

Youths Enjoy Moonlight Cruise

By RALPH BATES
Sentinel Staff

Aboard Miss Cape Canaveral — The Harbor Baptist Church, Eau Gallie, made a pioneering effort for its young people Saturday night, by sponsoring a moonlight cruise on the Inland Waterway. The cruise provided an enjoyable alternate for those youths not wishing to attend the traditional Junior-Senior High School Prom.

The cruise idea was formulated and put into action by Dr. Jamie Buckingham, pastor of Harbor Baptist Church, for the youths of his congregation. It had a big advantage in that it provided the youngsters with good, wholesome recreation, while doing away with the problem of alcoholic beverages and other undesirable aspects of prom night that have increased in recent years throughout the country.

Did the youths enjoy the cruise under the stars? They certainly did, according to their comments. Misses Martha Watson and Brenda Yeary said, "Wonderful! It's really very nice, and quite different from anything we've done before." Jack Olk, a student at Brevard Junior College, and Vikki Henry, a senior at Eau Gallie, agreed that it was wonderful, and that they were having a great time.

heard were that the prom cost too much, and that it really wasn't that much fun. The youths felt that the cruise was a good idea, and expressed their hopes that they could participate in more cruises in the future, and related outings. One young lady said there really weren't many desirable activities in the area, and that they all needed was for the adult members of the church to provide the organization necessary to provide such interesting and worthwhile activities as the night excursion on the inland waters.

Some of the comments of the older members along on the cruise were that they wished they had been given a similar opportunity when they were teen-agers during prom time.

Members of the church group arrived at Port Canaveral around 3 p.m. Saturday, and were welcomed aboard the Miss Canaveral by Dave Davis, who arranges tours and fishing trips for the ship.

While the group orientated themselves with the ship, the lines were cast off from the pier and the cruise was under way. The first stop was in the Canaveral locks, where the cruise members enjoyed the scenic view under starlit skies. Then it was through the locks and on to the Barge Canal, and into the Indian River. The trip south was

very smooth and the wind was with the vessel, making for very pleasant boating conditions.

THE VISITORS enjoyed the sights of hardy fishermen, both in boats and on the banks of the river. A houseboat with its weekend occupants brought forth the image of a perfect way of life.

The sky was partly cloudy, but stars were twinkling to form a pleasant cover for those on board, and through rain was expected, it never occurred.

During the trip, Dr. Buckingham and other church members entertained with guitar selections, and the youths responded with songs. However, the wind increased, and the music quit since it couldn't compete with nature.

After the docking at the pier in Port Canaveral, Dr. Buckingham led a short service on the top deck of the ship. He instructed the youths of the church to line up their goals, and they would achieve them. He told the members not to worry about being different from the crowd, since many times the crowd had no suitable goals and could be wrong in its actions.

After a short prayer, the visitors left the ship, busily discussing future trips they hoped to make, and very pleased they had chosen the moonlight cruise in-prom.

OTHER COMMENTS



Boat Passengers

Daniel Perdue and Arlinda Rethtvisch are a charming, well-dressed example of Harbor Baptist Church youth group on moonlight cruise on the water way aboard the Miss Cape Canaveral.