

# Drums, Dance Fill The Forest At Honoring Festival

(Continued from Page B10)

er with that name two years ago. Little Owl said it may have to do with habits. "Sometimes I stay up all hours of the night," she said. "I think I have good vision at night." Like the owl.

Little Owl was wearing the crown and shawl of the princess of the Southeast National American Cultural Association. Little Owl scored a 97 out of 100 on the contest, which measures how much contestants understand about the traditions of the Lenape culture, knowledge of dance, and other items. She was crowned on Aug. 3 this year in Concord, N.C.

Simply watching the dances, it was hard not to be moved and perplexed almost at the same time. I wonder if any of the 3,000 visitors to the Honoring Festival felt the same way.

I was amazed at how the men, with arms raised, with dance staffs held high, became moved by the dances. I felt like too much the outsider — how ignorant, I wondered, would I looked if I asked questions

my son Kevin was wondering, like, *why do you wear that stuff? What does it mean? Is it uncomfortable? How do you know how to do that?*

So I asked. I spoke with Carrie's Hawk, also known as Terry Lee, a truck driver from Ephrata. The name was given to him from the shaman or medicine man. Carrie's Hawk is member of the Warrior's Society. He held up a strange, clawed and feathered stick that he called a "dance staff," essential to the ceremony.

I learned a great deal about how the dance circle is made and maintained by Cat Hadley. There was great fun at the "bash," of sorts, when the "Switch Dance" was performed — the roles are reversed. Women play the role of men, with traditional garb, and vice versa.

Cat's husband, Sandy, reminded me at one time, during a Fallen Warrior portion of the dance, not to take any pictures.

The entire clearing was quiet. You could hear only the sounds of birds.

The men gathered in a circle, holding a feather, looking up into the sky, in honor of a fallen warrior. Men outside of the circle hugged each other. It was a solemnity so intense you could literally feel it in the air.

When the men looked up, you could almost feel yourself lifting

from the circle, into a graying but still auburn sky, surrounded by the presence of people in the circle and maybe those beyond.

As we were leaving, my family walked back through the forest, Kevin less mystified that I was. But we were enthralled by the sounds of the handmade, wooden,

ancient flute-like instrument he was playing, called a "Quena," pronounced KEN-YA.

My son Kevin said, "It's a Quena, Dad. As in, *Can ya play it?*"

At day's end, the only sounds left in the forest were the sounds of human laughter.

## Preschoolers Learn About Farming

(Continued from Page B12)

even before another Union County farmer, Ray Espenshade, fought with Lewisburg officials over building a large hog barn on his farm. Because his neighbors feared odor and pollution from a "non-family farm" enterprise, it took Espenshade a year to get a building permit. A group in nearby Snyder County who wanted to start a hog operation employing 300 people lost their battle for a permit. Both disputes were highly

publicized.

Barb Wiand is also concerned about adverse publicity, such as the "60 Minutes" television show segment showing a North Carolina hog farmer illegally dumping dead hogs in a public watershed.

She is working with the growing Pennsylvania Pork Producers Association and attending educational meetings not only to improve management skills but also to learn public relations methods.

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