

# Along the Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stanley Knick, Director, Native American Resource Center, UNCC

Old Grandmother is a poet under that brightly faded bonnet, as surely as if she were Emily Dickinson or Elizabeth Barrett Browning. But her poetry is not on paper, not in books on library shelves. No one reads it who does not know her. It is in her everyday life. It is in the way she sees things, all things, as being related — everything as being connected to every other thing. It is in her understanding of nature — human nature, outdoor nature, the nature of things.

There is poetry in her kitchen, in the curtains, in the cabinets. She sees it in the concentrated rhythm of making biscuits. Gather ingredients. Sift together. Pour and stir and turn and knead. All the things she makes in her kitchen have poetry in them — imaginative power, beauty of thought. And when her family comes to supper there is poetry in their smiles as they smell the biscuits, taste the chicken, drink the tea — as they sit and talk and tell the stories.

There is poetry in her garden. She

sees it in the flourishing and fading of the plants, the wax and wane of seasons. She sees it in the ripening tomatoes, and also in the tomato hornworm and the hawk moth it will become. She sees it in the yellow squash and zucchini, and also in the squash vine borer. She sees it in her hands as they turn sandy loam and pull up weeds, even though she knows the weeds are flowers, too — only in a different form, only meant for a different field. She sees it in the bees who pollinate her flowers, in the morning-glory and moss rose as they take their own easy time opening and closing. And when she picks a few zinnias and marigolds and snapdragons to take inside the house, there is poetry in their colors and in the spirit-light they shed on her kitchen table.

There is poetry in her songs and in her prayers. It is in the flow and feeling of her calling out the names of those she knows need the Creator's help. It is in her quiet humming as she stitches a new quilt, in the songs of

praise as she gives thanks every day. She hears it in her grandson Elton's picking that old flat-top guitar, in the Wildwood Flower and the Wabash Cannonball and Amazing Grace "how sweet the sound."

She knows that poetry is in everything, if you only look for it, if you only feel it. She knows that the first chant of the first medicine man of the first people was poetry. She knows that the first words of her children and their children were poetry. She knows that the last words she heard her mother say were poetry. She knows that poetry comes up from the deepest part of us, and goes out to the highest part of the universe. She knows the beauty and rhythm and spirit and power of poetry are woven in the cloth of the Good Way.

Old Grandmother is a poet under that brightly faded bonnet.

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.

## Do Your Part During Spring Clean Up

Everett Davis, Cooperative Extension Services

For those of you who know Wilton Wilkerson, you know that there is no excuse for Robeson County not being "Clean and Green." But in spite of all his hard work, Robeson County is far from there.

At Wilton's request, I want to devote this column to his quest to make Robeson County "Clean and Green." I regret that I cannot say his quest is to keep Robeson County "Clean and Green," because we have never gotten to that point yet. Some of us keep trying to get there, with Wilton's urging. But too many others seem to try to keep it from happening.

Our farmers do their part to keep Robeson County green. But some of our farmers, as well as too many other people seem to do everything they can keep it from being clean and attractive. Our roadsides are a disgrace, too many of the residences in the county are not landscaped at all and there are far too many buildings in the county that are eyesores and in serious need of repair.

Most of the businesses in the county don't even try to make their places look attractive. And I never could

understand why most of them will not even place outside trash containers for their customers to use. It seems that they don't care if people want to come to their store to shop with them.

Robeson County Spring Clean '99" will be held throughout the county during the week of April 18. That is more than a week away, so I am

giving you advance warning. Wilton needs your help, and Robeson County needs your help. Get ready to clean up your part of the county and do something to make your part of the county more attractive. Make it green, make it colorful, make it clean, make it look like your proud of it.

As I travel throughout the state, and in other areas of the nation as well, I always look at those scenic byways and try to plan my trip so I can travel those roads. I enjoy seeing the beautiful landscapes, well-maintained farmsteads, well-planned and maintained fences and farm roads, plus those special touches of colorful flowers around the mailbox.

But when I return to Robeson County, I'm ashamed of the way most of our county looks. At least we can be sure that none of our roads will ever

be named scenic byways. We will not have to put up with the occasional tourist traveling through our area and bothering us about trying to spend some of their money with us. We don't have to worry about another industry being built in our county to provide jobs for our unemployed. Why would they want to locate their business and families here? When they look around, it seems that most of us don't even want to be here.

I guess I can understand that some people cannot afford to landscape their property. Maybe they can't afford the material and paint for a neat fence. Maybe they can't afford to fix up a house that does not even belong to them.

But what about trash? There is no excuse for trash. I heard someone say that "only trashy people throw trash." Stop and think about it. Maybe this is true.

Throwing trash along the highway is one of my pet peeves. I guess it is because I could never figure an excuse for anyone to throw trash out of a vehicle. Why not wait until you get to where you are going, and then throw it in a waste container? No extra effort, just little thoughtfulness.

Just a few days ago I was traveling behind a pickup with three grown men in the cab. All of a sudden out of

## Christianity does not make the Lumbee people less traditional than other tribes; religion has always been a part of Native Culture

Dear Editor,

This is in response to an article that appeared in the April 8, 1999 edition of the Carolina Indian Voice entitled "A Look at the Spiritual Life."

In the article the gentleman listed several items and terms that pertain to traditional culture, such as a medicine wheel, the four directions, the Sun Dance, Eagle Whistle, White Buffalo Woman, etc. and posed the question of how many Lumbee can tell you what they are or what they are used for. He then went on to say that "You'll look long and hard to find a Lumbee who can answer these questions." He obviously didn't attempt to look very far. There are many of us that were raised as easily as we could provide our name if someone were to ask. (By the way the Sun Dance and the White Buffalo Woman are parts of Plains Indian traditions—the Lumbee are Southeastern people.)

I have always been taught my culture and heritage. Not every Lumbee was as fortunate as I was to have parents who saw the value of instilling in us a deep respect for that part of our tradition and culture.

To say that people are ignorant of their culture and heritage because they do not practice the "traditional" ways is to limit the definition of culture.

My great-grandmother did not attend her first pow wow until she was in her 70s—does that mean that she

### In the Armed Forces

April 6, 1999 (FHNC) -- Navy Chief Petty Officer Tommy R. Locklear, son of Thomas P. and Roberta Locklear of St. Pauls, N.C. recently reported for duty at Navy Recruiting District, Raleigh, N.C.

The 1977 graduate of Magnolia High School of Lumberton, N.C. joined the Navy in February 1986.

the passenger's window came a stream of brown beer bottles, and then came the cardboard cartons the bottles were packed in, and to top it off then came the grocery bags. Against my better judgement, I tried to stop them to ask them not to litter, but they just sped away while laughing at me.

Wilton, if you are reading this, I want you to know I admire you for your determination. If others reading this are working hard to keep Robeson County "Clean and Green," I admire you as well. But by chance, if those who throw trash along our roads are reading this, maybe what I heard is true, "only trashy people throw trash."

wasn't traditional? Hardly! She practiced her culture everyday. The way she talked, cooked, farmed, raised her children and related to her family and friends spoke volumes about Lumbee culture. She may not have ever worn feathers but she was just as Indian as any of us.

The other portion of the article that caught my attention was the reference made about religion. I agree with the gentleman to a point. There should be an article included in the CIV written by an elder that deals with traditional aspects of our culture. That's where I draw the line.

We are not all "Apples" as he put it, simple because we practice Christianity. We are simply living and surviving in two worlds. Indian people today must learn to balance their lives between the Indian and the non-Indian. I was taught how to balance the two as a child. If you weren't at a pow wow on Sunday morning you were in church—those were our only options.

Christianity was not our first religion—but neither was paganism. That too was given to us by Europeans that did not understand our religion. Their misconceptions of our religion labeled us as pagan worshippers just as the author's lack of understanding the depth of our true Lumbee culture has labeled us as "Apples."

Native people have always believed in one Creator. Traditional religion and Christianity may not have been

the same form of worship but the fact remains that they are both religious and religion has always been the foundation of Native culture.

Christianity came with assimilation. Traditional religious practices were traded for the practices of Christianity, but that did not change the value of the importance of religion in Indian communities. The religion and religious leaders were then and still are some of the most powerful and respected elements of our communities. The good of the people was looked after by the religious leaders. Does this sound familiar?

This gentleman says that he would like to write a column and share with us some of the knowledge he has received from "Real Indians" about "Indians." I would be interested to know what types of things these "Real Indians" taught him. I think his next lesson should be to learn more about who he is and where he comes from.

We are all "Real Indians." It does not take feathers and drums (though they are both very dear to my heart) to make us Indian. It takes understanding where we come from and why we do or say the things that we do, the way we carry ourselves, the way we relate to each other. Our culture and traditions are all around us. Every minute of every day is filled with Lumbee culture. Some of us are simply too blind to see it.

Becky L. Goin

### Pembroke Kiwanis Report

The weekly meeting was held Tuesday evening at the Jade Garden Restaurant with President George Kenworthy presiding.

Program chairman Ed Teets and Mrs. Mary Alice Teets presented their very interesting trip to Amsterdam, Paris and London. They flew over by U.S. Air in January, it was pretty cold at times with three inches of snow on the ground in Paris. But they still at a very enjoyable trip in spite of the weather. The eight hour flight landed in Amsterdam where they have 100,000 people and 3,000 mopeds.

The water channels with 90 islands with many bridges lighted-up at night, were very impressive. The many brick buildings have lifting booms protruding out to serve as lifts to lift furniture and other articles up to three or four stories as their stairways are too narrow. The first day we toured the city of Amsterdam and saw a wooden shoe factory, a cheese making factory and a pottery shop. We toured the many channels on a boat

ride, truly impressive with its transportation and water system. Then we went to Paris.

The first day we saw the Cathedral of Notre Dame and Versice where the treaty ending WWI was signed in the Hall of Mirrors, and WWII Paris is truly a beautiful city with the Eiffel Tower and the Triumph de Arch of Victory. It's many museums, so impressive. Then on to London. We did alot of walking. We saw the Tower of London, the National Art Gallery, the London Bridge, the Thames River, the Harris Department store, the largest in the world. The Buckingham Palace, the changing of the Guard, Westminster Abby, the Church of England. We attend Sunday Church service. We also saw the White Planes of Dover, The Canterbury Cathedral, some stage shows. "It was such a wonderful trip, I wish we hadn't waited so long to take it. Mary Alice said. They had a beautiful display of many pictures of their trip. Very enjoyable.

Invocation, Albert Hunt, Reporter, Ken Johnson.

# \$16,000.00 REWARD

## Brittany Locklear Murder



On January 7, 1998, 5 year old Brittany Locklear was abducted from Gainey Road in Hoke County as she waited for the school bus. The following day her body was found off Ryan McBryde Road approximately 3 miles from where she was abducted.

There have been public reports that the suspect in this murder was driving a brown pickup truck with a camper shell. Investigators believe now it was a full size pickup truck. There still exists uncertainty regarding the year, model, and color of the truck and whether it had a camper shell.

Law Enforcement needs help in solving this murder. There is a \$16,000.00 reward being offered by Governor Hunt, the State Bureau of Investigation and the public for information leading to the arrest and conviction of Brittany Locklear's killer.

If you have information, please call any of the below listed telephone numbers. All information will be handled in a discreet and confidential manner.

- SBI Brittany Locklear Task Force - (910) 878-0202
- SBI Fayetteville District Office - (910) 486-1262
- SBI Intelligence Section, Raleigh - 1-800-334-3000
- Hoke County Sheriff's Department - (910) 875-5111

# THERE'S A NEW KIDD IN TOWN



Michael Kidd, M.D.

A familiar face in the operating suites of Southeastern Regional Medical Center for nearly ten years, Michael G. Kidd, M.D., has recently begun full-time practice at SRMC. He is certified by the American Board of Anesthesiology and has recently joined John Harris, M.D. and Patrice Maynor, M.D., as an associate of Lumberton Anesthesia Consultants.

A native of Alaska who has lived all over the United States and abroad, Dr. Kidd earned his medical degree from the University of Alabama in 1984. In 1987, he completed residency training at the University of California at San Francisco and Letterman Army Medical Center, where he also completed a fellowship in cardiac anesthesia.

Before coming to SRMC in January, Dr. Kidd worked at Cape Fear Valley Medical Center from 1991 through 1998 in the open-heart surgery program as a specialist in cardiac anesthesia.

His decision to join our community gives us all something to feel good about.

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