

4/9/78 *Beauty Pageant*  
**Barbara Bowen Is Miss SC**

By RICK CHATENEVER

Sentinel Staff Writer

On an orchid-decked stage before the capacity crowd filling the Santa Cruz High School auditorium Friday night, 20-year-old Barbara Bowen became Miss Santa Cruz County for 1978.

Dressed in a yellow gown, the blonde 1974 Aptos High graduate played the piano and sang the spirited "You and I" in the talent competition. The daughter of Betty and Ted Bowen, Barbara was graduated from Cabrillo College and currently attends San Jose State University where she is majoring in Liberal Arts.

She teaches remedial reading in her spare time, and said she would like to teach in Latin America or one of the third world countries in the future.

Lynn Susan Menig, 19, was selected first runner-up in the close judging. The 1977 graduate of San Lorenzo Valley

High School had sung a mini-medley of songs about New York to a warm ovation in the talent event.

Chosen second runner-up was 19-year-old Patrice Lynn Houts, a 1977 graduate of Soquel High School who currently attends Cabrillo College.

Terri Sue Cox, a 19-year-old sophomore at Bethany Bible College, received the title of Miss Congeniality — a distinction awarded her by a vote of her fellow contestants.

The 2½-hour pageant was fast-moving and professional throughout, featuring the talents of master-of-ceremonies Louis L. Soucie, the Jack Fisher Orchestra, the Benny Smith Dancers and the Patti McDonald Singers.

Also featured in the evening's musical offerings were Connie Lee Haugen, Miss California for 1977, and several winners of past Miss Santa Cruz County

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crowns.

Kathy DeMoro, the departing Miss Santa Cruz County, offered a vocal medley of her own, and took part in the full cast's musical salute to Bing Crosby. Offering thanks to a number of relatives and close friends who had helped her during her reign, she spoke of the "spark and closeness" of the pageant in her farewell address.

Recipient of a standing ovation from

the audience, Miss DeMoro also received a Trini Contreras portrait of herself as a farewell gift.

Another former Miss Santa Cruz County, Chris Allegri McDonald, also performed in several of the evening's musical numbers, appearing as a soloist in several.

Young Megan Spooner showed herself a real trooper, offering a rousing solo on "Tomorrow" (in spite of a faulty microphone), and joining the others in the Bing Crosby tribute.

Entitled "An Anniversary of Stars," the pageant commemorated its fifth year since being reorganized. Besides going on to compete in the Miss California pageant later in the year, the new Miss Santa Cruz receives a \$1,000 scholarship, and a number of awards from local merchants.

The first runner-up crown carries with it a \$500 scholarship, while the second runner-up is awarded a \$300 scholarship.