

Wendy Williams Claims Second Miss Brunswick County Title

BY DOUG RUTTER

For Wendy Williams of Leland, the second time around was just as sweet as the first.

"It feels just as good to win this time—maybe even better!" she said Saturday night after being crowned Miss Brunswick County for the second time in three years.

Facing four other contestants with lots of pageant experience, Miss Williams won the Miss Brunswick County 1990 title Saturday night at Hatch Auditorium on Oak Island.

"I knew what to expect, so it was a lot easier this time," said Miss Williams, who also won the 1988 Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant. "It was a wonderful experience."

Miss Williams, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Williams, sang *Through The Eyes Of Love* in the talent competition, which accounted for 40 percent of each contestants' score. Other factors in the scoring were private interview, 30 percent; swimsuit, 15 percent; and evening gown, 15 percent.

A 22-year-old senior at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington, Miss Williams is majoring in health and physical education and plans to become a teacher when she graduates.

Two-time Miss Brunswick County Susan Ellen Holth of Southport was first runner-up this year. The 25-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Holth, she performed a Broadway song and dance in talent competition. Miss Holth won the county pageant most recently in 1986.

For the second consecutive year, Lisa Dale Young of Long Beach was named second runner-up. The 20-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Young, she performed a classical flute solo as her talent.

Anna Varnam of Varnamtown was named Miss Congeniality for the third year in a row. She also won the preliminary swimsuit award. The 24-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cortland Varnam, she sang the country music song *Break It To Me Gently* in talent competition.

Jennifer Carol Kye of Holden Beach won the preliminary interview award. The 23-year-old daughter of Rachel H. Kye of Holden Beach and Glenn Kye of Winnabow, she performed a modern jazz dance in talent competition.

Operating on its largest budget ever, according to David Clegg, president of the sponsoring organization, the pageant featured special entertainment from the reigning Miss North Carolina and two past state pageant winners from Louisiana and Florida.

Miss North Carolina Kelly Dawn Fletcher of Morganton entertained the audience with a pair of songs, *Half A Moment* and *Amazing Grace*. A senior majoring in public relations at Appalachian State University, she captured the 1989 Miss North Carolina title competing as Miss High Country.

She told the audience Saturday that her two main goals as Miss North Carolina are to do away with the stereotypes associated with pageants and to help in the fight against illiteracy. A spokesperson

for the N.C. Literacy Conference, Miss Fletcher noted that North Carolina has the third highest rate of illiteracy in the United States.

Other visiting queens who performed Saturday were Jennifer Anne Sauder, Miss Florida 1987, and Patricia Brant, Miss Louisiana 1987. Miss Sauder sang three times during the program, while Miss Brant served as mistress of ceremonies and entertained the crowd with her talents as a ventriloquist. She took the stage with her friends, *Gumbo Gator* and *Cooper*.

Miss Sauder, a finalist in the 1987 Miss America Pageant, now performs regularly at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Fla. Miss Brant was a preliminary talent winner and finished first runner-up to Miss America 1988. Both performers were popular with the crowd and signed autographs after the pageant.

Miss Brunswick County 1989, Tamala Carol Grissett of Grissettown, also performed several times Saturday night modeling outfits she wore at the 1989 Miss North Carolina Pageant in Raleigh.

She performed two selections on piano and joined the Miss Brunswick County Dancers for one number. The dance group was made up of about 20 young women and girls from local dance academies.

The Brunswick County Orchestra, conducted by Paul Pittenger, performed throughout the evening. The orchestra played prior to the start of the pageant and during the 15-minute intermission.

Brunswick County Commissioners Grace Beasley and Kelly Holden

made brief remarks during the program, and Commissioner Benny Ludlum helped present preliminary awards. The county was the largest single contributor to this year's pageant.

In addition to earning the right to represent Brunswick County next summer at the Miss North Carolina Pageant, Miss Williams will receive a \$550 scholarship. She also receives an official Miss America preliminary crown, trophy, travel expenses, wardrobe allowance and incidental expenses amounting to a total award package in excess of \$2,000. She will also receive a competition swimsuit and shoes from Cheryl Prewitt, Miss America 1980, whose participation in Saturday's pageant was canceled for medical reasons.

The first and second runners-up receive scholarships of \$250 and \$100 respectively and trophies.

Judges for the 1990 Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant—who along with the audience laughed off insults from Miss Brant's *Gumbo Gator* as they were introduced at the start of the program—were Becky Tompkins of Ennice; Jeff Parker of Port Charlotte, Fla.; Karen Petit of Columbia, S.C.; Mark Hinson of Orlando, Fla.; and Lori Fraley of Columbia, S.C.

Michael J. Chandler of the accounting firm Brock, Berry and Padgett of Shallotte and Southport served as auditor.

The Miss Brunswick County Scholarship Pageant was sponsored by Scholarship Pageants of Brunswick County Inc., a non-profit civic corporation.



PATRICIA BRANT, Miss Louisiana 1987, entertains the crowd with her skills as a ventriloquist. She is pictured with her friend, Cooper.



STAFF PHOTOS BY DOUG RUTTER

MISS BRUNSWICK COUNTY 1990 Wendy Williams, center, is flanked by contestants (from left) Anna Varnam, Lisa Dale Young, Susan Ellen Holth and Jennifer Carol Kye. All five contestants in the scholarship pageant received awards Saturday.

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