

6/24/81

Beauty Pageants

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# Miss Cal '81

WHEW...A FULL, exciting, electrifying week is now a *fait accompli*. Miss California-1981, Cheryl Dianne Vancleave, is on her way on the long road to Miss America. Waiting to fill her shoes as Miss California should she be crowned Miss America is 1st runner-up Dolores Josephine Bedard, Miss Garden Grove; 2nd runner-up is Kristin Eva-Maria Cathrein, Miss Santa Cruz County; 3rd runner-up Lisa Michele Holland, Miss Saddleback Valley, and 4th runner-up is Stephane Renae Ward, Miss Merced County.

The former Miss Los Angeles was presented to her public for the first time this past Sunday at the Awards Brunch at the newly remodeled Coconut Grove Ballroom. Featured at the Brunch was Robin Jelene Brooks, Miss California 1980, who gave the Invocation in a voice quivering with emotion. She was later presented with a beautiful portrait from official pageant-portrait photographer Trini Contreras.

Miss California 1981 was presented with awards and scholarships, including a \$3,000 scholarship from the Miss California Pageant Scholarship Foundation. Other awards included scholarship awards to state finalists, talent scholarships and the very special peer-group award, Miss Congeniality to Soeurette Shook, Miss Sonoma County.

Pageant week was filled with excitement, hard work and many long hours put in by hundreds of dedicated people.



In the center, Cheryl Vancleave, Miss California 1981, is surrounded, from left to right, by Stephane Ward, Dolores Bedard, Kristin Cathrein and Lisa Holland.

Monday, June 12 kicked-off the week's activities full-blast when the 34 contestants were officially presented in ceremonies at City Hall in downtown Santa Cruz. Mayor Joe Ghio remarked that Santa Cruz had "the finest weather we've ever had for a Miss California pageant."

Wednesday night the many sponsors were the guests for the Miss California Ball honoring Miss Robin Brooks. Robin sang a song—"living life that's free and full"—a song which epitomized what her year as Miss California meant to her.

"Ding, ding goes the trolley; zing, zing

goes my heart..." Rehearsals, rehearsals. The production staff put the contestants through their paces every day and carried them through the semi-finals Thursday and Friday nights.

Furs, gowns, ultra-suede and MR. Blackwell highlighted the pageant Fashion Show Friday afternoon at the Holiday Inn. "Just remember you size 10's out there, a 20 is *twice* as much beauty," said the gracious, if oft cryptic Mr. Blackwell.

Saturday...*lights - camera - action!* The pageant parade began the day as it wound its way through a hot downtown Santa

Cruz. The friendly guys at Toyota of Santa Cruz came to the rescue with ice water for each of the contestants as they passed in their vintage Thunderbirds. The televised finals, with the highly charged performances by Deanna Rae Fogarty, Miss California 1979, Leslie-Jon, talented singer and dancer, and Deborah Wagnon, Miss Los Angeles 1980, was telecast live and reached all of California, parts of Arizona, Nevada and Oregon.

After the crowning the evening was topped off by the Coronation Gala held at the Coconut Grove Grand Ballroom. ■