Little girls win beauty queen crowns

By Elizabeth M. Oliver
City Editor

The nation's most unique beauty pageant was originated by Baltimore's own Diana Kane and when the 4th annual contest went on stage at the downtown Hilton Hotel July 18, Mrs. Kane registered another triumph.

The huge ballroom, appropriately decorated with streamers and stars, was packed with proud parents, relatives and guests of the 25 pretty little contestants, ages six to 12 years.

Important persons formed the judges panel. Everyone was fashionably dressed for a stellar occasion such as the town has rarely seen.

WINNERS

Winners included 7 - year - old Beryl Taylor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Taylor. A student of Westowne Elementary School, Catonsville, the bubbling small beauty, perfectly poised showed professionalism beyond her tiny tot years, as she sang, Zippity Do Da. She received a standing ovation.

Beryl's mother, Mrs. Yvonne Taylor, is a teacher's assistant. Her father was her sponsor.

Also crowned queen in the 6 to 12 group was lovely Terri Zielinski, age 11, who played the exylophone, "Chop Sticks." Far beyond the amateur stage, the pretty child exhibited complete mastery.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Zielinski of Holabird.

Sponsors were her own school Holabird Elementary faculty and staff, Sandy's Liquors, Bronze Plastic Specialties and Travelers Lounge.

THE PROGRAM

The pageant was hosted by Ken Philips, News Scene 2 weatherman and Amy Keys, "Miss Baltimore's Best 81" opened with 25 young contestants performing a dance routine superfly choreographed by Vanessa Jackson Johnson.

Florine Applefeld read the proclamation from Mayor Schaefer and gave the concept of the Miniature Miss Pageant.

The six to nine group's production was danced to "Tomorrow" from Annie."

The 10 to 12 group danced to "In the Mood" a takeoff of the Roarin Twenties with the contestants identically outfitted in red and white flapper designed leotards.

After the revue, they were all introduced and the 12 finalists were announced.

(Preliminaries were held the prior Sunday where a panel of judges selected the top 12 and the ballots kept secret until this time.

The main portion of the program began as Amy Keys' magnificent voice sang from Fame.

Judges for this final event were Joseph Eubanks, voice professor, Morgan State University; Gigie Sijerra, cultural promoter; Beverly Skinner, representative of the "Miss Md. Scholarship Foundation;" Chuck Skinner, executive of the "Miss Md. Scholarship Foundation;" Ruth Turner, headed the Miss Black D.C. pageant for several years, and Bonita Cartwright who served as judges chairperson.

The first segment of competition began with talent and talent it was.

Some highlights included a fantastic oral presentation by Nefertiti Harmon entitled "The Fish that Smiled."

Shauna Reely belted out the song "Tomorrow."

Beryl Taylor's rendition of Zippity Do Da and Terri Zielinski's playing of Chop Sticks on the xylophone established them as early favorites from their age group.

After the talent the entire group gave a singing and choreographed version of "Rainbow Connection" and "Kids are Music" directed by Erlinda LaChica.

Under the creative directing of Diana Kane the show included also something for the boys.

Here again under the skilled choreography of Vanessa J. Johnson handsome young men ages 10 to 14 and dubbed the "Escorts" attired in tuxedos, top hat and cane did a chorus line routine to "New York New York" accompanied by Robyn Stephner and Lori Kain.

To the delight of young and old Captain Andy (Animated Playhouses Corp — Rivertowne Restaurant) put in an appearance.

EVENING GOWNS

The last phase of competition for the 12 finalists was the evening gown competition where the little ladies approached the stage gorgeously gowned and each on the arm of the debonair young escorts.

Along with presenting themselves in poise and grace, they were also scored on their projection of giving a 20 - second speech on "HAPPINESS IS."

The little folks showed the judges and audience that they could handle articulation and wit.

As the evening's anticipation was mounting and the judges' ballots being tallied, the scene was shifted to reflections of the young participants returning back home to family and friends after weeks and weeks of rehearsals.

To exemplify the importance of continuing to strive toward their goals even if they were not selected as winners and this point was made very clear in the "Courage" and "Home" that was presented and performed by excerpts from the production of "Wiz," Paul Lawrence Dunbar Senior High School.

This moving performance brought the entire audience to its feet with Sophia Hunter as Dorothy; Ronald Malone, Scarecrow; Dwayne White, the Tin Man; Robert Chew, Lion; Charles Sloan was pianist.

Special awards were presented. Heather Lloyd was voted by her fellow contestants as "Miss Congeniality" and Rita Wells was selected as "Miss Photogenic" by pageant photographers Darryl, Dwayne Gettis and John Sanders.

The final moment brought the announcement of Beryl Taylor as 1982 Miniature Miss 6-9 and Terri Zielinski, as 1982 Miniature Miss 10-12.

Shauna Reely and Stacey Fisher were 10-12 runners up.

PRIZES

A check for performing arts scholarship was presented to the winners by Rolfe Kennard, pres. of Animated Playhouses Corp.

They also received a back to school wardrobe, trophies and flowers.

Mayor Wm. Donald Schaefer sent charm bracelets presented to them by Floraine Applefeld.

Mary Beth Harroth, "Miss Baltimore's Best '82 presented bouquets of flowers. The outgoing queens Juanita Thomas and Michelle Schwab gave up their crowns.

Gail Hemphill is pageant coordinator and stage manager and assisting her is Floryne and Adell Zappasodie, Linda Smith, Joe Danik, Warren Kennedy, Bill Gibson and La Fonde Holly, Felicia Fleming Tonya Hamlin, Stephanie Rawlings, Morica Kane, Muriel Jones.

Gordan Parks and Pat Sykes were coaches. Barbara Hill was Tally Chairman. Elaine Dowell.

The escorts were Kenneth Aiden, Chip Brown, Christopher Brown, Warren Carter, Chris Coulter, Floyd Jenkins, Timothy Johnson, Paul Jones, Swazi Mortague, Wendell Rawlings and Pat Vaughn.

TERRI ZIELINSKI, winner of the 10 to 12 age group, is the 11-year-old who gained cheers as she played the xylophone. Crowning the two winners is Mary Beth Hdroth, Miss Baltimore's Best 1982.

BERYL TAYLOR, winner of the 6 to 9 age group, is the 7-year-old who took the house by storm as she sang Zippity Do Da.

JUDGES are (L to R) John Eubanks, voice professor, Morgan; Gigie Sijerra, cultural promoter; Chuck Skinner, executive director, Miss Maryland Scholarship Foundation; Ruth Turner, promoter for the Miss Black DC pageant; Bonita Cartwright, actress and chairperson of the judges.

STACEY FISHER

YASHICA BROWN

SHAUNA REELY

NEFERTITI HARMON

RITA WELLS

MARTINA MOORE

SHATWAN GRAHAM

HEATHER LLOYD

MONA WASHINGTON

NEKEETA MILIAM

DESHAUNA WESTRAY

HEATHER HEDDINGER

ROMANA HOLMES

CHERRY CARTER

EARLINE WATSON

TERRI ZIELINSKI

DANIELLE MOORE

TAWANA LANGLEY

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SHAWNETTA JENNINGS

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RICA BAGLEY

MAKEYA STEWART

LATARSA JONES

BERYL TAYLOR

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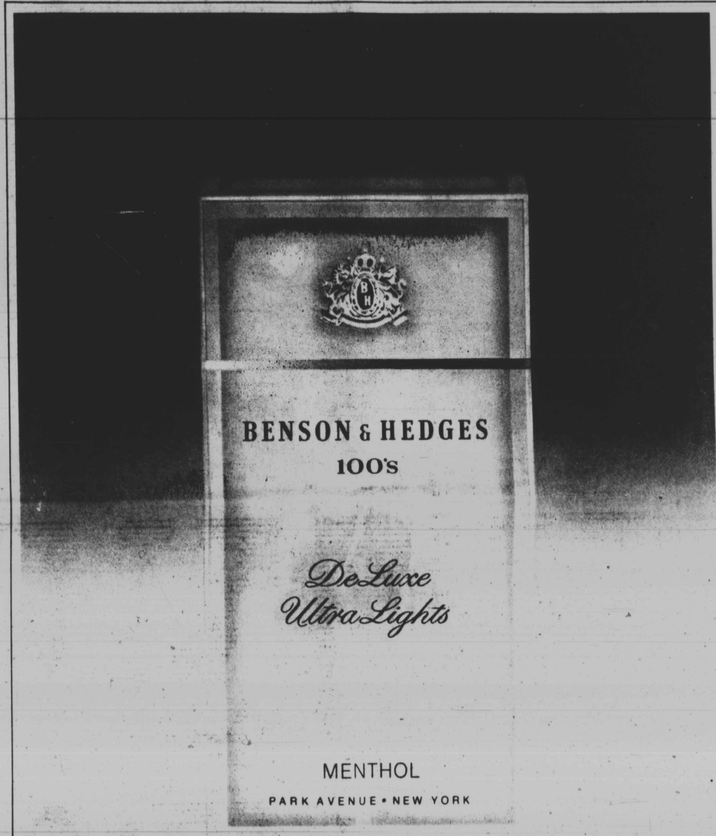

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