

Local

New Miss Texas A&M replaces Ryman

Green crowned

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff
Cindy Green, 18, first runner-up in the 1981 Miss Texas A&M University Scholarship Pageant, has been named Miss Texas A&M following the crowning of Sheri Ryman as Miss Texas. Ryman won the state pageant competing as Miss Texas A&M.

Randy Layba, executive director of the pageant, said a beauty pageant winner is not allowed to hold two titles concurrently. After Ryman was crowned Miss Texas, the Memorial Student Center Hospitality Committee passed the Miss Texas A&M title and the \$1,000 scholarship to Green, he said.

Ryman was named Miss Texas A&M at the conclusion of the two-day pageant held February 21-22. She was crowned Miss Texas at the July 11 Miss Texas Pageant in Ft. Worth. In September she will represent Texas in the Miss America Pageant in Atlantic City, N.J.

As Miss Texas, Ryman will have to attend North Texas State University during the year of her reign. Therefore, she will be unable to fulfill her duties as Miss Texas A&M, Layba said.

The responsibilities of Miss Texas A&M include representing the University at community functions, participating in advertising campaigns of community merchants who sponsored the pageant and making appearances at campus activities, Layba said.

Green is a sophomore pre-medicine major from Dallas. She also was a contestant in the 1981 Miss Texas Pageant, representing the Big Thicket area. However, she is relinquishing that title to become Miss Texas A&M.

"I was very excited when the Hospitality Committee contacted me," Green said. "I wanted to be

Miss Texas A&M as much as I wanted to be Miss Texas."

The next Miss Texas A&M Pageant will be held Feb. 27, 1982, but will be quite different from past pageants, Layba said.

The Hospitality Committee has decided to combine the two-night pageant into a one-night event, he said. Combining the pageant should save money and increase pageant attendance, Layba said.

The committee also had discussed holding a joint pageant that

would have crowned two winners, Miss Texas A&M and Miss Bryan-College Station. However, because a double pageant would have made the contest even more expensive to produce, the committee decided to stay with a single-crown pageant, Layba said.

"Having Miss Texas A&M win the state pageant has opened up a lot of doors for us," Layba said. "People are taking more notice of our pageant and are contacting us to say they will be willing to help with the 1982 pageant."



Cindy Green

Horticulture classes held for high school teachers

Teaching teachers how to prepare high school students for state and national horticulture contests is the purpose of a workshop being held at Texas A&M University Wednesday through Friday.

Workshop supervisor Dr. Arthur E. Nightingale, associate professor of horticultural sciences, said 24 vocational agriculture teachers are being trained in various aspects of plant identification and nursery and florist crops so they can help students who compete in the state horticulture contest held at Texas A&M in April.

Winners at the state level compete in a national contest held in Kansas City, Kan.

The workshop is sponsored by the Department of Vocational Agriculture in conjunction with the Department of Horticultural Sciences.

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Texas A&M University scientists are raising a fish that — while it won't feed 5,000 people — holds promise as a food source for multitudes.

Tilapia, a striped, oval-bodied fish that resembles a sunfish and grows to about two pounds, is believed to be the same species spoken of in the Gospel of Matthew when Christ fed 5,000 followers from five loaves of bread and two fish. Also known as Saint Peter's fish, Tilapia are native to the Middle East and Africa and provide a cheap source of protein.

"They are easy to grow, have excellent flavor, bring a good market price and eat things that most other fish wouldn't touch," said Dr. James T. Davis, a Texas A&M fisheries specialist studying the nutritional requirements of the fish for optimum growth.

Tilapia grows from marble-size to a pound in six months and reaches skillet-size in a Texas growing season. A new overwintering process developed by the Texas A&M researchers speeds up the growing cycle, helping to make Tilapia a potential major commercial fish-farming product in Texas.

"This industry isn't going to develop overnight," admits Davis, who also holds an appointment with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, part of the Texas A&M University System.

"Tilapia has to be accepted by the public, and hopefully a low production cost will be an influencing factor."

Tilapia were introduced into Texas during the 1960s when they rapidly established in power plant cooling lakes and in portions of the Rio Grande Valley. Their primary advantage over other more conventional fishes is that they are extremely hardy, said Davis, adding that Tilapia are the second most cultured group of fishes in the world today, surpassed only by carp, "which don't enjoy a lot of popularity in some portions of the country."

Tilapia thrive in very hot, rich waters that would kill most other fishes. In Idaho, they are grown in geothermally-heated water, Davis said, and while they are primarily utilized for food throughout the world, they can also be used for aquatic vegetation control. The fish grow well when cultured with other popular commercial pond fishes, such as channel catfish and buffalo fish. At Texas A&M, they are grown with freshwater shrimp.

"The Tilapia produce good gains when fed fertilizers and crude foodstuffs," said Davis. "Those fed grain and protein crops readily available in Texas are a delight to the taste buds of gourmet chefs."

Tilapia can also live off organic wastes like chicken and cow manure, Davis added. While fish fed manure cannot be used for human consumption, he explained, they make excellent animal feed.

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