

Abby Dalton Queen Of Azalea Festival

Willow blonde television actress Abby Dalton will be queen of the 1964 North Carolina Azalea Festival in Wilmington April 2-5.

Miss Dalton, who will be Queen Azalea XVII, is known to TV viewers as Ellie Barnes on the Joey Bishop show. Prior to that she was Navy nurse Martha Hale on the "Hennessey" series.

As Queen Azalea XVII, Abby will preside over all events



during the 1964 Azalea Festival, including riding on a special

float during the mammoth Saturday morning parade.

A former model and cover girl, Abby's first acting experience occurred in a Los Angeles kindergarten. Her family had moved to Southern California from Las Vegas, Nev., where she was born.

Except for three years during World War II when her parents were in Panama, Abby spent her growing-up years in and around Los Angeles. She whizzed through the public school system and out into a world of dancing and modeling. At 13, she was teaching dancing.

During her high school years, Abby modeled part time for a Los Angeles department store. She continued modeling after graduation, appearing on the covers of numerous monthly magazines and on the jackets of

several hit record albums.

In 1956, deciding to return temporarily to dancing, she auditioned successfully for a Las Vegas nightclub act. Four months later she turned to acting.

In two and one-half years, Abby appeared in six movies and a dozen top television shows. Her feature films included "Viking Women," "Cole Younger, Gunfighter" and "Rock All Night," in all of which she had the lead.

On television, her exploits in the saddle and with firearms--plus her increasing development as a talented actress--quickly won her coveted parts in "Have Gun, Will Travel," "Rawhide," "Rifleman," "Maverick" and others.

Abby is an expert skier and boxing fan and likes to cook Mexican food. She met her real life husband, Jack Smith, a wholesale electrical supplier, while both were skiing on the Southern California slopes. When she and her husband aren't indulging in winter sports, they

can be found participating in some other sports activity virtually the year round-- water skiing, swimming, skin diving or fishing.

Abby also is an expert seamstress, having designed her wedding gown and much of her wardrobe.

As the Azalea Queen, Abby succeeds television actress Nancy Malone.

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