

Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Knick, Director- UNC-P Native American Resource Center

Another contemporary issue which faces the Lumbee and other Native Americans is inter-tribal rivalry. This competition, and sometimes outright conflict, between tribes or nations of Indians is nothing new. It can be seen extending back for hundreds, if not thousands, of years.

Indian legends tell us of very old rivalries which go back farther than anyone can remember. Some of the earliest written records about Native Americans describe what must have been traditional rivalries between groups (for example, North Carolina Algonkian-speakers versus Iroquoian-speakers in 1586).

It is easy to see how inter-tribal rivalries developed. In some ways, it was advantageous to individual tribes (and their leaders) to perpetuate rivalries with others as a means of strengthening tribal identity, or claims to certain lands or hunting rights.

Some rivalries evolved as a result of ancient political struggles and warfare. Others came about as a consequence of economics, such as the desire to control trade relations (for example, the Occaneechi of the Carolina Piedmont controlled the trade route between the mountains and the coast, placing them in a crossfire rivalry between the Cherokee and Tuscarora).

Some rivalries were clearly worsened by the coming of European-sponsored wars. For example, when the Cheraw and Catawba were employed by the colonists to fight against the Tuscarora during the Tuscarora War, it didn't exactly get rid of their old animosities.

There are plenty of modern examples. A meeting held not too long ago in Brazil, when several tribes gathered to protest construction of a dam and power plant on the Xingu River, is a good case-in-point. Just before the confrontation with the power company representatives, as the leaders of the various tribes talked over their strategy for the day, the chief of one tribe (Kayapo) said to the chiefs of the other tribes: "I'm glad that you others could be with us today, so that you can learn how we real Indians handle these whites." The facial expressions of the other chiefs made it clear that the rivalry between the tribes, articulated by the Kayapo chief, was deeply felt by folks on all sides.

Sometimes these inter-tribal rivalries are handled pretty well by both parties. In some instances, there is even occasion for humor. Chippewa people continue to remind the Lakota that when the Chippewa chased the Lakota out of the Woodlands and onto the Plains they were just getting a head

start on the federal relocation program! The Lakota reply is often that anything would be better than living in Minnesota!

At other times, old rivalries between tribes or nations are used to the advantage of outsiders. This seems to be the case in the on-going Navajo-Hopi case, and may also be true in the historic Lumbee-Cherokee and Lumbee-Tuscarora differences. Old rivalries usually serve only to divide the few resources which Native Americans have, making them easier to control by outside interests such as big business, politics and governmental institutions.

Despite the fact that inter-tribal rivalries may have had some advantages in earlier times, and that they grew out of unavoidable historical and cultural processes, nowadays they have become almost entirely disadvantageous to Lumbees and other Native people. Who wins these inter-tribal rivalries? Not the Indians.

In the next segment we will discuss more contemporary issues which face the Lumbee today, as we move toward situating the Lumbee in context. For more information, visit the Native American Resource Center in historic Old Main Building, on the campus of The University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

From the Office of the Superintendent by Dr. Barry Harding

As 1998 draws to a close, I thought that this might be a good time to update everyone on the status of construction in our school system. It, of course, has been some time since voters across the state approved the referendum which resulted in the availability of \$64M for construction and renovation of facilities in our system. While actual needs amounted to a great deal more than that, that figure allowed us to get started on some of the more important projects.

It is hoped that the first major project - at Fairmont Middle School - will be ready for occupancy by the end of January. That project called for the construction of a new classroom building to replace the old 2 story building which was originally built 76 years ago in 1922 with some renovation done to it in 1940. In addition to classrooms, the building also houses the school's auditorium. Needless to say, it has outlived its usefulness and the 540 students in grades 5-8 who attend the school will be much better served by the replacement facility. When the students are able to occupy the new building, the 2 story building and the agriculture shop will be torn down.

The next project to get underway will be work at Prospect Bids were opened just recently and, after approval by the Board of Education which has scheduled to take place at its January meeting, construction, hopefully will get underway by mid February. That project will consist of a twelve classroom addition as well as certain renovations. The construction of those classrooms will allow the removal of the twelve mobile units which are currently being used to accommodate some of the 775 students ranging from pre-k to eighth grade who attend the school.

Currently in the schematic design phase are the other two major projects that have been given priority by the Board. They include a complete renovation of existing 2 story building at

Red Springs Middle School along with the construction of 6 additional classrooms at the school which house 500 students in grades 5-8. The building getting the lion's share of attention was built in 1925 and is thus one of the oldest buildings in use in our school system. We hope to open bids for the project in June with construction to follow shortly thereafter.

The other major project scheduled to get underway is the building of a new wing at Lumberton Senior High School. The wing will be designed to accommodate the 600 ninth graders who currently attend Lum-

berton Junior High School. When completed Lumberton Senior will then join the other five high schools in our system as a four year high school. Up until then it has been the only high school in the county which only had three years of high school beginning with the tenth grade. It will also bring about a realignment of grades at Lumberton Junior High which then allow it to become a middle school. The opening of bids for the high school project is scheduled for June of 1999 with occupancy, hopefully, taking place in August of the year 2,000. That would be in time for the beginning of that school year.

Of the \$64M in bond money available to us, the four projects which I listed will account for \$25M. Another \$10M has been allocated for critical needs projects. While the School Board has approved a list of those needs it remains for them to approve contracts to take care of them and I expect that to take place shortly. When that has been done, we will still have approximately \$29M left for other projects which will be considered during the next few months.

As I've said before, while \$64M sounds like an awful lot of money - and it is - the number of schools that we have that need attention paid to them for their condition is such that \$64M represents only about a quarter of what we actually need. A survey made by the consultant group which we employed shortly after the bond referendum indicated that what we could actually use is \$239M. It has been a matter of setting priorities in order to make the best use of the money available. I believe we've done that by the decisions made. Further decisions

She's a gang leader

with a goal.

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Pediatric Pointers

By: Joseph T. Bell



Tobacco has long been used by Native Americans in various forms and for various reasons. In times past, tobacco and its smoke were used in Native ceremonies and rituals. Some of these practices are still being carried on today.

Unfortunately, most tobacco use today is in form of chronic habitual cigarette smoking, the single most preventable cause of disease and death in the U.S. today. This week we will discuss children exposed to sidestream and second-hand cigarette smoke. This involuntary, or "passive," smoking increases a child's risk of having serious respiratory illnesses. Almost 50% of all children are exposed to cigarette smoke by at least one adult smoker at "home."

Children who are exposed to passive smoke have a lower respiratory infections, including pneumonia and bronchitis. The frequency of respiratory problems resulting from these exposures cause more disability days for these children and more out of work days for their parents. Children exposed to smoke, also have more fre-

quent and longer hospitalizations for these problems as well as higher overall death rates.

Children whose parents smoke also have long-term effects, including decreased lung function, compared with children of nonsmoking parents. They have more chronic respiratory symptoms, especially persistent wheezing, and are more likely to develop asthma. Passive tobacco smoke is associated with more chronic ear infections, and children exposed to a parent's smoke also are at greater risk of becoming smokers themselves.

My advice to parents is to try not to smoke in an enclosed area that kids may be in. This includes the home and cars. It's not good enough to smoke in a separate room with the door closed, smoke will go under the door and find its way into every room in the house. If you must smoke, it would be best for the health of your children to always step outside before lighting up.

Don't forget that if you have any topics you would like me to discuss or questions answered, write me at P.O. Box 3010 Pembroke, N.C. 28372. Take care and we will talk again next week!

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