

Miss Grey Cup 1973

A personal look at beauty pageant contestants

By SHELLEY RABINOVITCH

Contrary to the claims of such commercial programmes as the Miss Canada Pageant, a pageant need not be both commercial and typified in style to be successful.

The 1973 edition of the Miss Grey Cup Pageant proved that.

First, the people who work on the pageant get absolutely no monetary gain from the venture (perhaps this explains the fresh, unorthodox aura that surrounds it).

Next, with only 9 girls instead of 67, a spirit of closeness surrounds the show.

FULL OF BULL

In a press conference prior to the Province of Ontario Festival Luncheon in the Royal York's Canadian Room, one of the girls remarked, "whoever calls this a beauty pageant is full of bull—it's actually a great opportunity to meet people!"

This attitude prevails among all the candidates: Miss B. C. Lions (Regina Helgason), Miss Hamilton Tiger Cat (Lynn Darling), Miss Calgary Stampeder (Celina Harden), Miss Toronto Argonaut (Betty Lou Pokol, a U of T student in nursing), Miss Montreal Alouette (Nancy Lavigne), Miss Winnipeg Blue Bomber (Charlene Pinchevsky), Miss Edmonton Eskimo (Ellen Golka, Miss Congeniality '73), Miss Ottawa Rough Rider (Francine Aline Menard, the first runner up), and Miss Saskatchewan Roughrider (Wendy Mills, Miss Grey Cup '73).

Ellen Golka, Miss Congeniality, is a student at the University of Alberta in Edmonton and likes to swim, skate, and curl.

When asked to smile for the camera, Ellen quipped, "It's so hard to smile at that box. I mean, I can smile at people,"—and she flashed a charming

one that the photographer captured instantly—"but that camera is just so cold. It's easy to be nice to people when they're nice to you."

When asked about the stress placed on being lovely, Ellen commented, "Heck, I know what I look like in the morning. As long as a judge doesn't come in before breakfast, everything's all right".

Lynn Darling, Miss Tiger Cat, is currently a secretary, but hopes to become an airline stewardess.

"I just couldn't begin to say how great this last while has been. Last year a Hamiltonian asked me to enter, and I told him that I wanted to wait until I had lived in Hamilton a bit longer.

"The next year, when he turned 65 and was on a pension, he asked me again. I agreed, and the first day the applications were available he had six of them waiting for me!"

DO IT AGAIN

When asked if she was glad that the affair was almost over, Lynn replied, "I just wish that I could take a week off and do it all over again!"

The Miss Grey Cup Gala '73 itself was pure Canadiana. Gordie Tapp was MC, George Finstad was the announcer and the Russ Little Orchestra was the band.

Talent included The Travellers, the group of singers who opened the Canadian pavillion at Expo '70 in Osaka, Japan, and John Allen Cameron, from "the province of Cape Breton."

The Travellers opened with the band singing a medley of multi-national tunes they picked up while on the road (plane?), and closing with This Land of Ours. They sang an original tune called Something I Love About This Land, a song that stirred hearts throughout the audience.



Peter Hsu photo

Wendy Mills, Miss Grey Cup 1973, represented the Saskatchewan Roughriders. She and eight other girls vied for the title. Our writer says the Miss Grey Cup Pageant avoided the commercialism that plagued the

Miss Canada Pageant, and the impersonality that marks such large events as the Miss World contest. Miss Edmonton Eskimo, Ellen Golka, was named Miss Congeniality 1973.

RINDERCELLER

Cameron, a folk singer, kept the audience alternately in stitches and singing along with him. Jabbing at Howard Cosell playfully, he sang the tale of "Rinderceller who slopped her dripper" as a penance that Cosell would have to take for being a naughty boy in school.

Once awarded the Miss Grey Cup Tiara (without going through the bathing suit and choreographed rigamarole), Miss Saskatchewan bent over to wave at someone and, horrors, the tiara fell off. A judge replaced the crown immediately, to everyone's immense relief.

Among other prizes, Miss Grey Cup won a Datsun B210. Unfortunately, in

the awarding of the prize, the president of Eastern Motors gave a totally uncalled-for commercial plug for his car.

"Miss Grey Cup is both beautiful and reliable," he said.

"The Datsun B210 is also both beautiful and reliable. I am here now to join the two beauties."

York grad involved in pageant as co-ordinator and den mother

By SHELLEY RABINOVITCH

Despite the popular belief that all the pretty girls come from somewhere other than Toronto, one of the most friendly and beautiful in the world is from right here at York.

Jacque Perrin, a Founders College graduate of 1971, acted as both co-ordinator and den mother for the nine Miss Grey Cup candidates of 1973. She is a contest winner in her own right and holds such titles as Miss Argo 1968, Miss Dominion of Canada 1969, Miss United Appeal finalist, and Miss World and Miss Universe finalist.

In her own words, beauty contests "are all downhill after the Grey Cup. With nine girls there's a lot of rapport among the contestants. But the Miss World contest has 67 girls, and language is quite a problem. How can you tell an Italian girl that she has to spend hours staring at a camera when she wants to go shopping and see the host city? We spent a grand total of 1½ hours with our girls showing them how to walk around the stage for the pageant. Period. The larger contests are too commercial and the girls are choreographed like actresses for the big TV production numbers."

NO BICKERING

Contrary to the myth that beauty pageants include a great deal of bickering among the contestants, this year's Grey Cup was quite remarkable. "The girls are very independent in their own ways. Nevertheless they were very cooperative this year. There was no fighting, bickering, or cat-calling; each girl treated the other like a sister. That may sound corny, but it's true," said Jacque.

She had an instant response to the eternal question of whether the guys working with the pageant looked upon the girls as slabs of meat on the racks, and whether they were chauvinistic.

"Absolutely not!" stated Jacque emphatically. "All the guys here respect the girls as individuals. They're really quiet considerate. Actually I'm here only as a trouble shooter for the girls. My job is to see they get A-1 treatment all the time. For instance, one of the girls had a slight ear infection that we had to get cleared up, but we were lucky and nothing serious (medically) came up.

"As far as exploitation goes, it's like Christmas every day for these girls. I'd conservatively estimate each girl's prizes at \$2,000. And that's not including what the winners get."

CONTEST SECONDARY

The contest is visibly secondary for these girls, and the attitude of Ellen Golka, Miss Edmonton Eskimo and Miss

Congeniality, is a shining example of this. After talking with reporters for almost twenty minutes she suddenly exclaimed, "Goodness, I'm monopolizing all your time. Really, I'm only Miss Eskimo. Here's some of the real stars of this contest," and promptly lead the group of startled reporters to Miss B.C. Lions and Miss Hamilton Tiger Cat (Regina Helgason and Lynn Darling.)

"The girls really wanted the others to look their best at all times," said Jacque, "and they really wish each other sincere good luck, not any of this professionally-practiced goo. Again, corny but true."

Jacque received her B.A. in geography and now hosts her own afternoon talk show in Kingston, Ont. as well as doing the weather at CKWS. "Since I do the weather I guess that geography degree is coming in handy," she quipped.

A UNIQUE CONTEST

Few people actually realize the time and effort put into the Grey Cup Festivities by the members of the Toronto Junior Board of Trade and the Toronto Jaycees.

"All this work is strictly voluntary. I'm on my week off now," said Jacque. "We take from June on just to get it all together. The final three months are merely the capper for literally months of work. Even so, I still come back year after year. I love to meet the people and the girls. I mean the people are incredible.

"Wendy (Wendy Mills, Miss Saskatchewan Roughrider and Miss Grey Cup '73) is sweet, while Francine (Miss Ottawa Roughrider and the First Runner Up) is quite sophisticated. This really is a unique contest — because it is concerned with football there's a great rapport with one's team supporters. A contest like Miss World just doesn't have that. It's like being a bird in a glass cage. People just don't know how to relate to you."

Excalibur staff meeting

Room 111

Central Square

at 2 p.m. today



Miss Blue Bomber, Charlene Pinchevsky

Peter Hsu photo