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"Uncle Bill" Everett wasn't much for frills, but we're inclined to believe that the venerable Free Will Baptist parson would have enjoyed the music sung at his graveside in Cedar Grove cemetery.

For all we know the grand old codger heard it too, even in death. Certainly he heard it, if God so willed, and a lot of us would like to think it happened just that way.

A robin, perched in a low-hanging tree, provided the hymn for the brief committal service, after last rites had been held earlier in St. Marys, where Everett long served as pastor. A vested choir couldn't have done better.

It seems only yesterday, and what a day it was. Skies were never bluer, and the sun was beaming in as warm and friendly a fashion as "Uncle Bill" beamed during a lifetime of usefulness to his fellow man.

Preachers come and preachers go, but the Methodist writing these lines is satisfied in his own heart that New Bern never had another minister quite like Brother Everett. The Baptists could be proud of him, and so could the rest of us who knew him for the kind and utterly selfless person he was.

"Uncle Bill" didn't have much of an education, even with a lot of book learning it is doubtful that he would have delivered so much as a single brilliant sermon. Where Everett displayed the characteristics of a true man of God was out of the pulpit, not in it.

No one, probably, remembers the text of the most outstanding message he ever brought to his flock. But a lot of folks—most especially the poor and the friendless—remember how he deprived himself of bare necessities to give what he had to others.

Larry Moore, a New Bern attorney no longer among the living, was a great admirer of "Uncle Bill" and quite aware of his habit of doing without to ease the burden of those he considered less fortunate. Every time Moore tried to do something for Everett, the money was passed along to somebody else.

One day the attorney noticed how badly worn were the shoes that the parson had on. The wear and tear was understandable, seeing as how Everett kept the payments hot going to and from the jail, hospitals and sundry shanties where misery and despair were holding forth.

"Here's some money for a new pair of shoes," Moore told Everett, "and don't give it away."

Several days later, "Uncle Bill" dropped by to see the attorney at his Elks Temple office, still wearing the same old shoes. When Moore confronted him with this fact, the parson shrugged his shoulders and grinned apologetically. "I bumped into somebody that was in trouble," he said.

Moore, convinced it had to be done, marched Everett to a shoe store and saw to it this time that the Baptist minister actually got the much needed footwear. It was only one of many incidents that could be related, if going into the matter wasn't superfluous.

"Uncle Bill" was no expert theologian, but he had a pretty good understanding of the things he read in his Bible. More important he took it at face value, and practiced it to the letter.

If we were looking for a portion of the Good Book to remind us of Everett, our choice would be something from the pen of Matthew, passing along the words of Jesus.

"For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me."

Uncle Bill did all of these things.



BEAR BACK RIDERS—Trouble might be "Bruin" for Patsy O'Neal and Terry Midyette, if they weren't on friendly terms with their docile mount. Everybody at New Bern High School loves the campus bear. He shares their joy and woe, listens to their whispered secrets, and never ever tattles.—Photo by Billy Benners.

New Bern Readies Welcome For World-Famous Traveler

Familiarity breeds contempt, they say, but for a guy who comes to town every year this fellow Santa Claus is certainly getting a lot of attention.

You would think it was his very first visit, the way his scheduled arrival this afternoon has caught the fancy of folks hereabouts. In fact, if Rudolph—back home at the North Pole with the other reindeer—didn't love his master so much, his red nose would turn green with envy.

No one else who ever traversed our streets—not even George Washington, Harry Truman or Babe Ruth—was fortunate enough to be accorded the rousing welcome that is reserved for the patron saint of childhood. It's a thing to behold, thrill to and remember.

In keeping with the sacred aspects of our happiest holiday season, New Bern churches will have a series of religious floats in today's parade. Covering every phase of the Christmas story, they have been well-planned and prepared.

But there's no getting around it, the main attraction for the small fry who will be lined along the curbs in our downtown section is going to be Santa. The youngsters, in their respective Sunday schools, have acquired a knowledge of events that transpired at Bethlehem, and Biblical characters in the procession will be familiar to them.

not once but many times. It is our belief that he did them because he loved his neighbor, rather than as a minister living up to his calling.

How he must have gladdened the heart of One Who said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my Brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Even so, Santa Claus will fall heir to the limelight.

Most adults, including those who feel that religion isn't emphasized enough in our celebration of Christmas, aren't overly critical of this attitude on the part of the children. It is entirely possible that the Santa Claus myth is a God-intended thing. Certainly no one knows better than the Good Lord what is

dear to the heart of childhood, how it came about, and how it has survived through the centuries.

If the truth were known, parents witnessing this afternoon's parade with their excited offspring will get as big a kick as any tot. Whether it's good, bad or mediocre, there's something about a welcoming parade for Saint Nick that makes it extra special.

Tickets for Yuletide Revue Have Now Gone on Sale Here

Reserved seats for the 23rd annual Yuletide Revue, America's oldest Christmas charity show, have now gone on sale at the usual price.

To be presented Friday night, December 19, in the New Bern High school auditorium, the latest Revue, like others before it, is expected to be a sell-out in advance of the one-night performance.

All proceeds are devoted to Christmas cheer for underprivileged children, and more than 5,000 have been made happy in the past. Acclaimed coast to coast by press, radio and television, the show has many well wishers in all sections.

Governor Luther Hodges extends greetings annually, and mayors of Tar Heel cities large and small have sent congratulatory telegrams. In the entertainment field, its boosters include Cecil B. DeMille, Jimmy Durante, Ray Milland, Roy Rogers, Sid Caesar, George Gobel, Dave Garroway, Pinky Lee, Arlene Francis and Will Rogers, Jr., to name only a few.

Its most distinguished graduates

have been Mickey Gunnerson and Johnny Genolius, both of whom climbed to Broadway; Johnny O'Steen, widely recognized organist; and Kathy Young, who became a Paramount starlet and a top-ranking photographers' model.

Reserved seats for this year's Revue may be obtained from Miss Irma Salter at Gussman Cleaners; Miss Margie Bray at Mike's Sandwich Shop; Mrs. Elliott Bennett at Armstrong Grocery Company; Misses Kay Phillips and Kitty Whitty New Bern High school; Milton Langston, Jr., at City Drug Store; Billy Crawford at Bynum's Drug Store; and John McDaniel at Pinnix Drug Store.

Everyone connected with the show contributes his or her time and talent. It was originated in 1936 as one New Bernian's idea of "what to do about Christmas." First staged in the Masonic theater, it has since drawn full houses at the City Recreation Center, the Shrine Auditorium and in recent years at the New Bern High school auditorium.

You sense it in the air of tense expectancy, and you see it in the animated expressions of kids—rich and poor, white and colored. Some of these kids will get a lot—far too many a little, on Christmas eve. But all of them have a deep and abiding faith.

No one in his right mind should ever grow too old to share that faith. To share a belief in the importance of stockings hung by an open fireplace, and the incredible speed of eight tiny reindeer, capable of racing all over the world in a single night with a sleigh full of toys and a jolly gift bringer manning the reins.

Santa himself, older than the memory of man, is a classic example of eternal youth. He needs no tonic, no tranquilizers and has nary an ulcer to contend with. This despite the most gigantic responsibility imaginable.

So, if anyone as exceptional as he is causes New Bernians of all ages to get exceptionally excited, it's just as it should be. Scrub up the young'uns, Mom, and put on your best hat. Santa Claus will be in town today.

College Glee Club Sings Here Tonight

Greensboro College glee club is appearing here tonight at the Centenary Methodist church, and the public is extended a cordial invitation to attend.

Favorably received in their appearances elsewhere, the visiting collegians display a versatility that will appeal to all lovers of fine music.