

Hosts "Miss Carrousel Pageant"

By Dianne Simpson  
Post Staff Writer

Beauty, talent, tears of joy, laughter of sorrow, as well as feelings of pride, respect and dignity were all visible elements witnessed by the audience of approximately 300 persons at the "Miss Carrousel Pageant" held at West Charlotte High School, Tuesday, Oct. 11 at 7:30 p.m. West Charlotte High's Junior Class, under the direction of Mrs. Marjorie Belton, sponsored this gala festivity for the purpose of raising money for the school's Junior-Senior Prom for 1978.

Contestants of the pageant were 19 nonselective, but self-nominated females of the senior class who each contributed a minimum of \$20 to the Junior class funds. These beautiful young ladies competed with each other in leisure and informal wear. They were judged by a panel of five distinguished residents of Charlotte. They were: Ms. Loretta Hodgers, Ms. N.C. World - Betty Lou Hutchinson, Ms. Libby Stone, Gerod Stroud and Neil Williams.

Beforehand the judges were given a list outlining the many activities that the young ladies were involved, thus for the basis of easier decision making by the judges.

The Pageant displayed no talent by the contestants, however, outside talents were performed. These were: A magical act performed by Trey Vaughn; a dance presentation of the theme of "Star Wars" by members of the Connie Dorn School of Dance; a musical selection by James Coggins entitled, "Blue Moon"; a chorus selection of "When the Saints Go Marching In" and "He Brought Me From a Mighty Long Way," by the West Charlotte High Gospel Choir with soloist, Gloria Glover; musical selections were performed by Mary Worthy singing "Change," and Maria Johnson White singing "You are the Sunshine of my Life," and the West Charlotte High School Letter Girls and Cheerleaders both performing dances.

A round of applause the auditorium when 5 of the 19 young ladies were chosen as the semi-finalists. They were: Kim Berry, Terry Clawson, Cindy Hoffmeyer, Angie Dickson and Janet Smith. Each of the semi-finalists were given opportunities of drawing from a box filled with questions proposed by the teachers and students who are on the Junior-Senior Prom Committee. In relation to the five distinct questions asked, Ms. Dickson was inquired if given the opportunity of being anyone for a day who would she be. Her response was that she would remain herself, because she feels that "there is no need trying to be someone that you aren't."

It was after the question-and-answer routine that the girls exited off stage so that the judges could perform their tabulation as to which of the lovely finalists shall reign as Miss Carrousel.

After the re-entrance of the girls, the Master of Ceremonies Ronald Maxwell, Tri-President of West Charlotte High's Student Board announced the outlook of the decisions. Mr. John Fries, principal, presented the awards.



ANGIE DICKSON  
...Semi-finalist

Ms. Pearl Jones was awarded a trophy for raising the largest sum of money for the Junior-Senior Prom. The heartbeats became as loud as the rolling of the drums when it came time to announce the queen and her two attendants. The second runner-up was Ms. Cindy Hoffmeyer and first runner-up was Ms. Kim Berry. They each received a trophy. Breaths that were held were suddenly released as Ms. Angie Dickson was announced as being the title of "Miss Carrousel." She was awarded a banner certifying her title, a trophy and a dozen red roses.

Ms. Dickson will go on to compete with other High Schools of North Carolina at

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Children's Health Fair

Charlotte's Neighborhood Centers Department will sponsor two, free children's day health fairs in conjunction with several Charlotte-Mecklenburg health agencies, radio station WGIV and various other organizations. The first fair is set for Saturday, Oct. 29 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Greenville Center, 1330 Spring Street. The other will be held Saturday, November 5 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Amay James Center, 2415 Lester Street.

All Charlotte-Mecklenburg residents with children eight years or younger are invited to bring them and participate. The children can have their eyes tested, get their hearing evaluated, receive sickle cell testing, learn about dental care and be tested for hypertension along with other services. Parents can talk with a

physician, get a referral for daycare, talk with a child development specialist and register for a well-child clinic. There will also be cartoons, a story hour, the Carolina Clowns, a puppet show and a parking lot disco at each of the fairs to entertain the children.

Read the Charlotte Post each week.

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By Jacquie Levister  
Post Staff Writer

The pressures of being a parent are enormous; those of being a single parent at times seem insurmountable.

Nancy Gaston discovered, during her tenure as a single parent, two things that are tantamount to successful child rearing: Love and understanding of all types of people and the art of wearing a smile while realizing ups and downs are inevitable.

A graduate of second Ward High School who attended Johnson C. Smith University, Ms. Gaston married Fred Gaston of Huntersville. To that union two daughters were born. What was hoped to be a long and rewarding relationship was abruptly halted with the untimely death of Mr. Gaston in 1942.

Becoming a widow is a devastating experience. As Nancy Gaston discovered, becoming a widow with small children (5 and 7 years) can be completely debilitating with out love, help and understanding.

While working at what was known as the Charlotte Rubber Plant and earning \$15 weekly, Ms. Gaston decided she needed a trade. After three years she earned the title Licensed Practical Nurse by attending night classes at Second Ward and doing practical training at Memorial Hospital program's affiliate.

As luck would have it, the Rubber Plant closed on August 31, 1945 and Ms. Gaston received her first nursing assignment on September 4 of the same year.

Most single parents receive



MS. NANCY GASTON  
...A great lady

assistance from other members of the family. Ms. Gaston had her mother who helped tremendously with her children.

"I've always worked private duty," a cheerful Nancy Gaston related. "I've had cases take me to New Orleans (on four occasions), New York

and Nashville. It was a tremendous, enormous comfort knowing the children had my mother to care for them when I couldn't be there," she continued.

"When the time arrived for each of the girls to attend college, I made personal visits to the President and head bookkeeper of the various in-

stitutions explaining my financial situation and asking that if the child did her part, by maintaining her grades they could be assured the bills would be paid but to please be patient and understanding if they were not paid immediately," she volunteered.

It was through that spirit of cooperation that Mrs. Willie Ferguson graduated from Morgan State and Mrs. Della Kibler from A&T State University. "I always instructed my daughters to prepare for life. There may be a time when they would have to care for themselves and their children," said Ms. Gaston.

Recently when one of her daughters asked how she had made it rearing two children and putting them through college, Ms. Gaston replied, "By putting God in front." Characteristically her advice to other single parents is to "take your children to Church and allow them to work."

"I can remember hearing stories about Mary McCloud Bethune's experiences and influences and deciding that if that little girl who was born to slave parents and who didn't have much of a chance could manage to leave her mark, I could handle whatever confronted me. That thought was a great source of inspiration,"

continued Ms. Gaston.

Ms. Gaston worked until 1972 when she began attending her aunt Mrs. Minna Riele with whom she resides at 2433 LaSalle Street.

A member of Alpha Gamma Phi Chi Society, Simpson Gillespie United Methodist Church and the National Council on Negro Women, Ms. Gaston, a grandmother of four is an "inspiration" to all those who find it difficult struggling alone as a single parent.

International Club

Will Present

Cuban Night

The International Club at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte will present Cuban night at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Oct. 25 in the Cone Center.

A native Cuban will prepare a dinner of authentic Cuban cuisine featuring arozo con pollo (chicken with rice).

Informal entertainment of Cuban music will be presented.

Tickets for the event are \$2.50 per person and must be purchased by Oct. 21.

Disabled Veterans Will Receive Larger VA Checks

More than two and a quarter million disabled veterans will receive larger Veterans Administration checks next month, reflecting a 6.6 percent increase in compensation payments, VA Administrator Max Cleland said today.

The increase results from recent Congressional action signed into law by President Carter on October 3.

In addition to 2,251,714 disabled veterans, Cleland said increased payments also will go to 246,800 widows and children of service personnel who died on active duty or veterans whose deaths were service-connected.

The compensation increases will total \$358.4 million in Fiscal Year 1978. The compensation rate was hiked a year ago, it was noted.

The new increase mean veterans will receive monthly checks ranging from \$41 for those with a ten percent disability to \$754 for those 100 percent disabled. Additional monthly payments are made depending on the size of the veteran's family.

The basic rate of VA Dependency and Indemnity Compensation for widows and wid-

ers of veterans under the new law will range from \$277 to \$708 monthly, based on the serviceman's or veteran's rank.

As with compensation, VA makes additional DIC payments according to the number of dependents. Cleland said the legislation also eases qualifications for VA's so-called "wheelchair home" grants. This is a one-time payment of up to \$25,000 to help certain disabled veterans confined to wheelchairs to buy, build or alter homes.

VA estimates some 690 veterans will be affected by the new provisions and that grants may total \$17 million.

Cleland urged veterans or dependents with questions to contact the nearest Veterans Administration office.

VA telephone numbers are listed in the "U.S. Government" section of the directory.

Keep your out-of-town friends informed on what's happening in Charlotte by sending them a copy of the Charlotte Post each week. The cost is only \$10 per year.

or can be obtained from local operators.

**BEWARE!**

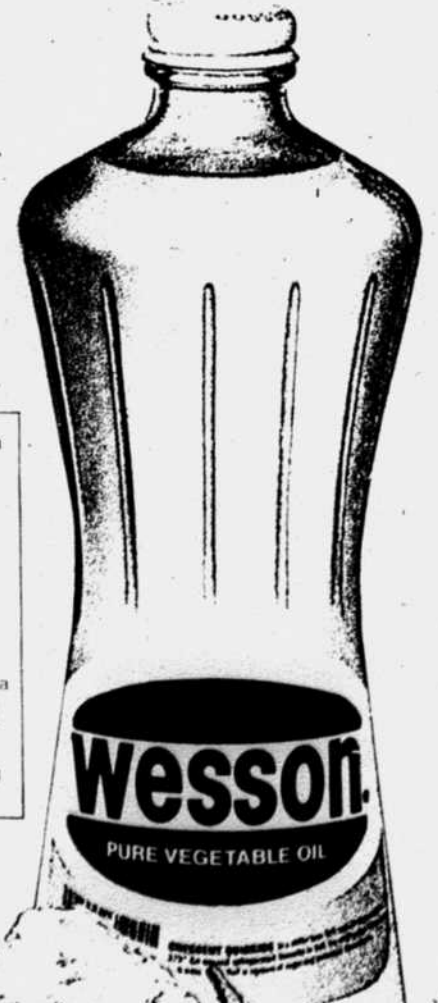
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Wash chicken and pat dry. Combine flour and seasonings in a bag. Shake chicken pieces, a few at a time, to coat. Dip coated chicken in egg beaten with 2 tablespoons water. Shake chicken in flour mixture again. Fill a large, heavy skillet or electric frypan to 1/3 its depth with Wesson Oil. Preheat oil to 375°. Fry chicken 25 to 30 minutes, or until tender, turning once. Makes 6 servings.



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