And Her Majesty

"Being selected Cotton Carnival Queen is the hardest secret I've ever had to keep," says 1981 Queen Peggy

The 20-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neely S. Garrott Jr., said when she was asked to be Queen last summer she was determined to trick everyone into not guessing who the new queen would be.

"I figured since I was so young, no one would guess I was Queen, but many have asked and some have guessed," she said.

It's really no surprise that Queen Peggy was chosen to reign over this year's Carnival. A Cotton Carnival Princess for the Memphis Garden Club in 1979, the new Queen and her family have always been active in the yearly festivities.

Her sister, Lucy, was Princess to the Memphis Garden Club in 1968 and Queen of Osiris in 1970. Lucy is married to Ben Woodson, 1974 Cotton Carnival King and the present Cotton Carnival Association president. Queen Peggy's brother, Stanley, who lives in New York, was Prince to the Memphis Country Club in 1975.

The new Queen has another sister, Dorothy, who is living in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. Queen Peggy, who has taken a year off from her studies at Mount Vernon College in Washington, D.C., lives with her parents and works as a teller for Union Planters Bank.



"Queen Mother" Dottie helps a radiant Queen Peggy prepare for another fast-paced day of Carnival celebration.



Helping Queen Peggy put on the finishing touches are her mother, Dottie Garrott and her sister, Lucy Woodson.

Queen Peggy says she grew up on her family's farm in Louise, Ark., where her father, a cotton producer and ginner, helped run N. S. Garrott and Sons Cotton Producers and Ginners.

Her paternal grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Neely Stanley Garrott. Mr. Garrott was president of the cotton firm. Queen Peggy's maternal grandparents were the late Mr. and Mrs. William A. Webster. Mr. Webster was President of William A. Webster Pharmaceutical Company.

Celebrating cotton and Memphis heritage with Cotton Carnival is "what our region is all about" says the new Queen. And the addition of the Krewe system has her excited about this year's Carnival.

"It's about time the Carnival was really, totally, brought to the people," she said. "The neighborhood Krewes and the MusicFest will really include everybody in some way. I'd like to see all the stores shut down for a week during Carnival for total civic involvement!"

Queen Peggy is a graduate of the Hutchison School, where she was voted Most School Spirited. Active in many organizations, she was president of Chez Nous Intersorority, a member of Four Seasons and is currently a member of Girls Dinner Club and Falderal.

A member of Second Presbyterian Church, the 1981 Queen was presented at the Memphis Country Club Holiday Ball in 1978.

When not working, Queen Peggy enjoys tennis, bicycle riding and has taught and worked in a needlepoint shop in Washington, D.C.