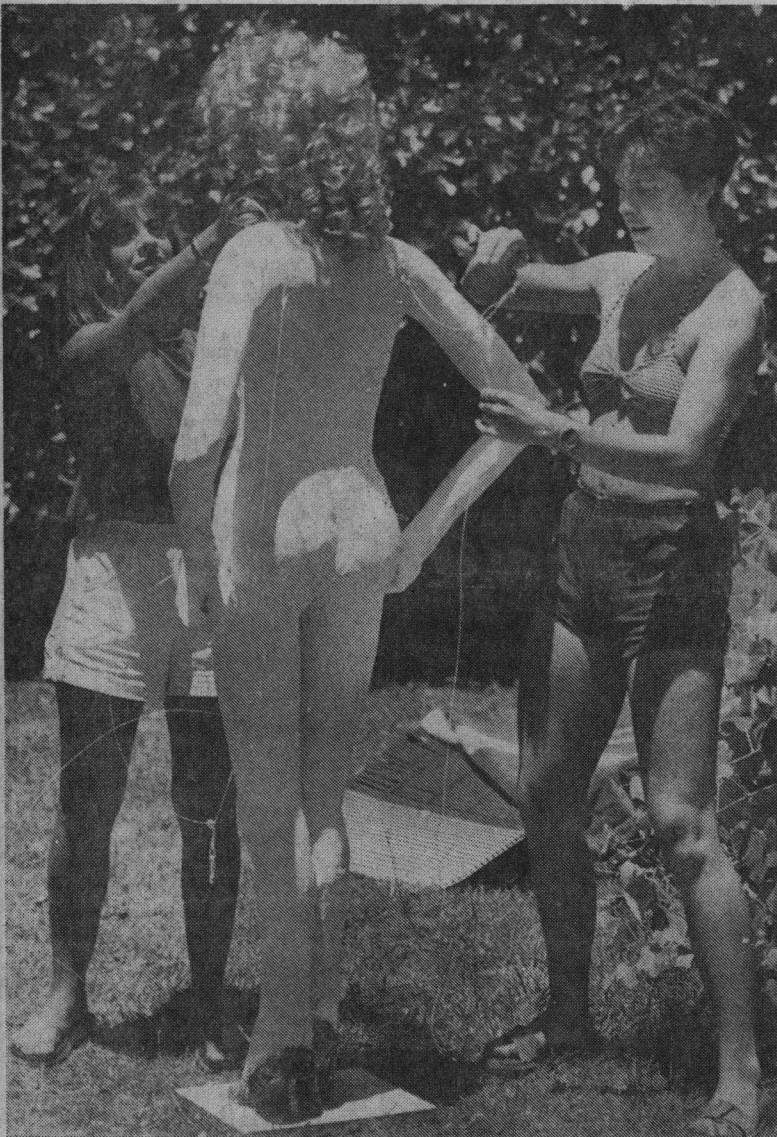


BEAUTY PAGEANTS

Working it all out



Bill Lovejoy/Sentinel

Paula Paliotti, left, and Ann Simonton prepare for this year's California myth-making.

Pageant's social whirl is no myth

6-20-85

AS PREPARATIONS intensify this week for the Miss California Pageant and the counter-pageant dubbed Myth California, so does an accompanying social whirl.

A reception at the Holiday Inn Tuesday evening heralded arrival of the Miss California contestants. But the week ahead promised more grueling rehearsing than social pleasures for the women.

For the pageant supporters, on the other hand, a choice luncheons, cocktail parties and dinner-dances dots social calendars through Tuesday.

Today, as their charges began their marathon of preparations inside the Civic Auditorium, chaperones who have accompanied them from every corner of the state were treated to champagne brunch at Whitney-Chaminade.

Pageant nights are Saturday through Monday this year, leaving Friday free for frolic, and three big events are planned, all at the Cocoanut Grove ballroom. Tickets for these are in the \$20-\$35 range. For a luncheon and fashion show, Willis Hill who's a whiz at wrapping women in scarves and who has worked on accessorizing many movie stars, will headline the program.

At cocktail time Friday, the pageant's "silver" patrons ("silver" and "gold" patrons are so desig-

nated by the size of contributions) will be guests of honor during a party in the Bayview Room, then the ballroom will be opened for the Miss California Ball with dinner and dancing.

Saturday has been left open for private parties and the evening's opening pageant performance at the Civic Auditorium. Cocktails and black ties will be order of the afternoon Sunday for a Black and White party at Aptos Seascapes Vista, allowing everyone time for dinner before the second preliminary program at 8 o'clock.

Monday at twilight has been set aside for honoring for the pageant's "gold" sponsors at DeLaveaga clubhouse; party time is 4-7 p.m., barely leaving time to get to the



Dan Coyro/Sentinel

Pageant's rash of parties doesn't include the hard-working contestants.

Civic for the 7:30 p.m. pageant telecast.

After the new Miss California is crowned and crowds have thinned from the Civic, two parties will remain. First, it's straight back to the Cocoanut Grove ballroom for the Coronation Gala with cocktails, hors d'oeuvres and dancing until 1:30 a.m. Then, Tuesday morning, it's off to the Holiday Inn for breakfast and the awards ceremonies.

CONTRASTING the careful planning behind the pageant's week is the come-when-you-can atmosphere surrounding preparations by the counter-pageant supporters. Still, a party sort of mood perks when people show up to work on Myth California floats at or-

ganizer Ann Simonton's home, not far from the Civic.

Every day someone shows up to offer funds or help, says Simonton. Saturday was, so far, the biggest work day. Some 15 people were painting, plastering and sanding — "primping," as the organizer summarizes — standing figures of women for a float entitled "Chain of Command." A sizeable group is expected Sunday, Simonton's birthday.

Dress for these work-socials is in the shorts and tank top category.

Refreshments are low on the priority list, especially since most of the workers avoid alcohol, according to Simonton. Instead, since the weather was hot, they opted for iced herbed tea and fruit, cheese and crackers.

— MARYBETH VARCADOS