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He never saw the birds and
flowers,
The sunset's glow, and dawning
hours
That ushered into place another
day;
No memory of an April sky,
Of childish looks as kids romped
by,
No happy scenes at all along the
way.
Yet, he still chuckled all the while,
Greeted each footstep with a
smile—
Broad enough to brighten all man-
kind;
There's so much loveliness to
see,
And though for him it couldn't be,
I learned courage from some-
body blind.

Old-timers here can vouch for
the courage and good humor that
characterized Blind Johnson. It
was unmistakably depicted on as
radiant a countenance as this town
ever saw.

Unlike some of the sightless,
this ever-smiling New Bernian was
never hesitant when making his
jaunty way along a busy downtown
street. His long strides were al-
most a prance, and the manner in
which he cocked his snow-thatched
head to one side in pleasant anti-
cipation fitted right in with his
walk.

Blind Johnson had nothing but
good will for his fellow man, and
his own goodness led him to ex-
pect inevitable good from others.
Apprehension and fear of impend-
ing evil found no place to root in
his world of constant darkness, and
that in itself was a remarkable
trait.

His faith in man emanated, we
believe, from his unflinching faith
in God. Rather than feel bitter
toward his Creator for the afflic-
tion placed upon him, Johnson
sang the Lord's praises to the skies.
He knew every hymn in the book
by heart, and no worshiper in
New Bern's First Baptist church
made a joyful noise more lustily
or more sincerely.

Religion, though he saw it with
sightless eyes, was a cause for hap-
piness, and not a doleful, long-fac-
ed ordeal to be endured in hopes
of a reward in the hereafter. John-
son, as the Bible taught him, served
the Lord with gladness.

He was much too busy being
kind and friendly, and compassion-
ate in his dealings with others, to
speculate on his chances for a pair
of wings, a harp, and maybe even
a pair of good eyes in the life be-
yond.

It seemed to us that this man
was good for goodness sake. That's
why, even as a small boy, we
sensed that here indeed was some-
one who exemplified in word and
deed a gentle Man of Galilee Who
taught His followers that the meek
would inherit the earth.

Johnson's inspirational influence
extended beyond the boundaries of
New Bern in the sunset years of
his existence on earth. He was ap-
pointed door keeper for the State
Legislature, and North Carolina's
lawmakers quickly accorded him
the same respect and affections
that his home town had showered
upon him in full measure.

Those of us who are blessed
with all our faculties are prone to
complain about our real or fancied
misfortunes. Could it be that God
in His infinite wisdom gives us
the Blind Johnsons to bring us face
to face with the great truth that
self pity is a pointless gesture of
ingratitude for the gifts He gave
us, including the privilege of see-
ing the world around us?

This much we know. So long as
the memory of Blind Johnson re-
mains, old time New Bernians can
say with certainty that here in-
deed was a man who brightened
the pathway of others, as he walk-
ed unafraid in a world without



IT'S TOUGH ALL OVER—Hubert Tolson III and his boxer, William Blount, are none too happy as they discuss the world situation and our troubled national scene. As Blount says, it shouldn't oughta happen to a dog. Hubert, who considers the giant boxer an authority on just about everything, displays his apprehension as he listens attentively. It shouldn't oughta happen to little boys either, he reminded his pet.

Interviewed by the editor of The Mirror, Blount, complained about this business of sending up animals in rockets, just to satisfy human curiosity. "The cow jumped over the moon a long time ago," he whined, "so what's the big idea of making a dog or a mouse do it all over again?"

He blames part of all this mixed up mess on Elvis Presley. "That gosh awful song—Nothing But A Hound Dog—was an insult to all of us canines,"

says Blount. Then, he growled, the Republicans boasted of being "clean as a hound's tooth" and shamed the grinders of every dog in the land with that Sherman Adams scandal.

"I may wear the same coat all the time," the boxer blurted out, "but nobody gave it to me, and it certainly ain't vicuna. I'd appreciate it if they just left us dogs out of it."

Hubert, a great respecter of dogs in general and William Blount in particular, seconded the motion and it was unanimously carried. As a parting thought, Blount suggested sending New Bern's dog catcher to Washington or abroad. "He can fill his cage at either place," the pensive pooch reminded us, "and if he does a good job he'll pass up the dogs and concentrate on all those human screwballs running around loose."

Proper Planning for Pageant 'Must' for Anniversary Affair

New Bern should have no trouble attracting spectators, if it comes up with a half-way decent pageant in 1960 to celebrate its 250th anniversary.

As of now, North Carolina's three big outdoor dramas are doing quite nicely. Heading the list, of course, is "The Lost Colony," at Manteo, down here on the coast, while up in the mountains the main attractions are "Unto These Hills" and "Horn in the West."

Also playing nightly, except Monday, through August is the Oberammergau Passion Play at Hendersonville while the Flat Rock Playhouse at Flat Rock and Tanglewood Theater near Winston-

Salem will have a full August run, too.

Durham Star Playhouse at Durham and Silo Circle Playhouse at Black Mountain run until August 16. Burnsville had its first one-day Art and Craftsman's Festival on August 16, and Hendersonville will hold its 12th annual North Carolina Apple Festival from August 27 to September 1.

Asheville has its Mountain Dance and Folk Festival, a 31-year-old affair, August 7-9, and Brevard's Gala Music Festival is scheduled for August 8-10, 15-17, and 22-24.

All of these events are well-planned, carefully rehearsed and expertly staged. If New Bernians tackle their 250th anniversary with the same thoroughness, there should be few empty seats.

However, unless we show a little get up and go, we'll be forced to settle for a hastily contrived stinker. Few New Bernians, and even fewer outsiders, will ankle to the ticket window just to see history poorly presented.

Months ago The Mirror lamented the fact that time was fast running out on the town's golden opportunity for a nationally recognized celebration.

Yet, the slumbering continues, apparently on the assumption that we'll wake up one fine morning with a wonderful, ready-made pageant and a flock of people begging to see it.

It just ain't gonna happen that way. Not just one committee needs to be appointed, and start functioning immediately, but literally hundreds of committees.

This is a job that requires tre-

mendous coordination, and thousands of hours of work by everybody in town. No one, professional or otherwise, can do justice to the venture in the space of a few short months.

A pageant is a must, but it's only one of many possibilities. Certainly we should utilize our rivers for one or several aquatic spectacles, and exploit any and all of our other assets to the fullest.

By providing all-day entertainment of one kind or another, to supplement nightly performances
(Continued on back page)

Craven Farmer On TV Station

One of our Craven county tillers of the soil, David Brown, of route 1, Cove City, was recognized as "Farmer of the Day" on Greenville's WNCT this morning.

Brown grows corn, soybeans, tobacco and Tamworth hogs on a farm consisting of 100 acres of crop land and a little better than 100 acres of woodland.

He has served as a member of the board of directors of the N. C. Tamworth Swine Growers Association for several years, and as a director of the Craven county Livestock Development Association.

light. That, to him, was the meaning of a life well spent—for the good of mortals and the glory of God.

Draft Board Issues Heavy Call for Men

Fifty-five boys born during 1936 are being called up for their physicals on August 21 by Craven county's draft board, Local No. 25, located at 618 Craven street.

All single men, and married men without children, who are in the 1-A classification are subject to the call. It's the largest for Craven since May 1955.

In the event you're in this age group, and haven't notified the board of your marriage, the birth of children, or the expectancy of a child, it is imperative that you visit the office here with established proof of these circumstances.

Bring along your marriage and birth certificates, so copies can be made for the board's official records. In the case of an expected birth, a letter from the attending physician affirming this fact is necessary.

There will be another call for physicals in September applying to young men born during 1937, so if you're in this group it is advisable to govern your future plans accordingly.

Under no circumstances should any youth subject to actual or possible call leave Craven county without first notifying the Craven county draft board. Failure to keep the board informed constantly of your whereabouts will not be condoned.

If you have had a court conviction that the board is not already aware of, or at present you are awaiting trial for an alleged offense, furnish such information to the board without delay.

Whatever your circumstances, be ready for any eventuality that might result from the international picture now existing.

Craven Delegates At Camp Millstone

Craven county is going to be well represented at Camp Millstone, when 4-H club members gather for their annual encampment August 4-9.

Camp Millstone is near Ellerbe and Rockingham. At least 35 youngsters will make the trip from here by chartered bus.

Incidentally, Craven's 4-H work is widely recognized as outstanding, and much of the progressiveness in agriculture hereabouts can be credited to the interest displayed by rural teenagers in farm improvement.

Some people make the best of everything—and others take it.

Extra Postage Pennies Add Up to Big Annual Fortune

Those extra pennies you'll be paying for stamps at New Bern's post office from August 1 on will add up to a real fortune in the course of a year.

Postal receipts for the office during 1957 amounted to better than \$171,000.00. Based on that figure, it is entirely possible that an additional \$50,000.00 or more will come out of local purses and pockets within the next 12 months.

Approximately half of this amount will remain in the city to defray the long sought 10 per cent pay raise that has been granted the nation's postal employees.

Local workers have been getting their increases in salaries since the measure was approved in May. And, since the increase was

retroactive to January, they are now getting back pay, averaging \$200 per employee, or approximately \$10,000.00 for the 50 local workers affected.

Postal officials anticipate no reduction in the number of letters, cards and packages mailed here. Folks who write relatives, friends and strangers habitually will no doubt continue the practice.

Some of us who are woefully negligent about writing wouldn't write oftener, even if we could get our correspondence delivered for free. In short, those pennies that are going to add up to a huge collective figure will be extracted in such small amounts for the most part that customers will shrug it off with a minimum of squawking.