

Beauty Contests Now Lead to College Classes

By MARTHA HALL
of our Broward Bureau

DAVIE — Once the beauty contest was a girl's ticket to stardom—she thought.

Now it's a ticket to college lectures.

The lovelies are learning to turn their natural gifts into cash for college.

Eight contestants for Davie's Orange Festival Queen were at Spike's Grove for a public appearance Sunday.

As they chatted and dispensed orange juice to tourists, the girls showed an amazing stability and practical outlook.

From the foot-weary contestants, it was learned that a girl enters a contest to cure anything from financial ills to an inferiority complex. Or she might just be awfully proud of her town and her rodeo.

A number of girls are aiming for the \$300 scholarship offered to the winner, who will be selected and crowned Saturday night.

"The dean of women at Broward Junior told us about the scholarship, so I decided to try to win it," says tall blonde Naida Laws, 19. "I hope to go into public relations someday and meeting all these people is invaluable."

A native of Ft. Lauderdale, Naida has placed in both the Miss Venice of America and Miss Ft. Lauderdale contests.

Sandy Diamond, 18, is a social welfare major at Broward Junior College. Of her first contest, she says, "Like all college kids, I can always use the money for school. And I need the experience of meeting people, too."

Winnie Brand, 18, a Broward freshman finds the contest mentally stimulating. "I've learned many things about the area, because of the paper we wrote for the contest. I wanted to meet new people, too."

Many of the girls say civic pride spurred them to enter the contest: "It doesn't matter if I don't win. I just want to see someone represent well the Festival," says blonde Nancy Evans, at 15, the youngest contestant.

Brunette Sunny North, 18, agrees, "When I was in high school, I saw the older girls in the contests. I guess I idolized them. I always wanted to be in the contest, too. It's such a part of Davie."

And 17-year-old Pat Underwood, "I've lived here most my life and always looked forward to being in the contest."

Sue Sanders, 18, attends Stranahan High School and likes to enter contests for the "fun of meeting people. I've entered several others. It's such good experience."

One young contestant hits on practically every angle of contest-winning. She's Peggy Vann, 17, and a senior at Stranahan High School.

Smiling broadly, Peggy says, "I have lived here so long and seen the contest going on. I've always wanted to enter. But I'm also considering Broward Junior College and I sure could use the scholarship. And of course, my parents are so proud."

A ninth candidate, Judy Crandall, wasn't able to make it to the Sunday appearance. But it's a good guess that she didn't enter the contest because she wanted to be a movie star — she probably longs to be a star pupil, too.