



The NEW BERN MIRROR

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2000 Arendall St.
Morehead City, N. C.

VOLUME I

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 1959

NUMBER 48

Since Donald T. Midyette is one of our favorite New Bernians, we are counting on him to forgive us for letting this story out of the bag.

Back in the days when the diminutive Oriental native was a student at Atlantic Christian College in Wilson, there was a Clinton youngster enrolled in the same school by the name of Shorty Carter.

As a practical joker, Shorty had few equals, and he would go to great lengths to pull a ridiculous prank. Naturally he got ideas when a traveling patent-medicine peddler set up shop at one of Wilson's corner drug stores, and starting selling Indian herb juice.

Carter purchased a bottle, took it to the campus, and left it on the dresser in his room for a couple of days. Then he went back to the salesman, and proclaimed the wonders that herb juice had done for him. "It cured me of everything", drooled Shorty, "it's marvelous, simply marvelous."

The juice man, anxious to capitalize on this bountiful enthusiasm, asked the student if he would be willing to sign a testimonial for use in the local newspaper. Shorty promptly agreed, but instead of signing his own name he signed Donald's.

Next day the Wilson Times carried a half page ad, proclaiming with bold headlines that a popular Atlantic Christian youth was simply carried away with Indian herb juice.

Underneath, in lurid detail, it told how Don was infested with just about every ailment known to man, and got rid of them all with the very first bottle. The miracle had to be so, because Midyette's name was signed at the bottom.

Don didn't see the ad himself, not right away. A sour-faced biology professor, who maybe could have used some sort of tonic himself, did see the testimonial and called it to Midyette's attention on class. When Donald professed ignorance, the professor gave him a sarcastic going over. Anyone who knows Midyette's mild, peace-loving temperament, can imagine how embarrassed he was.

As soon as he had the chance, he headed for the college library to scrutinize the Wilson Times and see for himself. Somebody had already beaten him to the paper, and had clipped the ad out.

When at last Midyette did lay his hands on a copy of the Times, he well might blow his stack. He hurried to the drug store, but the salesman had left town and nobody knew from nothing.

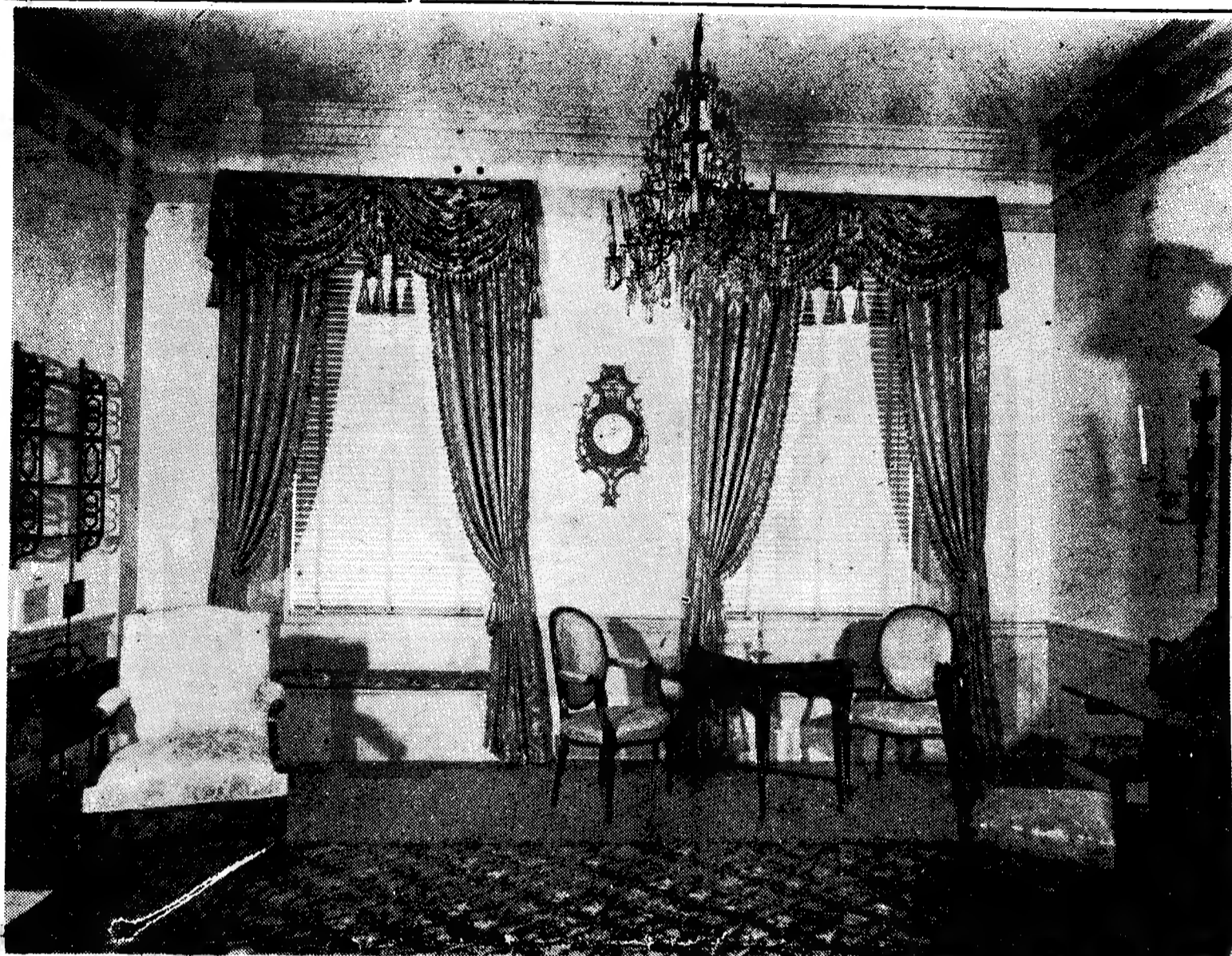
"Maybe I should have sued somebody," says the local dealer in stocks and bonds, "but I guess it's just as well that I didn't. More than a month later, after I had cooled off, Shorty came to me voluntarily and admitted that he was to blame."

The gag died a very slow death. For at least two years after that, Donald was the target for good natured ribbing by fellow students, and became resigned to the nickname of Herb Juice.

More important than the kidding was the high esteem he was held in by everyone who came in contact with him at the college. They admired him for the good sport that he still is, and were convinced that his sense of humor could survive anything.

As for Shorty Carter, it is quite likely that he is still pulling practical jokes on other unsuspecting friends, even to this day. Once a prankster always a prankster is a pattern of human behavior that seldom produces an exception. Nothing short of the grave stops them.

Incidentally, what Shorty did with that bottle of Indian herb



FROM A GOLDEN PAST—Songs and poems have been written about 18th century drawing rooms, and certainly this one in Tryon Palace has rare charm. In case you think the Venetian blinds are a modern touch, you're wrong. They date back to the time of Tryon. What intrigues The Mir-

ror most is the distinctive clock hanging on the wall. This is one of a series of selected scenes that we will carry to give you a prevue of the Palace prior to its official opening.—Photo by John R. Baxter.

Famous News Commentator Once New Bern Groceryman

New Bernians are quite familiar with the face and voice of David Brinkley, ace NBC news commentator, who is the No. 1 choice for every major assignment that his television network has to offer.

What they aren't familiar with is the fact that he once lived here for a brief spell, and waited on many of them as the assistant manager of an A&P store that was located on Middle street between Pollock and Broad.

He was courteous and efficient, and these are two of the qualities that have stood him in good stead. No matter how trying the circumstances may be, the soft-spoken Wilmington native doesn't get flustered or upset.

Tall, lean and young looking, the 38-year-old news analyst is a veteran of 15 years network experience in Washington. He has one of the keenest wits in the business, and has been known to use this quiet wit with biting effect.

David got his news-gathering start working on his hometown Wilmington Star-News while attending high school. After his short stint as a grocery clerk, he studied at the University of North Carolina and Vanderbilt University

and graduated to a job with United Press in Nashville. He also worked for United Press

juice after he pulled his joke is a matter to ponder. It probably was dumped down the drain—perhaps even before the advertisement involving Midyette reached print. Hence we will never know if the stuff really did have potent ingredients.

in Montgomery, Ala., and Atlanta before going to Washington prior to World War II to set up his own

news bureau. His clients were papers throughout the Carolinas.

After a tour of Army duty, he joined NBC. He covered the White House in his early days with the network, and appeared on a number of NBC news shows, including "America United", "Pro and Con", and the "News Caravan."

David's biggest break came with the 1956 political conventions. For this performance he received widespread critical praise. The Louisville Times called him "the discovery of the convention; he says a lot well, with the incisiveness of Elmer Davis."

In addition to the conventions, he covered the 1956 Presidential election, the second Eisenhower inauguration, Queen Elizabeth's visit, to the United States and Canada, and the NATO summit meeting in Paris. His part in the "Huntley-Brinkley Report" calls for handling big, fast-breaking stories occurring every day in Washington.

Around his Montgomery county, Md., home, David leaves news and high pressure behind him. About the most complicated things he'll get involved in are PTA problems for the Brinkley children's elementary school.

Brinkley's youngsters are Alan, 8; Joel, 5; and John, 3. He is married to another former United Press staffer, Ann Fischer. Naturally, Ann understands the trials and tribulations that any newsman has to face.

He doesn't have much time for (Continued on back page)



DAVID BRINKLEY