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Beauty Pageant Wrong Beauty Crowned

Bethany Student Is Miss SC County ^{3/18/79}

A pretty Bethany College student, who cleverly used deaf mute sign language in a dramatic song presentation, was named Miss Santa Cruz County Friday night.

But, for a moment, Tamara Jean Pfeil's crown graced the wrong pretty head.

In an emotion-charged climax with cheers for the runnersup filling the small Harbor High School theater, another contestant, Tammy Lee Finney, thought that her name had been called and stepped forward to be crowned.

As the glittering headpiece was afixed to the tearful girl's hair, the voice of Master of Ceremonies Lou Soucie could be heard above the happy bedlam: "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm terribly sorry."

Gradually, the realization of the error spread through the contestants on stage. There was a general gasp from the audience, then a hush as Tamara Pfeil stepped forward and embraced the speechless Miss Finney.

As the crown was switched, other contestants crowded around the weeping girl, hugging and consoling her. Miss Pfeil gave her four roses from her bouquet.

Later, Miss Pfeil said, "There are no hard feelings and we are friends. She took it like such a woman."

Both girls go by "Tammy," although Miss Pfeil went by "Tamara" during the pageant. The master of ceremonies said "Tammy Pfeil" in announcing Miss Santa Cruz County.

Runners-up were: Carrie Kelsey, first, who sang a New Orleans medley; Cynthia Christopher, second, who performed a jazz

dance to "September;" Gina Louise Coopwood, third, who sang Barry Manilow's "Where Do I Go From Here," and Charlotte Liest, fourth, who performed a Gethro Tull jazz dance.

Tamara, who won a \$500 scholarship, is a sophomore at Bethany, majoring in English.

After graduation she plans to travel to Korea for an internship in the Christain Crusades Home and School for the Deaf and Mute in Seoul and eventually start an orphanage of her own in that city.

Tamara's mother passed away four months ago. Her guardians have been Doris and Dave Hoff of Vacaville.

Now carrying 18 units at Bethany, she graduated from Soquel High School a year early.

In her talent presentation, she "sang" America the Beautiful and then gave a short talk, both in sign language. Tamara also appeared in last year's pageant.

Now she will prepare for the Miss California Pageant, scheduled for the second week of June in Santa Cruz, and if she wins that, she will head for Atlantic City for the Miss America Pageant.

"I'm going to give it my best," she said. "And praise the Lord for it."

Debra Jean Jarboe won the popular Miss Congeniality trophy. A couple of weeks ago while practicing her gymnastic presentation, she dislocated her left knee cap. She switched talent numbers, performing a "lip sync" to Barbara Streisand's record, "Second Hand Rose."

SEE BACK PAGE

Miss SC Crown Graces Wrong Beauty Briefly

FROM PAGE 1

She limped through the various pageant walk-throughs.

Some \$2,400 in scholarships were awarded to contestants.

Other talent presentations were: Roslyn Howard singing "Aint Gonna Be No Darkness Anymore;" Debra Jenness, baton routine to "Shake Your Groove Thing;" Theresa Stelter, singing "Country Road" and playing guitar; Tammy Finney, singing, "Here You Come Again;" Deborah Sotero, piano solo, a Beethoven piece, and

Wendy Fleming, disco dance from "Instant Replay;"

Judges were, Joan Ellison, Ellie Roberts, Kathy Thomas, Albert Norris Jr. and Dennis Welch.

The Patti Macdonald group provided accompanying music. Photographer Trini Contreras made his annual presentation of a colored portrait of the outgoing Miss Santa Cruz County, Barbara Bowen.

The Mary Helen Dancers made appearances during the Pageant.