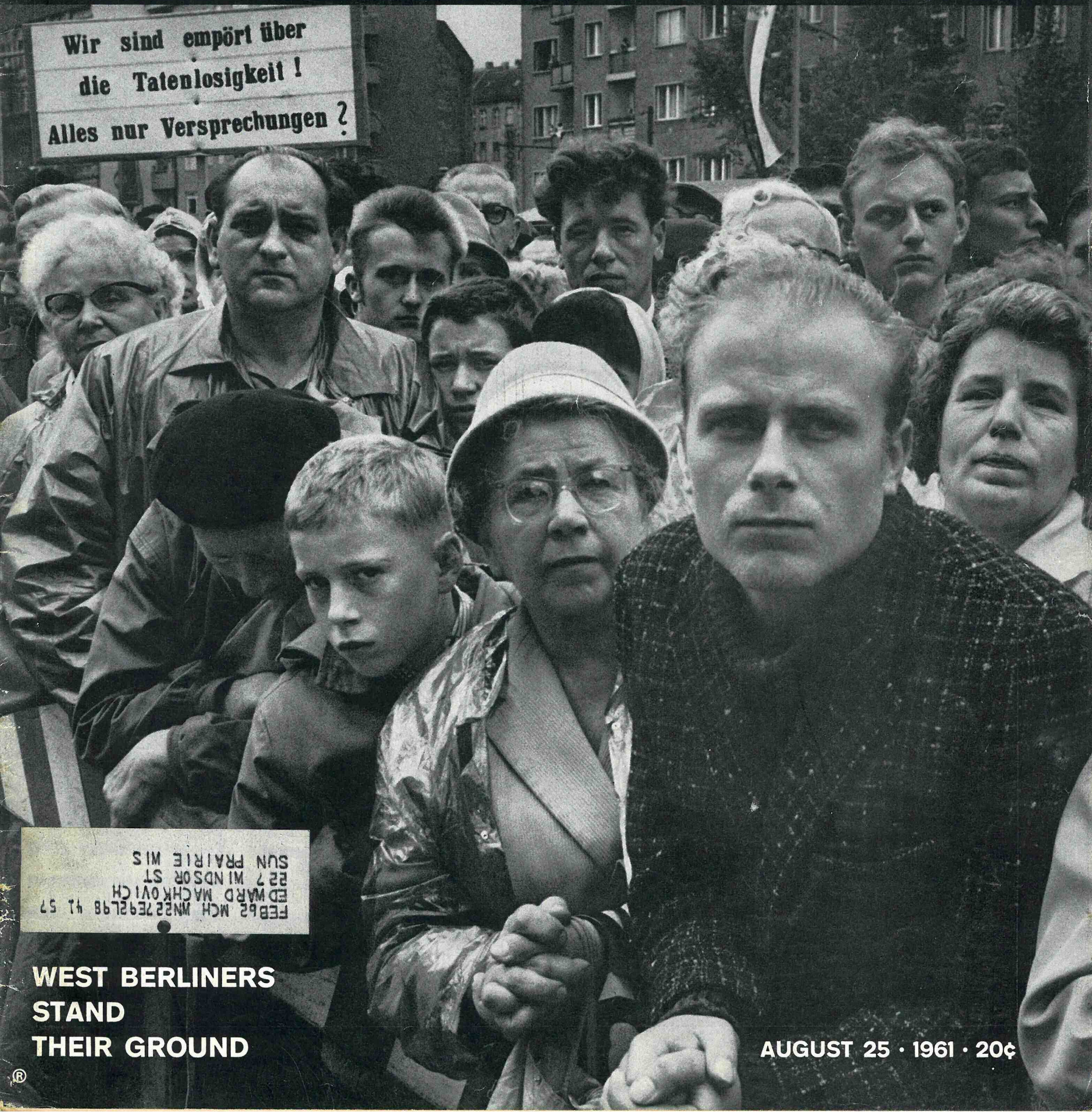


LIFE

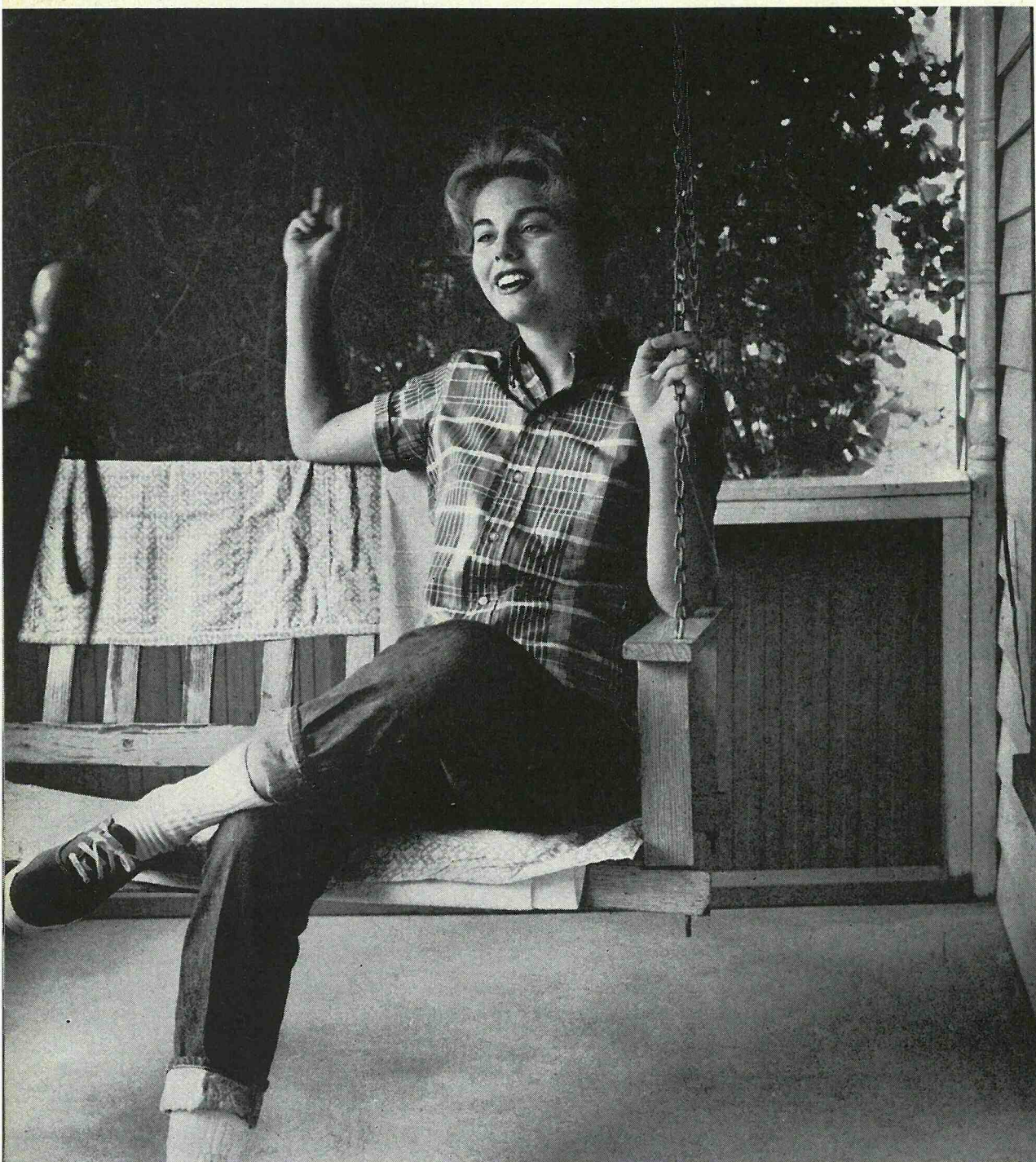
OUR REPORT FROM **BERLIN**

Torn families...
Escapes to freedom...
Heartbreak at
the barbed wire



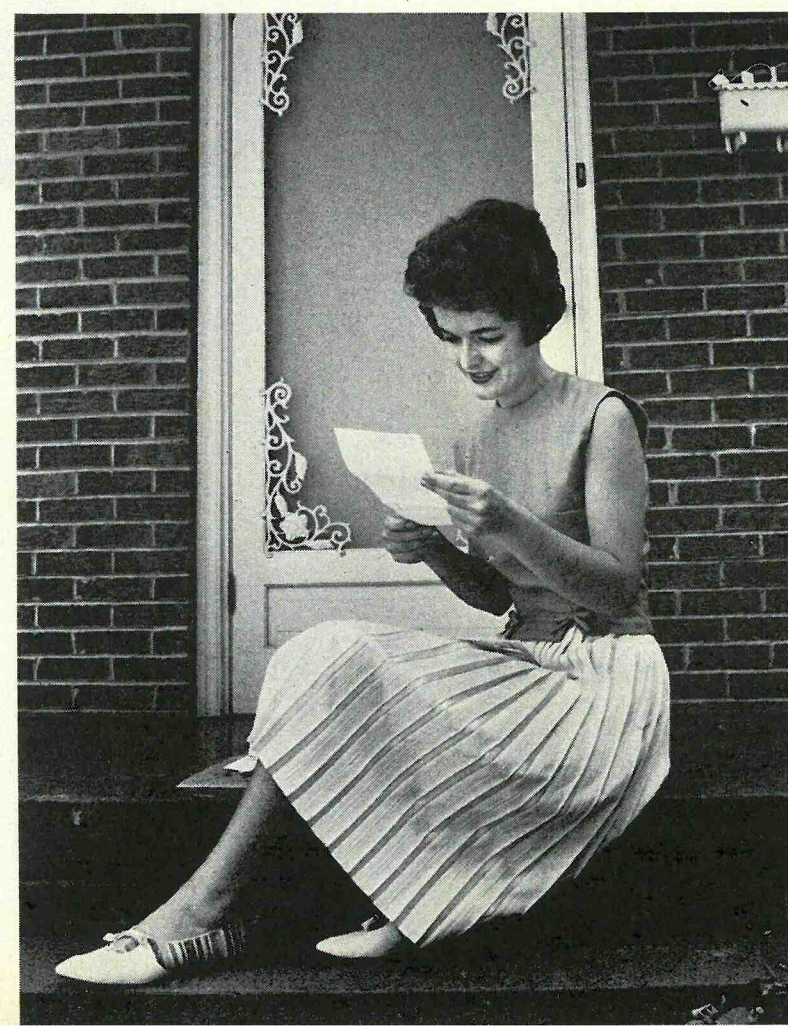
WEST BERLINERS
STAND
THEIR GROUND

AUGUST 25 • 1961 • 20¢



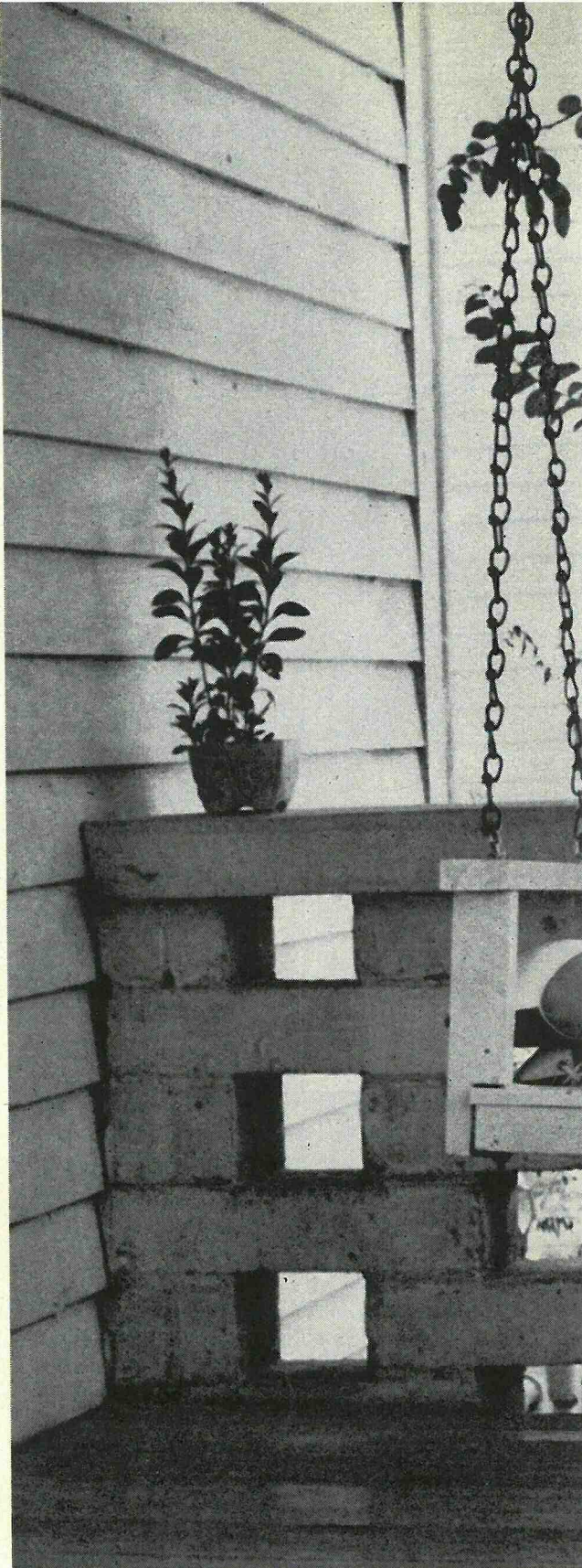
MISS MISSOURI

Sarah Kay Burns swings on grandfather's porch near Caruthersville, Mo. She is 20, and a junior majoring in homemaking. Kay likes to wear blue jeans around home. (They are prohibited on the Ole Miss campus.)



MISS MISSISSIPPI

Annice Raye Jernigan reads congratulatory letter on stoop in New Albany. Annice Raye, 21, is a senior majoring in secretarial science. She says, "Daddy was disappointed I wasn't a boy. I hope this will make up for it."



MISS TENNESSEE

Rita Wilson wears shorts on her porch in Humboldt, Tenn. University discourages shorts. Rita, 20, was picked National Cotton-Pickin' Queen in 1960, is a junior, leads Ole Miss swinging Rebel Band as head majorette.

WHAT'S OLE
Beauty

MISS GOT THAT NO OTHER PLACE HAS?
Queens to Spare

Perched prettily on their front porches are three fetching pieces of evidence that the University of Mississippi has a spectacular corner on beauty, at least the kind that wins contests. "Ole Miss," in Oxford, has supplied two Miss Americas in the last three years and now has vastly enhanced its chances of coming up with still another one by already placing three—count 'em—three, state winners in this year's pageant.

The three—all undergraduates at Ole Miss—will represent their home states at the contest in Atlantic City in September. They are Sarah Kay Burns, Miss Missouri; Rita Wilson, Miss Tennessee; and Annice Raye Jernigan, Miss Mississippi. It was the third time that

each had competed for her state title, although all three hold an impressive string of lesser honors. In winning her Mississippi crown, Annice, moreover, had to overcome a taxing handicap: 12 of the girls she competed against were other Ole Miss students—the most ferocious kind of competition.

There is disagreement as to why the university can keep producing such pulchritude (*see p. 64*) but no disagreement whatsoever that it does. As Kay, Rita and Annice rest or disport in their home towns and practice looking beautiful for the big pageant, it is perfectly clear that once again Ole Miss has a leg up on its third title—six legs, in fact, all well-attached and all splendid.



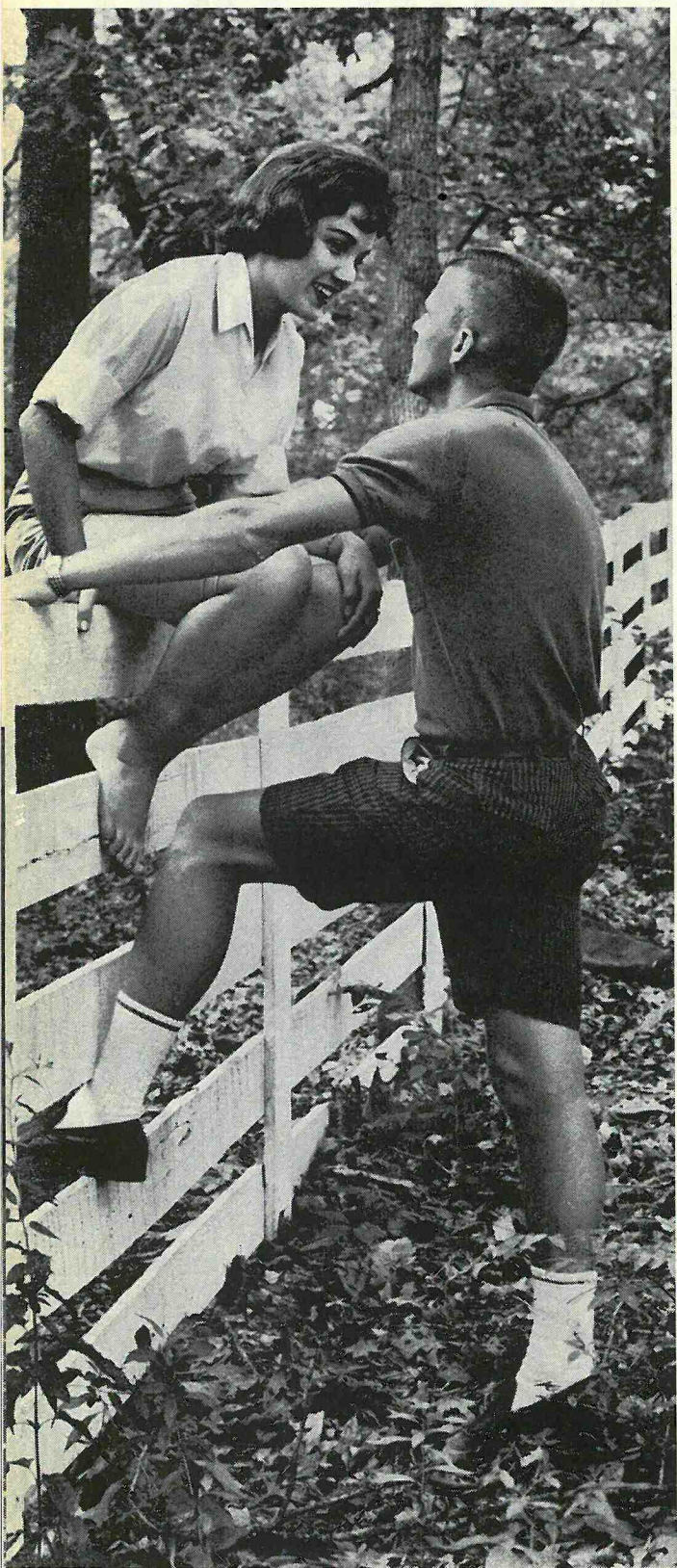
In their white coronation dresses and crowns, queens Rita, Annice and Kay exude triple-threat beauty on campus. Annice designed her dress, patterning decoration on grillwork of screen door.

Three Miss America Candidates ...and Look Who Didn't Win!

Pretty Ole Miss platoon—Annice and her competitors for the crown—lines up in front of showboat. Of 53 girls in state contest, 12 besides Annice (second from right), entered from university.



Asparkle or Sparking, Two Winners



Rita, home in Humboldt, fence-sits in a grove with visiting boyfriend Max James, Air Force Academy cadet. They had not seen each other for 13 months. Max calls Ole Miss "man's paradise."

Posing in the light of a globular living room lamp, Sarah Kay practices looking pretty. Kay, like Rita, wears contact lenses, is a drum major-ette. She was National Catfish Derby Queen.



How Do They Get That Way?

Any American girl between the ages of 18 and 28 who is unmarried and a high school graduate can enter the Miss America contest. There are some 2,500,000 girls in the U.S. who qualify, and the chances against Ole Miss's copping two Miss America titles and now three state titles in three years are what even statisticians feel are phenomenal. It is therefore evident that the place has something going for it. According to the Ole Miss girls, that something is environment. They say that their campus is a sort of hothouse for nurturing beauty. Ardent and courtly swains drift through the magnolia-scented night. Sorority sisters take their evening meals by graceful candlelight. The food is not starchy. The end-product of this concentrated course in graciousness is that the girls feel they have an edge on winning ways when they confront the icy eye of beauty judges.

On the other hand, a dissident group of antienvironmentalists subscribe to the heresy that the reason there are so many charmers at Ole Miss is that so many good-looking girls go there in the first place. They point out that the university gives scholarships to drum majorettes, a notoriously good-looking group (Kay and Rita are both majorette-scholars). It also holds majorette clinics for high school twirlers, exposes them to the lure of the campus, and gets a chance to look them over and maybe recruit a few. And just by turning out so many beauty queens every year Ole Miss naturally tends to attract girls who *want* to be beauty queens, just as Yale attracts boys who want to join country clubs and Ohio State attracts fullbacks. But the girls themselves remain convinced that there's something in the Ole Miss air which does it. "At Miss," says Rita, "even one of the girls who's not very pretty can smile and look very beautiful."



Bringing along the next generation, Annice tries her crown on New Albany neighbor Jamie Hanry, 9. Said Jamie: "Oh, do you think it might be mine someday?" Obviously it might.