

# 10 will vie for title of Miss Farmington 1979

By LORAIN McCLISH

Ten of the area's most charming young ladies, backed up by a committee of 30, are in the final rehearsal now for 1979's Miss Farmington Scholarship Pageant.

When the group of contenders take center stage at 7 p.m. Wednesday, July 25, in Vladimir's, the Farmington Founders Festival will be unofficially under way.

Based on past experience, Pageant Director Pat Fallon suggests, "Get your tickets in advance. We can't guarantee there will be any available at the door." She estimated that from 200 to 300 latecomers were turned away last year.

Tickets, at \$3 each, are available at the Farmington Area Chamber of Commerce, located in Farmington Masonic Temple, on Grand River and Farmington Roads. Ms. Fallon, who has held top positions in festival events since 1974, said:

"This year's contestants are heavier on talent than any other group we've seen before. And four of our young ladies are back for a second year."

"That's a nice compliment to us. It means they had a good time. They had a good experience before, and they're willing to try it again."

HER USE OF the word "us" referred to every one involved in staging the polished and professional performance, and showing the contenders off at their best.

That runs the gamut, from a business man who is sponsoring one of the hopefuls, to the woman who comes forward to show a young girl how to walk down a runway, to the lighting technician who sets up a spotlight.

"Schroeter's Flowers sends corsages and stage decorations. TL Printing does our invitations. Focal Point Studio takes our pictures. Botsford Inn lets us have rooms for rehearsals. We pay no rental to Vladimir's," Ms. Fallon says.

"And the list goes on. 'Holly Ann Schmidt is coming back to do the girl's make up. Susan Reed is coming back to do their hair. Dorissa LaMarra is doing our choreography,' she said.

"All of those are former Miss Farmington title holders. Ms. Schmidt went on to win the Miss Michigan title. 'Our winner this year will have a lot to live up to,'" Ms. Fallon said. "We've had one of our girls place in the top ten (at the state level) in three out of the five years we've been associated with the Miss America contest and some cities who have been in it for 20 years have never had one."

AFTER MS. SCHMIDT took the state competition, Ms. LaMarra took the award for best talent in the state, and Pam Prichard came in as first runner-up. Meanwhile, Ms. Reed married, and went on to become Mrs. Michigan.

All of the persons involved in the pageant are volunteers. "No one is paid a thing, and there is no cost to the girls at all," Ms. Fallon said.

The new Miss Farmington will take her crown and her roses of victory after being judged in bathing suit and evening gown appearances, talent and onstage personality competitions.

She, and her first and second runner-up, will get cash awards. She will leave with a \$350 wardrobe allowance and her franchise fee paid for in the Miss Michigan Pageant.

She and her runners-up will get Vita Craft of Michigan certificates and complimentary photos from Focal Point, and commemorative silver plates.

There will be a special award for the girl who wins the talent contest.

In the judging, talent counts for 50 percent of the total judging points, awarded by a panel of five judges, and tallied by a professional auditor.

THE NEW MISS Farmington will be (Continued on page 3C)



With their best foot forward, ten contenders vie for the first step up to the Miss America Scholarship Pageant set for Wednesday, July 25. In the front row, from left are Deborah LaVere, Mary Bolen and Jan Haugen. Middle row hopefuls are Lorie Shepperd, Lisa Gordon, Patricia

Wright and Brenda Fetzer. Standing, from left, are Amy VanDoll, Vickie Whinnery and Terri Todd. The Franklin Village Band will herald the new queen upon her first official public appearance in Downtown Shopping Center at 9:30 p.m., following the pageant.



## Farmington Observer Suburban Life

Thursday, July 19, 1979

(F)IC



There's trouble in the Baggawa camp, between brothers Bag Foot, played by Pat Nadon at left, and Little Bag, played by David Delidow. Pat is 12 and a student at Bohan Junior High. Dave is 11 and attends Booth Elementary School in Birmingham.

Staff photos  
by Randy Borst



Terry Schierloh and Brenda Bowman work together to construct a totem pole, made from ice cream cartons and a lot of imagination. At far left, another group works to string beads for Indian necklaces and arm bands.



Heather Clark, (left) gets an assist with her Indian make-up from Marcy Hornsby. It's all part of the many facets of theater the 9-to-14-year-olds have been studying this summer in classes with Taffy Jones at Farmington Community Center.

## Out in the woods with the Baggawas

By LORAIN McCLISH

All comers are invited to dig out an old blanket and spend a happy hour in the woods with the Baggawa Indian tribe when Taffy Jones' summer drama students stage "Indian Disco."

Showtime is 2 p.m., Friday, July 20, in Farmington Community Center's outdoor amphitheater. Rain date is Monday, July 23, same time.

Following the format of Ms. Jones' classes, the 25 young actors, from 9-to-14-years old, are responsible for the complete production.

"And they are doing it in a very short time," she said. "Eight sessions of 1½ hours each, with all of them doubling up on stage and off stage work to be done."

The children act, sing, dance, design and make scenery; many have devised their own Indian-style make up and many have created their own costumes, Baggawa-fashion.

"They have worked hard to produce the play that tells about the tribe whose members have lived away from the white man since the time of the buffalo," Ms. Jones said.

"You will enjoy the story about Little Bag and how he gets his tribe to

disco. You will hear eight catchy and beautiful songs and see how the white man and the red man become brothers."

TAFFY JONES has been artist-in-residence for the 1978-79 season in the Bloomfield Hills School District with her Whistle-Stop Children's Theater and another original play about respect, called "Scat."

"Indian Disco" is the fourth original musical she's written for Farmington area audiences, all in collaboration with composer Sheila Devlin, and all carrying a morale or a message for children.

Ms. Jones plans to continue with "Scat" for the 1979-80 school season; going into residence for five weeks at each school and producing the play as she did this year at Conant, Booth, Hickory Grove and Vaughan Elementary Schools in Bloomfield Hills.

Meanwhile, Whistle-Stop plans to go into Detroit schools.

The Whistle-Stop theater, which has been given a grant by Michigan Council for the Arts, is directed by Ms. Jones, Brenda McDonald, Betty Appleton, and

Ms. Devlin. Of her "Indian Disco" cast, Ms. Jones said:

"These young people not only learn about theater, but also how to work together. They start a production from nothing and finish it with great satisfaction."

"All you need to join us is an old blanket, maybe some bug spray, and a prayer that the skies will stay blue," she said.

Ms. Jones special guests at the performance will be youngsters from Sarah Fisher Home.

## THE CAST

Little Bag  
Bag Foot  
Big Chief Big Bag  
Bagga  
Bag Bear  
Running Bag  
Sitting Bag  
Laughing Bag  
Squaw Bag  
Drummer  
Dancer and Flutist

David Delidow  
Pat Nadon  
Sue Cruich  
Pam Mageria  
Candy Gronski  
Julie DeWard  
Brooke Foley  
Nora Hretz  
Kathy Megerian  
Brenda Bowman  
Lisa Almasly

### THE BAGGAWAS

Kathy Zamczyk, Barbara Yates, Moira Koroll, Kathy Kietler, Kristen Laing, Danielle Milne, Kate Brown, Jennifer Dantermann, Marie Hornsby, Susan Laing, Terri Schierloh, Heather Clark, Mary Richardson and Lisa Delidow.



All members of the company double up with off stage and on stage duties. The teepee, one of the most important stage props for Indian Disco was designed by Kathy Zamczyk, at left, Katie Kretler, Lisa Delidow and Mary Richardson. On stage they are members of the Baggawa tribe.