



Duplin Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

Azalea Festival Edition

VOL. 20, No. 13 Section 3

KENANSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, March 26, 1953

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: 3.50 per year in Duplin and adjoining counties; \$4.00 outside this area in N. C.; \$5.00 outside N. C.

PRICE TEN CENTS

Wilmington's 6th. Azalea Festival Opens Today

More Than 150,000 Persons To See Over One Million Azaleas

Wilmington, N. C.—An extravaganza of nature—the riot of color formed by the blooms of more than a million azaleas—will herald spring in this historic North Carolina resort.

And the azaleas themselves will be saluted by the Sixth Annual Wilmington Azalea Festival on March 26 - 29.

More than 150,000 persons, three times the city's total population, are expected to be on hand to take part in the four-day program that each year draws visitors from all over the United States.

But the same community spirit that has made the Festival a nationally known event also is extended to providing accommodations for visitors. Hotels and inns at the nearby beaches, normally closed during March, are opened for the Festival period.

The main feature of the Festival is the azalea. But in addition to the more than a million azaleas the landscape is enhanced by the blooming camellias, wisteria and dogwood.

The flowers are expected to be at their peak for this year's Festival. They burst into breath-taking masses of bloom early in March at the world famous gardens at Greenfield Lake, Orton Plantation and Airlie; and by the end of March the city and surrounding areas are wearing a mantle of azaleas.

Greenfield a city park, has been termed one of the most beautiful municipally owned gardens in the world. Its expansive lake is dotted with stately cypresses, laden with Spanish moss, and azaleas, camellias and dogwood bloom along its banks. A scenic five mile drive surrounds the lake.

Historic Orton Plantation was established in 1728. It is located on the Cape Fear River 17 miles south of the city and is famous for its beautifully planned garden. Orton



Wilmington's Azalea Festival Queen

Lovely young Ursula Thiess will rule over the 1953 Azalea Festival in Wilmington on March 26-29.

Miss Thiess, a striking brunette, has been described as "the most beautiful girl in the world." She recently played the leading female role in the movie "Monsoon."

Headed by Governor William B. Umstead, the Festival will be Queen Azalea VI, a motion picture actress. Her court will include Miss North Carolina 1952, Barbara Ann Harris, as her maid of honor; the winner of the Mutual Network's Queen for a Day Program, Margaret Lee, a student at the University of North Carolina; and the Wilmington teenage princess, who will have her own attendance at the numerous Eastern N. C. events.

What is a reasoning creature who delights in logic until it threatens his pet prejudice.

Cape Fear Garden Club Sponsoring A Garden Tour

Wilmington, N. C.—The Cape Fear Garden Club of Wilmington this year is sponsoring a garden tour during the 1953 Azalea Festival.

The tour will be conducted on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, March 27 - 29, from 10 a. m. except during the hours of the parade Saturday.

Mrs. Charles Cavanaugh, chairman of the Cape Fear Garden Club Tour Committee, today announced that the pilgrimages would include the following homes and gardens: Pleasant Oaks on Orton Road, on the river road to Southport. The plantation was granted to the widow of John Moore in 1728. A legend is repeated that the "Widow Moore's Creek" was named after the owner. The creek, now known as Moore's Creek, was the site of the first victory of the Revolution, won on February 27, 1776. Pleasant Oaks will not be included on the Sunday tour.

The Bellamy Mansion at Fifth and Market Streets. The stately building of Grecian architecture is known familiarly in the history of the War Between the States.

The gardens that are included on the tour include those of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Millican, 2504 Metts Avenue; Mrs. P. R. Smith, 416 Forest Hills Drive; Mr. and Mrs. J. Henry Gerdes, Forest Hills Drive; Mr. and Mrs. Peter Brown Ruffin, 530 Forest Hills Drive; Miss Ruth Loman in Auduborn; Martin Pearlman on Wrightsville Sound; Mrs. Marjorie Burns, 1015 Hawthorne Rd. and Mrs. and Mrs. Henry Rehder, 2943 Olander Drive.

Hostesses will be on duty at every garden and tickets are on sale at the Chamber of Commerce, Rehder's Florist and at the gardens. Guide sheets will be distributed with the purchase of each ticket and will show the best route to view to all gardens.

Festival Visitors To See Largest, Colorful Parade

Wilmington — What appears to be the largest and most colorful parade ever held in North Carolina is taking shape for the sixth annual Azalea Festival here.

The gala parade on Sat., March 28, has been assured of 51 floats, 23 bands, five drum and bugle corps and seven marching units; festival officials announced today. The total is growing daily as the mammoth event nears.

High school bands which have accepted invitations are Elizabeth City, Morehead City, Farmville, Jacksonville, Rockingham, Beaufort, Laurinburg, Pitt and Duplin counties, Mineral Springs, Cary, Tarboro, Shallotte, Dunn, Goldsboro, Southport, Elizabethtown, New Bern and Lake View, S. C.

Three Wilmington school bands will participate along with the Sudan Temple and American Legion drum and bugle corps and the Sudan Oriental band from Fayetteville.

Edward Military Institute at Salem will be represented by its band and creek drill platoon. A group of horsemen and clowns, participating in the four-day Azalea Championship rodeo will perform in the parade. The local high school ROTC units will march.

Military units will include the 82nd Airborne Division band from Fort Bragg and the Camp Lejeune Drum and Bugle Corps, color guard, and a battalion of Marines, Cherry 2nd Marine Air Wing Band, color guard, and a detachment of Women Marines.

Coast Guardsmen from Mendota cutter based here, will take part in the parade, along with the huge 70 piece U. S. Airforce Drum and Bugle Corps which will be flown to Wilmington direct from Washington.

A detachment of 150 aviation cadets from Kinston Air Base will march, it was announced today. They represent virtually all countries in the United Nations and are taking training in this country.

Sea College in Raleigh will send its famous Redoubt Drum and Bugle Corps and two precision drill platoons.

The Azalea Festival, in addition to the parade, will include visits to historic gardens, the rodeo, a street dance, harness horse races and other attractions.

The gardens, headed by the Cape Fear River and huge ponds contain countless azaleas, camellias, dogwoods, magnolias, hollies, pines and moss-draped oaks.

The plantation is located about eight miles from Wilmington on the large Road to Southport, a short distance from the world-famous Cape Fear River.

Diamond Rodeo Scheduled For Three Nights Run In Wilmington



ROUGH RIDING -- Adding color to this year's Sixth Annual Azalea Festival in Wilmington on March 26 - 29 will be a four-day western rodeo, the Azalea Championship Rodeo.

The program will feature bull riding, something the cowboy above almost accomplished, calf roping, steer wrestling, saddle bronc riding, bareback riding and specialty acts.

Wilmington—A four-day, fence-bustin' rodeo is to have a large part in entertainment of the record-breaking crowds expected here for the sixth annual Azalea Festival March 27-29 from 10 a. m. until 5 p. m. except during the hours of the works is to stage the affair in Legion Stadium.

The Diamond B Rodeo is scheduled to run off three night performances and a matinee affair in the oval on the southern end of the city and when they move in they will bring all the fixin's for red-hot competition.

The night performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and the Sunday afternoon show are expected to draw capacity crowds as the Diamond B puts on the largest show of its kind ever to appear in North Carolina.

The traveling troupe runs the full route in riding, with trick roping and trick riding thrown in as icing on the cake of regular rodeo competition events. Saddle-bronc riding, bulldogging, calf-roping, bull riding and bareback-riding are the point makers for the professional cowboys the circuit and that's when they give it the old ranch try—for there's cash as well as points for national ratings in every performance in every event.

The Rodeo Cowboys Association, national governing body for rodeo performers, sanctions performances of the Diamond B and every placing in every event goes down in the RCA's books of overall performance—and at the end of the Continued on Back Page.

'The Most Beautiful Girl In The World' Will Reign Over Wilmington's Festival

Wilmington - One of Hollywood's loveliest actresses, Ursula Thiess, will reign over Wilmington's 1953 Azalea Festival on March 26 - 29 as Queen Azalea VI.

Miss Thiess, who has been described as "the most beautiful girl in the world," succeeds Cathy Downs, who ruled during the Fifth Annual Festival last year.

Not since the advent of Great Garbo and Marlene Dietrich over 20 years ago has any foreign-born actress created such a stir in film-land as has this new discovery of RKO Radio Studios, according to movie critics.

Queen Ursula was recognized as a top model in her native Germany and was granted the "most beautiful girl" title by the British press.

She recently played the leading feminine role in the movie "Monsoon" which was filmed in India for the Film Group, and her first American movie is scheduled to go into production soon.

Her romance with star Robert Taylor has brought her much attention in the West Coast film capital.

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And The Azalea Festival

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Pleasant Oaks Will Be Open To Festival Visitors

Wilmington, N. C.—Pleasant Oaks Plantation, a 4000 acre estate with one of the South's most beautiful gardens, will be open to visitors during the Azalea Festival here March 27-29.

WELCOME VISITORS To Wilmington And The Azalea Festival We Hope You Enjoy The Seasons Festivities

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