

# ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

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

Now that plans are underway for our annual Summer Show-and-Sale of Native American art, which regularly features some of the best living artists in the Eastern Woodlands, it is fitting that we take a look at the history of Native American art in the Eastern Woodlands. One thing that immediately becomes apparent from research in this topic is that art is nothing new to eastern Native Americans. Thirty centuries before the time of Christ, Indian people were already making beautiful objects of fine art in the region.

One of the best and earliest collections of artwork comes from an Archaic Period archaeological site which is now called "Indian Knoll," in Kentucky. The best examples of art from this site are stone *atlatl* weights (an *atlatl* is a spear-throwing stick, hooked on one end to fit into the notched back-end of a spear shaft, and with a stone weight attached to the stick near the hooked end in order to add speed and force to the throwing of the spear). Some of these *atlatl* weights from the "Indian Knoll" site are made of carved, ground and polished stone (slate, granite and chalcedony for example), and despite the fact that they also served a function as part of a spear-throwing tool they are indeed objects of great beauty.

They are perfectly symmetrical, polished to a bright finish, and frequently carved and ground with sharp attention to the grain of the stone (so that the grain of the stone which is left visible on the carved and ground surface of the *atlatl* weight becomes a beautiful design in and of itself). Some of these artistic *atlatl* weights are made in the shape of butterflies, while others are more

simple geometric designs (ovals, cubes, crescents). There can be little doubt that the Indian people who made these *atlatl* weights so long ago were intentionally being artistic in their work, since a plain river rock or field rock with no decoration whatever would have functioned just as well as a weight for a spear-thrower.

Another archaeological site at which particularly fine early examples of eastern Indian art have been found is what is now called "Poverty Point," in Louisiana. Fifteen centuries before Christ, Indian people here were making what are now known as "effigy beads." These "effigy beads" are actually small pieces of stone (red jasper, most commonly) which have been carved, ground and polished into the shape of various animals. Some are identifiable as owls, while at least one looks like a locust and another looks like a clam shell. It is also at "Poverty Point" where we find the earliest human figurines in the Eastern Woodlands, made of clay.

But a particularly outstanding artistic feature of the "Poverty Point" site is not a bead or a figurine, but an earthen mound built in the shape of a giant bird with wings outstretched. This mound is almost seventy feet high, more than 700 feet wide at the wing tips, and over 600 feet long. It is oriented toward the west, which makes some researchers believe that it was built to correspond to the daily course which the sun makes across the sky (see for example, *Ancient Art of the American Woodland Indians*, by D. Brose, J. Brown and D. Penney, 1985).

Birds turn out to figure prominently in the history of art among the eastern Indian nations. We see them again and again in various forms and media all through the Woodland

Period (which began about 2,000-1,000 B.C. and lasted through the first centuries of European contact) and the Mississippian Period (which began about 800-900 A.D., replaced Woodland cultures along some major rivers, and also lasted in some areas through early European contact). Birds appear on carved stone bowls, pendants and ceramic bowls.

Perhaps the most elegant use of the bird form in Eastern Woodlands art comes during the middle of the Woodland Period in sites associated with what is called the "Hopewell" culture. Although the best known "Hopewell" sites are found in Ohio, there are many related sites with similar artifact types in other places in the Eastern Woodlands. "Hopewell" people (actually members of several Indian nations during the period) carried fine art to a very high level, and their repeated use of bird forms suggests that birds were in some way significant in their lives. Many researchers believe that birds were important symbolic characters which represented man's relationship to the sky world. In any case their bird representations, some made from cut-out sheets of mica and copper, with others made from stone and clay, show us eagles, falcons, ducks, cardinals, ravens and other birds.

In the art of Mississippian Indian cultures we see not only birds but also human forms depicted with the wings of birds. In the next segment, we will continue looking into the world of ancient Native American art in the Eastern Woodlands. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in Old Main Building, on the campus of Pembroke State University.

## Coach's Corner

by Dr. Ken Johnson

Accidents happen because we do things or we leave things out. In other words accidents happen by our omissions or commissions. What I am trying to say is, "Parents by your commission" by getting your child into a swimming class you might save your child's life. They have swimming classes here in many of the area's pools. There is saying, "to teach a person to swim is to save a life." There is a "learning law called, "Primacy". In other words teach them while young as the way a twig is bent that is the way it will grow. "Other learning laws are the law of effect, the law of prestige or accomplishment. One of the most satisfying accomplishments is to learn to swim.

The real knowledge of swimming is to learn that the water will support you if you learn that it will hold you up if you are horizontal in the water and not vertical. In a vertical position you do not displace enough water to allow it to float you, so you sink. It's that simple. It is best to learn to float on your back with your ears just under the water. This gives you balance and the water will hold you up. To get rid of fear practice in real shallow water, not deep water. Many kids don't know the fear of water they will jump into deep water not knowing how to swim, get vertical and sink. Infants must be watched, they just don't know the danger created by being vertical in the water. Young people drown too because they take chances. Today's paper tell of the drowning of a young man jumping off a pier on a dare. Its so foolish to dare poor swimmers. They just don't know importance of being horizontal and not vertical in the water. This is a principle of the science of Physics. "Water must be displaced to float any object." Otherwise it sinks.

## Locklear & Adkins Wed



Beth Littlestar Adkins and Eric Locklear were married March 26 at Samaria Baptist Church in Charles City by Rev. Claude Evans.

The bride is the daughter of Joseph Adkins of Richmond, Va. and Delois Adkins of New Kent, Va. She is a graduate of New Kent High School and is employed at Providence Forge Pharmacy.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James Locklear, Sr. of Pembroke, NC and Mr. and Mrs. Stant Freeman of Fairmont, NC. He is a graduate of West Robeson Senior High School and is employed at Stanley Hardware.

Rebecca Adkins and Trina Adkins, both of Providence Forge, Va., served as matrons of honor. Bridesmaids were Pamela Clarke of Richmond, Va., aunt of the bride, Jodi Clarke and Torie Clarke of Richmond, Va., both cousins of the bride, Karen Knighten of Providence Forge, Millicent Hunt of Baltimore, Md., Lori Freeman of Fairmont, cousin of the groom, Michelle Freeman of Fairmont, sister of the groom, and Cathy Locklear of Pembroke, sister of the groom.

Flower girls were Jessica Canaday of Charles City, Va. and Candace Knighten of Providence Forge. All of the flowers were made by the bride. Brooke Baer of Providence Forge served as the book attendant. Sean Hunt of Pembroke served as the best man. Ushers were Matthew Adkins of Providence Forge, brother of the bride.

Tyrone Adkins of Providence Forge, cousin of the bride, Victor Bros of Providence Forge, and James Locklear, Jr. of Pembroke, brother of the groom.

Groomsmen were Rodney Hunt and Roger Locklear of Pembroke, Andy Jacobs of Clinton, and Reginald Oxendine of Raleigh. Ring bearer was Stephen Lowery of Pembroke. The bride walked down the aisle to Indian flute music which was performed by Schiara Gray of Maryland. Arnette Adkins, aunt of the bride, served as mistress of ceremonies. Sydelle Stewart and Norman Jones, uncle of the bride, sang "The Battle Hymn of Love," accompanied by Andrew Adkins on guitar. Jones also sang "I Cross My Heart."

Sign language to the Lord's Prayer was performed by Brenda Montez while Arnette Adkins sang the words. Piano music was performed by Audrey Holmes of Chatham. A reception was held at the Chickahominy Indian Tribal Center.

After a honeymoon to New Smyrna Beach, Fla., the couple will reside in Providence Forge.

Courtesies: Rebecca Adkins and Betty Locklear hosted a miscellaneous shower in Pembroke on Feb. 19. Trina Adkins and Patricia Robinson hosted a miscellaneous shower in Providence Forge on March 13. Arnette Adkins, Delois Adkins, Judy Berg, and Pam Clarke hosted a miscellaneous.

## Purnell Swett names Honor Society members

PEMBROKE — Purnell Swett High School students inducted into the National Honor Society included: 10th graders - Lillian Bernier, Timothy Brooks, Gina Chavis, Nikka Chavis, Jason Cummings, Martha Currie, Andaja Locklear, Bridget Locklear, Griver Locklear, Una Gail Locklear, David Maynor, Serene Oxendine, Jennifer Pickens, Alisha Woodell; 11th graders -

Alexander Gilmore, Moran Jones, Cheryl Locklear, Kristy Locklear, Kellie Sampson and Tracey Sampson.

Club president is Nelson Locklear, vice president is Shannon Chavis secretary is Torree Jacobs, reporter is Martha Currie, treasurer is Grover Locklear and parliamentarian is Mikki Chavis. Advisors are

Rosa Pearson and Dennis Watts.

Other members are: 11th grade - Shellie Brewington, Shannon Chavis, Torree Jacobs, Christopher Kennedy, Clyde Locklear, Vanessa Locklear, Christina Locklear, Carletta Lowery, Odalis Lowry, Charles Oxendine, Christina Oxendine, Tracey C. Sampson, James Smiling, Brandi Warriax, Heath Warriax;

12th graders - Iris Collins, William Horne, Alisia Hunt, Ramon Jacobs, Brandon Locklear, Jonathan Locklear, Karen Locklear, Nelson Locklear, Laronda Locklear, Tomasina Locklear, Trina Locklear, Clinton Lowry, Shannon Marshall, Deirdra McCants, Phillip Tyler, Micklous Lowry, Tara Lowry and Chancellor Strickland.

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