

## Carolinensis All Around This Section

New Bern is plumb full of *Sciurus carolinensis* these days, but don't let it worry you. That's only the scientific name for our kind of squirrels.

You didn't have to be told that it was hot this week. The squirrels knew it too. We saw a pair in a tree on the Academy green, and they acted real educated.

Instead of curling their tails and complaining about the humidity, they put the tails to good use and took turns fanning each other. The squirrels are gone now, but we can show you the tree where it happened.

By the way, if you hate squirrels, you'll have to move to Australia. Believe it or not, that's the only area on earth that the critters steer clear of. Your encyclopedia will back up that statement.

Don't be too hasty about moving. You might like kangaroos even less.

## Mating Call Leaves Mocking Bird Cold

Happiest mocking bird in town is a carefree bachelor that hangs out on upper East Front street.

For two seasons now he has passed up seeking a mate. Instead he seems quite content with his own company, and sings the clock around.

Other birds took to cover and rode out the storm, on the rainiest morning of the summer. Not this character, however. Spurning shelter for a wind-swept perch in a dead and leafless tree, he flung his joyous notes into the midst of the tempest.

## Selma Native Appointed Jasper School Principal

Ralph Woodard, a native of Selma, is replacing John W. Hamilton as principal of the 12-grade Jasper school.

Hamilton goes to a rural school in Dare county, where he will serve as principal. Woodard has taught previously in Craven, while Hamilton had been at Jasper for several years.

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**SHE LIVED THE PART**—Of all the photographs ever made of Lucia Hutchinson and her WNCT program, Romper Room, we like this one best. To us it portrays perfectly the elfin charm and spritely spirit that made her a Good Fairy and a Queen of

Hearts rolled into one. No wonder children loved her, and still lament the chain of circumstances that took her from the show. They're glad "Miss Lucia" is happily married, with a little girl of her own, but they miss her very, very much.

## 'Miss Lucia' Now Has Own Romper Room Program with Baby Daughter

Life has been good to Lucia Hutchinson Peele, but fellow New Bernians will agree that anyone as sweet as she is deserves only the best.

Being nice is no pose for this sincere, unassuming girl who didn't let fame change her one iota. If anything, Lucia is more charming today than she was in the days that she was being crowned Miss Maccon, Miss Georgia, and winning the boundless love of Tar Heel youngsters with her Romper Room program.

Unlike some musicians with less talent and more temperament, Lucia is an artist easy to work with. Her fine soprano is familiar to those who heard her sing repeatedly in the Yuletide Revue and for other benefits, while she has contributed much to the music at Centenary Methodist church here.

Lucia's disposition is as even as a teen-ager's crew cut. Fortunately, in picking Williamston's Junie Peele for a husband, she got someone else with an easy disposition. Apparently, their infant daughter, Lucia Claire, is going to follow in their footsteps when it comes to making friends and getting along with people.

At least, Lucia Claire gave her first performance before an audience at an earlier age than did her mother. A few hours after she was born at Pitt Memorial hospital in Greenville, a tape recording was made of her wails and presented on the Yuletide Revue. It was the high spot of the show.

Right now, with a nursery of her own to keep her busy, Lucia can't consider a return to Romper Room. Despite her prolonged absence, however, kids in Carolina still hope to see her on their television screen again.

For them, there will never be anyone else quite like "Miss Lucia."



**DREAM COME TRUE** — When Lucia Hutchinson was bringing joy to countless kids with her delightful Romper Room program on Greenville's WNCT, she dreamed of a day when she would have a child of her own to romp with.

Marriage to Junie Peele of Williamston, and arrival of Lucia Claire during the Christmas holidays, made it a reality. Lucia Claire isn't quite old enough yet to play all the games that her mother utilized on Romper Room, but they make a happy pair just the same.

Junie, an attorney, was unopposed for election to the State Senate in the last Democratic primary. He is mighty proud of the two Lucias at his house, and quite fond, too, of the first Lucia—Mrs. Reid Fuller of New Bern, who he says is the nicest mother-in-law ever.

### PAGEANT PLANNING —

(Continued from Page 1)

of the pageant, we can keep visitors here longer. There should be a well-rounded agenda, appealing not only to those who want to see Tryon's Palace and other historic points of interest, but catering also to those who lean toward sports, art, music and other categories.

Every organization and civic group in the State should be encouraged and invited to hold its 1960 State convention here. The earlier we start, the more dates can be arranged. Dozens of conventions, with proper advance scheduling, could meet here in a single year.

No later than right now, we should be rounding up the names of countless New Bernians who no longer reside here. Get their addresses and the names and addresses of past and present military personnel and others who once lived in New Bern.

to provide variety and avoid duplication.

New Bern's Fireman's Museum can honor the oldest fireman in the State, or perhaps the South or the entire nation. Since this is the home of North Carolina's first printing press, there can be a gathering here of North Carolina's outstanding writers to honor the memory of James Davis. The possibilities are almost endless.

Yes, it can be a big thing, if we make it a big thing. Will we make the most of it, or drag our feet until it's too late to catch up with the chance of a lifetime?

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Plan a giant homecoming as a part of the 250th anniversary celebration, pick a date, and pass the word along at the opportune time. Getting all those names and addresses is a gigantic undertaking in itself. Why not start on it now?

New Bern business men mail letters daily to points near and far. One of the committees can see to it that business envelopes and stationery as early as 1959 carry some reference to the celebration.

This would entail no extra cost to the businessman. Local printers could set a single descriptive line, and use it repeatedly. Labels for parcel post packages could be printed at nominal cost.

New Bern's automobile license tags for both 1959 and 1960 should mention the 250th anniversary. Every cafe menu should proclaim the event, too.

One of the many committees should line up window displays of an historic nature, not for just a few business firms, but for every firm that is public-spirited enough to participate. It will take tedious and time-consuming labor

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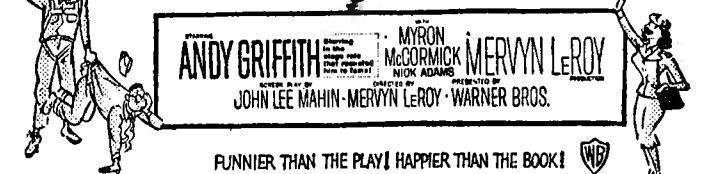
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