

Group meetings are a family affair

Indians swap arrows for action in them thar Hills

By LYNN ORR

A pow-wow can have power, says Mari Snowberger of Farmington Hills. She ought to know. A native American who is proud of her Cherokee, Ojibwa and Mohawk heritage, Mrs. Snowberger is one of the founders of the Farmington Hills Concerned Citizens for Action.

Since the group's first meeting nearly one year ago, Mrs. Snowberger's life has changed dramatically.

Last winter her husband lost his job, and for three months she searched in vain for some kind of help for her family. She finally stumbled across an organization that got her going in the right direction.

Although her husband is now the supervisor of a Hills tool and dye shop and the family no longer needs assistance, the Snowbergers decided to pass on what they learned.

"We know we can be self-reliant," says the 26-year-old mother of three. "We can really work and do some-

thing. And we don't sit around and talk about it. We get moving."

The group is really a family affair. Mrs. Snowberger's sister brother, mother, grandmother, and foster brother are all active members. In just one year, the group's efforts have paid off in full, she says.

AN OPPORTUNITY to meet President Carter; a job for her brother Michael; and the election of two members to the governing board of the Oakland-Livingston Human Services Agency (OLSHA) are just some of the group's accomplishments.

Assisting their neighbors in the southeast section of Farmington Hills and working together are some other benefits.

Among about 30 members, Grandma Dibbs at 87 is the oldest of four generations in the group. She was in the running for the oldest native American in Oakland County, boasts 54 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren and she intently listens during group discussions.

These discussions take various avenues from week to week. Audra Hubble, an OLSHA community service worker, sits in on many of them, often bringing information for persons in need. One week she may help members fill out energy assistance applications. Another week she may ask them to help out some other needy group in her service area.

Last week the members prepared to donate some old TVs to a handicapped veteran Mrs. Hubble met. In addition, Mrs. Snowberger invited a Clarenceville School District employee to the meeting to inform the members about Project Child Find.

Clarenceville, like other districts, is looking for pre-school children who need special help, according to Jane Dye.

The state mandates that special needs children from birth to 25 years of age be assisted by the school district, Mrs. Dye says. Special needs can include vision problems, physical handicaps, learning disabilities, retardation, and emotional problems, she said.

The Concerned Citizens for Action promised help. They'll spread the word to neighbors and promised help for a bulletin in the Livonia Mail in April to spread Project Child Find's Message.

Other meetings have included social events, such as picnics and a Christ-

mas party, to forming a clothing and furniture collective. Last year, the group petitioned the Clarenceville School District for a bus for their children.

The roads in Section 36 of Farmington Hills where most members live, are rutted and mud-filled now. There are no sidewalks. During the winter, the roads are often treacherous with ice. Members believe their children shouldn't have to walk to school on the roads.

Although they failed to get a bus, they made the school district aware of their presence. School officials told Mrs. Snowberger, after the organization was mobilized for a school board meeting, that it was the largest public attendance at a board meeting.

Mrs. Hubble has been indispensable in helping the group. Mrs. Snowberger maintains.

"She kept talking to my husband and encouraging him to get CETA (Comprehensive Employment Training Act) schooling. She gave him back his self-respect," Mrs. Snowberger says.

Virginia Johnston, Mrs. Snowberger's mother, also gained from meeting Mrs. Hubble. She learned how to become a foster mother, and Chuck Trisdale, 14, also of native American heritage, is living with Mrs. Johnston and her daughter Liane, 19.



Audra Hubble



Mari Snowberger

Ms. Johnston, a 1977 Harrison High graduate, attends Oakland Community College and is one of the OLSHA board members.

Consciousness-raising is a big part of the group's efforts, Ms. Johnston says. Currently she is working with the Detroit Indian Center to obtain an education grant for the school district to help native Americans.

THE FAMILY learned about helping others from their father and an experience with a tornado in 1974. At that

time, most of the Snowbergers and Johnstons were living in Monticello, Ind. when a fatal tornado hit. Most of the family moved back to Farmington Hills shortly after that experience.

"We try to stay in tribal form," Ms. Johnston quipped.

The group is looking for members and is ready to help anyone. Those interested in attending a meeting held in a member's home can call Audra Hubble at 624-5520 for more information.



"Grandma Dibbs" is the oldest member of the Farmington Hills Concerned Citizens for Action, a group which spans four generations of native Americans. (Staff photos by Harry Mauthe)

During Mideast visit

Tour group strays into war zone

By CARL STODDARD

A Southfield church group got more than it bargained for when it ran into the Israeli army last week.

"When you think about it, it was a little scary," admits Kenneth Hall, administrator of Southfield Christian School and one of the leaders of the tour.

The group found itself on the front lines of the Israeli drive into Lebanon. No one was injured. The tour was able to go on as scheduled. But it proved to be an unsettling addition to an other-

wise routine visit to Biblical landmarks.

The tour was sponsored by Highland Park Baptist Church in Southfield. Included in the tour group were 33 children and adults. Most of them are members of the Southfield church and had signed on for the tour to complement Biblical studies.

They began with a five-day visit to Jerusalem and then headed north by bus to the Sea of Galilee. Near the Golan Heights, their bus was halted at a roadblock manned by Israeli soldiers. The soldiers talked to the bus driver, a former Israeli soldier, and

then allowed the group to pass.

Members of the group had heard about the recent terrorist attack on an Israeli bus, but did not realize the presence of the soldiers was tied to the attack or the subsequent assault on Palestinian camps in Lebanon, Hall said.

But as the bus was descending into a valley after a stop at Mt. Herman, passengers on the bus were suddenly jolted by the sound of nearby artillery fire.

"At the time, we really didn't know what was happening," Hall said. "When we first heard the booms, we

assumed it was practice. But as we got closer, we could see the fire and smoke, and we knew they were using live ammunition.

"The suspicion grew that they might be shelling Lebanon."

The next day, Hall said, they were told that "the Israelis have launched a retaliation into Lebanon."

At no time, Hall said, did the group stray into Lebanon and as far as they can tell, no one in the group was in any physical danger. But the experience left some of the group members feeling a little uneasy, he said.

THE INSIDE * ANGLE

"BOARD MEETINGS can get tedious. But occasionally someone throws in a zinger that would make word master EDWIN NEWMAN proud. This week's gem goes to Bedford Hospital administrator GERSON COOPER who, when addressing an issue, labeled it as "serendipitously" handled. A round of appreciative oohs and aahs rippled around the table. In case you're interested, serendipity means making desirable but unsought discoveries by accident.

"MEANWHILE at Farmington's own men's club, the city council, Councilman DICK TUPPER made his colleagues take notice when he proposed an unusual extension of their civic functions—taking tours of the city as a body. City Manager BOB DEADMAN gasped and warned the council that such tours could be construed as a violation of Michigan's open meetings law.

"UP AT THE corner of Eleven Mile and Orchard Lake Road, Farmington Hills Mayor JAN DOLAN is fighting the battle of the buzzers. Much to her chagrin, she inadvertently summoned the police to council chambers during a meeting a few weeks back when she pushed a bank of buttons underneath the council table. Oh, the trials and tribulations of high office.

"THE EASTER BUNNY will be the guest of honor at the Farmington City Park, Shawwassee and Farmington Road, this Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m. when the Jaycees sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt for children 10 and younger.

"MIKE CARTER, presently a student at Westminster College in Missouri, put his running skills to work recently by competing in the Third Olympiad Memorial Marathon. His finishing time in the 26-mile marathon was two hours and 51 minutes, one of the best times ever by a Westminster runner. He is the son of MR. and MRS. WINFORD CARTER of Farmington Hills. Congratulations Mike.

"REUNION TIME. The North Farmington Class of 1968 needs the addresses of classmates to organize a reunion this summer. Those interested should contact JOHN KRAMI at 852-6539 or CLAUDIA ELMASIAN at 681-6165.

"GOT SOME GERANIUMS? Well, Farmington Historical Society member BILL VANWAGNEN needs them. Bill has designed a float for the historical society to enter in the Memorial Day parade. He will need the loan of many geraniums in large crocks and other greenery. He can be reached at 474-5460.

"THE OAKLAND County Division of Health will offer a free immunization clinic in Walled Lake at the Southwestern Oakland Vocational Center, medical classrooms, 1000 Beck, on April 4 from 9 a.m. to noon. Immunizations for measles, German measles, mumps, polio, diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough are available. A parent or guardian must accompany anyone 18 years of age or younger. Previous immunization records should be brought.

"BACK TO NATURE vacations are being offered by the National Wildlife Federation for all you folks who are restless to get outside after this long, long winter. If you want to stretch your mind as well as your body this year, one of the three conservation summits may meet your summer vacation specifications. You can spend a week learning about nature while experiencing your education first hand at the Blue Ridge Summit in the Black Mountains of North Carolina, June 24-30; the Rocky Mountain Summit in Estes Park Colorado, July 3-9; or the Adirondack Summit in Silver Bay, New York, July 30-Aug. 5. Each summit offers a wide variety of outdoor activities and more than 25 classes, including backpacking basics, introduction to edible and medicinal plants, outdoor cooking, tree, wildflower and bird identification, folk history, astronomy, fresh water biology, geology, photography and art. Professionals teach the classes and university credit may be earned. For details about the summits, including costs and accommodations, write to Conservation Summits, Dept. CS-6, National Wildlife Federation, 1412 Sixteenth, NW, Washington, DC 20036.

"EQUALITY, INDEED. According to the Internal Revenue Service, in 1975, there were 90,836 women millionaires—but only 89,161 men millionaires. You've come a long way, baby.

"SPEAKING OF THE IRS, Americans first coped with a tax on income when on Jan. 1, 1862, the government imposed a three per cent tax on incomes exceeding \$800. This extremely unpopular law was repealed in 1872.

THE RECENT flap kicked off by DEBBIE HICKS over alleged improprieties at our local race tracks brings to mind the fate of jockey STEVE DONOGHUE, who rode in 108 consecutive losers. But he made up for it by winning three consecutive English Derbies.

MORE RECORDS. The world's largest sunflower was grown by FRANK KELLAND of England. His prize-winning plant grew to 23 feet, 6½ inches tall and had a seed head measuring one foot, 1½ inches in diameter.

BEACH BRIGHTS

IT'S TIME FOR SANDCASTLES AND SWIM FINS.

IN SUN-LOVING TANK SUITS BY PELICAN HARBOR.

Dress your little mermaid in a sleek suit that outshines the sun she'll be basking under. We show four styles from our cute collection, \$8 to \$11 in 4-6x and \$9 to \$12 in 7-14. All in nylon/spandex with straps that won't slip down. Girls' 4-6x and 7-14 at Hudson's.

hudson's

