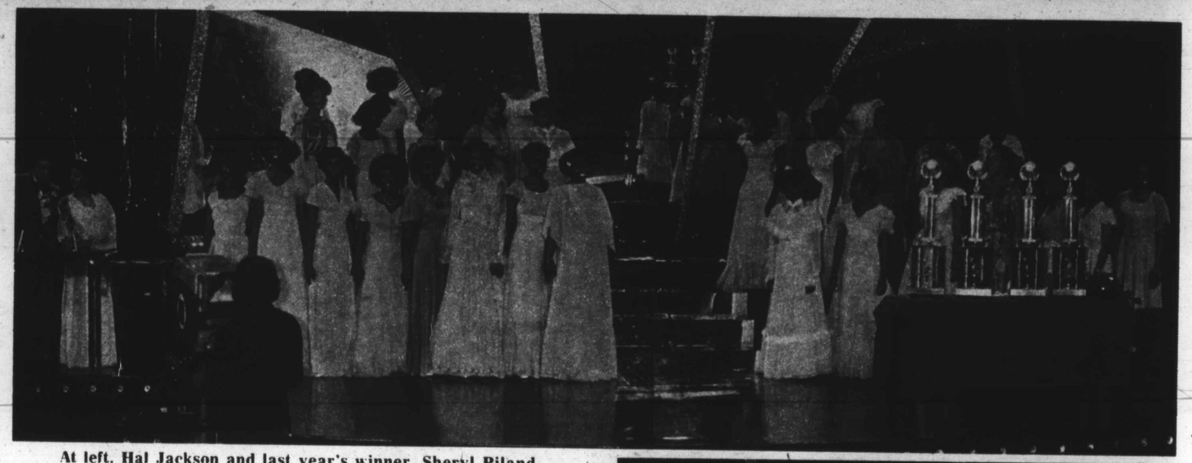

At left, Hal Jackson and last year's winner, Sheryl Piland, Miss Connecticut, just before announcing this year's Miss Talented Teen. In the front row are the 15 finalists, seeming calm at this point.

A continuation of the overall scene. These girls were hidden by the trophies which were given to the runners-up.

TALENTED TEEN 1979

Miss New Jersey

It's the greatest day of their lives for the 35 teenage girls who take part each year in the Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International Contest. Miss Talented Teen International 1979, is Angela Bullock, 15-year-old New Jerseyan, whose sponsor was Lillian Hammond - Allen.

Denise Powell, Miss Maryland, she was one of 15 finalists.

It all started eight years ago, when the first contest, held under the title "Miss Black Teenage America," was produced on July 28, 1971 in Atlanta, Ga.

An instant success, the contest proliferated to such an extent that the contest was expanded to include teens in other countries. The title was changed to: "Hal Jackson's Talented Teens International."

For, it was Hal Jackson who had the idea for the pageant, and leaning on his years of experience in radio and television, was able to put together the ingredients for a successful production.

The pageant is taped for TV syndication, and shown around the country at various times.

The contest is open to young women, 13 to 16 years of age, who possess performing talents, and who win local competitions.

The contest is designed to provide an outlet for young talent, as well as an educational experience and cultural exchange through travel and meeting new friends.

The finals, which now are held each year in Hollywood, Calif., bring together 35 young women from the U.S., Virgin Islands, Bahamas, Bermuda, Netherlands, Antilles and countries of the West Indies and the Caribbean.

All have been named regional winners in order to qualify for the finals, and are flown to Los Angeles for a week where they are feted royally, and get to meet a lot of celebrities.

This year, they were given a tour of the Universal Studios, were special guests at a Harry Belafonte concert and attended a full-scale Disco Reception for the winner of the 1979 pageant.

Of course it is not all play during the week before the final taping takes place. There are endless rehearsals, costume fittings and all the rest.

There are specially choreographed production numbers to be learned. It may not qualify as work, but the girls learn a routine with recording artists, The Sylvers and The Apollos.

Their individual acts must be polished, bits and pieces taken out, new material tried, and the entire talent portion honed to perfection. Poise, stage presence, carriage and all the rest of the necessary traits are groomed.

Finally, it gets down to the semi-final competitions, when the judges get a first look at the 35

(Continued on Page 16)

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