

ALONG the ROBESON TRAIL

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

The North Carolina Commission of Indian Affairs recently distributed a document which shows the population numbers of Native Americans in each of the state's one hundred counties. The by-county totals came from the 1990 United States Census, and reflect what people say about their own ethnic identity. No attempt is made by the Census Bureau to establish valid membership in any Indian tribe or nation. People just write down what they are, and that's how they get counted. This is not necessarily a bad system, because after all who should know better what ethnic group a person belongs to than the person himself/herself.

The by-county population figures are interesting for several reasons. First, they show us where most of the Indian people in the state live — 40,511 in Robeson County; 4,425 in Cumberland; 3,176 in Hoke; 3,075 in Swain; 2,667 in Jackson; 2,430 in Scotland; 1,936 in Mecklenburg; 1,711 in Halifax; 1,637 in Guilford; 1,370 in Columbus; 1,148 in Wake; 939 in Onslow; 876 in Sampson; 763 in Warren; and fewer in all the other counties.

The figures also show us where the fewest Indian people live — 4 each in Hyde and Tyrrell; 8 each in Allegheny, Gates and Jones; 13 in Washington; 16 in Greene and 17 in Polk. But every one of North

Carolina's counties has some Indian people!

It is also interesting to compare these 1990 census figures with those from the 1980 census. In 1980 there were 64,635 Native Americans living in North Carolina. In 1990 that number had jumped to 80,155.

Obviously the number in most counties increased, but 6 counties actually had a decrease in the number of Indian people. Most of these are very small decreases, but in one county the decline was monumental. The Indian population of Hertford County, home of the Meherrin Indians (most of whom live in and around Ahsokie, California and Winton) dropped from 448 in 1980 to 228 in 1990. That's a decline of about 49%!

I called Lawrence Dunmore, director of the Meherrin's Federal Acknowledgment Project, to ask what had happened. Had 220 Meherrins actually moved out of Hertford County? He told me that, while some younger Meherrins had moved to urban areas in search of work during the 1980s, the real Indian population of Hertford County must have been under-reported or miscalculated in some way in the 1990 census. He believes that a combination of factors could be producing the lower 1990 numbers — lack of response to the census,

possible mistakes in calculations and some as-yet unknown factors. He noted that the Meherrin tribal roll currently lists 565 members, at least half of whom live in Hertford County. Thus, the Indian population in Hertford County as reported by the U.S. Census must be wrong.

Also remarkable in the new census numbers is the dramatic increase in some counties. In Wake County, for example, the Indian population jumped from 516 in 1980 to 1,148 in 1990 (an increase of 122%). In Alamance County the jump was from 144 in 1980 to 303 in 1990 (an increase of 110%). Several other counties had increases of more than 100%. Where are all these Native Americans coming from?

It is true that as a group Native Americans do have a somewhat higher birth rate than the general population. It is also true that life expectancy of Native Americans has increased slightly over the past decade. Both of these factors would produce larger numbers of Indian people. But are these two factors enough to explain the overall increase of 24% in the state? What other factors might produce larger numbers of Native Americans in the 1990 census?

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

Pembroke Kiwanis Report

by Dr. Ken Johnson

The weekly meeting was held at the Town and Country Restaurant with President Grady Hunt presiding. Kiwanian Judge Dexter Brooks was the speaker. His topic was "Politics." The voting public seems to be quite sophisticated, many voting the straight ticket-Democratic. However, a candidate needed just 40% of the vote to win, or to avoid a run-off. The "Motor Vote Act" was changed to allow a voter to register once and be on the books. Formerly, if he did not vote, his name was taken off the books. Voting in Robeson county was helped by more Indians voting. The popular candidate was Glenn Maynor.

In the National election, Charlie Rose won due to more Indians registering. Rose got 90% of the Pembroke vote. The National House of Representatives will have to do its own investigation of the Anderson protest. Many voters were independent in their voting.

The 31st Annual Pancake Spaghetti supper fund raiser will be held in the Pembroke Elementary School Friday, December 9 at 5 p.m. and 6 a.m. Saturday morning. Tickets are \$4.00.

Presiding-Grady Hunt. Invocation-Clay Maynor. Song-Vardell Sweet. Reporter-Ken Johnson.



Pediatric Pointers

By JOSEPH T. BELL, MD

One of the interesting rashes we see in the clinic is called Fifth's Disease. Fifth disease is a virus infection characterized by a bright red or rosy rash on both cheeks for about one to three days ("Slapped cheek" appearance) followed by a pink lacy-like rash on the arms and legs. The lacy rash comes and goes over a period of one to three weeks, especially after warm baths, exercise and sun exposure. Usually the rash is not itchy. The child may have a low grade fever, a slight runny nose, and sore throat or not other symptoms besides the rash. Fifth disease is caused by the human parvovirus B19. It was so named because it was the fifth pink red rash to be described by physicians (the others are scarlet fever, measles, rubella and rosolia.) Once a child has had the virus, they are protected from becoming infected again.

One nice thing about Fifth's disease is that it is harmless to the child. The symptoms usually do not require treatment. The child does not need to be kept out of school because the disease is not contagious mainly during the week before the rash appears, a child who has the rash is no longer contagious and does not need to be home from school or day care. Most adults who get fifth disease develop just a mild pinkness of cheeks or no rash at all. Moreover, an adult will develop joint pain especially in the knees. These pains may last from one to three months. Taking non-prescription Advil Motrin will usually relieve the pain.

The virus that causes Fifth's disease doesn't cause birth defects in pregnant women exposed to it. Research has shown, however, that about ten percent of babies infected with this virus before they will develop a severe anemia. One to two percent may even die if you are pregnant and exposed to a child with Fifth's disease before the child develops the rash. If your obstetrician for a blood test. Well, that's all on Fifth's disease. Take care and we'll talk again next week!

An "Exceptional" Student



When you think of the word exceptional, you think of Mark Murray. Mark is a 20-year-old Trainable Mentally Handicapped student at Prospect School. Mark recently made Prospect School proud. He is a marching band student, under the direction of Mrs. Angela Hodges. When Prospect Band participated in the Veteran's Day parade on Friday, November 11, Mark marched and played the bass drum.

Mark is the son of Ms. Elizabeth Murray of Red Springs. He is very conscientious. Students help out at Prospect School in several ways and ends with sweeping out classrooms and cleaning the library.

In our schools today, we are proud about our youth in trouble. It is finally good to know that some students today are "exceptional" to the rule.

A taste of irony has kept more hearts from breaking than a sense of humor—for it takes irony to appreciate the joke which is on oneself.

—Jessamine

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News From Prospect School



These students from J and O Tae Kwon Do Karate Wolf and Do Jo in Pembroke, NC won championship belts and trophies at Johnson and Leon's 21st Annual Open Karate Tournament held in Spring Lake, NC in October. Shown from left to right are Ivan Hernandez; back row, left to right: Crystal Henderson, Instructor and Do Jo Operator, O.J. Henderson and Misty Henderson.



The Trainable Mentally Handicapped Class at Prospect School participated in the Fall Special Olympics at Pembroke State University on Tuesday, November 15. The activities at PSU began with all the athletes marching in the gym displaying their school banners. Good luck wishes were given to the athletes by Dr. Sandra Watkins, Associate Superintendent of the Public Schools of Robeson County; Dr. Tommy Thompson, PSU Physical Education Department Head; Ronnie Chavis, Physical Education Supervisor for the Public Schools of Robeson County.

The events the class participated in were Lead Up Skills and 3 on 3 basketball game. In the Lead Up Skills athletes had to dribble the ball, aim the basketball at a target in the middle of the wall, shooting the basketball in the net from the left and right side of the goal.

The athletes who participated in Lead Up Skills were: Marcus Locklear, third place; Antionette Odum, second place; and Jennifer Scott, first place.

In the 3 on 3 events the athletes played a basketball game in teams of three. The game lasted for 15 minutes. The athletes who participated in this event were: Jamie Locklear, Orson Locklear and Larry W. Hunt. They all came in second place.

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Movie popcorn full of fat

If you're on a diet, unbuttered popcorn is a healthy snack, right? Well, maybe not at the movies. Because it's usually made with fat-laden coconut oil which makes it taste better and creates the aroma that wafts through the lobby, a typical small bag of theater popcorn contains almost an entire day's recommended allowance of saturated fat, the kind that can cause heart disease. And that's without the butter-flavored topping.

Some theaters have begun selling "healthier" popcorn made with canola oil, which does have significantly less fat. Keep informed...for health!

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