



Allyson Stroud
Miss Duplin County 1984

Miss Duplin 1984 Ends Her Reign

One year ago I was crowned Miss Duplin County. It has been the shortest and most rewarding year of my life. So many people have touched my life in one way or another. If it was just a kind word, a wave or a smile as I passed, it was special to me and I appreciated it.

I want to thank just a few of the many special people who had a part in helping make this year such a happy experience. First of all is the pageant association for all the long hard hours that went into making the pageant possible and then for the support they gave me in every possible way, from phone calls to cheer me, flowers, gifts, transportation to an elegant reception. These ladies have done much more than is possible for the general public to imagine and they are to be commended for the fine job they do.

I want to thank the Duplin County Fair Committee for allowing me to perform at the fair in October; the Veterans Day Parade Committee for inviting me to ride in the parade. Thanks also to the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce for providing the float for me. I am grateful to the town of Calypso for the "key to their city" presented me during the Calypso

Plywood Festival. Many thanks to two very dear friends of mine, Violet and Harold Stroud, for allowing me to perform at the Miss Liberty pageant and the Junior Miss Liberty pageants and for inviting me to ride in the LaGrange parade. But most of all, for their gifts, flowers and love.

Making guest appearances as a visiting queen to pageants through the state gave me a chance to meet many nice people and I am grateful for that.

All of the children have been such a blessing to me. I loved having them smile, wave and write to me. They have treated me like a real queen and I hope I can live up to that image. Thank you, Summer Williamson, Palmer Smith, Berri Ann Smith, Janet Cook, Dena Houston and many more. You are all precious.

I want to thank Mrs. William Craft for having me as a guest at a Rotary Club meeting and all the members for their kindness and hospitality. I thoroughly enjoyed it.

The weekend at Manteo sponsored by the 400th Anniversary Committee was also an unusual experience. The chance to see Princess Anne was a once-in-a-life-

time thing and I am grateful for having had that opportunity. I was more than proud to carry a Duplin County flag, especially that far from home.

Dona Williamson has put in many long and hard hours for me. She has always been there to help. She supported me with her confidence, love and any other possible way. I cannot thank her enough.

Appreciation also goes to Dr. and Mrs. Horace Ray for inviting me to a reception for Governor Jim Hunt. He is the only governor I have had the privilege of meeting in person and I considered that a special honor.

You, the people of Duplin County, have been easy to represent. You are kind, considerate and so helpful. You have made me feel very loved. I have always been proud of living in Duplin County but you have made me especially proud this year. I will cherish this past year as long as I live. I will continue to love all of you and pray that God will bless each of you as He has so richly blessed me.

Thank you for letting me represent you and our fine county.

Dixieland Jazz Trombonist To Perform At JSTC Feb. 28

The third and final performance in James Sprunt Technical College's Tribute to Jazz series during Black History Month will feature Tom Smith, jazz trombonist on Thursday Feb. 28 at 8 p.m. in the college's Hoffer Auditorium.

Smith has traveled extensively across North America as a jazz musician and popular entertainer, and has performed often on Bourbon Street in New Orleans, America's Dixieland jazz capital. Among his performing acquaintances are Donald Byrd, Les Elgart, John Davidson, Sonny and Cher, and Isaac Hayes.

February's Tribute to Jazz at JSTC is made possible by JSTC, the N.C. Visiting Artist program, and a special grant from the James Sprunt Foundation. Tom Smith's performance is free and open to the public.

West Duplin Plans Barbeque Dinner

The West Duplin Christian Academy is sponsoring a pork barbeque dinner from 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 23rd, in the day-care building. Plates are \$3 including drink and dessert.

Jazz Series Continues At JSTC

On Thursday, Feb. 21, James Sprunt Technical College's "Tribute to Jazz" will continue in this musical series celebrating Black History.

Clarence Palmer and Dr. Jesse Williams will present a musical history of jazz, describing the development of the musical form from its Dixieland beginnings up to the progressive and experimental types of modern jazz.

Palmer is a jazz organist-pianist with over 20 years of performing experience throughout the U.S. and the world. A West Virginia native, Palmer now resides in Fayetteville. He is a self-taught and highly accomplished musician. He is currently the visiting artist at JSTC through the N.C. Visiting Artist Program.

Williams is a native of Clinton and a graduate of Fayetteville State University and Howard University

Medical School. He currently serves as director of the Cumberland County Health Clinic in Fayetteville. He is a jazz enthusiast and an authority on the history and development of jazz. He also owns one of the most extensive collections of jazz

recordings on the east coast.

The performance begins at 8 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 21 in Hoffer Auditorium of JSTC in Kenansville. Admission is free and the public is invited. Don't miss it.

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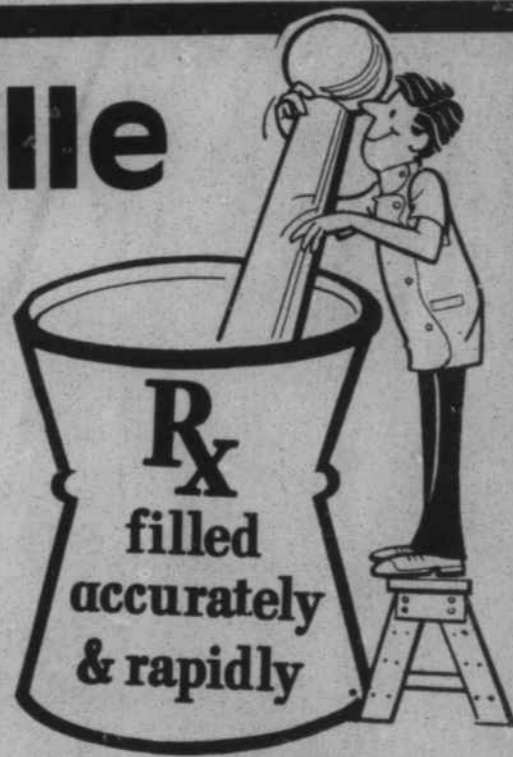
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