

The DALLAS Post

BRIGHTON BINDERY CO
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BRIGHTON, IA 52540

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Wycallis prepares for new position

By PAM AARON
Staff Correspondent

Gerald Wycallis, currently serving as Acting Superintendent as well as maintaining his position as Curriculum Developer in the Dallas School District, will assume the position of superintendent of the district, effective July, 1985. He will then continue in that position for four years.

The decision to appoint Wycallis to the position was made at the September 10 school board meeting, at which time board members voted 5-4 in favor of his assuming the position.

Holding down two positions hasn't always been easy, admits Wycallis, but he does admit to finding the variability somewhat exciting and looks toward the position of superintendent as one with even more excitement.

The complexities and diversities inherent in dealing with a school district are what interest Wycallis the most while he feels challenged with gathering information on numerous subjects and making decisions that have far-reaching effects. Wycallis finds that each day comes with its own problems and one never knows what will cross the desk tomorrow.

Wycallis received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Elementary Education from the University of Scranton. He taught briefly in Sydney, New York before returning to the valley in which he was born and raised. He is presently completing his Supervisory certificate at St. Bonaventure's in Olean, New York.

The Wycallis family currently resides in West Pittston. Wife, Judith Ann, teaches in that area while sons, Gerald (J.J.) and Matthew, are students there.

Since one of the stipulations set out for the assumption of the Superintendent's position is that the candidate be a resident of the district, the Wycallis family plans relocation to the district prior to Mr. Wycallis'



GERALD WYCALLIS

taking his post.

Wycallis admits to being a little surprised over his sudden nomination at the September board meeting. Although he had expressed a definite interest in the position, he had remained equivocal, especially as the board was planning a search to interview other qualified candidates before next year.

The fact that Wycallis would assume the role of school superintendent next year came as a surprise to many on the Dallas School Board as well since most of them were under the impression the decision had been to continue the search for alternate candidates.

At one point, the board was considering a program of selection offered to them by Dr. Raub of the PSBI, the agency procuring and screening those who would be eligible to be interviewed for the Superintendent's position.

Dr. Raub believed that, given the size of the district, as many as 60 applicants could be selected for interviewing. The cost of the service was to have been between \$3,000 and \$3,500, to which some of the

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Miss America hopes dashed

Gina's still the best in the state

By DOTTY MARTIN
Editor

Virginia Major walked across the hallway and sat down in the only chair available. She took off her high-heeled shoes and lit a cigarette. Next to her stood her middle child, Judy, as the two women from Huntsville waited somewhat nervously to enter the Miss America Ball at Convention Hall in Atlantic City Saturday night, or actually, early Sunday morning.

It had been a rather exciting week for the Majors, but this particular day was marred with disappointment. Gina Major, Mrs. Major's eldest daughter, reportedly had a better than average chance of making the Top 10 finalist in the 1984 Miss America Pageant, but her childhood dreams were shattered when her name was not among the 10 called at the onset of the pageant. Gina would not be Miss America 1985 and, although she would spend the next nine months serving out her reign as Miss Pennsylvania, that somehow did not seem consoling enough to a woman who had followed her daughter's career as closely as Virginia Major had followed Gina's.

"I guess this is how any mother would feel," the 48-year-old mother of three said, almost as if trying to justify her feelings. "After you've laughed with them, you've cried with them, you've been through everything with them...." Her voice faded with the memories.

Mrs. Major expressed disappointment for the nearly 300 people who had made the trip to Atlantic City to support Gina. It was not, however, disappointment in her daughter that she was feeling, but rather disappointment in the situation. She was very proud of Gina Saturday night — that was written all over her face.



Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Waving to the crowd

Gina Major, Miss Pennsylvania 1984 sits atop a white convertible as she rides in the Miss America Parade on the boardwalk in Atlantic City last Tuesday evening.

"Gina told me just last Friday she had prepared as best she could for this," Mrs. Major said, as the crowd at the door of the Miss America Ball thickened. "She told me she was prepared to do her best and, if she won, it would be great. But, if she didn't, she would continue to make her personal appearances and con-

tinue her role as Miss Pennsylvania. She really did have a good attitude about things."

Gina may have done her best, but it was Sharlene Wells, Miss Utah, who took the ever-famous runway walk as Miss America 1985. A Mormon who grew up in South America, Miss Wells won the crowd over with a Spanish

musical rendition on a golden harp. During the talent performance, Miss Wells acted almost as if she knew she was going to win the crown, looking as pleased with her performance as America's Mary Lou Retton looked after a 10-point vault during the 1984 Summer Olympics in Los Angeles.

Although Miss Major appeared stunning in her royal blue strapless evening gown as the Miss America 1984 Pageant entered into thousands of homes across the United States, she and 40 other pageant contestants introduced themselves, took a short walk on the runway and were not to be seen again until the final portion of the contest when all the hopefuls were reunited for the conclusion.

Gina's introduction of herself as Miss Pennsylvania was met with a loud roar and round of applause from the balcony section of the 25,000-seat Convention Hall as the 300 people Mrs. Major spoke of let their hometown favorite know they were on her side. Miss Major's supporters included two buses of fellow employees of her mothers from the Acme Warehouse in Forty Fort, a group of family and church friends, 80 people from the Philadelphia area where Gina was employed as a public relations consultant with Strawbridge & Clothier Department Store prior to being named Miss Pennsylvania, some friends and some college classmates from the Lehigh Valley area.

Although those 300 people in the balcony and the hundreds of Back Mountain residents who had tuned into the national telecast may have been sitting on the edge of their seats during the Top 10 countdown, Mrs. Major was spared the suspense. The names of the Top 10 finalists were supposed to be released at 8

(See GINA, page 8)

At Misericordia

Sister Marianna Gildea, RSM remembers early college days

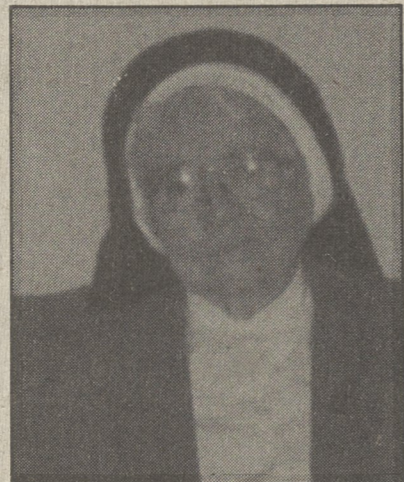
By JOAN KINGSBURY
Staff Correspondent

With the celebration of the 60th anniversary of the opening of College Misericordia this weekend, it is appropriate to reflect on what the college was like in its early days. Sister Marianna Gildea, RSM, a member of the first freshmen class who graduated in 1928, has agreed to share her experiences with us. The following information is taken from Sister Marianna's "College Misericordia Flashback."

Although the "99 plus acres of farmland" on which College Misericordia was to be constructed was purchased by a group of local men, then transferred to the ownership of the Sisters of Mercy in 1914, construction of the college was delayed due to World War I. By 1920, Philadelphia architect Ferdinand Durgan was contracted to commence work on plans for the college. Construction began with the building being ready for occupation in the fall of 1924. On a "raw, cold" September 15, College Misericordia was dedicated. That college building is today the central part of the administration building.

College Misericordia opened its doors on September 24, 1924. Sister Marianna and 14 classmates in addition to the few transfers from other colleges, comprised the entire student body.

"Four freshmen were from Ashley; Mary Higgins, Angela Carey and Helen Laffin from St. Leo's High School, Margaret Davis from the public high school. Anne Czulegar and Freda Thalenfeld were from Wilkes-Barre Public High School; Mary McCarthy and Elizabeth Evans were from St. Mary's; Dorothy Kane was from St. Ann's Academy, Frances Murphy was from Sacred Heart High School in Plains, Margaret Allen was from Pittston, Mary Schoonover and Rose



SR. MARIANNE GILDEA

Fleming were from St. Agnes High School, Towanda and Fanny Spiegel and Marianna Gildea were from Luzerne High School. Three of the first students were Jewish, two were Protestant. The remaining students were Catholic.

"On the first day, a dark blue bus with College Misericordia printed on the side in gold letters picked up the day students in Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne (Sr. Marianna's hometown), Fernbrook and Dallas."

Although the girls did not wear uniforms the first day, their dark blue uniform trimmed in light blue buttons and a wide blue belt and white lace collar soon became recognizable. (Students discontinued wearing the last evidence of a school uniform, a blazer, in 1960.)

All the girls were in liberal arts studies. They studied history, logic, religion, Greek literature in translation from Homer to Theocritus, then Latin literature, anatomy, hygiene. Dr. James J. Walsh taught Physiological psychology. Agnes Berry was gym teacher; Julia Janice Koons gave some instruction in aesthetic dancing.

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Dallas Post/Ed Campbell

Leading the way

Members of the Lake-Lehman band front lead the way for the Black Knights Marching Band in the 1984 Miss America Parade last Tuesday on the boardwalk in Atlantic City. The Lehman band, which preceded Gina Major, Miss Pennsylvania, during the parade, won top honors.

Lehman Band best in parade

The award winning Lake-Lehman Band, under the direction of John Millauskas, copped yet another honor as it was awarded First Place in the 1984 Miss America Parade on the boardwalk in Atlantic City last Tuesday.

The parade, which kicked off Miss America Week in Atlantic City, consisted of bands, lavish floats, various civic organizations, as well as all 51 Miss America contestants. In the parade, the band preceded Miss Gina Major, Miss Pennsylvania 1984, who is a former member of the Black Knights Marching Band.

The trip, sponsored by the Lake-Lehman School Board, included three buses of parents, friends and administrators who accompanied the band on the trip.

The buses arrived in Atlantic City at approximately 1 p.m., allowing band members some free time before the start of the parade at 8 p.m. that evening.

Traveling to participate in a parade of this caliber was certainly exciting to the students, especially since Miss Pennsylvania, or her family, is known by many of the band members. The honor of

marching in front of Miss Pennsylvania, combined with winning first place, will certainly make this parade one the Lake-Lehman Band members will remember for many years.

Dallas prepares to host Tournament of Bands

Dallas Area Tournament of Bands is scheduled for Sunday, Sept. 30, at the Dallas High School football field. Scheduled to begin at 1 p.m.,

the tournament is expected to continue until approximately 7 p.m.

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