

Father motivates Royster during Miss N.C. pageant

By TODD HAGANS
Special to The Herald

With the finals of the Miss North Carolina pageant set for Saturday night, Lesley Royster says her father provides the needed motivation for her to win the state's top beauty title.

The current Miss Gastonia left for Raleigh over the weekend to prepare for the competition that runs Wednesday through Saturday. If she's the last

one standing at the end of the pageant late Saturday night, the 24-year-old Royster will find herself in Atlantic City this September for Miss America.

Now participating in rehearsals and other pageant-related activities, Royster doesn't know if her dad will be sitting in the audience as she represents Gaston, Cleveland and Lincoln counties in the state contest. Her father, Scott, suffered a heart attack early last month and underwent quadruple by-pass surgery. His at-home recovery has been slow, and just last week, his doctor put him back in the hospital to correct an irregular heartbeat. He was released Saturday just as his daughter ventured on her quest to become the next Miss North Carolina.

"He has always been the person that pushed me to go that extra mile when I wanted to give up," said Royster, who lives in Lawndale with her father, her mother, Sherry and her brother, Thomas.

When she realized that her father may not make the trip, she became more determined to win the pageant. "If he can't come, I'll just have to take the crown home to him," she said.

Royster will compete against 33 other contestants this week. The on-stage competition begins Wednesday when Royster participates in evening wear. Thursday she models her swimsuit and Friday is talent night when Royster performs the powerful tune, 'It's Time' by Linda Eder. An accomplished vocalist, who has recorded a CD of her favorite songs, Royster has already completed a 12-minute interview with the panel of judges.

The contestants with the top scores from the three nights of preliminary competitions become the top ten finalists on Saturday night. The pageant, complete with a disco theme, features Miss North Carolina 2001 Ashley House of Dallas. The show will not be televised.

"I can assure you that I can be Miss North Carolina," said Royster, a graduate of Pfeiffer University with a degree in communications. "If you are looking for someone to promote their platform, I am your woman. If you are looking for someone to promote the (Miss North Carolina) organization, I am your woman."

After college graduation, Royster worked in human resources and in radio at the Piedmont Superstations in Cherryville. She currently works as a regional sales and marketing representative, selling tractors and farm equipment for New Holland North America. She said her employment has taught her how to interact with people, manage a hectic schedule and travel across the state, which are situations Miss North Carolina will experience during her year of service.

"I am qualified to be Miss North Carolina because I'm out there in the real world," she said. "I know how to handle the pressure." Being Miss North Carolina would also give her the chance to share her community service issue with a statewide audience.

As Miss Gastonia, Royster championed increasing awareness of organ donation. In March, she implemented a media campaign that used newspapers, cable television, radio and the Internet to present her organ donation message. She said the campaign worked and estimates that it reached as many as 15,000 people in the three-county area.

If she wins the state title, she plans to join forces with Gov. Mike Easley, who just several months ago called for North Carolina to establish a state registry for organ donation and asked for Tar Heel residents to take an active role in raising awareness of the issue. "My platform needs recognition," she said. "Gov.



Above, Miss Gastonia Lesley Royster models an evening gown she will wear during this week's Miss North Carolina pageant in Raleigh.

Easley has brought it to the table and now he needs advocates. I want to take advantage of the opportunity."

While most contestants are nervous about competing this week in the state contest, Royster said it actually seems like a summer vacation, comparing the trip to camp.

"This is a vacation for me from work and everyday life," she said. "This is a dream for so many people and I want to make the best of it."

If Royster, who became interested in the Miss Gastonia program to earn scholarship money, takes the state crown, she will continue her time as a "beauty queen" through next June. Otherwise, she'll come home to crown her successor on July 20 during the pageant at Gaston College.

OBITUARIES

EDITH P. WARLICK

ELLENBORO - Edith Perry Warlick, 78, 1540 Walls Church Road, died Saturday, June 15, 2002 at White Oak Manor of Rutherfordton.

She attended Hopewell Methodist Church and was a homemaker.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Samuel Perry, mother, Minnie Poole Perry and spouse, Arthur Hazel Warlick, Sr.

She is survived by daughter and her husband, Phyllis Warlick and Ike Smith, Charlotte, son and his wife, Dean and Marguerite Warlick, Hixson, Tenn., son, Kenneth Warlick, Lexington, Ky., son and his wife, Arthur Warlick Jr. and Teresa, Boiling Springs, grandchildren, Jennifer Warlick and Bryan Powell and brothers Dwight Perry, William Perry Jr., both of Double Shoals.

The funeral was held Tuesday at Cleveland Funeral Services Chapel in Shelby with the Rev. Kelly Ottinger officiating. Burial was at Cleveland Memorial Park.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Rutherford County, P.O. Box 336, 374 Hudlow Road, Forest City, N.C. 28043.

Cleveland Funeral Services is in charge of arrangements.

late James Robert and Julia Morris Norman. She was owner/operator of Reeds Beauty Shop for 50 years. She was also preceded in death by brothers Max, Roy and Lester Norman. She was a member of Antioch Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, Eugene Conner, Blacksburg, sons, Kenneth Eugene Conner and wife Mary Wray of Greenville, daughters Julia Ann Conner Cagle and husband Terry, Boiling Springs, Joan Conner Breazeale and husband Hal, Taylors, brothers, Summie Norman, Kings Mountain, James E. Norman, Blacksburg, sisters Pauline Watterson, Blacksburg, Margaret Smith, Kings Mountain, Ruby Huskey, Henrietta, grandchildren, Julia Lynn Cagle, Christopher Terry Cagle, Benjamin Conner Cagle, Rush Wray Conner, Patrick Norman Conner, Alexander Kenneth Conner and Conner Austin Breazeale.

The funeral was held Wednesday with the Revs. C. Vernon Craig and Terry Dee Cagle officiating. She will be interred at the Antioch Baptist Church Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Antioch Baptist Church, 839 Antioch Road, Blacksburg, S.C. 29702.

Harris Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements

ALSIE SCISM

SHELBY - Alsie Scism, 87, White Oak Manor of Shelby, died Friday, June 14 at the assisted living facility.

A native of Cleveland County, she was a retired textile worker.

She was the daughter of the late Joe Lankford and Lizzie Moss Lankford.

She is survived by her spouse, the late Charles Scism, daughter Muriel Denton of Grover, sister Lillian Putnam of Shelby, grandchildren, Larry and Pam Denton, Eddie and Deborah Denton, Teresa and Gary Queen, Barry Denton, a number of nieces and nephews and four grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her spouse, Charles Scism and her parents, the late Joe Lankford and Lizzie Moss Lankford, daughter, Jo Ann Lane, granddaughter, Kathy Jane Ingle and nine brothers and sisters.

Memorials may be made to Hospice of Cleveland County, 951 Wendover Heights Drive, Shelby, N.C. 28150.

MARY CONNER

BLACKSBURG, S.C. - Mary Reed Norman Conner, 72, 119 Lakeview Drive, died Monday, June 17, 2002 at Carolinas Medical Center in Charlotte.

A native of Cherokee County and daughter of the

HAROLD JACK SIPE

CHERRYVILLE - Harold Jack Sipe, 79, 204 Harrelson Road, died Sunday June 16, 2002 at Cleveland Regional Medical Center.

A native of Gaston County, he was the son of the late Charlie Lee and Carrie Carpenter Sipe.

He was the retired owner/operator of Peoples Cleaner, a member of the Community Pentecostal Holiness Church in Stanley, veteran of the U.S. Army, having served in the 29th division during World War II and received the Purple Heart for injuries received in Germany.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Margarie Ballard Sipe, son and daughter-in-law Larry and Brenda Sipe, Kings Mountain, two grandchildren, Carrie Sipe Edwards and husband Gordon, Chapel Hill and Casey Blair Sipe, Cherryville, brother Maurice Sipe, Los Angeles, Calif. and a sister, Betty Ruth Cornwell and husband Charles, Cherryville.

A graveside funeral service was held Wednesday with the Revs. Eddie McGinnis and Raymond Thomas officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Community Pentecostal Center, 320 Ralph Handsel Blvd, Stanley, N.C. 28164. Carpenter's Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

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Death

Death is a tragedy. It happens to everyone. It may happen unexpected. When your loved ones are dead. You realize in your head. How much you love them. Your memories may be dim. But always you remember them. You think they leave you behind, but in your mind you know it was their time. You try to hide that tear, it is clear until you hear that song that always brought you together. Even though it was my brother. It may happen to another. In the end you will always be together. And make sure you love them forever. Happy Birthday Travis, We all love and miss you.

Your Family and Friends

In His Eyes

In his eyes his pain shows. He tries to cover it but everyone knows. It is the pain of the broken hearted. Wondering why it ever started. In his eyes he seems all alone. Like a little boy lost looking for his home. The pain will leave in its own time. Just keep that in the back of your mind. Until that very day arrives. I will see the broken hearted pain in his eyes!!

By: Ashley Melton

David Martin "Marty" Lockridge son of Marty & Shawn Lockridge of Kings Mountain was 7 years old on June 8. He was given a party at Swooger Shack by his parents. He was given a special cake with firetrucks on it by his Aunt Teresa Falls and Lawrence Etters. This was his first year to play Coach Pitch and was chosen All Star Baseball Player on his team. Marty has an older sister Mandy, age 8. He is the only nephew of Teresa Falls of Kings Mountain and is a special boy and friend to Lawrence Etters. He is the grandson of Lucy & David Lockridge and Paula King all of Kings Mountain. He is the great grandson of Mrs. Harry Matthews of Shelby. Good byes were said from his great-aunts Laura Falls of Vale and Rhonda Falls of Kings Mtn.

Dawson Adams

Happy 3rd Birthday!

Love Mom & Dad

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BRIEFS

Shelby Radio Club field day held in June

Shelby Amateur Radio Club will have a field day June 22-23 at the Cleveland

County Fairgrounds. Activities begin at 2 p.m. Saturday and end at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Amateur radio operators use their radio in an emergency practice by contacting

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KM Class of '52 planning reunion

The Kings Mountain High School Class of 1952 will hold its golden reunion Saturday, September 28 at 6 p.m. at the Joy Performance Center.

Invitations will be going

out soon for a social on Friday evening, when the group will enjoy a steak cookout at Lake Montonia and the KMHS homecoming football game; and Saturday, when the official 50th year reunion is held at the old Joy Theatre.

There will be hors e'oeuvre, entertainment of musical selections presented by Kings Mountain Little Theatre, old movies from school days, and a class picture taken in front of the Joy

ANNOUNCING

CHICKEN PIE LUNCH & YARD SALE

SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2002

BOYCE MEMORIAL ARP CHURCH
Edgemont Drive, Kings Mountain, NC

Yard Sale Begins at 7am

Chicken Lunch Served 11am-2pm

Tickets \$8 per person
Available at ARP Church

Benefit Fund Raiser for Don Phifer who is in need of a liver transplant.

If you have any items to be donated for the yard sale, please call Freida Higin (704-739-7764) or Paul Ham (704-739-2112 or 704-739-4917).