

## Carnival '76



### The King

Cotton is a business to Matthew Carter Stovall. It also is a tradition and a way of life for the King of the 1976 Memphis Cotton Carnival. The 50-year old monarch of the Carnival realm brings to the annual festival one of the strongest cotton heritages in the history of the event.

King Carter has spent his entire adult life in cotton's mainstream, following paths trod by his father,

the late William Howard Stovall, and his grandfather, the late William Howard Stovall, Sr., both of whom farmed properties still operated by King Carter at Stovall.

This year's King of Cotton joined the family operation soon after his graduation from Yale University and farmed independently at Sumner, Mississippi from 1958 to 1964, when he returned to Stovall Farms to operate part of the family lands until his father's death in 1970. At that time King Carter became General Manager of the entire Stovall farming network.

Today King Carter is President of five farm operating companies, an irrigation supply business and a gin. He also heads an extensive cattle raising and feeding operation. The Stovall enterprises have been expanded in recent years and cotton acreage now is almost 100 percent greater than it was in 1971. Some of the original land which was first settled by the family of the wife of Colonel Stovall in 1836 has been planted in cotton for more than 100 years. Cotton remains the major crop at Stovall.

King Carter, who earned cum laude honors at Lawrenceville School in New Jersey and was a dean's list scholar at Yale, has carried the attainment pattern through both his professional life and his social and civic activities. His credentials of accomplishments span the broad range from local to national levels.

He is director and member of the Executive Committee of First National Bank of Clarksdale, Mississippi, a director and Vice President of the Riverside Cooperative Association and President of the Delta Council until May when he becomes Chairman

of the Board for a tenure through 1977.

In addition, King Carter is a director of North Delta Compress, Lee Academy and the Mississippi Semmental Association. He has served as Director, President and Chairman of the Board of Cotton Council International and of the American Red Cross. The Carnival King also has been Chairman of National Cotton Council Foreign Operations and an advisor to the National Council.

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The 1976 King of Cotton is married to the former Nancy McNew Gilmore of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. His mother, the former Eleanor Doyle Carter of Memphis, lives at the Belmont Plantation at Stovall.

The Stovall children are Meriwether Lewis Stovall of New York, New York and William Howard Stovall, IV and Lawrence Gilmore Stovall, both of Clarksdale.

King Carter did not assume his throne without family precedent. His father was King of the Cotton Carnival in 1948 and, as is his son, was an innovative leader in the cotton industry. The King and his sons are all former pages in past royal courts and his two brothers are also former pages.

The new King will reign throughout the month of Carnival activities that culminate in nine festive days, April 30 - May 8.



### The Queen

Dorothy Dobson Dunavant is a natural for the role of Queen of the 1976 Memphis Cotton Carnival. She has the beauty, the background and the sparkle expected of royalty. Queen Dorothy is a daughter of cotton royalty and she is soundly versed in intricacies of the cotton industry.

The 21-year old Queen of Cotton was born in Memphis, a daughter of Mrs. Dobson Dunavant of 1605 West Massey Road and William Buchanan Dunavant, Jr., of 7400 Crestridge Road in Germantown. Mr. Dunavant

was King of Cotton Carnival in 1973 and Queen Dorothy was a Lady-in-Waiting that year.

Queen Dorothy is a senior majoring in General Business at Louisiana State University. Throughout her educational career the blue-eyed brunette has been an academic, social and athletic standout. She was graduated by The Hutchinson School in Memphis after amassing an enviable record of achievements.

