



AS I SEE IT

by Bruce Barton



Along The Robeson Trail

by Dr. Stan Kulek, Director, UNCP Native American Resource Center

Strike at the Wind! returns for 24th Season



It's that time of year ... the time for the 24th season of Strike at the Wind! Returning for his 12th season as director is David Oxendine. He invites all his friends out for another great season under the stars. Opening night is July 6. Rehearsals are underway nightly. The outdoor drama tells the story of Henry Berry Lowrie and his white, black and Indian friends and foes during the civil War era when a man "stood for what is right around here" as Polly cries out in honor of her slain husband, Sheriff Rueben King. More next week as we begin to tell the story of another season of STRIKE AT THE WIND!

The popular show is produced along the banks of the Lumbee River and U.S. Highway 74 at the Adolph L. Dial Amphitheater on the grounds of the North Carolina Indian Cultural Center in the Red Banks Community, approximately 5 miles west of Pembroke.



GUESS WHICH ONE JUST LEARNED TO WALK.

Obasandhin couldn't keep Eugene Hennessy down for long. Thanks to two successful knee replacements, he's back on his feet all day, greeting customers at a department store. For more on treatment options for osteoarthritis, contact the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

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In recent weeks, we have been searching through the writings of John Lawson for lessons about the Native Americans of the Carolinas early in the 1700s (in his book, *A New Voyage to Carolina*). Last week we saw Lawson's description of their philosophy of sharing resources among all the people, and a bit about their sense of collective responsibility within the society. This week we move on to more of Lawson's description of village life and traditional culture.

"All their Misfortunes and Losses end in Laughter; for if their Cabins take Fire, and all their Goods are burnt therein, (indeed, all will strive to prevent farther Damage, whilst there is any Possibility) yet such a Misfortune ends in a hearty Fitt of Laughter, unless some of their Kinsfolks and Friends have lost their Lives; but then the Case is alter'd, and they become very pensive, and go into deep Mourning, which is continued for a considerable Time; sometimes longer or shorter, according to the Dignity of the Person, and the Number of Relations he had near him."

In this passage we gain another glimpse into the system of values which characterized the culture of the Ancestors. First,

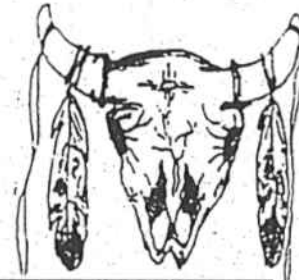
Lawson seems to be telling us that they didn't take themselves too seriously. Even times of 'misfortune and loss' were viewed as events which, if survived, could be cause for laughter. Perhaps this shows us that the Ancestors realized what was really important in life — that material goods were of much lower importance than human beings and harmonious relationships among them. Even modern medicine is coming to realize that laughter is not only a "good medicine," it is also a good preventative against stress and anxiety.

Of course, this does not mean that the Ancestors were completely careless about material things. They did live in a real world — not in some fantasy kingdom as some modern folks have imagined — and they had need of material objects. In case of fire, as long as there was any likelihood of avoiding further losses, everyone in the village would work to put out the fire and rescue whatever persons and things could be saved. But when all that *could* be done had been done, they seem to have been able to accept their losses graciously and in good humor.

The obvious exception was when someone's life was lost. Lawson tells us that on such

occasions they would "become very pensive, and go into deep Mourning." The fact that they would give only limited thought to the loss of material things, but that they would "become very pensive" — that is, they would be absorbed in thought — at the loss of human life, shows us another important thing about their culture. It is something which has been described as one of the characteristic differences between traditional culture and modern culture. The anthropologist David Maybury-Lewis has said that "in traditional culture, *people* have it over things; in modern culture, *things* have it over people." While this may be a bit of an exaggeration, it remains that in the culture of the Ancestors, people and relationships were obviously the most important parts of life. I wonder if we could say the same thing of mainstream life in modern America?

In the next segment of *Along The Robeson Trail*, we will continue our travels with John Lawson. 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 (our Internet address is www.uncp.edu/nativemuseum).



Readers says American Indian Mothers Group is accountable to the public"

To the Editor,

It has been close to a month now since the American Indian Mothers held their Memorial Scholarship Banquet at the Farmer's market. People have been asking if this group was above reproach then "why did the majority of the awards and acknowledgments go to family members of Beverly Collins-Hall?" Her siblings and even her mother got an award. I guess the reason why the other siblings did not get one is the fact that they did not attend. You know there are thousands of good Indian mothers in this county. So, why was the Collins family singled out? What have they done that is so great? If the news media thought that it was of good character then we would have seen it on the news! The AIM ran news articles on three events and only one was held. Does the phrase "that your past will come back to haunt you?" have any meaning to these ladies? There are many qualified and outspoken people that could have received these awards in the Indian Communities. And now this group has received over a thousand dollars from the Lumbee Tribal Government of which one of their members just happens to be the Tribal Administrator and makes several hundred dollars a day just sitting there watching the Lumbee money?

They never gave any accountability for the money that they raised from this banquet. I have yet to see anyone announce that the applications were being taken for the money collected for scholarships. And I did not see a single newspaper or television station cover the event. No one has printed a photograph of the art work that was suppose to be done either.

We cannot say that their intentions are good or bad. Mostly we can state that we do not know what they are. We do not know where the money went. Or in fact is it being used to send relatives of Collins-Hall to college?

So, I call upon the American Indian Mothers to speak up and let us all know that this event was not a "farce." People will want to be involved if the response to this is honest and proper.

Vinita "Cookie" Maynor-Clark
Pembroke, NC

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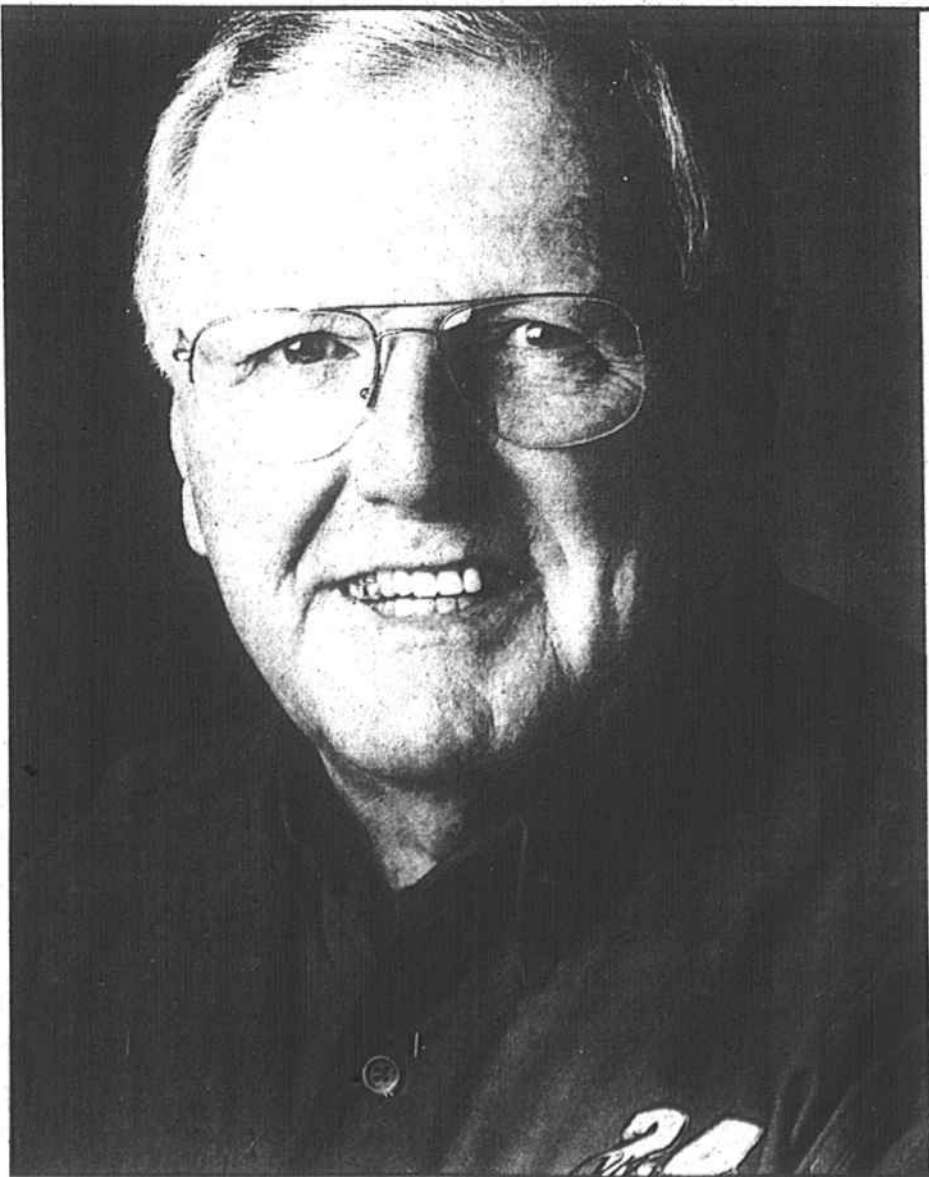
When A Heart Condition Caused Jack's Life To Come To A Screeching Halt, Scotland Memorial Got Him Back In The Race.

As an avid NASCAR fan, Jack Cousins of Laurinburg knows what it takes to go the distance. So when a serious heart condition threatened his life, he relied on Scotland Memorial's technology, medical staff and rehabilitation services to get him back in action.

In December 2001, Jack was alone when he felt pain in his chest. With no prior history of heart problems, he became more concerned when he began to perspire and have difficulty breathing. That's when he called his wife, Ginger, who assessed the situation and took Jack to the Emergency Department at Scotland Memorial where a team went to work to save Jack's life. One of the hospital's cardiologists performed diagnostic tests that revealed a leaky heart valve and an aneurysm on his aorta.

"There's something special about the staff at Scotland Memorial," says Jack. "They treat you like family and show a genuine concern for your health and comfort. Everyone from the Emergency Department and my cardiologist to the cardiac rehab staff worked together to help me regain my health. I wouldn't go anywhere else."

Today, Jack says he is feeling much better and credits his doctor and Scotland Memorial for going the distance to help him recover. For more information on cardiac services, call 910-291-7550.



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