



Winning duo-piano team was Brenda Guillory (left) and Frances Shaw



Staff Photos

Carolyn Kirby, who will appear Saturday with Junior Philharmonic group, is also on track team at her school

FOR THE FUTURE

By JOY JACKSON

COWBOYS AND INDIANS LOST OUT to the sugar plum fairy when the 13-year-old boy sat down at the piano one Saturday morning.

Young Kendrick Smith was auditioning before three sharp-eared judges of the Junior Philharmonic Society of New Orleans. Back in Lake Charles, La., his chums were out for week-end adventures, but Smith's adventure was more important to him. A tap of the audition chairman's pencil started him on his task: Tchaikovsky's "Dance of the Sugar Plum Fairy."

The only out-of-town contestant among 36 competing youngsters, Kendrick walked off with a "plum" of his own. He was declared one of the six winners of the January auditions and will appear in the society's recital this coming Saturday.

A smooth-playing, hard-practicing young pianist, Kendrick shows the type of promising talent that is spotlighted each year by the Junior Philharmonic. He has been studying piano since he was five and wants to be a concert artist someday. Last year he took his first step in that direction by appearing as a guest artist with the Houston Youth Symphony orchestra. Sports-loving as well as music-minded, he won trophies in archery and track. He also won a scholarship with the Houston Conservatory of Music.

But Kendrick isn't the only auditions winner who mixes sports with music. Carolyn Kirby, 11-year-old pianist, is on the track team at Andrew H. Wilson school. Justine Bernard, 13, another pianist winner, is fond of canoeing, tennis and horseback riding. Justine has the distinction of being a three-time winner of Junior Philharmonic auditions. She comes by her musical talents rightly since both her parents are music teachers (her father, Guy F. Bernard, heads Loyola's music department) and her sister plays French horn in the Newman school band.

THREE OTHER JUNIOR MUSICIANS, who will perform Saturday used a touch of showmanship in their auditions performances.

Two 11-year-olds, Brenda Guillory and Frances Shaw, found it gave them confidence to play piano duets. So they put their heads and fingers together and wound up as a winning team. To look as harmonious as they sounded, the girls even dressed as similarly as possible, including pony-tail hair styles and matching bobby socks.

But most original of the auditionists was Russell Steele, a dapper 10-year-old, who played three brass horns, each bigger than the other. He performed on

the trombone, baritone and bass horns. Russell also plays the giant-sized tuba (the Sousaphone) which he decided to leave at home during auditions.

This Saturday at 11:30 a. m., when Kendrick and his five fellow musicians step out on Newcomb college's Dixon hall stage to perform, memories of the auditions will probably come back to them. Although these youngsters hope they will be appearing before a packed auditorium, they admit their audience won't seem as awe-inspiring as the three judges they faced at the auditions.

Now that they've proved they are concert material, they shouldn't have any trouble going on to further musical triumphs. The long list of young artists who got in Junior Philharmonic programs attests to that. It includes Metropolitan Opera auditions winner Charles Anthony Caruso and New York City Center Opera singer Norman Treigle, Gerald Teijelo of the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, and Jack Heller, now studying violin on the highest scholarship offered by Julliard School of Music in New York.

But even if Saturday's six young musicians never appear before an audience again, they'll have their world of fun this week end—being "guest artists for a day."



Member of musical family, Justine Bernard has won auditions three times



Kendrick Smith of Lake Charles was the only out-of-town competitor



Smith, Brenda Guillory and Frances Shaw crowd near Mrs. Ralph Friedel (right), auditions chairman, after judges gave verdict, to find out who won