

The NEW BERN

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Yesterday was when evangelist Billy Sunday, as famous in his generation as Billy Graham is now, visited New Bern High School one morning and spoke to students at assembly in Moses Griffin auditorium.

At the time he was holding a revival in a tobacco warehouse at Greenville. Sunday, a former major league ball player, was a spell binder who bounced around in the pulpit in a manner that did justice to his athletic ability.

Your encyclopedia, if it's a good one, will reveal that William Ashley Sunday was born in Amex, Iowa, in 1883, and remained among the living until 1935. He was here about 10 years before his death.

Yesterday was when the adage that the show must go on didn't apply to a vaudeville troupe due to open a two-day engagement at the Masonic Theatre on Dec. 1, 1922. New Bern's big fire struck that day.

Mostly the half dozen performers wanted to get the heck out of town. Huddled on their theatrical trunks outside America's oldest operating show house, they watched wild eyed as flames leaped only a block away.

Yesterday was when one of the cheapest things you could buy at the grocery store was a mess of dried beans. If you shopped for a New Year's serving of black-eyed peas a few days back, you know how times have changed.

Yesterday was when it paid to have a little age on you, if you wanted to kid Greek cafe owner Dennis Pafe about "coming over on a banana boat." Otherwise he had a ready answer. "I've been an American longer than you have," he would remind guys attempting to belittle him.

Yesterday was when Helen Stevenson Hines was one of New Bern's better tap dancers, and unquestionably one of the most attractive. Possibly she has forgotten the extent of her talent, but we haven't.

Yesterday was when New Bern had a set of twins born in different years. The distinction belonged to Dolly and Walter (Sonny) Foote, and of course the birth dates were Dec. 31 and Jan. 1.

Yesterday was when Pearl White, appearing in the Perils of Pauline at the Athens Theatre, got tied to a railroad track, and almost was hit by an onrushing locomotive before she was rescued.

It was such a close call that a lot of local kids sat through the movie thriller twice to see if she would get clobbered the second time around. For the sake of the record, she did escape again.

Yesterday was when W. M. (Dopey) Darnell raised a north-bound automobile on the lift at his service station, and discovered a kitten perched under the vehicle. It proved to be a family pet, missing since



OLD PHOTOS OF CAMP BRYAN IN LOWER CRAVEN COUNTY, WHERE MANY A

NATIONAL CELEBRITY HAS FOUND JOY HUNTING AND FISHING.