

ALONG THE ROBESON TRAIL

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

Many publications come across my desk, most of them having to do with Native Americans or other traditional cultures around the world. Mainly they are about Indian people somewhere else — in Arizona or Canada or Central America. Seldom do they have anything to say about the Lumbee. In fact, nationally-published material by or about Lumbee people is so rare that when an example of it appears, like when Julia Lowry Russell's short story was recently published, it is a newsworthy event.

So when two publications arrived this week showing Lumbee people in their proper relationship with other Native Americans, I was pleased. I know Lumbee people have thus far been denied their rightful place in Indian Country by certain agencies of the federal government (which shall remain nameless) and by some ill-informed people from other Native Nations, but it's nice to see people and publications outside North Carolina representing the Lumbee in their true light. Especially when such examples come two in one week!

The first is the June 1994 issue of *National Geographic*. Their lead story this month is about powwows, signaled by a beautiful front-cover photograph of an Indian woman and her great-niece in traditional regalia at a powwow in Taos Pueblo. I turned to the page where the story begins, and enjoyed a well-written narrative by Michael Parfit and some stellar photography by David Harvey. Unlike most articles about powwows, this one even had a part about the Algonkian origin of the word "powwow," and how it came to be used in modern times. As I turned from page to page in this polished and well-respected magazine, what should I find there on page 111 but a photograph taken at a powwow in Richmond (Va.) of some of North Carolina's finest — the Stoney Creek Drum, featuring Lumbee, Tuscarora, Waccamaw-Siouan and other North Carolina Native young men.

The image was captured in the midst of a song. The intensely focused expressions on the singing faces of these young men and the blur of the drumsticks for an instant made me feel

the thunder beat and soar with the voices of this drum which is so familiar at North Carolina powwows. Seeing this photograph there among others of Indian people at powwows in Oklahoma, Montana and the Dakotas made me feel real good. "Hey, I know these guys," I said out loud before I realized it.

The second publication is the Spring issue of *Red Ink*, which comes out of the University of Arizona's American Indian Graduate Center. On the cover is a design based on a prehistoric Southeastern shell engraving (the four-headed feathered serpent). Inside there is a collection of essays, stories and poetry by various Native American writers from Cherokee, Seneca, Creek and other nations, including three Lumbee writers.

There is a wonderful story by Amy Locklear called "The Women," in which she tells about her two grandmothers. She writes: "Through me, their stories are told. These are the women... It's in the Kelvinator, she would say and I would wonder why she called the refrigerator a Kelvinator, but I figured she had her reasons and I would mind my own business. Years later I realized Kelvinator was a brand name... My grandmother's son was forced to sit in the 'Colored' section of the movie theater. As I would sit on the armrest of her chair, she would teach me how to fight. Start with a regular pinch and twist the flesh. Little did I know she was preparing me for many battles. Battles she had faced growing up as a brown woman in the South... Many of her memories were too painful for me to hear. Maybe she believed those memories would make me weak with fear or anger. Her stories are coming to me now, through her children. Her children do not want to remember the pain either. But I am slowly making them understand. I need those stories to be strong. These are the women."

There are also three poems by J. Cedric Woods. My favorite is the one called "A Dancer's Prayer." He writes: "Brother Hawk, as I dance with your feathers, I ask that they come alive with your spirit. As they flow, let them remember the majesty of your flight.

Let me glide on your outstretched, soaring wings, high above the fields and trees. When I wear your feathers, I pray I am allowed to commune with your spirit and the spirit of your people. That my shackles of pretense and civilization are dropped; and I simply am."

There is a short essay by Dr. David Wilkins about "Intra-Tribal Confrontations." In it he mentions several examples of "divisions that have erupted and continue to fester within tribes..." including cases among the Lakota, Diné, Mohawk, Hopi, Tohono O'odham and Lumbee. Of the Lumbee he writes (in part) about "...tension between the Lumbee tribe and a number of smaller groups dissatisfied with the political leadership of the majority (several of these virtually powerless political groups have gone so far as to establish separate tribal administrations and cultural identities)."

But the point of his essay is, I believe, more about what ought to be done to deal with these intra-tribal confrontations. He writes: "Thus, each affected tribal community (and the various segments of these communities, if they are clearly discernible) in conjunction with the dedicated leaders of these communities... must confront the issues dividing the entire community head on and consider a strategy based on the concept of power-sharing." Of "power-sharing," Professor Wilkins concludes by saying: "Finally, the sharing of political power between the different segments is crucial because, in a fundamental sense, they remain each other's most logical allies." Makes sense to me!

It is good to see these Lumbee writers expressing their stories, their vision and their views in national publications. And it is good to see local young men pictured in *National Geographic* doing what they seem to love most. And it is especially good to see the Lumbee Nation being well represented on the national scene.

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

Hunt Graduates from Highway Patrol Basic School

Thirty eight new Troopers were graduated Friday, June 3, 1994, from the 92nd Basic School of the North Carolina State Highway Patrol. They were sworn in during ceremonies at the Patrol's Training Center in Garner and will report for duty on Monday, June 16.

Ardeen Hunt, Jr. of Rowland is a member of the class and has been assigned to Troop H-VI, Raeford. "I commend the graduates of the 92nd Highway Patrol Basic School," said Thurman B. Hampton, Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety, of which the Highway Patrol is a division. "I am confident these Troopers are prepared for the challenges that lie ahead of them on North Carolina's highways."

Class members come from 28 counties. Two of the cadets are brothers of current Troopers and five of the cadets have other relatives in the Patrol. Nine of the cadets have prior law enforcement experience and five are former members of the military. Twenty have studied at the college level and 12 of those have college degrees.

"I welcome our newest Troopers to the Highway Patrol family," said Colonel R.A. Barefoot, Commander of the Highway Patrol. "They have proven themselves throughout the 27-week training program and will continue as the guardians of safety on our roads."

New Troopers mastered 1,091 hours of instruction in 72 law enforcement subjects, including accident investigation and criminal and constitutional law, firearms training, and precision driving.

The class had an academic average of 93.5 percent in classroom subjects. But their education is never over. On-the-job training and annual in-service schools boost a Trooper's expertise throughout his career.

Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

Last week we discussed lead poisoning and its effects on our children. This week we will talk about ways to prevent lead poisoning, of course, the best way to prevent poisoning is to learn about lead hazards and keep your child away from them. A good start is to find out whether your house has lead paint in it. Remember that this kind of paint is usually found in houses built before 1960, but may be found in homes as late as 1979. You can find out when your house was built by looking at tax records in the municipal building of your town or city. The local health department can tell you where to get paint, water and soil samples tested for lead and how you can get your house inspected.

If your house has lead based paint in it, don't vacuum or sweep window sills or uncarpeted floors. Instead, wash or wet mop all hard surfaces once or twice a week with a high phosphate cleaner. If you find loose paint chips on window sills, use a cloth soaked with phosphate cleaners to pick them up. Dispose of them where kids cannot get to them.

Be careful about any remodeling, renovation or work on the house. Sanding, scraping or burning lead based paint will contaminate the air in your house as well as the neighborhood. Don't try to remove lead paint yourself. Call your local or state health department for advice. Have peeling lead paint removed or covered by someone specially trained to do so in a nonhazardous way.

Children and pregnant women must stay out of the house until the work is finished.

Supervise your children's play to stop them from swallowing lead contaminated dirt or paint chips. Don't let children play in soil next to the house, where peeling paint chips may have fallen. Encourage play in grassy areas away from the house.

Find out whether your job or hobby involves work with items that contain lead. If you work with lead, leave your work clothes or shoes at work; don't bring them into the house.

Because lead is so prevalent in the environment and even small amounts may be hazardous to children, have your child's blood tested for lead when they are around 12 months of age. Lead testing is now done free of charge through Robeson Health Care Corporation, which includes Julian T. Pierce Health Center in Pembroke and Maxton Medical Clinic in Maxton. You may want to check with other clinics or health departments to see if they also provide testing.

Well, that's all on lead poisoning. Let's take the necessary precautions to safe guard our children against this potentially dangerous substance.

Contributions to the Saddletree Community Center on their Harold G. Wynn Scholarship banquet held May 20th. Thanks to Lance Harding, Ronald Hammonds, The Wynn Family and Others for allowing me to be a part of this event to better the education of our Indian students. Keep up the good work!

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FIVE MINUTES FROM I-95

Educational Notes



Recently, students at Piney Grove School participated in a school breakfast program. Those students who ate breakfast each morning were presented with a "Food Guide Pyramid Activity Book." Pictured above are the first grade students of Mrs. Hedgepath's class, receiving their activity books from Linda Baldwin, cafeteria manager.

Carolina Indian Voice
Pembroke, NC

Like Father, Like Son

CHOOSE TRADITION NOT ADDICTION
Know the consequences of alcohol and drug abuse
A message from 1997 and the National Institute on Drug Abuse

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