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Generally speaking, today's youngsters are just as loud as any of the brats who came along in earlier generations. Maybe even more so.

Only on the Fourth of July do they fail to measure up to the noise making that kids and parents too indulged in around New Bern in the long ago.

Nowadays, the Fourth is as quiet as a cat tip toeing on a plush carpet, thanks to State laws that all but put an end to firecrackers, blank pistols, and other explosives that juveniles once enjoyed with reckless abandon.

From the bust of dawn until far into the night, things were really popping. Leon Cohen, even in the days when a nickle was a small fortune, sold hundreds of dollars worth of the stuff, while Charlie McSorley, on the other side of Middle street, did a whale of a business too.

We hope we're not being cranky in saying that the abolishing of fireworks, except for professionally supervised demonstrations, was just about the smartest thing that North Carolina ever did.

A fool with any sort of explosive in his hand is a menace to himself and to everyone else in fairly close proximity. We discovered that at a rather tender age when one of the kids we were whooping it up with blew two of his fingers off.

Later, The Mirror's editor had a painful but less disastrous mishap of his own when a Roman candle discharged its load in the palm of his hand, instead of heading high into the sky as the brilliantly lighted fireballs were supposed to do.

Sparklers were less violent, of course, but such items were for little girls, we figured, or a sissy who wore lace on his under pants. No boy with any pride would invest his money in a harmless wand of nothingness like that.

As a matter of fact, Independence Day for all ages has degenerated into mildness and boredom here in New Bern, and elsewhere. Gone are those never to be forgotten dances that were staged annually in the Pagoda at Atlantic Beach, and in the ballroom of the Atlantic Hotel at Morehead City.

America's top maestro, Paul Whiteman, brought his band to the Pagoda or more than one occasion, and we can still recall Ben Bernie's appearance in Morehead's rambling rendezvous for the young and the young in heart.

Cab Calloway was a coastal attraction too, at his hollering best. There were plenty of other name bands on hand, down through the years. Now it's a juke box at the beach. As for the Atlantic Hotel, that historic frame structure burned to ashes, carrying with it a million memories.

Today, when the Fourth arrives, thousands of New Bernians prefer to stay at home. Intimidated by dangerous traffic conditions, brought about by visitors from other sections of the State, and anxious to avoid crowded conditions at the seashore, they stick close by and fret.

To tell the truth, few of us ever learn to make the most of our leisure time, if any. Parents particularly are aware of this, since they have to listen to their offsprings yap because there is "nothing to do." Restlessness is a national plague, now as never before.

There's a lot about the good old days that can best be forgotten. Yet, it seems to us that kids used to know how to drum up a little excitement when things got dull. Instead of milling around aimlessly, wishing for something to happen, they made it happen and were happier for it.

Maybe it's just as well that we don't have any firecrackers left



READY AND WAITING—Historic New Bern—the State's first Capital, was already a seasoned, 66-year-old community when freedom rang out in Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

As a matter of fact, it was incorporated in 1723, before a good many of those who signed the Declaration of Independence were born. And in all those years before that initial Fourth of July celebration, New Bernians yearned for liberty.

What happened in Philadelphia was a stirring climax to earlier demonstrations, not the least of which was the unrest here. Royal Governor Josiah Martin got a good taste of that rebellion against British rule, when indignant citizens chased him out of town, back in May, 1775.

The history books tell us that the first two provincial conventions held here at Tryon's Palace were in defiance of Royal orders. This town wanted no part of tyrants,

and its citizens had the gumption to do something about it.

North Carolina's three signers of the Declaration of Independence weren't New Bernians, nor, as a matter of fact, native Tar Heels. But they exemplified in emphatic fashion the sentiments of all North Carolinians.

Today as then, New Bern and its neighboring Carolina cities from the Great Smokies to the broad Atlantic cherish freedom. They may abuse it, on occasion, but they know its worth.

Times have changed since the Liberty Bell proclaimed its message, and New Bern has changed. Gone are the powdered wigs and fancy pants, the horse-drawn rigs rattling along dirt streets.

But man's hope for lasting freedom will never change, and with that hope are his dreams of peace and good will, for America and the world.

Sgt. Teague Leaving Town For Salisbury

Promotion for Sgt. Clark Teague of the State Highway Patrol is going to be a distinct loss for New Bern.

Teague is being transferred to Troop D at Salisbury, and elevated to the rank of lieutenant.

He and his family regard our town as their home, and despite the well deserved promotion will move with misgivings.

Efficient, conscientious, and highly intelligent, he was a diligent worker for greater highway safety, and played an important part in bringing two National Awards to New Bern.

Characteristic of Teague is the cooperation he has always given newspapers and other news media in presenting information to the public. Never has he sought to suppress facts.

Speaking of cooperation, Sgt. Teague tells The Mirror that he would like to pass along a few compliments too. "I am grateful," he says, "for the cooperation shown me as a member of the Highway Patrol during my stay in New Bern. Aside from the friendships made in my personal life, I can say with all sincerity that the public has rendered real assistance in our efforts to reduce accidents and promote safety on the State's highways."

pressures were cited as among the outstanding gains.

A man begins to live the moment he learns to live and learn.

Lebanese Trouble Close To Many New Bern Hearts

Beirut is more than a strange name dominating grim headlines to a considerable number of New Bern citizens who remember Lebanon as the place of their birth.

Loyal to the America that gave them freedom and opportunity, they are nonetheless concerned over the bitterness and strife that is gripping their home land today.

Their worry is passed along to their many American-born descendants here. They too share the anxiety of their parents and grand-

over from the ones Leon Cohen sold us. Law or no law, we'd probably light them up and take one last fling at the Fourths we used to love.

parents. It takes more than miles and years to sever the ties that bind you to the place of your birth, and elderly sons and daughters of Lebanon in our midst are well aware of that.

Not all of the natives of Lebanon living here are oldsters. Joe Salem, our City Electrical Engineer, is in his forties. He moved to America with other members of his family following World War One.

Joe knew no English at all when he enrolled at Central School as a grammar grade pupil. Yet, unbelievable though it may seem, he quickly became an outstanding student scholastically.

He graduated from New Bern High and continued to make an exceptional record for himself when

he attended State College. Few New Bernians are as well read.

Lebanon's current violence—a menacing international problem, came as no surprise to Joe. "I felt all along that bloodshed was bound to come," he says.

New Bern isn't the only North Carolina town with a comparatively large number of Lebanese natives. There are thousands of these erstwhile immigrants in the Old North State, and in almost every instance they became fine Americans.

HEART RESEARCH GAINS

New York — A partnership of scientists and the public has resulted in the most productive decade so far in the fight to overcome heart diseases, the American Heart Association has announced in its annual report.

Advances in the heart surgery, ability to prevent most recurrences of rheumatic fever and greatly improved treatment of high blood