



For most New Bernians, Confederate Memorial Day on Sunday, May 10, passed virtually unnoticed. But for the fact that banks in the city were closed the Monday following—causing some folks to grumble—no one apparently would have known or cared.

That is, almost no one. Keeping memory alive, as they always have and always will, was the small but faithful band of women who comprise New Bern's chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy.

They showed up Sunday afternoon, at the base of the Confederate monument in Cedar Grove cemetery, and held their annual memorial service there. Admittedly, the event attracted scant attention from the new generation, or even oldsters. Well nigh a century had passed since the boys in gray bled and died, and their valor and their bloodshed no longer impress a busy and often cynical citizenry.

Time, it has been said, heals all things. Time likewise erases men and events of the past from the ranks of public esteem. This sad fact is unalterable. Life is for the living, and yet, we of the South should have pangs of conscience when we ignore our own kin who sleep the last long sleep in a hero's grave.

To remember, as the United Daughters of the Confederacy remember, need not prolong the bitterness and the disappointment of the Lost Cause. All of us, in retrospect, must in all honesty admit that victory for the Confederacy would have only increased the tragedy of it all.

But admitting as much should by no means tarnish the heroism and selfless loyalty of those who died on the side of the South. Regardless of its origin, its outcome, and the resulting plundering by carpetbaggers, the War Between the States was a fight for survival, and no true son of the South could turn his back on the grim role that was his destiny.

Today, the War Between the States, for the most part, is a subject for corny jokes. It deserves better, out of decent respect for not only the boys in gray but the boys in blue who rest beneath the sod within our city limits.

Wars are no laughing matter. Certainly, even at this late date, it is no easy matter to find genuine humor in the only armed conflict that pitted American boys against each other in mortal combat.

A boy is a boy, no matter where he hails from. The Confederate youngster who gave his all differed little from the lad who died as a Yankee. Except for the color of their uniform, they were possessed of the same hopes and dreams. And when they bled their life away they experienced the same agony.

The War Between the States was no more of their own making than were later wars the making of Americans who made the supreme sacrifice at Verdun or on Guadalcanal, or in the horror of Korea. It has always been true.

So, we pause this morning to take cognizance of the work that the New Bern chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy has done, and will continue to do. Some may consider them outdated and behind the times, but their zeal is serving a worthy purpose.

The UDC doesn't confine its moments of remembrance to May 10. Each year they hold Lee-Jackson ceremonies in our local schools. If these annual occurrences impress the youth of today as it did us when we were their age, the Daughters of the Confederacy aren't striving in vain to preserve and arouse appreciation of the truly

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DAME NATURE'S HANDIWORK—No fancy trimmings are needed to make the Neuse enchanting, under the touch of mid-morning sun. Objects of ugliness are transformed into beauty, when blessed with the perfect setting, and a river such as this provides majestic and breath-taking proof.—Photo by Billy Benners.

# Craft Named for Local Youth Continuing Its Navy Service

There'll be no retirement to mothballs for the USS Whitehurst, after its long years of distinguished service.

Named for one of New Bern's hero dead—Ensign Henry Purefoy Whitehurst, Jr.—it will continue active participation in the Navy's program, as a vessel for training cruises.

Stationed at Seattle, Wash., the veteran destroyer has been transferred from a commissioned status to an "In Service" status, and turned over to the Commandant of the Thirteenth Naval District as the first "Selected Reserve ASW Ship" in that Naval District.

Adm. Arleigh A. Burke, USN, Chief of Naval Operations, outlined plans for the craft in a prepared address. "It should be noted," he said, "that the WHITEHURST is not going to the Reserve Fleet in the usual sense of the word. Usually such an impression implies that a ship is going into mothballs."

Elaborating, the admiral explained: "Such is not the case with the WHITEHURST. She is on active duty with the Naval Reserve. She will be manned by a Naval Reserve crew who will take their weekend training and annual two-week training cruises in her. A nuclear regular Navy crew will also be assigned to assist with training and upkeep on a continuous basis."

Continuing, Admiral Burke said, "We are particularly proud of the Naval Reserve program, because it is a wholly integrated part of the Navy. Naval Reserves demonstrated in the Korean war that they could be mobilized rapidly, and that they were ready to carry out

any assignment. Their record in that conflict is one of the proudest chapters in military history."

He added, "The Navy is keenly aware of the importance of a strong Reserve. We are constantly searching for effective ways to utilize the training and experience

of our Reserve personnel, and to ensure their readiness. Any future major conflict will require instant action. Our Naval Reserve program has been developed specifically to meet this need for immediate response in the event of war.

"In order to do this, specific

ships and aircraft are being assigned to selected Reserve units. It is from this that we have derived the name of Selected Reserve which has been established within the Ready Reserve."

According to the admiral, "These selected Reserve units must maintain their ships and aircraft in a state of readiness and availability for immediate employment in the active forces of the Navy as may be required. The transfer of ships like WHITEHURST to the ready reserve is an important aspect of this program."

Concluding, he said, "WHITEHURST will soon embark upon a new career in the service of her country. Her record in the future will depend upon the knowledge—the stamina—and the perseverance of her reserve officers and crew. In this new assignment, may WHITEHURST continue to uphold the finest traditions of the United States Naval Service, and may she perform her duty always with honor."

Naval officers and enlisted men who served with Ensign Whitehurst are gratified to see the vessel named for him continue its career. Others in the Navy, who were never privileged to know him personally, but heard of his bravery, are happy about it too.

His photograph, with appropriate bronze tablet, is in the craft's ward room. It reminds them of the words of President Franklin D. Roosevelt who wrote these lines in a citation: "In grateful memory of Henry Purefoy Whitehurst, Jr., who died in the service of his country at sea off Savo Island, at—

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ADMIRER BY CREW