

Azusa Captures ^{Beauty Pageant} 79 Miss California Title

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With her powerful voice and shapely figure wowing the audience, Miss Azusa — Deanna Rae Fogarty — was crowned 1979's Miss California Saturday night.

The 22-year-old California native is aiming to get her bachelor degree in music and wants to become a vocalist and performer.

(Related story and photos page 32.)

First runner-up was Miss San Bernardino County, Robin Jelene Brooks; second runner-up was Miss San Joaquin County, Parlisha Sophia Watts; third runner-up was Miss Santa Clara County, Susan Elizabeth Heinrichs, who actually resides in Scotts Valley; and fourth runner-up was Miss San Diego County, Christine Lynn Venzor.

The capacity crowd at the Civic Auditorium didn't seem too surprised at the judges' ultimate choice since Miss Fogarty had sent chills through the audience with her strong rendition of "Willkommen" and "Cabaret" from the musical, "Cabaret."

Her five-foot, six-and-a-half-inch, 112-pound figure already had been recognized Thursday when she was the swim suit winner during the first night of the three-day competition.

But another thing that got the new Miss California her crown was her warm and genuine personality that was evident the minute her name was announced.

Without losing her composure, Miss Fogarty just smiled, waved and repeatedly thanked the cheering crowd. Then, she leaned over and hugged her fellow contestants.

The new Miss California is no stranger to the

SEE BACK PAGE

Miss Azusa Becomes New Miss California

FROM PAGE 1

pageant, however, which may explain her ease on stage. She competed as Miss Los Angeles County two years ago.

Since then, she explained, she's been working hard toward the goal she attained Saturday night.

"I was here two years ago and since then I've worked really hard to come back and represent what Miss California and Miss America stand for — respect, tradition and being a person who's goal-oriented and an achiever. I will continue to devote myself to this," she said.

The parents of the blonde, blue-eyed beauty, Frank and Marlene Fogarty, also mentioned the hard work their daughter has put in to wear this state's crown.

"Deanna wanted this so bad," her mother commented. "She wants to do so much for Santa Cruz and promote the pageant. She's gained so much from this."

The new queen's extensive voice training shined through during her talent performance when she literally belted out her medley of tunes in a deep, sultry voice.

She's had two years private vocal training, sang and danced one year with the Musical Americans, spent two years with the Cerritos Choral Groupe, six months as lead vocalist with an orchestra and, as a student at Rio Hondo College in Whittier, went on a performing tour of the Orient.

The evening started on an upbeat note with the naming of the ten finalists. Besides the winner and the runners-up, other finalists were Miss Torrance, Miss Walnut Creek, Miss Los Angeles County, Miss Fremont and Miss Ventura County.

The crowd was kept entertained by the personable mistress of ceremonies, 1977 Miss America Dorothy Benham and by the fine performances of the Miss California Dancers, guest star Leslie Jon, 1978 Miss California Christine Acton, 1976 Miss California Linda Mouron and 1976 Miss Sacramento Linda Kay Snook.

But the night eventually ended up belonging to Deanna Rae Fogarty who may have reached her stated goal: "I want to develop myself one hundred percent so that I can reach the unreachable star."