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-wear contest, it was learned that a girl enters a contest to earn anything from financial aid to an inferiority complex. Or she might just be after a party of her own and her rodeo.

A number of girls are aiming for the $2000 scholarship offered by the parish to the winner, who will be selected and crowned Saturday evening.

The dean of women at Broward Junior College told us about the scholarship, so I decided to try it out. It was all the best, Nida Lueb, 19, says. "I want to go into public relations someday and meeting all those people is invaluable."

A native of Ft. Lauderdale, Nida has lived in both Miami and the Miss Venice of America and Miss Ft. Lauderdale contests.

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

Virginia Brand, 18, a Broward freshman, finds the contest mentally stimulating. "I've learned many things about the area because of the pageant," she 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 something represent the Festival," says blonde Nancy Evans, 15, the youngest contestant.

Sue Sanders, 18, attends Stranahan High School and likes to enter contests for "fun of meeting people. I've entered several others. That'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.

Sailing broadly, Peggy says: "I have lived here so long and the contest can go on. I've always won."

I'm also considering Broward Junior College and our scholarship. And of course, my parents are proud."

A pitch candidate, Judy Crandall, wasn't able to make it to the Sunday appearance, but a good guess that she didn't enter the contest because she was planning a movie and probably a hog to star pupil too.