

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

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

Last week we saw how one Lumbee woman, Julia Lowry Russell, is distinguishing herself in the world of literature (by publication of her short story, "Faces," in a recent anthology of Native American writers). This week we turn our attention to a group of Native American women, each of whom has also distinguished herself in her own special way. They are the twenty five North Carolina Native American women who are featured in the new exhibit called **PATHMAKERS**.

These are women from various walks of life, who have made contributions in their individual fields of endeavor. They are a diverse group, held together by their identity as Native American women who are also North Carolinians, and by their willingness to take the lead in their chosen fields. They are examples of the best that America has to offer.

The women are: **Bonnie Maynor Ammons** (Coharie), of the Cumberland County Association for Indian People; **Mollie Gloyne Blankenship** (Cherokee), of the Qualla Arts and Crafts Mutual; **Lillie Mae Jones Brewington** (Lumbee), of the Women's Missionary Union of Burnt Swamp Baptist Association; **Patricia Bullard Cavan** (Lumbee), former teacher and organizer of the American Indian Heritage Council; **Linda Cooper-Hedgepeth** (Haliwa-Saponi), former Executive Director of the Haliwa-Saponi Indian Tribe; **Thelma Hammonds Huggins** (Lumbee), of the North Carolina Indian Senior Citizens Coalition; **Gladys Gols Hunt** (Lumbee), of the Cumberland County Association for

Indian People; **Jane Jacobs** (Waccamaw-Siouan), of the Coharie Intra-Tribal Council; **Eva Chavis Jones** (Lumbee), quilt maker, painter and retired school teacher; **Arlinda Locklear** (Lumbee), advocate and attorney at law; **Cheryl Ransom Locklear** (Lumbee), dentist and leader in community service; **Ruth Bullard Locklear** (Lumbee), tribal historian, genealogist and advocate; **Shirley Revels Locklear** (Lumbee), program organizer and leader with Lumbee Regional Development Association; **Gloria Tara Morrison Lowery** (Lumbee), artist, businesswoman and former school teacher; **Frances Stewart Lowry** (Person County Indians), school teacher and advocate; **Jessie Belle Smith Maynor** (Lumbee), leader in education and community service; **Brenda Moore** (Waccamaw-Siouan), community developer with the North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs; **Lucy Jane Chavis Oxendine** (Lumbee), artist, businesswoman and retired school teacher; **Ruth Locklear Revels** (Lumbee), advocate, educator and Executive Director of Guilford Native American Association; **Patricia Brewington Richardson** (Coharie), artist, traditionalist and educator; **Helen Maynor Scheirbeck** (Lumbee), organizer, advocate and Chief Resource Development Branch Officer for the federal Head Start Bureau; **Lula Jane Locklear Smith** (Lumbee), author, organizer and retired school teacher; **Daphne Locklear Strickland** (Lumbee), organizer, advocate and educator; **Rosa Revels Winfree** (Lumbee), organizer, advocate and Indian

Education Program Director; and **Ruth Dial Woods** (Lumbee), educator, advocate and former Associate Superintendent of Public Schools of Robeson County.

The exhibit **PATHMAKERS** brings together framed black-and-white photographs of each woman, taken by Mark Wagoner of Greensboro. The exhibit was originally curated by Barbara Braveboy-Locklear (Lumbee), writer, educator and organizer.

Mrs. Braveboy-Locklear wrote biographical sketches of the women which are included in the exhibit. Of the women in the photographs, Mrs. Braveboy-Locklear said: "As pioneers, they have steadfastly fought to protect their culture, teach the children, care for the elders, sing the songs. In the midst of the struggle for survival, they have continued to sustain through contributions to their Native communities... The tenacious leadership exhibited by each of the women gives a clue to the title: *Pathmakers*."

Co-sponsored by Guilford Native American Association and United Tribes of North Carolina (with the special work of Wanda Whitmore-Penner), this exhibit vividly demonstrates the significant roles played by women in North Carolina's Native American communities. This exhibit will be on display in the Native American Resource Center from the first week in June through Lumbee Homecoming (4th of July).

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

In the Armed Forces

Jerry L. McNeill

Navy Seaman Recruit Jerry L. McNeill, son of Sarah M. McNeill of Maxton, NC., recently completed basic training at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, IL.

During the cycle, recruits are taught general military subjects designed to prepare them for further academic and on-the-job training in one of the Navy's 85 occupational fields.

Studies include seamanship, close-order drill, naval history and first aid.

Although the Navy is getting smaller, the state-of-the-art ships, aircraft and high tech systems in today's fleet require bright, talented young men and women to operate them. The Navy has over 56,000 job openings this year, most of which include guaranteed training.

He is a 1991 graduate of Purnell Sweet High School of Pembroke, NC.

Steven G. Oxendine
Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class Steven G. Oxendine, son of Erle F. and Gladys P. Oxendine of Lumberton, NC recently made a port visit to Trieste, Italy aboard the guided missile cruiser USS Belknap, flagship for the U.S. Sixth Fleet, homeported at Gaeta, Italy.

While in port, 30 crewmembers visited a former Army barracks near Postojna, Slovenia, where more than 600 Yugoslavian refugees are housed. Sailors distributed clothes, textbooks and medical supplies donated to the refugees by project Handclasp. Additionally, they painted and patched the large concrete building that is used as a school and a family dwelling.

USS Belknap is the flagship for Commander Sixth Fleet whose mission is to direct operations in the Mediterranean. Its multi mission responsibilities include command and control, and anti-air and anti-surface warfare.

Today's Navy is prepared to fight promptly and effectively, but also serves in an equally valuable way by engaging day-to-day as peacekeepers in the defense of American interests. Naval forces are unique in that they can offer this form of international cooperation, from the sea.

The 1991 graduate of Lumberton Senior High School joined the Navy in January 1992.

Clogging Camp to be held

The Lumberton Recreation Department will sponsor a Free 5 Day Clogging Camp for all school age guys and girls (1st - 12th Grade) It will be held June 13th - June 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the South End Activity room at the Pine St. Center. Instructor is Natalie Cook: Member of the NC Clogging Council, Physical Education Teacher. Call the Bill Sapp Center to register 671-3869, call today, space is limited!



Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

If you have been reading the newspaper following the news on tv lately you probably have noticed how much publicity lead poisoning has been getting. Although it has been known for quite some time that lead poisoning can cause problems for children, it hasn't been until lately that efforts have begun to combat the problem. Let's talk briefly about this natural metal and the medical problems it can cause.

Lead is a soft, pale gray metal found naturally in the earth. It is used in paint for bridges, boats and factories, in making batteries, and in other products, such as pottery glaze and printing inks.

When lead gets into the body, it enters the bloodstream and can go to the liver, kidneys and even the brain. As the amount of lead builds up, lead poisoning occurs. Although lead poisoning can effect any part of the body, damage to the brain and nervous system is of most concern. Young children are more likely to be hurt by lead because their brains are still developing. Severe lead poisoning can cause minor symptoms, but can also lead to more serious problems, such as loss of coordination, vomiting, loss of consciousness, seizures, and rarely, death.

How do children get lead poisoning? Good question! children sometimes swallow paint chips, soil, water or food that has lead in it, but usually they swallow dust that contains lead. If they live in a building that is being scrapped, sanded or burned, they may breathe in tiny lead particles or fumes. The way young children behave adds to the problem. Little children crawl on the floor, get dust and dirt on their hands and put their hands in their mouths. Sometimes they eat things that aren't food, such as

paint chips or soil from the yard or playground.

Most of the lead children are exposed to comes from peeling lead based paint. Most paint made before 1960 and many paints made before 1979 were made with lead. Since 1979 the amount of lead in paints has decreased significantly. Paints with unsafe lead levels are no longer available except for boats and industrial and military use. Severe poisoning can occur if children eat chips of peeling lead paint, like you see around window panes and baseboards. Lead based paints break down as they age into smaller and smaller pieces that eventually become particles of dust. This dust alone is most often the cause of lead poisoning.

Leaded gasoline fumes from automobile exhaust in past years is another source of lead in our environment. Lead particles that have settled out of the air into the ground are still there. Unlike some other kinds of pollution, lead never breaks down into something less dangerous. Its concentrations are especially high along side busy roadways.

In the last century, the pipes that brought water into the house were often made of lead. Lead pipes are still found occasionally in places where water pipes haven't been replaced since the early 1900s. Dyes on newspapers, comic books and magazines that have been printed with red, yellow or orange ink may contain lead. Other sources of lead that can be ingested include fishing sinkers, bullets, some old toys and some traditional medicines, including greta and azarcon.

Next week we'll talk about how to help prevent lead poisoning. Take care and we'll talk again soon!

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The Way I See It

by Dr. Dean Chavers, President
Native American Scholarship Fund
Albuquerque, NM



For years, everywhere I went I looked for Lumbee names. When I would get to a new city, I would pull out the phone book and see if there were any Dials, Deeses, Locklears, or Bullards in the telephone book.

Most often, there were none. Never did I find another Chavers in a phone book. Someone told me 20 years ago that there were only 800 Chaverses in the whole U.S. I have found three, one of whom is part Indian.

There certainly aren't many. I have heard from two by mail, people who saw my name in print and wrote me. One was a white woman from Montana, who sent me documentation of her family going back to the early 1800's.

Her great-great-grandfather was born in Georgia in 1839, the third of nine children. In the record of Conecuh County, Alabama, their name is spelled "Chavers." However, a letter from a relative says one of her uncles "told me the original name of our family was spelled CHAVIS." (her emphasis).

Interestingly, or ironically, they were intermarried with Indians in the Georgia and Alabama areas. The correspondent says "All of the CHAVERS (sic) I have found in NC or SC 1790 Census were listed as Other Free persons."

She goes on to say that her mother always told her they were French and Indian, among other nationalities. One of her cousins told her that there were eight Chavers brothers who came from France in the 1600's

When I get rich, I want to trace our family history/genealogy. My Uncle Thomas told me he had paid a genealogist to trace the family, and it went back to France by way of Ireland. He said the Chaverses were Protestants who were run out of, or left, Catholic France during the persecution of the Huguenots.

It sounds good, but the so-called genealogist had given him no documentation at all. I once sent \$20 to a rip off firm, Halfberts, for the so called family costs of arms. It says there are 400 heads of household in the U.S. with the Chavers name. At 3.2 persons per household, that would be 1,280 people, they said.

This report, with a coat of arms, I believe to be made up and a rip off. But it says that other spellings of the Chavers name are Chevers, Chever, and Chaver. In the family Bible, which my Aunt Claire has, the name is also spelled Chaves and Chavas.

The rip off report says we came from Cheverton, England, or Chever's estate. That sounds as good as any, but it does not jibe with the family tradition of having come from France.

The other two Chaverses I have heard from, or about, were not Indian. A young lady at Bowling Green State University wrote to me and said her family was from Alabama, and were Black. The third family I heard about from a counselor in the Gallup schools. They lived in a town near New Orleans, and ran the town bakery. She went to school with one of the sons.

When I asked her if they were

French, she asked me "Does a bear walk in the woods?" So I guess they were.

I am convinced that there are thousands of documents around the U.S., England, and France which could shed light on our ancestry. My great grandfather Angus Chavers served in the Confederate Army during the Civil War, for instance.

Now that I have reviewed these files, I realize I have had a pronounced interest in our family genealogy all along. I wonder how many other Lumbees have traced their family's roots back a few generations. We all want to know who we are, don't we?

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