

# Miss Farmington contest leads to state pageant

By FELICA KOBYLANSKI

As the entry blanks come in for the Miss Farmington pageant, the present title holder will be in Muskegon, vying for the Miss Michigan crown.

Nineteen-year-old Susan Reed of Farmington Hills captured the local title last year in her first competition. The pageant was one of the activities in the Farmington Founder's Festival.

"I entered the contest, not knowing that it was connected to the Miss Michigan pageant," Susan explained. "In the past, the winner became the Farmington Festival Queen. Last year was the first time they also made it the Miss Farmington pageant."

WINNING THE title made her eligible for the state competition. Contestants compete in swimsuit, evening gown and talent categories, as well as being interviewed by the judges.

Susan, who just returned from Miami's Institute and Fine Arts College of Fashion, has been busy sewing the evening gown she'll wear in competition.

The white chiffon and Banlon gown with bead bodice is just one of the

many dresses that Susan has designed and sewn.

"I really feel that sewing my own wardrobe helped me in last year's pageant," she said. "A lot of the girls did sewing for the talent segment of the competition, but sewing the clothes I wore was an extra boost."

For the talent section, Susan will perform the number that helped win for her last year—"The Laughing Song" from the operetta "Die Fledermaus."

Susan will study voice next fall at Eastern Michigan University. Her scholarship from the Miss Farmington pageant will pay the tuition.

Susan believes the scholarships offered have changed the image of beauty contests.

"Most people don't realize this, but they aren't called beauty pageants any more," she explained. "Now it's the Miss Michigan scholarship pageant which means we're competing on the basis of our talent and intelligence...."

"I HAD TO do a lot of research into women's lib, politics, religion—subjects I'd have to have a stand on in case the judges asked."



SUSAN REED

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