

18th Annual Lil Miss & Jr. Miss Warm Springs Pageant drew several contestants

Four girls were rewarded the Little Miss Warm Springs 2000 crowns after hundreds of hours of dance and speech practice and battling butterflies in their stomachs. Elyse Bagley was the winner in the 3 & 4 year old category and her princess is Delvina Heath. In the 5 & 6 year old division, Raylene Jones was crowned Queen and her princess is Ada Polk-Lopez. Arlene David took the crown in the 7-9 category and her princess is Allegra Robinson. A tie and a dance off gave the deciding two points to Queen Lorien David in the 10-13 year old division. Lorien's princess is Matilda Mitchell. There were no candidates in the 14-17 year old division.

All the Little Miss Warm Springs contestants were judged on traditional dress, round dance, skip dance and speaking ability. The girls in the 7-9 year old category also had to do a shuffle dance and have some cultural knowledge. The girls in the 10-13 needed

to set up a mandatory display.

Rockin' Ron Belgard of KWSO emceed the pageant, questioning each of the younger contestants on their names, parents, and cultural heritage. The older girls introduced themselves and talked about their dreams. Lorien David said, "My dream is to become Little Miss Warm Springs and Jr. Miss Pi-ume-sha in the year 2000. Sara Starr, a contestant in the 10-13 year old division said "My dream is to graduate from college and be the first woman from Warm Springs to play in the Women's National Association.

Dance practices were held in Carol's room in preparation for the pageant. Among the dances the girls learned were the shuffle dance, skip dance, butterfly dance and paddle dance. The present Junior Miss Warm Springs, Cecelia Herrera worked with the girls on their dancing and coached them with their speech presentations.

Each of the candidates were required to attend a leadership workshop. Judy Charley, Anita Davis and Carol Wewa of the Community Health and Education Team presented a series of lectures on writing biographies, speech presentation, building self-confidence, and self-esteem. "Do you sometimes feel funny in your stomach and you don't know why? Those are called butterflies and they are there to let you know you're about to do something important," Carol told the girls during the workshop.

Giving up their reign this year was Queen Tessie Polk-Lopez, Princess Alicia Yazzie, Queen Kristi Olney, Princess Rachelle Herkshan, Queen Sallie Polk-Adams, Princess Carina Miller, Queen Leann Wolfe, Princess Valerie Suppah and Queen Lillian Heath. This was the 18th Little Miss Warm Springs Pageant. Rockin Ron guided the audience through the grand entry, introduced Anita Davis to sing the Lord's Prayer while Jr. Miss Warm Springs, Cecelia Herrera signed, and entertaining the audience while performers prepared for two special exhibitions.

Gary Villa demonstrated the grass dance and the Warm Springs Tumblers led by Monica Wahnetah & Co. demonstrated their flexibility and athletics.

There were many volunteers who contributed to the success of the pageant. Among the volunteers was former Miss Warm Springs, Merle Kirk who made 25 Sally bags which were gifted to each contestant with a cupon. The Community Health Education Team, The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Warm Springs Print Shop were major contributors to the pageant.

A dozen boys also came to help out with the pageant. They escorted the contestants during the pageant and participated in the skip dance. Each of the boys were gifted with a yarn belt. The escorts were JaimeRae Bagley, Damon David, Dennis Doney, Valdimire Jefferson, Eddie Jones, Leslie & Salvador Robinson, Mychal & Kenny VanPelt and Chester VanPelt III. The pageant was held on January 25, 2000 in the Community Wellness Center.

"A big thank you to Carol Allison. Carol Allison is a big influence to the community center kids, promoting activities, cultural and modern, beyond the duties of any job description. Carol's ability to work with people her tolerance and patience with not only the kids, but also parents and staff members contribute to the success of the pageant," was printed in the Little Miss Warm Springs Pageant Program, author unknown.

Photos and story by Lenora Starr



Raylene Jonet of the 7-9 Division with Carol Allison, Pageant Coordinator



Anita Davis with "Miss Confidence" during workshop to teach girls how to exude confidence



The contestants in the 10-13 year old Division show their skip dancing abilities



Queen Lorien Stacona



Nola Queahpama assists Louell Bagley cutting out wing dress for her daughter Elyse Bagley who won the 3-4 year old Division



Arlene David, Queen 7-9 category.



Jr. Miss Warm Springs 2000, Cecelia Herrera judges Matilda Mitchell's display