

LCC NEWS

KINSTON—Sharon Kay Davis of Seven Springs, a computer program student at LCC, is the 1981 champion in the National Reining Horse Association's Youth Activity Competition. She rode her favorite horse Banker Bar Leo to the title in the Excello Cup races at West Alice, Wisconsin last July and in October at Columbus, Ohio she earned another bronze trophy in the year-end competition. Her show earnings for 1981 total \$5,853.83.

A daughter of Herbert and Sandra Davis of Seven Springs, Sharon's interest in horses began at the age of two and has escalated since. She even delayed college two years to complete her competition in the Youth Activity brackets of the Reining Horse Association's races throughout the USA and Canada. Last year was her greatest year as a competing rider. It marked her last Youth Activity competition because she was 19.

Her rise from a modest horse show contestant to the rank of top teen-age rider for the nation is told in a two-page, illustrated feature story by Pat Feuerstein in the May-June issue of the NRHA Reiner Magazine, a national publication that circulates among Association members. The magazine first appeared in 1980.

Sharon's love for horses as a child was stimulated by her uncle Roland Davis of Seven Springs. He had a number of horses. Her grandfather Isler Davis frequently took her to visit Uncle Roland when she was a child and she developed an intense love for horses. This grew when Roland Davis gave her a horse of her own at age six and she was determined to become a successful rider. Her horse enabled her to compete in all area open shows which featured contests from barrel racing to pleasure class competition.

By 1976 Sharon had started competing in the American Quarter Horse Association's Youth Events and reining became the style of riding which appealed to her most. Her parents cooperated by turning part of the farm over to a horse facility and by adding professionals Mike and Jean Corrington to the team. This led to a three-way team for progress with Mike training the horses, Sharon showing them in all events possible, and Herbert Davis selling the well-trained animals.

In 1977 Sharon headed for Bob Anthony's training facility in New Jersey where she not only learned fast and well the art of her professional skill in the saddle, but she found a handsome gelding she just had to have. It was Banker Bar Leo, an outstanding prospect for the Futurity but whose career was destined to move into the Reining Class competition under her guidance. She captured the Non-Pro honors at the Indiana State Fair and began to collect a number of AQHA honors in Youth Activity Horsemanship in the 12 to 14 age group and later in the 14 to 18 bracket as well.

At this point tragedy struck when Banker Bar Leo suffered a broken leg that sidelined him for an extended period. He was moved to Ohjo where he received special treatment but his broken second phalanx remained in a cast until February 1978. Then he was brought home to pasture at Seven Springs where Sharon almost gave up on him. However, her farrier, Ed Weaver of Raleigh, guided the horse's comeback. It was not many months before Sharon was able to show him again with renewed success. She used other animals during his comeback period, but Banker was able to compete in the 1979 Congress competition. She rode off with the Ladies Championship Non-Pro and Reining Class honors as well. The dynamic pair also placed in the top 10 in Non-Pro and Ladies Reining classes in 1980.

Then came 1981, destined to be the best in Sharon's phenomenal career. It was then that she decided to delay college entry until the Spring of 1982. She rode Banker Bar Leo and other mounts to a record number of show honors.

At West Alice, near Milwaukee, in July she rode Okie Money to victory in the Ladies Reining Class and placed two days in the Non-Pro class, finishing in a tie for 11th on Saturday and in third place on Sunday. Later at Pawling, N. Y. she and Okie Money raced to a 4th place tie and a 6th place tie in Non-Pro reining contests.

In the Excello Cup competition both Sharon and Banker Bar Leo were in top form. They tied for fourth in their first run but on the third day Banker



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Sharon tied for fourth again in Non-Pro Reining competition. He then went on to win the \$1,000 added Ladies Reining race, earning for Sharon her first and most treasured NRHA bronze trophy!

While the Congress competition is Sharon's favorite horse show, she does not hesitate to compete wherever she and her favorite mount's talents can be seen to best advantage. On June 6, she was in Atlanta, Ga., to compete in the Innovation Horse Show Circuit's \$2,000 Added Reining contest. On June 26 she will be at Library, Pa., to compete in the \$2,000 Added Open Reining and a number of other races at the Green Circle Farm. By July 3-4 she will move on to Bromont, Quebec for the \$4,000 International Reining Open. College may cramp her other entry schedules in 1982 but as the number one lady rider in reining horse shows throughout the country she is not likely to give up riding altogether just to devote her career time to computer programming.

KINSTON—Nearly 2,000 persons attended the 20th annual commencement at Lenoir Community College Friday night at which 46 of the estimated 350 graduates achieved honors and heard a challenging call to "Face Life With Courage" by Third District Representative Dan T. Lilley of Kinston.

The exercises began with a prelude and the processional to "Pomp and Circumstance" with Mrs. Hazel Edwards at the organ console. Faculty Marshal Cullen Zimmerman led the processional. Rev. Conrad Pridgen of St. James AME Church offered the invocation. Dr. Jesse L. McDaniel, LCC president, welcomed the audience. President Walter Anderson Jr. of the Class of 1982 spoke in behalf of the graduates. He stressed its members appreciation for the "kindness and disciplined instruction" imparted by the faculty in their tenure. Dr. McDaniel introduced the commencement speaker, Rep. Lilley.

Lilley urged the graduates to exercise courage in facing life's problems and challenges. He declared that the courage to act now, to refuse to yield to procrastination, to meet life's tasks daily, to act on concern and not on worry and to step out and strive to reach one's full potential can help each to build a better life. He closed with a warning about mental depression, noting that all people face peaks and valleys in their daily walk. Courage is vital to overcome periods of depression and discouragement, but it can be done if we strengthen our will and determination to give life our very best.

Dr. Thomas M. Benton, LCC's executive vice-

president, presented the candidates for their degrees, diplomas and certificates. Chairman A. Forrest Waller of the Board of Trustees presented the degrees and each was congratulated by the president and the speaker. Rev. Pridgen pronounced the benediction. The recessional was to J. S. Bach's "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring."

The college's first graduation at Southwood School in 1963 was for about 50 recipients of certificates from the Industrial Education Center which preceded the establishment of the comprehensive two-year community college.

The Class of 1982 produced 38 who received the Associate in Arts Degree, with five receiving the Associate in Science Degree and Betsy Jon Farabow of Kinston earned the Associate in Fine Arts Degree. There were more than 100 who qualified for the Associate in Applied Science Degree and about 100 others who received diplomas and certificates in various skills and vocational training programs.

Judy Lee Jones and Rhonda Stille Faulkner of Dover were among those with honors.

KINSTON—The Kinston Engineers Club has presented to Dr. Jesse L. McDaniel, president of Lenoir Community College, a check for \$300 to be used as a tuition scholarship for a pre-engineering student attending LCC next Fall, according to Club President J. D. Barlow.

The selection committee will be comprised of club members--Dean Thomas M. Wahab of the Vocational-Technical Division at LCC; instructor Lowell Keel of the LCC physics faculty, and Cal Watson, an employee of the Dupont Company.

Registration for the Fall is now being processed and later in the summer when a fuller class group can be surveyed the choice will be made as to who gets the tuition grant, Barlow indicated. The funds were made possible by the local Engineers Club with matching assistance from the North Carolina Society of Engineers, Barlow stated.

Dr. Jesse McDaniel expressed appreciation to the Engineers Club and its leaders at the local and state levels for the "generous grant to help some worthy student in the pre-engineering program." He noted that with costs of education (especially textbooks) still rising and the available state and federal grants being curbed, there is great need for more help from the private sector to encourage engineering and other technical education.

There are some things that even money can't buy ...among these are....

Seniority IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

and

The Chairmanship of a U.S. House Committee

Walter B. Jones
has earned both of these

Let's send him back to
Washington as our Congressman

VOTE FOR

Walter B. Jones

IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY,
JUNE 29th

Paid for by Jones For Congress Committee
T.S. RYON, Treasurer