

"Franka Anderson, Carnival Queen." *Evening News* 28 Feb. 1949: 1+. Print.

Franka Anderson, Carnival Queen

Amid tumultuous applause, the bursting of rockets, and exploding fireworks, Miss Franka Anderson, vivacious 24-year-old brunette, was crowned Carnival Queen of 1949, by Alderman Norman Tang, Mayor of Port-of-Spain at the Queen's Park Savannah last night. Miss Anderson entered the competition as Miss Maracas Valley. The judges' choice of Miss Anderson as Carnival Queen, won the popular approval of the thousands of spectators who crowded the grand stands at the Queen's Park Savannah to witness the ceremony. Prior to the selection cries of "We want Franka, we want Franka" filled the air.

The Carnival Queen was chosen from a field of 32 candidates, representing various firms and organisations throughout the Colony. On the stage to witness the parade was Miss Sheila Cunliffe—Miss British Guiana—who is in the Colony to witness the Carnival celebrations. Miss Cunliffe is expected to remain here for seven days.

The new Canival Queen besieged by newsmen after the crowning ceremony, disclosed that she never gave winning a thought, but hoped to do justice to her selection as queen.

The judges had a somewhat difficult job to make the final selection, and an appeal was made to the spectators to assist them by applauding the finalists as they were in turn presented to the audience. Loud and long was the applause which went up on every occasion that Miss Anderson was presented. The competition was conducted on an elimination basis, and many were the parades of the beauties across the stage and in the enclosure in front of the grand stand, before the 12 finalists were selected.

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Before the commencement of the show, thousands flocked to the entrance of the pavilion to gain admission. The show was a sell out, and many failed to gain entry to the stands. The whole scene, gaily illuminated with multi-coloured lights, resembled a miniature fairyland. Music for the occasion was supplied by the Police Band, under the direction of Captain Rupert Dennison.

The night's programme got underway with the beating of tamboo bamboo band and stick playing. Old masters in the art of stick playing amused the crowd as they engaged each other in battle. Variety was added to the entertainment by calypso

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Carnival Queen

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singers, who treated the audience to the latest hits. Accompanied by the Police band items were rendered by King Pharaoh, Lord Invader, and Lord Skipper.

Highlighting the proceedings immediately before the contest for the selection of the "Queen" was a steel band competition. The Invaders band carried all before them, gaining for themselves a silver cup and a \$50 purse as first prize. Invaders drew prolonged applause for their version of "It's Magic." Gaining a second prize was the "Sun Valley" steel band. Other contestants in the competition were the "Crossfire" and "All Star" bands.

Tang, Mayor of Port-of-Spain in a short speech, thanked the audience for their presence, and the keen interest displayed in the entire proceedings. As the Mayor announced the winner, deafening applause rent the air. Fireworks supplied by Mr. Patrick Jones, enlivened the proceedings. The crowning ceremony was performed by the Mayor. He did not kiss the queen.

"I really do not know what to say, all I can say, is that I am grateful to be honoured this way. I thank you very much," said the Queen after the coronation. Among the first to congratulate her was Miss British Guiana.

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The members of the "All Star" band, claimed that they were unaware that a prize was at stake and requested the judges to grant them an opportunity to show off their wares. The request granted they came back and thrilled an appreciative audience with a rendition of "Now is the Hour."

As the major feature on the night's card—the contest for the Carnival Queen—drew near, Mr. Courtenay E. Hitchins, editor of the "Trinidad Guardian," announced the names of the judges. They were Colonel E. W. Hockenberry, commanding officer of Waller Field, and his wife; Cap-

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Among the presents received by the newly-crowned queen were, a gold wrist watch, a beautifully carved wooden shield of local craftsmanship, costume jewelry, ladies' wear, free beauty treatment from three of the Colony's leading beauty shops, honorary membership of Perseverance Club. She is also entitled to a free airplane trip by B.W.I.A. to Barbados with a friend, with all expenses for a two weeks' stay covered.

The 11 runners-up in the contest, each of whom received a pair of gold bracelets, were Miss Rose Fernandes (Miss "Evening News"), Miss Rita Soodeen (Miss Point Fortin), Miss Rita De Souza (Miss Y. De Lima), Miss Patsy Maingot (Miss Alphonso De Lima), Miss Anne Milne

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Spectators got to their feet, and applauded, as the contestants dressed in sportswear, ushered in by Mrs. Aubrey Almandoz, strolled on to the stage. Cameras flashed as a battery of cameramen took shots of the beauties. The contestants next paraded on the stage in evening gowns, following which the process of elimination started.

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The ceremony came to a close with a short speech by Mr. Wilson Minshall, who thanked the judges and the committee responsible for making the preview the success it has been. The prizes were presented to the runners up by the Queen.

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