

New Miss Brunswick Has Jump On Career As Instructor

BY LYNN CARLSON

A bubbly 21-year-old with a degree in business administration and her heart set on a career in dance was

crowned Miss Brunswick County 1995 Saturday night at Odell Williamson Auditorium.

Renee Ward, daughter of Carroll and Nancy Ward of

Long Beach, led the field of six contestants after having been chosen first runner-up for the 1994 crown. She wowed the crowd with a spirited song and dance to Bette Midler's "Stuff Like That There" from the film "For the Boys."

"I am pretty much on Cloud 9," Ward said in a post-pageant interview, adding that her father, a local state trooper and owner of video stores at Long Beach and Holden Beach, "is on Cloud 11."

Ward, a graduate of North Irredell High School and Brunswick Community College with a degree in business administration, said her focus during her reign as Miss Brunswick will be on youths ages 8 to 17.

It won't be a new task for her. Currently, in addition to working in the family businesses, she teaches dance in the Oak Island Recreation Center's drug-free youth program. She also teaches at Oak Island School of Dance and instructs would-be line dancers at a club.

"Just give me some music and a microphone and I always have a good time," she said.

Her goal is to attend the N.C. School of the Arts and become certified in dance instruction. The \$1,000 scholarship she will earn as Miss Brunswick County should help there. In addition, she will receive a travel and wardrobe allowance and will compete in the Miss North Carolina pageant this summer.

Chosen Miss Congeniality and second runner-up was Angela Alley, 17, of Supply, whose talent was a dramatic monologue entitled "Little Man," and who said she wished to focus on gun control. Alley won a \$100 award as Miss Congeniality and a \$250 scholarship as second runner-up.

First runner-up was Kristian Pulliam, 22, of Long Beach, an aspiring law school student who sang the popular standard "Somewhere" in the talent competition. Pulliam, the daughter of James and Wanda Kline, won a \$500 scholarship and the right to become Miss Brun-

wick if for any reason Ward is unable to complete her one-year reign.

Other competitors were:

■ Sally Schutte of Supply, a 1993 West Brunswick High School student currently attending Lees-McRae College in Banner Elk on a theatre arts scholarship. The 18-year-old daughter of Stephen and Connie Schutte performed a jazz dance routine to "Ain't Never Had a Friend Like Me" from the movie "Aladdin."

■ Carolyn Chaplin, 17, of Southport, a South Brunswick High School senior who did a jazz dance routine to a medley of hip-hop songs. Chaplin is the daughter of Charles and Terry Lingle.

■ Jayda Grant, 17, a South Brunswick High School senior whose dream is to practice law. Grant recited "Alone," a poem by Maya Angelou. She is the daughter of Robert and Johnny Grant of Southport.

Taking her last walk as Miss Brunswick 1994 on Saturday was Ashley Summerlin, receiving hugs and gifts from her adoring "pageant sisters" Junior Miss Brunswick Erin Holden, Little Miss Brunswick Natalie Tyner and Tiny Miss Brunswick Lauren McCarthy.

Summerlin and Miss North Carolina Dana Ann Stephenson sang for the audience, as did visiting queens Tiffani Payne, 1994 Miss Wilmington, and Sandi Oxford, 1994 Miss Topsail Island.

Other pageant entertainment included the Miss Brunswick County Dancers in "Top Hat, White Tie and Tails," choreographed by Ann Hucks; a presentation by the South Brunswick High School JROTC Drill Team; and a medley by the Sea Notes Choral Society directed by Cindy Sellers. Sellers also sang the national anthem.

Mistress of ceremonies for the evening was Kim Kopka, "Good Morning Carolina" anchor on WWAY-TV.

The pageant program was dedicated to the memory of Jo Ann Callahan, a Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant Association member who died Oct. 23.



STAFF PHOTOS BY ERIC CARLSON



MISS BRUNSWICK COUNTY 1995, Renee Ward of Long Beach, is congratulated by her beaming "pageant sisters," following Saturday night's coronation in the Odell Williamson Auditorium. With her (from left in photo above) are Little Miss Brunswick County Natalie Tyner; Tiny Miss Brunswick County Lauren McCarthy; and Junior Miss Brunswick County Erin Holden. At left, Miss Brunswick County 1994, Ashley Summerlin, waves to the audience at the end of her reign. Ward will receive a \$1,000 scholarship prize plus expenses for travel, wardrobe and photography to represent Brunswick County in the Miss North Carolina pageant in June. She is the daughter of Carroll and Nancy Ward of Long Beach.



To The Voters Of Brunswick County

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W.M. (Bill) Sue

(Paid for by candidate)

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