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How did other girls in the State contest feel about Miss Randolph County winning the Miss North Carolina crown? In short, was the decision of the judges a popular one, as far as the contestants themselves were concerned?

No one would know better the answer than our very nice Miss New Bern, so we broached the subject to Georgia Parrott. What she had to say should be satisfying to all Tar Heels.

"All of us wanted her to be the Queen," Georgia told us. "She is lovely, and the photographs of her haven't really shown her beauty to the fullest. But most of all, she is sweet, modest and considerate. I know how friendly she is, since she was the first contestant I met when I got to Durham."

However, Judy wasn't by herself when it came to friendliness. "Every one of the girls got along wonderfully together," Georgia emphasized, "and being together from Tuesday to Saturday under trying circumstances there certainly could have been some unpleasantness."

Looking back in Cinderella fashion, Miss New Bern says, "It all seemed like a dream. We were always doing something, and every moment of our day was filled from early morning until late at night. It was tiring, but I enjoyed it immensely."

"Breakfast was at 8 a.m. and this meant getting out of bed at 6:30, so we could be at Harvey's Cafeteria a little ahead of time to chat with the judges who ate with us. With the exception of one dinner at the Saddle club and another at the Washington Duke hotel, we had all of our meals together at Harvey's."

Only one thing brought temporary grief to Miss New Bern. She had her blue dress altered in the waist before her Thursday night appearance in evening gowns. Minutes before she was to go on stage she discovered that making the dress smaller in the middle had shortened the length too much.

With all possible speed, her other gown—a pink one—was fetched from the home some distance away where she was staying. Yet, she was still in a jam since her gloves and ear rings that had matched the blue dress most definitely clashed with pink.

The problem had a silver lining, and glowingly demonstrated the friendliness existing among the contestants. One of the other girls loaned Georgia her white gloves. Another parted with her own pink ear rings, and the show went on without interruption.

Of an artistic and creative nature, Miss New Bern is a better than average judge of talent. Hence, she sounded quite convincing when she told us that she was "very impressed" with the performances of the various contestants in this category.

"There was so much real talent," Georgia enthused, "that I think everybody in North Carolina can feel proud of these girls." In this connection, the judges have remarked that the array of talent at the contest surpassed that which was presented at any previous contest.

Of all the young ladies competing, Miss New Bern remembers best a girl from up in the mountains. "She was right in front of me," says Georgia, "and looked like Marilyn Monroe. Her hillbilly drawl was delightful, and perfectly natural."

According to Georgia, the girl's nickname was Pete Doggie. "My little brother had a dog named that," the lass from the Land of the Sky explained. "When the dog died I inherited his name."

The night she won the contest in her home town, up in the hills, the kid brother was in the audience. "He stood up in his seat," she



HAPPY FAMILY — Colonel William N. Beard, a native of New Bern, has an extra Army of his own at Fort Rucker, Alabama. On the front row, left to right, are Scotty, 8; Sandy, 4; Johnny, 10. Back row, left to right, are Susan, 15; Colonel Beard; Mrs. Beard, and Betsy, 1½; and Shelton, 14.

Colonel William N. Beard Is Mighty Proud Father of Six

His 23 years in the Army—spent all over the world in war and peace—may have made some New Bernians temporarily forget Colonel William N. Beard. But for this distinguished native son there has been no dampening of the affection he feels for the friends and scenes of his local boyhood.

Nor, we are proud to report, has he lost his zest for deep thinking with that keen analytical mind of his—evident even in early childhood. Those who remember him as a kid with plenty on the ball never doubted that he would go far in his chosen field.

However, his military success could hardly be termed more noteworthy than his role as a family man. You would have to do a lot of searching to find a happier brood than the six boys and girls that he and his wife are rearing.

Moving from pillar to post didn't intimidate them in their determination to have a large and well-adjusted family. Their achievement in establishing and maintaining a normal home under what some folks would regard abnormal conditions doesn't impress Colonel and Mrs. Beard as being particularly unusual.

A great deal of the credit, we suspect, belongs to her. A native of Connecticut and a graduate of Duke, she is the former Sara Scott. Before her marriage, she took gov-

said, "when I was being crowned, and yelled 'Look, Mom, there's Pete Doggie!'"

Georgia liked the mountain girl and everybody else. And we're quite sure that they in turn shared our affection for Miss New Bern

ernment flying courses, became a pilot, and was working for the Civil Aeronautics Administration in Raleigh when she met her future husband.

It was one of those quirks of fate. William's father, who was employed for many years by the Norfolk Southern railroad, had been transferred to the Raleigh of-

fice. Meanwhile, William had been transferred to Fort Bragg and on a visit to Raleigh he met Sara, who was living in the neighborhood.

To give you an idea of the way the colonel and his clan have moved around to this and that distant spot, we need only to detail the birthplace of the various children.

Susan was born in Illinois, Shelton in Connecticut, Johnny in North Dakota, Scotty at San Antonio, Texas, Sandy in Germany and Betsy at Fort Rucker.

Colonel Beard graduated from New Bern High school in 1931, and attended Wake Forest college for a year before going to West Point. He graduated in 1936 from the Military Academy.

Because of his record, he was selected for engineering duty, and has served along the Texas border, at Boston, Fort Belvoir, Fort Bragg, in North Dakota and overseas. He was in the middle of the African campaign early in World War II, when the Allies were having a rather tough time of it.

"I've found human nature to be pretty much the same everywhere," says the colonel. He recognizes the fact that the people of other lands are very much like our own folks. They have the same hopes and dreams, and the same faults and failings.

He knows too that new movements have their best chance for a foothold in countries where there is limited opportunity, a low standard of living and despair. In short, people who have little to look forward to are easier to sway.

As for world peace, Colonel Beard honestly admits that he isn't overly optimistic. "Communism's avowed purpose is to dominate the world," he says, "and because of the wide difference in our thinking I believe the cold war will continue."

At present, William is the staff and post engineer at Fort Rucker. Incidentally, purely by accident (Continued on back page)



PROSPECTING — This New Bern woodpecker takes a lively interest in what's inside a very dead tree. After all, you've still got to eat, in all kinds of weather.—Photo by Billy Benners.