Columbia Capers

National Miss Talented Teen Pageant held

By Pinnie L. Ross

I am home, back from Los Angeles where I attended the 10th Anniversary of the Hal Jackson Talented Teen Contest, "There is no place like home."

In a capacity - filled house two weeks ago in the beautiful Cocktail Grove Ballroom of the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles, Cal., Miss Annette Lee Jones, a 14 year old contestant from Sacramento, Cal. was crowned Miss Talented Teen International 1980.

Annette, a student at John F. Kennedy High School had an overflow of applause from the lively audience after singing for the talent segment of the contest "The Greatest Love of All."

There were 32 talented young beauties representing their states, accompanied by their state sponsors and chaperones, who flew in from other points throughout the country, including Alaska, Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Canada, Jamaica and Bermuda.

The bulk of the talent came from all of the young ladies but positively the most popular of all of the contestants was the winner, Annettte Lee Jones.

Runners - up were: in first place, Juliana Dickerson of St. Louis, Missouri, 14 years old; Stacey Jones, a dancer from Texas who took second place.

The third place position was captured by 13 year old Michelle Weeks of New York City, who sang "God Bless The Child Who Has His Own", and Dionne Strong, a 13 year old dancer from the Virgin Islands captured fourth place.

All 32 contestants were winners, however, only one could wear the national crown. But in my opinion, and judging by the applause from the audience, they all were winners.

States Represented

Other contestants were: 13 year old sTheela McCulloh, a singer and Mary Talum, a 13 year old dramatic reader from Alaska; Daphne Chairaine Deon, 16 years old, a singer from the Bahamas, Cheryl McCurdy, 14, a dancer - gymnast from Canada; Monique Blanchard, 14, dancer, Connecticut, Renetta Sutton, 15, singer, District of Columbia; Lynn Miller, 14, dramatic reading, Florida; Charisse Killian, 14, pianist, Georgia,

Also Alishia Cook Bey, 14, dancer, Illinois, Sarita Miller, 16, dramatic reader, Indiana; Angela Del Roberts, 16, singer, Louisiana; 15 year old Leatrice Coleman, singer, Maryland, Song A Laster, 15, dancer, Massachusets; Mary Foley, 15, dancer, Michigan; Rose Mary Wood, 16, dancer,

Also Minnesota; Brenda Tatum, 16, singer - pianist, Mississippi; Frances Placial, 15, pianist, New Jersey; Marsha Canyon, 15, singer, Ohio; Jacqueline Shaw, 15, dancer, Oklahoma; Crystan White, 14, dramtic reading, Pennsylvania; Wilma Toomer, 15, dancer, South Carolina; Lisa Sianne Swell, 15, dramatic reading, Tennessee; Vatiena King, 14, pianist, Virginia; Kimberley Bailey, 15 dramatic reading, Washington; Suzanne Coats, 15, pianist singer, Jamaica; Debra WALTON 15, DRAMATIC READING, Wisconsin; and Vonetta Lockett, 15, singer, Kansas.

During their nine day state at the Ambassador Hotel, the teens and their chaperones had a fun - filled itinerary. On Saturday, upon their arrival, some were just a bit nervious for the simple reason that it was the first time away from home for some of the cuties, but when it was time for clearance with the lovely Sponsor Relations Director, Mrs. Wilda LaBria and her staff, they were made welcome and the young ladies felt at ease.

Clearance means for the contestants; registration, picking up their badges and their Hal Jackson tanners, orange T - shirts and Hal Jackson's bag filled with the latest albums, after which they begin their nervious ness all over again.

They go in for their 20 second personality and achievement check, one of the segments of the pageant which cannot exceed 20 seconds and their talent check for two minutes.

Saturday evening there was a welcoming dinner sponsored by R. C. A. Records, Ray Harris, Division Vice President, coordinated by Lydia Brown, West Coast Regional Manager.

Sunday morning there was a get acquainted brieting, while the sponsors and chaperones had their brieting meeting with Executive Producer Hal Jackson and his staff.

Sunday evening an informal dinner, sponsored by Hal Jackson and Wilda LaBria for all sponsors and chaperones included delicius fried chicken along with fruits and pick ups, champagne and wine.

The dinner was coordinated by Jackson's daughter Jewell McCabe and her husband Eugene McCabe, Director of Marketing.

On Monday the girls dressed in jeans and official T - shirts and boarded a bus for Universal Studios, after which they were served lunch sponsored by M. C. A. Records, Division of Universal Picutures. They received several autographs from the stars.

On Tuesday, they went on a outing to Santa Monica Pier Beach.

Wednesday night was a big one for the Talented Teens, who received complementary tickets to see "On A Clear Day" with Robert Goulet.

Thursday, Atlantic Records sponsored a luncheon in honor of the 1979 winner, Angela Pollock, with Marty Meck, West Coast Promoter in charge.

The beauties met Stacey Lattisaw from D.C along with Ralph Carter.

Prior to that, at the previous luncheon, they talked with Todd Bridges from the series "Different Stokes," actors from "The White Shadow" Hayes Nelson, "What's Happening" and many others.

Friday there was another dinner for sponsors and late arrivals.

Heavy rehearsals utilized the girls' time in between the activites in preparation for the finals.

The pageant boasted special guest artists, the fabulous Temptations. The pageant closed out with "Reach Out and Touch (Somebody's Hand)" arranged by Gerald Jackson.

The pageant was choreographed by Frances Rhymes.

This year's judges were Marty Mock, Ray Singleton, Manager of singing group Apollo, Erie Washington, model, actor who co - starred with Muhammed Ah in "Freedom Road", Pat Kone, co - owner of Kone Bridge Academy of Dramatic Arts, Stoney Jackson of the plays "Jesse" on The White Shadow, J. B. Stone Program Director of KGFS Radios L.A., Sidney Miller, publisher of IBlock Rodeo, Ricky Sylvers, singer, The Sylvers, Cynthia Horner, Editor, "Right On Teen Magazine, Breanna Benjamin, President PCO Management, Inc.,

Also Ralph Carter, actor - singer, co - star of TV series "Good Times", K. Callon, actress who starred in "All in the Family", Haywood Nelson, actor, "What's Happening", Toni Kelmon, leading talent agent and Larry Scott, actor in movie "A Hero Ain't Nothing But A Sandwich"

Prizes for the Winner included a gemetric crystal trophy, designed by Tiffany and Co. and a "Self Achievement" Award scholarship.

First runner up also received a scholarship sponsored by AIM Records, a damon ring, a fashion wardrobe, a fur jacket, courtesy of Harry Kirschner Furs, N.Y., costume jewelry and jewelry box - also went to 4th runner up), courtesy Celebrity Fashion Jewwelry, a trip to Jamaica, a trip to Barbados and a trip to the Bahamas.

This year's contest marked the 10th year for Hal Jackson's Talented Teen International Contest. Hal is the popular Senior Vice Chairman of Inner City Broadcasting Corporation and owner of popular radio stations WBLS - AM - FM, Detroit, KBLX FM and KREA - AM, Berkeley, California, KUTE - FM and KGFS - AM, Los Angeles.

The pageant originated in 1971 by Jackson in response to the please of black parents to use his expertise and contact to give their daughters a teen contest of the calibre of established pageants.

The contest is open to young women 13 to 16 years of ge with performing talents, and is designed to provide an outlet for young talent as well as an educational experience and cultral exchange through travel and meeting new friends.

The contest was taped for TV syndication and will be shown in Maryland.

Take a look around you. Look at what today's teenagers are trying to say - what they are trying to do. God Bless our Teens.

Woodlawn Highlights

SSA Summer Aid Program meaningful to youth

By Marjorie R. Green

The Social Security Summer Aid Program is a meaningful Summer work experience for youth, aged 16 - 21.

The program provides the Agency with temporary manpower while providing the young people with an introduction to the work force.

In addition, the youngsters are productively employed for the summer and have an opportunity to earn money towards the continuation of their education.

The Stay - in - School program is an extension of the Summer Aid program. This program enables young people to work part - time for Social Security while still attending school.

This program not only provides monetary benefits to the Agency, it also generates other intangible benefits.

SSA has the opportunity to develop and maintain strong relationships with local public and parochial school systems and colleges.

The Agency has the opportunity to test and identify potential permanent employees for entry - level positions.

SSA also provides students with skills and experience which will assist them in developing vocational goals and obtaining permanent employment.

Yvonne Alexander, a senior in Milford Mill Senior High School is a Summer Aid doing secretarial work in the Office of Systems, Planning and Control.

Yvonne is the youngest in a family of 10 children, she hopes to attend Virginia Union University after graduation next year. Working as chairperson in the youth department of Union Temple Baptist Church is Yvonne favorite activity.

Antoinette Williams, a freshman in Catonsville Community college will convert to the Stay - In - School program in September. She is a 1977 Seton High School graduate.

The youngest of four children, Antoinette is a psychology major. She recently returned from a five month stay in Oakland, California where she attended the Community College of Alameda. She is assigned to the Management Support Staff in the Office of Systems.

Monica Putty will enter the 12th grade at Walbrook Senior High in September. She started work on June 6 as a clerical on the International Policy staff.

Her goal is to become a professional stenographer. In preparation for this career, Monica hopes to pursue a Business Administration course at Morgan State University.

Lynn Martin, a Western High School senior has but one goal and that is to be successful. A member of Douglas Memorial Church, Lynn is employed as a Summer Aid clerical in the Office of Systems.

She is the Dean of Pledges in Knos sorority. When questioned about her Presidential preference, Lynn replied without hesitation, "I'm for Carter."

Desiree Abram graduated from Walbrook High School this past June. She now been a clerical in the Stay - in - School Program since last February.

Desiree plans to trade her job in the Office of Materiel Resources for a more promising career with the Washington office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

She is a member of the Holy Temple Free Will Baptist Church, where her father the Rev. Jerry Abram is pastor.

Her future plans include marriage to Keith Wilson sometime in 1980.

Therese Trower, a senior at Walbrook High School and a member of Future Business Leaders of America plans to work towards a career in Social Work.

She is currently employed as a Summer Aid in the Office of Legislative and Regulatory Policy.

Her presidential preference is Edward Kennedy, because according to her "He can't be bought."

Theresa lives in West Baltimore and loves working at SSA.

Sandra Austin, graduated from Walbrook High School this year. She loves her Summer Aid job and is anxious to stay past SSA's September end of service date.

Sandra studies with a Jehovah Witness group and is undecided about her choice for president.

Each of the students mentioned above is experiencing wide exposure into the workings of a large government Agency. This experience will enable them to acquire or perfect skills already possessed and will greatly increase their chances for employment.

Send news items to WOODLAWN HIGHLIGHTS P.O. BOX 106 BALTIMORE, MD. 21229

Douglass Reunion

Continued from page 13

After dinner, Mrs. Nellie Harris Bowie and William Bowie took their classmates on a trip down memory lane, recalling old times at Douglass High.

Marshall Waters sang a solo, after which Donnie Granger Johnson, chair for the affair, introduced the reunion committees.

David Sloan introduced special guests Ms. Essie M. Hughes, Mrs. Patricia B. Paige, Leroy Taylor, and Mrs. Mamie C. Woolford, all former teachers at Douglass High. They were presented with special gifts from the class, by Robert Johnson.

Mary Gwynn Lewis, presented $500, on behalf of the class, to the Douglass Alumni Scholarship Fund. An additional $500 was given to Douglass to establish another scholarship.

Class members attending from out of town were: the Rev. Minnie T. Ewing, Chicago, Ill.; Joseph and Ursula Taylor, New York; Robert Hagans, Norwalk, Conn.; Harriett Hayes Rucker and Elaine Stevens Lee of Newark, N.J.; and Roberta Dorsey Scott and Charles Rogers of Philadelphia, Pa.

On the program committee for the reunion were Hortense Davenport Cain, chair; Nellie Harris Bowie, William Bowie, Bernice Banks Farmer, Robert Johnson, Mary Gwynn Lewis and David Sloan.

Serving on the steering committee were Donnie Granger Johnson, chair; Hortense Davenport Cain, co - chair; Ruth R. Stokes, co - chair and assistant treasurer; Rosalee Moan Rich, financial and corresponding secretary and Charlotte Love Williams, recording secretary. Hawthorne Smith, treasurer, William Curtis, Margaret Wilson Mayo, Freida Brooks Miller and William Young.

Serving on the music committee were William Curtis and Arthur Camper.

Working with the picnic committee were Rosalee Moan Rich, Hawthorne Smith, William Young and William Curtis.

On the reception committee were Freida Brooks Miller, chair; Margaret Wilson Mayo, Ruth Starks and William Young.

The worship committee included Antonie Valentine Purdy, chair; Rebecca Howard Blackwell, Arthur Camper, Audrey Johnson Davis, Lucretia Lipscomb Datcher, Maetheld Morris Medders and Marshall Walters.

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