



WINSTON-SALEM, N.C. — IT WAS A FESTIVE OCCASION when 4-H Clubs from Forsyth County in North Carolina gathered their entries for a scarecrow contest sponsored by RJR Archer, Inc. The contest was conducted by Archer to salute scarecrows, the unofficial symbol of American agriculture, and reward the imagination and creativity of the youngsters who participated. Cash prizes were awarded to the winners.



BEGINNING LIFE IN JAIL — Mrs. Joyce Jones holds her baby Wa-Naco Jones, who was born at the Albany County Jail where Mrs. Jones is an inmate serving two concurrent one-year sentences. She has decided to keep the baby with her in the jail, as is permissible under state law, for the first year of an infant's life. (UPI).

Ben Vereen To Host Miss Black America Pageant

Multi-talented Ben Vereen — winner of the Television Critics Circle Best Actor of the Year award for his performance as Chicken George in "Roots" — will be the host of the Miss Black America Pageant, to be presented on network television for the first time when the 10th annual event is color-cast live on NBC, Friday, Sept. 9 (9-11 p.m. NYT).

Vereen, star of the NBC-TV summer series, "Ben Vereen Comin' At Ya" (1975), also is the first performer to win three AGVA awards in one year, including Entertainer of the Year, Best Song and Dance Man of the Year, and Best Newcomer of the Year (1976). He won a Tony Award as Best Actor in a Musical and a Drama Desk Award for his performance on Broadway in Bob Fosse's "Pippin." He co-starred in the motion picture, "Funny Lady," with Barbra Streisand, and starred in the title role in "Louis Armstrong - Chicago Style," a motion picture made for television.

Regional competitions for Miss Black America finalists are now in progress throughout the country. Twanna Kilgore, the reigning Miss Black America, will participate in the crowning of her successor on the telecast.

President of the pageant is J. Morris Anderson. Burt Sugarman, Inc. will produce the program, with Sugarman serving as executive producer.

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