

Miss Virginia Prepares For Vietnam Trip

Keeping the news of a possible trip to Vietnam a secret was one of the hardest things Linda Jean Moyer has had to do during her reign as Miss Virginia 1972.

The 20-year-old Norfolk native, who is an alumnae of Chowan College, was notified in November she was being considered for the Asian troop of the sixth annual Miss America USO Show which begins on August 7.

"Keep it a Secret"

"But I was told to keep it a secret for security reasons since it had to be cleared through the Pentagon and other places first," she said recently during a quick trip to her Norfolk home.

"I was dying to tell everyone, but I knew I couldn't jeopardize my chances of being chosen."

According to Miss America Pageant officials, producers of the Miss America USO Show, she was selected on the basis of the talent, personality and showmanship displayed during the Miss America Pageant last fall.

Linda was officially informed of the decision early this month. She will be joining Miss America, Miss South Carolina, Miss New Mexico, Miss Louisiana, Miss Utah and Miss Massachusetts on a whirlwind 22-day tour of the hospitals and military bases in the South Vietnam area.

Forthcoming Trip

Miss Virginia was in Norfolk recently to be fitted for a fashion show, make a quick television appearance and catch up on some sleep. In between errands and hairdresser appointments, she talked about the forthcoming trip.

"It's a day I've been waiting for. I hope by going over there I can talk to the men and get a better understanding of the situation. I want to learn first-hand about how they feel."

Linda said her impression of the war has been formed only by what she reads in the newspaper or hears on television. "From what I know, I don't think we should be over there. But maybe I'll be able to see more clearly what we're doing."

Aspects of Trip

She has also started to consider the feminine aspects of the trip. "I'll need to take things that are easy to pack and easy to clean. You know, like jerseys and light cottons. And I'll be taking a lot of rain apparel."

One of her goals before going is to brush up on her photography so that she can take slides and pictures. When she returns she plans to prepare a presentation for speaking engagements.

"And I'm hoping people with sons or relatives over there will call me before I go



A fashion-conscious Miss Virginia, Linda Jean Moyer models a cotton dress she will wear on her trip.



Linda Moyer spent much time selecting just the right clothes for her Vietnam trip.

so I can relay any personal messages from home," Linda said. "I feel it's one of the ways I can truly represent Virginia."

Linda will be receiving books on Vietnam throughout the coming months to learn about the country. "I think the most important thing will be being able to talk with the people—that'll be more important than any song or dance."

Reign Ends in July

Miss Virginia 1972 will give up her crown July 8 and begin rehearsing the prepared variety show script July 23 in Atlantic City. The Asian troop will also make an appearance at the 1973 Miss America Pageant in September.

"We get back to the States Sept. 1," Linda said. "And by Sept. 10, I'll be back in Norfolk and just plain me again. And hopefully back to student status."

Linda plans to attend the University of Richmond.

Our Cover . . .

Miss Patti Fallis, popular sophomore from Norfolk, Va., is pictured on Chowan's beautiful campus amid the many spring flowers. The attractive coed was selected in February as the 1972 Queen of Spring, and will reign over the annual festivities in April.