



HOPHI 4-H GIRLS learn the latest techniques in clothing making. These bright youngsters take quickly to the electric sewing machines, and have a keen sense of color and style.



LEARNING LEATHERCRAFTS — Even very young Hopi boys show amazing skill in cutting, shaping and embossing leather articles, as taught through 4-H clubs.

Gentle People of the Mesas Endorse 4-H Clubs

By Clay Napier

Tribal Councilman Logan Koope gazed solemnly into the purple sunset as the inquisitive visitor asked questions about his people's "snake dances," 4-H work and Hopi traditions.

"What you call dances are not dances," Koope explained. "They are the sacred religious rites of the Hopis."

The gentle host was too polite to say so, but it was apparent that visitors to the Hopi Nation in Navajo County, Arizona, are expected to be quiet and respectful on such occasions, just as you expect people to behave in your church.

Visitors sometimes fail to realize fully that the rain-making ceremonies, commonly called "snake dances," are among the Hopis' most sacred religious ceremonies. Although the "dancers" handle rattlesnakes, racers and bull snakes, this is NOT entertainment. They put their hearts and souls into the ceremonies.

Parents Endorse 4-H Activity

It is the same with 4-H Club activity in the Hopi Nation.

While many parents let their children participate in 4-H work but play only passive roles themselves, the Hopi parents reflect intense interest in everything their offspring do.

"Many of the Hopi are progressive. They accept new ideas that help them. They like 4-H because they see that 4-H helps their children," explained Dwain Gale, former Extension agricultural agent in Navajo County and now working for a master's degree at The

University of Arizona College of Agriculture.

The UA Cooperative Extension Service and the Bureau of Indian Affairs cooperate with the Hopi 4-H program.

Amos H. Underwood, county agent at Holbrook, noted that the Hopis love their ceremonials, including the Butterfly Dance, the Hoop Dance, the Antelope Dance and the Buffalo Dance.

Hopi Team a Winner

Unlike many other Indians, the Hopi are not shy or reticent about appearing in public. Underwood pointed out that the Hopi talent team outdid all others in Arizona's 14 counties to win the State 4-H talent show two years in a row — once with their "Original Hoop Dance" and again with their "Impersonation of the Beatles."

The county agent said the Hopis are very proud of their annual "4-H Achievement Day" held each spring at Polacca. They dismiss school for the day and the young folks bring in clothing, foods, home management record books, poultry, rabbits, beef, horses, sheep, leatherworks and electricity for judging. Sometimes they exhibit as high as 700 entries in competition for 4-H ribbons.

"We are proud of these Hopi 4-H boys and girls," said Underwood. "They exemplify in their work and play the highest ideals of the 4-H program."

There are 30 4-H Clubs on the Hopi Reservation with 396 members — 157 boys and 239 girls. Most popular projects among the boys are leathercrafts, beef animals and horses. The girls like clothing, basic sewing, foods and nutrition.

Have Artistic Talent

Hopi 4-H boys and girls alike go strong for art (painting), tooling copper, electricity, making electric lamps, woodworking and carving. Their natural abilities often push them out to outdo their white counterparts.

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Typical of the adult Hopis who participate in the 4-H program are Mrs. Martha Sieweyunptew, a 4-H leader for the past 14 years, and Miss Mary Lou Loloma, a 4-H leader 13 years.

"I like to work because I know it helps our young people adapt to the new ways," said Mrs. Sieweyunptew, who lives on the Second Mesa.

Miss Loloma, of Polacca, called 4-H "one of the best educational tools I've found." She is a teacher at the Polacco Day School.

Another 4-H leader, Miss Evelyn Mack of Polacca, was too busy to talk much. "I'm on my way to a 4-H meeting now," she explained.

A male 4-H leader who helps the 4-H'ers develop their natural leathermaking abilities is Henry Talayumptewa. "I enjoy watching the creativity in the young people the way some people enjoy the sunrise," said Talayumptewa.

Proof that 4-H experiences stay with the Indians after the club years are gone was evident in a young man named Webb Polacca, 22, stepson of Olie Tolashie, a Hopi rancher. "In my beef 4-H project I learned much about the breeding and care of beef animals. I learned how to select good cows and bulls and how to care for them. I'm making a career of raising livestock," Tolashie said confidently.

A Skilled Silversmith

Another 4-H'er, Delbert Honani of Oraibi, won



AN ANCIENT ART — Mrs. Martha Sieweyunptew, a Hopi 4-H leader, weaves a basket as her people have done for centuries. The Hopis are a progressive people, but they still strive to keep alive many tribal arts.

quite a reputation as a 4-H silversmith. He went on to continue his education at Phoenix Indian School in Phoenix. Oraibi, incidentally, is the oldest continuously inhabited village in the United States.

The Hopi women are receptive to homemaker clubs, too, under the leadership of the BIA. The women learn such skills as modern cooking and sewing. Their favorite project is making clothes for their children.

Although the Hopis treasure their ancient traditions and fully respect their ancestors, they have a knack for accepting modern ways at the same time.

They use trucks, tractors, station wagons and other modern vehicles. Television antennas project on the rooftops of many of their native stone and adobe homes. There is a 24-unit motel at Keams Canyon. A public cafe is located nearby.

But within a few minutes you can go from a modern way of life to villages where people have lived the same way for a thousand years. The most picturesque living areas are atop the mesas.

An Agrarian Society

Seventy-five percent of the people derive their living from agriculture — cattle, sheep, fruits, vegetables, including squash, watermelons, beans and cantaloup. Koope himself is a typical Hopi farmer. He cultivates 3 acres, and some have as many as 5 acres. "That's all a man needs," the tribal councilman explained.

An interesting agricultural twist is the way the Hopis raise peaches. They plant the trees in low areas where they get the maximum moisture, which may be far from the owner's dwelling place. "But a Hopi never bothers another Hopi's fruit trees," said Koope.

Because cattle constitute a major product for the Hopis, William "Bill" Beck, BIA range conservationist, works with both the 4-H Clubs and the adult agricultural program. The Hopis are quick to accept new range management practices, said Beck.

Best of Old and New

"We want the things the white man can give us that are good," said Koope. "But we do not want to lose the good things we have had for centuries."

That seems to sum up the Hopi philosophy.

Miss Stewart Honored For Work With BPW

More than 300 persons have learned to read and write in Tucson and the surrounding area as the result of efforts by a small band of women who cared.

One of these is Miss Jean M. Stewart, state leader of Home Economics in the Extension Service.

The work was begun by a University of Arizona Business and Professional Women's Club committee co-chaired by Miss Stewart and Mrs. Roger Schroeder of the UA Science Library. This is one reason why

Miss Stewart is the BPW's "Woman of the Year," given the award at one of the club's noon luncheon meetings.

Making the presentation was another distinguished Tucson woman, Superior Court Judge Mary Anne Richey.

Mrs. Blanche A. Seferlis, president of the UA BPW, said Miss Stewart did "A distinguished job of helping illiterate people better themselves" in her work on the organization's Adult Literacy Group Committee.

During Miss Stewart's first year with the literacy group, the UA BPW Club received the trophy for the best community project from the Arizona State Federation of BPW. This year the club won second place in the same category.

For Miss Stewart, this honor was something of a switch. As prime

mover in the annual Town and Country Life Conference, also called "University Week for Women," she often makes arrangements for others to be honored.

She has played the top leadership role in 19 of the conferences since the annual event was started in 1940. Thousands of women from all parts of Arizona have taken part.

Miss Stewart has been state leader of home economics for the UA Cooperative Extension Service since 1942. Before that, she chalked up two "firsts" in her career. She was the first clinic dietician at Stanford University Hospital in San Francisco from 1930 to 1936.

Later, from 1939 until she was promoted to her present post, she was the first extension nutritionist with the UA.