

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

Published Every Friday at 111 King Street, New Bern, N. C., by the Sole Owner

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$2.50 Six Months \$1.25

Entered as second-class mail at New Bern April 4, 1958, under the act of March 3, 1879.

A VICTORY FOR RELIGION

There was nothing new about the message of salvation that New Bernians listened to during the Christian Business Men's Crusade. It was the oft told story of One Who died on a cross, so that others might have everlasting life.

What made this series of services different was the fact that laymen, not ordained ministers, had taken it upon themselves to spread the gospel. And what made their surge of evangelism all the more impressive was their stature as men who have achieved material success.

Lamentable though it is, most of us lose our gratitude to God as we succeed in acquiring worldly goods. The more we have, the less need we feel for a helping hand from the Almighty. And, since we feel no need, we feel no debt to God for services rendered.

But these nationally recognized business leaders who came to our town for the Crusade didn't behave in the usual way. Their distinguished records indicated they were far from being ne'er-do-well crackpots. They were men of brains, well heeled financially. Even so, they witnessed for Christ not as big wheels, inflated with their own importance, but as servants eager to do the bidding of their Master.

It was inevitable that this state of affairs would have great impact on a community where religious fervor was at a low ebb. Admittedly, we had a city of beautiful churches and an abundance of members. But somewhere along the way we had tossed into discard the spark of enthusiasm that any religion should have.

To be sure, the creed that professing Christians refer to fondly as the "old-time religion" had such a spark at the outset. As long as it was retained, Christianity was a potent force. When the flame flickered and vanished, for want of honest to goodness zeal, it was a bad day for us all.

These recent visitors to our town, aided and abetted by a dedicated group of businessmen and the New Bern ministerial association, rekindled Christianity's torch. In the slang vernacular of our day, they were "steamed up" about Jesus of Nazareth.

They didn't care who knew it either. As a matter of fact, they wanted the whole wide world to know it, and to share with them the blessings they had found. They had nothing to gain, material or otherwise, except the satisfaction of soul that comes with taking the specific instruction of Christ quite literally, and doing His bidding.

Whether you, as an individual, participated in the Crusade and gained new or renewed faith, or let it come and go without darkening the doors of the New Bern High School Auditorium, one fact stands out unchallenged.

That fact, clearly established, is this. New Bern is a better place of better people than it was a few short days ago. Lives have been changed, feuds have been abandoned by bitter enemies, old folks and young folks are walking the streets of our town with peace of mind and soul, and a song in their hearts.

To those of little faith, all this may sound corny. Yet, it has been our observation through the years that some of the nicest things in this world are corny in the eyes of the cynical. In fact, events in Jerusalem when Christ was crucified indicated that He, unmistakably, was regarded as a rather corny character.

How you evaluate the Christian Business Men's Crusade is a matter for you to decide, in your own good conscience. Looking at it objectively, and giving it a newspaper man's unemotional appraisal, The Mirror hails it as a victory for religion.

That to us, is big news—the biggest news in town.

Village Verses

OVERDUE

The sultriness of August I would rather not remember,
As anxiously I wait to greet another bright September;
September, with its hint of Fall and harvest moon a-shining,
Its inner melancholy that sets hearts to quietly pining.
There's a sorta crispy feeling in the cooling Autumn air,
There's a bit of romance stealing all round you everywhere;
The fields are ripe for reaping, and soon fruit and golden grain
Will be safely stored for Winter, we can laugh at snow and rain.
I've never seen an August yet that one could view with pleasure,
Mosquito bites and prickly heat aren't souvenirs to treasure;
And though Dan Cupid does his best to keep his arrows true,
A kiss is less convincing, when you're steaming like a stew.
Proposals aren't attractive, if they're cloaked in perspiration,
It takes a night that's airish, to get real appreciation.
And so I write these simple lines in praise of sweet September,
When Nature lends a helping hand to love's faint glowing ember;
The stars take on new meaning, and the moon adds kilowatts,
Old timers dream of Memory Lane, and lost forget-me-nots.
While youth, too young for memories, loves unmindful of the past,
Kids squander their romancing, little knowing it won't last;
Though some of us have seen our day, at least we can remember,
So goodbye, sultry August, it is high time for September.

JGMCd.

MOTOR MAIDS



Easy On The Gas-- Ahead On Safety

By Jeanne Smith, Dodge Safety Consultant

TEENAGERS ARE DISCOVERING that careful driving really pays off!

Through competition in high school safety-economy runs, participants find that taking it easy on the gas puts them ahead in safety and also stretches the weekly allowance.

Patterned after the national economy run, the high school driving tests gratify teenagers' desire for competition and teach them that high speeds, "jack rabbit" starts, sharp turns and sudden stops will sharply reduce gas mileage.



Miss Smith

Officials who sponsor the junior runs believe that, although most teenagers possess mechanical ability and are skilful drivers, some lack the proper mental attitude for safe driving.

Through these high school contests, held throughout the country, they hope to persuade young motorists that safe driving is as socially acceptable as making the football team or the honor roll.

In the runs, usually limited to about 35 participants, ability to drive both safely and

economically is measured over a 100-mile route. Each driver is accompanied by an adult observer who checks to see that all traffic and safety laws are obeyed. For each infraction, the driver is penalized one-tenth of a gallon of gasoline. Violations may easily cost the driver a victory.

The three drivers in each contest who use the smallest amount of gas are awarded trophies at the high school assembly.

At a competition in Evanston, Ill., safety leaders from all over the country watched 27 Evanston Township High School students compete.

The participants averaged 19 miles to the gallon, and one of the two girls entered in the Evanston contest emerged as winner, with an average of 20.65 miles a gallon.

Proof of the program's acceptance is plentiful. Police officials, educators and safety experts have praised the runs.

As one youthful contestant put it, "The safety-economy run taught me that it's sensible and thrifty to drive safely."

People to People

From Texas to Tegucigalpa, from New York to India's communist infiltrated province of Kerala, people are becoming aware of people. They're exchanging ideas and finding out they have something in common after all.

They're doing this through hobbies, music activities, "pen pal" letters, educational exchanges, town affiliations, international business meets, reading each other's books and sharing magazines, hospitality programs, and many other two-way enterprises which today are lumped under a large multi-colored umbrella called PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE.

The idea is not new—but the organization is. It began back in September, 1956, when President Eisenhower called together at the White House a number of the nation's outstanding leaders in many diverse fields of activities to work out methods through which peoples of the world could communicate with one another on a non-government level. The aim was to better inter-country understanding and progress toward peaceful solution of international problems.

The result of that conference was the emergence of 41 separate communities, representing among others such dynamic forces in American life as religion, business, labor, communication, fine arts, education, which are carrying out through private groups and individuals a multitude of international projects designed to bring people closer to people.

Popular among these exchanges is the community affiliation program. The "twinning" of cities and towns of America with others in many nations is a continuing relationship which brings new friends together in a lasting kinship.

Exchanges in the PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE program planned for this year are wide in scope. They range

from a visit to the U. S. by the Pakistan National Cricket Team to the eastern part of America this spring under the sponsorship of the PTP Sports Committee, to important educational exchanges among 33 U. S. and foreign universities.

The Advertising Committee is working out methods of educating American travelers going abroad on behavior patterns designed to win friends.

War Veteran leaders from England, France and Israel will be in-

ited to visit the U. S. to attend American veterans' national conventions.

The Farm Committee is setting up in each of the 48 states a central directory of American farm families who would like to entertain foreign visitors and get better acquainted with their overseas counterparts.

The Legal Committee is developing a program of cooperation with the bench and bar of friendly free nations.

The Cartoonists Committee is producing a 96-page tourist book designed to orient the 2,500,000 Americans traveling abroad. The book will mark for the first time the combined contributions of the majority of America's outstanding cartoonists.

In addition, thousands of projects will be carried out by groups outside the program and by individuals doing person-to-person jobs to further the general idea.

The man-in-the-street in far-off Ceylon is as anxious as the average American to know his neighbor and to break through barriers of language, culture, and customs, in order to find basic areas of agreement.

Recently a world-wide mailing of PTP literature brought hundreds of replies.

PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE is not a plan to achieve quick world peace and over-all brotherly love. But with greater real interest on the part of more Americans this program can point the way to a larger measure of understanding, friendship, and confidence among all peoples.

Q. How can I eliminate the disagreeable odors that some foods leave in the kitchen?

A. Place a pan containing vinegar on the stove and let it simmer.

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