

College shows art drawn from Native American plant remedies

By GRACE R. DOVE
Post Staff

DALLAS TOWNSHIP - College Misericordia is hosting an exhibit of Native American plant remedies, with pictures of 36 plants used by various Native tribes, which will run through September 30.

According to information at the exhibit, the Native Americans were far ahead of European medicine at the time when North America was settled. Native peoples knew the vital organs and their functions and the different body systems. They introduced some of their remedies to European settlers.

The Natives knew when each plant was ready to be harvested for use, which part of the plants were to be used and how they were to be prepared and stored. Generally, the roots of annuals were taken before they flowered in the spring, while the roots of biennial herbs and perennial plants were taken in the late fall. Bark was removed from trees in the late winter and early spring, when it came most easily from the branches, and leaves were picked before the plants bloomed.

Native doctors often used a sort of doctrine of signatures, in which plants whose leaves were heart-shaped were used for heart ailments, for example.

Ronald Cheek of the Cherokee nation drew the stems, flowers and leaves of ladies' slippers, morning glories, wild garlic, dandelion and others in pastels on a black background, bordered with intricately detailed line patterns.

Some resembled a quilt block. Osage artist Christ Musgrave portrayed red clover and other plants with sacred symbols of the full moon, spiral and lightning around them. In one presentation a lightly sketched outline of a blackbird flits mysteriously across the treetops, while the inscrutable face of a bobcat peers from amid the foliage and a stylized turtle makes her steady way through the grass.

Delaware (Lenape) artist Donald H. Secondine, Jr., bordered his renditions of Virginia snakeroot and black cohosh (bugbane) with patterns resembling classic Native reverse ribbon applique, used to decorate articles of clothing.

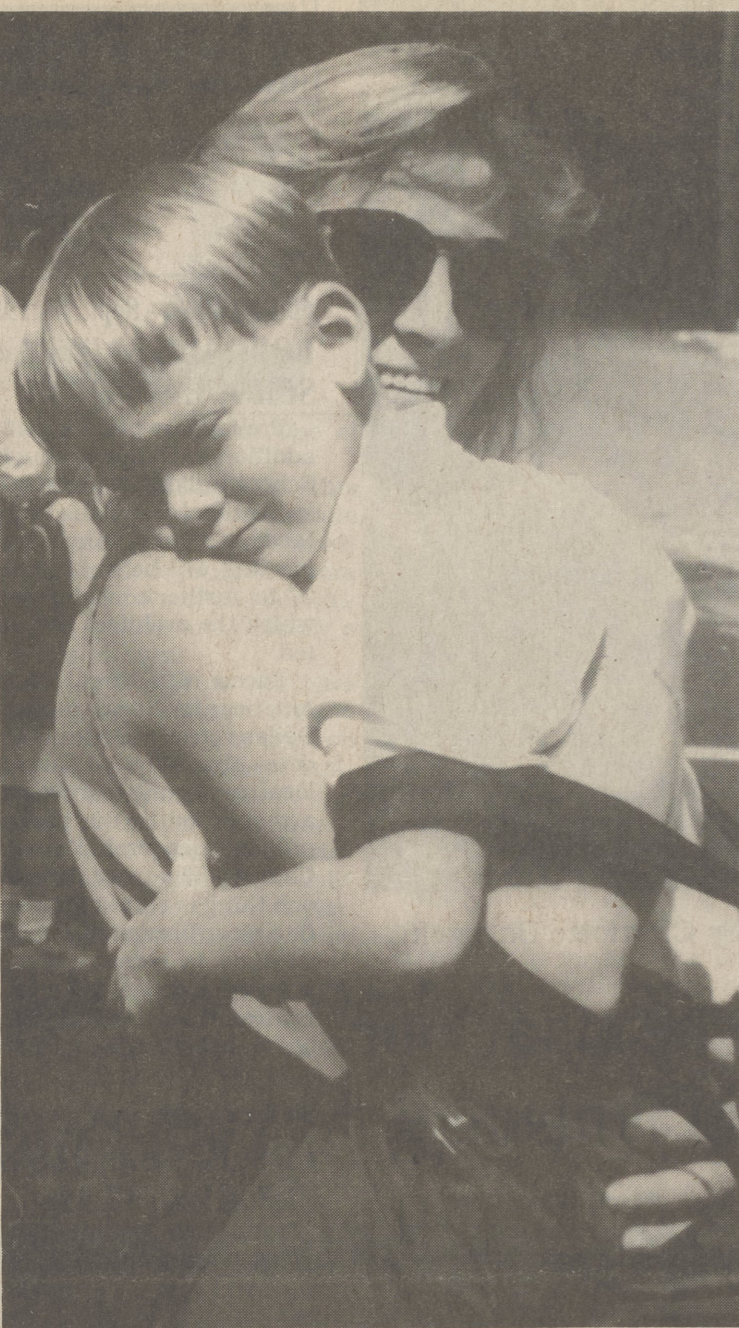
European doctors considered some Native remedies to be miracle drugs. The American chestnut is the only plant used to treat whooping cough, while the water avens is credited with saving the Thompson Indians from smallpox.

In addition to helping gynecological ailments, poor circulation and nervous disorders, golden ragwort was considered an antidote for poison-tipped arrows.

The lowly club moss, used to treat diarrhea and nosebleeds, found its way into the white man's world in the manufacturing of explosives.

Sweet flag was so valuable a remedy for stomach and women's problems that some tribes used it as a medium of exchange.

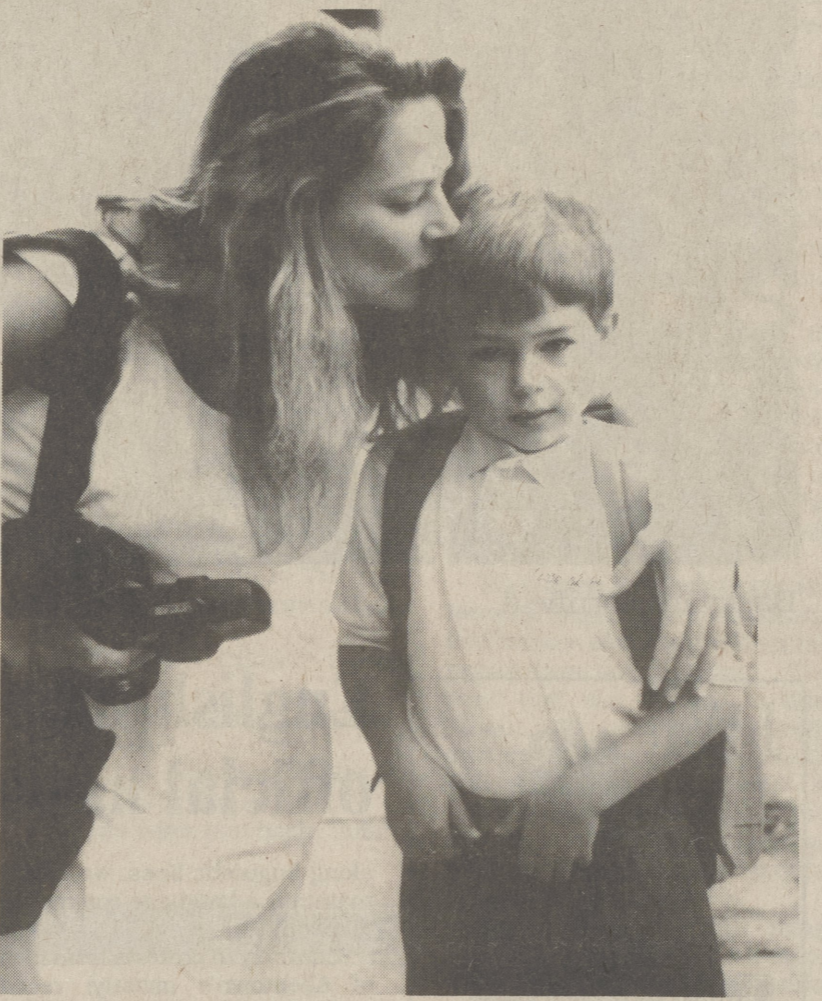
Even poison ivy had its use, as a treatment for herpes and ringworm.



First day blues

Ginny Reisser held a tired Corey Conrad after his first day of kindergarten at Gate of Heaven School, left. Below, Eileen Szychowski gave her son Brian a good luck kiss before his first day in school last week.

POST PHOTOS/CHARLOTTE BARTIZEK



Native

(continued from page 1)

"There's lots of pressure on the people up there," Wolfe said. "The company didn't realize what skilled employees they had here. The workers up there aren't as well-trained as we were and can't put out as much good product as we did."

The Dallas plant is for sale, according to Carl Anderson, controller of Carris Brook Industries,

the firm's parent company. The 93,000 square foot building sits on 16 acres in Dallas Borough.

The Greater Wilkes-Barre Chamber of Commerce is trying to help fill the vacant building, according to director of marketing and development Todd Vonderheid. "So far no manufacturer has expressed an interest in the

The Dallas plant was built in 1946, and employed 600 people at its peak.

Generating an annual payroll of about \$2 million, Native Textiles paid \$2,898 in municipal taxes and \$22,895 in school district taxes in 1993, according to tax records. The plant in Dallas was built in the late 1940's.

site, but we're optimistic it can be filled," he said.

Native Textiles, which makes tricot cloth for women's intimate apparel, football-type jerseys and athletic jacket linings, announced in March, 1994 that it would move its operation to Glens Falls within a year to be closer to its parent company, Carris Brook Industries.

Burning, unnecessary water use restricted

Residents are reminded that all Back Mountain municipalities have declared bans on open burning due to the extremely dry conditions. Area water companies have asked residents to avoid all unnecessary uses of water, such as watering lawns or washing cars.

R.O.S.E. to meet Sept. 6

Reach Out Singles Everywhere (R.O.S.E.) will hold its monthly meeting Sept. 6 at the American Legion, 386 Wyoming Ave., Kingston at 7 p.m. The group will make plans for the monthly dance to be held on September 15. New members always welcome.

For more information, call Pat 822-0639; Judy, 823-3071; or John 779-4405.

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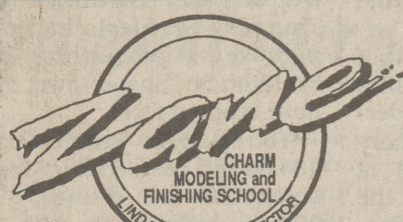
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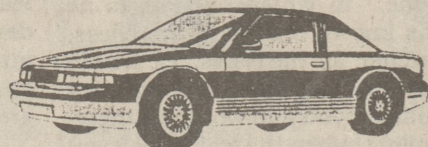
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