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Azalea Festival To Be Biggest And Best Ever

WILMINGTON - Lovely television star Nancy Malone, Queen Azalea XVI, arrives in Wilmington Thursday morning to get the four-day North Carolina Azalea Festival under way. Miss Malone, who plays the part of Libby on "Naked City," will reign over all Festival events and head a host of celebrities who

will be here for the annual event. Highlighting the schedule for this year's edition of the Azalea Festival are a free variety show and fireworks Thursday night, performances of the Queen's Coronation Pageant Friday and Saturday nights, the mammoth Azalea Festival parade Saturday morning and the Coronation Ball Saturday night.

Other Azalea Festival events will include band concerts on board the battleship USS North Carolina, the outdoor Cottage Lane are show, open house on board the Coast Guard Cutter Mendota, two Navy destroyers and a submarine, a worship service in the ruins of St. Phillips Church in Old Brunswick, the first anniversary celebration of St. John's Art Gallery, and a sailboat regatta.

Stars of the big show along with the queen will be the city's more than one million azaleas, just beginning to bloom and which officials say will be at their height during the Azalea Festival.

Arnold Peterson, head of the city Park and Recreation Department, said azaleas in Greenfield Gardens and elsewhere in the city will be "as pretty as they've ever been" if warm weather continues. He said azaleas are coming into their height this week.

At Orton Plantation a spokesman said flowers will be in full bloom with early azaleas at their peak and other spring flowers in full color. Airlie Gardens makes a similar report.

Backing up Queen Azalea XVI will be Joe E. Ross and Fred Gwynne, who as Toody and Muldoon are stars of Car 54, Where Are You? Brad Tillery, Festival president, said the pair will set a new "first" for the Azalea Festival in that they will put on a 30-minute nightclub-type act at the Coronation Pageants instead of only being introduced as has been the case with top celebrities in the past.

Others to appear this year include James Drury, who plays title role in television's The Virginian; Sally Ann Hart and Patricia Newberry, beauty queens from the famed Cypress Gardens in Florida; Miss Marcel Wilson, Hawaiian beauty who was the Miss USA contestant in the Miss Universe competition; country music singer George Hamilton, IV, Miss North Carolina, Jance Barron of Morganton, and a host of others.

Bands from throughout the state, marching units and more than 40 floats will be seen in Saturday morning's mammoth parade, one of the highlights of the Azalea Festival.

Festival officials promise this year's extravaganza will be the biggest and best in the 16-year history of the North Carolina Azalea Festival.

On Your Mark . . .



It's News To Me

by Betty Carroll

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HATS OFF FOR DI-CHLORICIDE

THIS MAY BE the year of the hare to the Chinese, but to many fashionable women, this past season has been the year of the fur hat. We hope you won't let a moth have a summer festival with yours. Your fur chapeau deserves the best moth protection with one of the fine DI-CHLORICIDE moth products available at your drug store.

Mrs. America Contest

OVER \$30,000 in prizes will be awarded homemakers who display outstanding skills in the 24th annual Mrs. America Contest, April 22nd through April 29th at the Golden Gate Hotel, Miami Beach, Fla.

Gardens In Bloom At Wilmington

Springtime has brought a riot of color to the Port City of Wilmington and the southeastern tier of counties of North Carolina. Having been held back a little by cool weather, blooms of many species of spring plants are opening at the same time to present a genuine spectacle of lavish color all over the coastal area, but particularly in and around Wilmington.

The "City of a Million Azaleas," the public gardens of Greenfield Lake, with a five-mile scenic drive, the famous Orton Plantation nearby, and Airlie Gardens, between Wilmington and Wrightsville Beach, are expected to be in peak bloom from April 6 through Easter Sunday, the 14th, with a good bloom thereafter, holding for the better part of the month.

This spring the azaleas, dogwood, and wisteria, along with some late camellias, are all blooming at the same time to the delight of the thousands of visitors who visit the area annually.

Watch Insurance "Grace Period"

The habit of "riding the 31-day grace period" has caused the lapse of GI insurance policies for many hundreds of veterans in recent years, according to J. D. DeRamus, regional Manager of the Veterans Administration at Winston-Salem, N. C.

Too many veterans on "grace period" time forget their final deadlines, and eventually allow their policies to lapse, often at a time when their dependents need protection the most.

DeRamus advises veterans to make up their monthly payment that they may be running behind, even if they have been making their payments each time during the grace period.

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Applications will be accepted until further notice by the Central Board of U. S. Civil Service Examiners, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Civil Service announcements and application forms may be obtained from many post offices throughout the country, from your nearest Civil Service Commission Regional Office, or from the U. S. Civil Service Commission, Washington 25, D. C.

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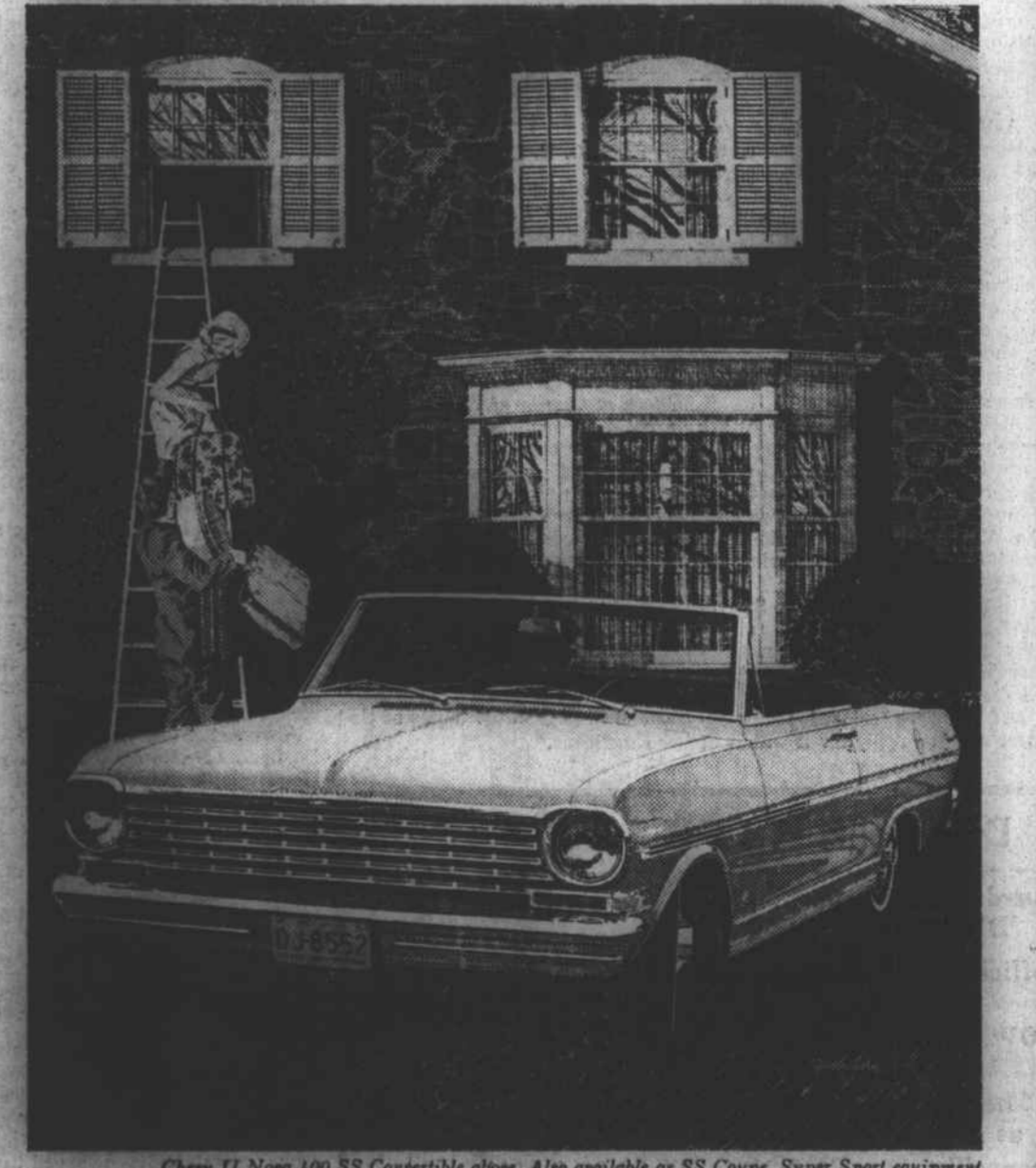
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