

Stewart Reissues Debate Challenge To Opponents

Former House Speaker Carl J. Stewart, a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor, sharply criticized his potential opponents today for refusing to debate him publicly in a series of debates and re-issued the challenge.

Stewart recently sent telegrams to Sen. Harold Hardison of Deep Run and to Sen. Robert Jordan of Mt. Gilead suggesting four one-hour statewide debates in a format determined by the N.C. League of Women Voters.

"I think the people of North Carolina should be offended by the refusal of Sen. Jordan and Sen. Hardison to engage in a public debate on the issues which affect the office of Lieutenant Governor," Stewart said.

"I am particularly appalled by Sen. Jordan's statement that a few Young Democrats forums around the State will provide an adequate airing of the issues. Those meetings cost about \$10 each, have no media coverage, and will be seen by only a few hundred people in the State," said Stewart.

In contrast, Stewart's proposal called for publicly televised debates to take place in four geographic regions with full television and print media coverage. Stewart said that his procedure would give people across the State the opportunity to hear and see the candidates, either in-person or on television.

"I have no explanation for why Sen. Jordan refuses to participate. Apparently, he does not want to be seen with other candidates. To many, his position may seem to indicate a philosophy of representing the wealthy and the exclusive rather than all of the people.

"I hope interested North Carolinians, and especially members of the League of Women Voters, will write to these two candidates and urge them to accept a debate which in modern times is so essential to intelligent voting," said Stewart.

Stewart suggested that his opponents should reply to the re-issuance of his challenge before November 10, so as to allow sufficient time for all arrangements.

Stewart was the first two-term Speaker of the House in over 100 years. He created the first

Select Committee on Governmental Ethics and the first Standing Committee on the Problems of Aging. During this time Stewart was voted the most effective leader in State government by the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research for four consecutive years.

A 14-year veteran of the General Assembly, Stewart has served as chairman of the House Committees on Water and Air Resources, on Appropriations, and on Banks and Banking. He also served as vice-chairman of the Advisory Budget Commission.

Stewart, a Gastonia attorney and businessman, is a member of both the State and National Bar Associations. He is a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of Duke University and Duke Law School. He is married to the former Donna Lynn Womble and is the father of five children.

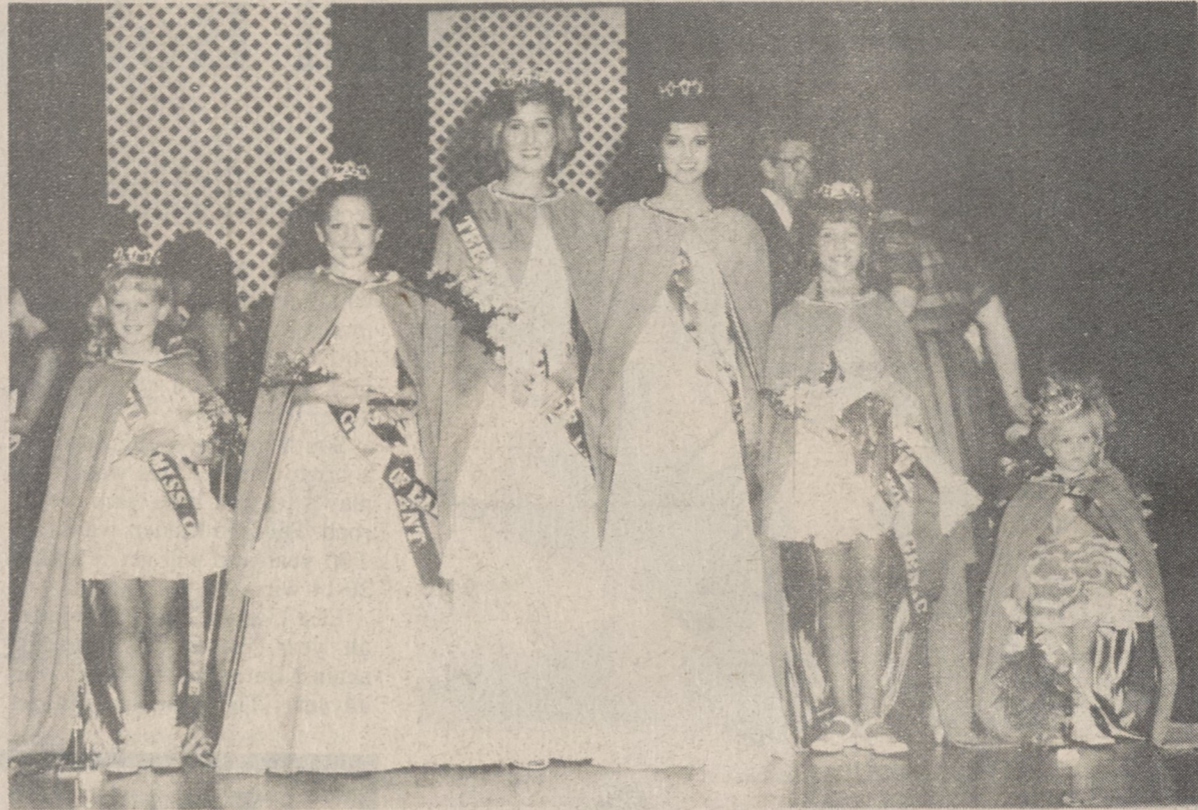


Photo by I.G. Alexander

BEAUTY WINNERS - Pictured above are the young ladies who won division titles in the Gift of Life pageant last week at Gardner-Webb. Left to right are Tiffany Hendrix, Elizabeth Barnhardt, Tracy Russell, Harriett Powers, Haley Beam and Stephanie Moss.

Gift Of Life Pageant Held

The Cleveland County kidney foundation held its first annual "Gift of Life" pageant and talent show Saturday at Dover Auditorium at Gardner-Webb College.

Contestants were judged in six age divisions. Winners included Tiffany Hendrix of Concord, Tiny Miss Gift of Life; Elizabeth Barnhardt of Concord, Junior Miss; Tracy Russell of Charlotte, Teen Miss; Harriett Powers of Charlotte, Miss Gift of Life; Haley Beam of Shelby, Little Miss; and Stephanie Moss of Cherryville, Wee Miss.

The pageant was directed by Mrs. Diane Helms of Shelby. Driesa Jordan of Statesville served as master of ceremony and choreographer. Over 40 entries from all areas of North and South Carolina entered.

All proceeds will go to the Cleveland County Kidney Foundation.

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Jack Hunt Appointed

RALEIGH--Representative Jack Hunt of Cleveland County has been appointed by House Speaker Liston B. Ramsey to a special commission to consider the elimination of some of the 320 boards operating within the Executrix Branch of the State government.

The Legislative Research Commission study will include the possibility of abolishing or consolidating some of the boards, commissions and councils. Another area of study will be whether a limit should be placed on the amount of money and staff time available to the boards, commissions and councils.

Hunt, a Lattimore dentist and businessman, is chairman of the House Rules Committee. He represents Cleveland, Polk and Rutherford counties in the 48th House District.

Cheese Giveaway Set Here

Senior citizens wishing to participate in the cheese distribution to be held on Wednesday, November 16th at the Kings Mountain Senior Center must preregister by Monday, November 7th at 5:00 p.m. Preregistration is being held from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. starting immediately until November 7th.

Those senior citizens age 60 years of age or older are eligible for the distribution if they either (1) received food stamps for the month of November; or (2) received an AFDC check for November; or (3) meet income guidelines. Information can be obtained by calling the Kings Mountain Senior Center, 739-4511.