship, fair play and decency. The Christmas vacation tournaments are great for our high school students. The learning effect of winning and losing is so important in learning to "grow-up". This inherent need for action in the proper channels, is important in combating delinquency by adults or minors.

The Christmas spirit, being "Christ Like," means being thoughtful of your fellow mankind. We are blessed with freedom like no other country on earth. We are lucky the Christmas spirit rolls around again now for the 1993rd time. This means the "learning law of drill", repeating over and over again until the sport skill is learned, is comparable to Christmas coming back every year, hopefully teaching mankind to put down his implements of war and take up his plow and shovel.

Christmas presents that will aid children for future growth are the basketball, the baseball, bat and glove, the football, tennis racket, golf club and many others. But most important is the giving of yourself to their development by given of your time and energy. Just by being Santa Claus. It's great fun to give. Have a merry sporting Christmas and a Happy New Year.

K.J.



Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

The Christmas season means many things to different people: church services, presents and Grandma's good cooking, to name a few. It also means traveling to see friends and relatives for the holidays. Most of that travel will be by car, so I thought car safety would be a good topic to discuss this issue.

We must remember that trauma to child passengers in motor vehicles is the leading cause of death between the ages of 6 months to 19 years. There are more than 10,000 deaths per year in child passenger-related events. Teenage drivers, as a group, are more likely than older drivers to be involved in fatal automobile accidents. Alcohol plays a significant role in adolescent vehicle-related death and injury.

There are three main types of vehicle-related injuries: 1) Those involving passengers, due to vehicle collision or falling out of a moving vehicle while unrestrained, 2) Pedestrian injuries, like running in front of a car, and 3) Nonmotorized vehicles, such as bicycles and skateboards.

The key to travel safety is prevention of injury. One way of doing this is by properly using car seats and seat belts. This is the most important strategy of preventing death and injury to children in automobile accidents involving passengers. Seat restraints have the potential, if worn properly, to reduce vehicle deaths by 90% and injury by 50%. The key is properly securing car seats and seat belts to the child. It is easy to put the infant in the car seat and forget to secure it with the seat belt or forget to strap the infant into the car seat by its strap. Always make it a habit to check these things before starting the car. Decreasing drunk driving makes for safer roads for everyone. Pedestrians should walk opposite to the flow of traffic, wear bright, reflective clothing at night, and always hold the hands of small children walking near traffic.

Let's all pitch in to help reduce vehicle-related injuries, and let's start this holiday season. Everyone have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Hope to see you at home during the holidays! Take care.

Red Cross needs blood even during the holidays

The holiday season has arrived. It's an especially busy time for most people and at the Red Cross that creates a major concern. Area hospitals depend on the organization to meet the need for blood, and unfortunately while many are taking holidays, the need for blood never does. Blood is an essential ingredient of life, although most people never think about it circulating through the body every 24 seconds, feeding cells with oxygen, water and nutrients. During that time, someone somewhere in the United States will need blood. In fact, 95 percent of the population will need blood or a blood product before reaching the age of 72, and they'll be depending on the six percent of the population who donate blood to make sure it's available when that time of need comes.

Each day the Red Cross provides blood for more than 1,000 patients in area hospitals. The need for blood usually increases at this time of year due to accidents and elective surgeries - at the same time, donations traditionally drop. Donors are busy with shopping and travel, and often find it difficult to include donating

blood in their schedules. "During the holidays, we don't think of people being in the hospital, but they are - and they still need blood to get through chemotherapy, through surgeries and transplants," says Dr. Jerry Squires of the Red Cross.

In addition to the busyness of the season, bad weather and winter ailments such as cold and flu interfere with blood donations. The holidays themselves present blood collection challenges since the Red Cross collection center is closed December 24 and 25, and December 31 and January 1. That means that 6,000-units less of blood will be collected during a ten-day period.

The next blood drive will be held on Monday, December 27 from 3-7:30 p.m. at Harper's Ferry Baptist Church. The following week a blood drive will be held on Saturday, January 8 from 9 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. at Mr. Airy Baptist Church.

When you give blood you give the gift of life to someone in need. Please make giving a holiday tradition this year.

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Your Bible And You

By Daniel Davis



"Glory to God in the highest!" My how the hills around the little town of Bethlehem must have rang with those wonderful words as angels could hold themselves back no longer. What must it have been like to hear that special message, spoken from heavenly lips. Think of the glorious sight the host of angels made as they broke into songs of praise to Jesus, God's son. It must have been exciting for those poor shepherds. Their hearts must have been filled with awe.

Remember, this was before TV, magicians, and UFO's. That was before mass communication, electric lights, and automobiles. To really get the picture of what this experience must have been like we must remember what their lives were like. Their time was spent in the tasks of daily living. They didn't have much leisure time, and if they did it, was not spent like our leisure time is. Not by a long shot. They did not have something new each day to amaze them. They could not see all the wonderful sights in the world delivered in their home at the touch of a button. This was something really, really big. It was all they could talk about for months and years to come.

I wonder, what made the hills ring with the news of Christ's birth? Of course, you will say it was the angels-

holy beings. They made the hills ring because of their power. Maybe, but consider this. I believe that the reason or the power in their message, the reason their message made the hills ring was because of their intimate knowledge of Christ!

The angels had come from the throne of God. They had remained steadfast in their allegiance to Jesus in the face of Satan's accusations. These angels had a love for God's Son that surpassed all else. Jesus was not only Lord of their lives, He was their friend! Because of the time spent with Him, they knew Him intimately. He knew them personally. What a truly wonderful situation to be in.

Do the hills around Lumberton ring with the message of love Christ has for this world? Do your friends and neighbors know that God's Son lives in your heart? If not, could it be that we have not spent enough time with the Master? Perhaps if you and I spent more time with Jesus, knew Him better, loved Him more, the hills around our homes would also ring with the message of the arrival of the world's Redeemer. When we are so full of Jesus that we can no longer keep it hidden then, and only then, will the true meaning of Christmas come through.

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