

# THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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J. GASKILL McDANIEL Editor and Publisher

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## GUESS WHO!

It happens to us all every Christmas. In the mail we receive a lovely card from a thoughtful friend, but the signature leaves us exasperated.

Somebody named Mary or John, or Bill or Elizabeth, signs the greeting just that way. It's delightfully informal, and obviously the sender is sure that no other identification is necessary.

In those cases where the card comes from out of town, we are often able to figure out just who is who. Maybe we know only one Mary in the town indicated by the postmark. Then the detective work is fairly easy.

When the greeting is mailed locally, it's a matter for Sherlock Holmes or Perry Mason to unravel. Most of us, if we have any friends at all, are apt to have two or more friends with the same first name. So how can the mystery be solved at a time of year when there is very little time for mysteries or anything else?

It's particularly perplexing for the New Bernians who make it a point to mail Christmas cards to those from whom greetings are received. A card comes from John, and you know dozens of Johns who might get the notion to remember you at Christmas.

You're either too poor or too tight to send all the Johns a Christmas card, just because one of them sent you one. Yet, you hate to pass up the John who was so nice and thoughtful.

What probably happened was that the John referred to signed all of his Christmas cards before he addressed the envelopes. Then he went down his list and finished the chore.

It's much better to complete a single card and envelope at one and the same time. Unless you're positive that a first name is sufficient, add your last name. Better still, add a personal note under the signature. The cards most appreciated are the ones that include such notes.

## DON'T COUNT ON IT

From time to time the word is passed along that New Bern is destined to get a television station. Far be it from us to disturb so pleasant a dream, but we have our doubts that it will blossom into reality within the foreseeable future.

This despite the fact that the ABC network, which might be available for our local channel, has made great strides and compares favorably with NBC and CBS—the networks serving Washington's WITN and Greenville's WNCT.

It takes money, and plenty of it, to build a TV station, and a lot more money to operate when the original cost of construction is ended. Some stations have found the venture profitable, but many are functioning at a continuing loss.

Looking at the matter realistically, a station in New Bern would have a tough row to hoe, especially since we are in close proximity to two towns that already have stations. If the saturation point hasn't already been reached in these parts, as far as revenue is concerned, it isn't far off.

In the final analysis, any television station that is able to make ends meet has to rely in large measure upon national advertisers. To get these national advertisers, the station must have wide coverage. This inevitably eliminates most local advertisers, who can't afford to pay premium rates for coverage that extends beyond their market area.

The wide coverage demanded by national advertisers presents another problem for owners of any television station. It's impossible, under the circumstances, to concentrate on news events in a single community or a given section. WITN and WNCT are both doing the best they can on a hit-and-miss basis.

These are things to ponder and fret over, as we wish and hope for a station here in New Bern. To survive, it would have to be a good one. Even then, the fight for survival might demand too much.

## KEHOE THEATER

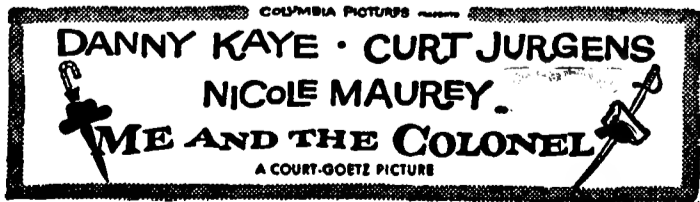
### The Gun Runners

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Based on a story by ERNEST HEMINGWAY

SUN. - MON. - TUES.



WED. & THURS.

## Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

Madam Moore, a distinguished lady of the community in the early days, was Mary Vail, the daughter of Jeremiah Vail and Mary Lillington Vail. The Vail family came to North Carolina from Southold, Long Island. Alexander Lillington, Madam Moore's grandfather, was Deputy Governor of North Carolina. Her aunt, Ann Lillington, married first Governor Henderson Walker and then became the wife of Edward Moseley, Surveyor-General. Madam Moore was related to the most prominent families in North Carolina, among them, Blount, Griffith, Benners, Gale, Nash, Swann, Spaight and Moseley.

Mary Vail's first husband was the Honorable Frederick Jones of Chowan County. The children of this marriage were: a daughter, Mary Jones, who married Colonel Joseph Leech of Revolutionary fame; a son, Harding Jones, who was the ancestor of Governor Abner Nash; and a son, Frederick Jones who died unmarried.

Secondly, Mary Vail Jones married Colonel William Willson, who left large legacies to his daughter Elizabeth Willson, who became the wife of Richard Spaight, and mother of Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight and grandmother of Governor Richard Dobbs Spaight, the second. Elizabeth Willson Spaight married second Thomas Clifford Howe, a distinguished gentleman of Brunswick.

In her declining years Mary Vail Jones Willson married "King". Roger Moore of Orton Plantation near Brunswick, whose wealth, integrity and influence were known throughout the colonies. Because of her eminent position Mary Vail Jones Willson Moore became known as "Madam," a complimentary title given to married ladies of high station. Among the interesting stories told of this great lady is that she had a large row boat manned by six oarsmen in livery who rowed her on trips to her town house in New Bern or visits to other river settlements. She lived at Clermont Plantation, which is at the confluence of the Trent River and Brice's Creek.

During the courtship of Mary Willson and Roger Moore, the following note was carried by "Nero." "Permit the bearer by name NERO to travel from New Bern to Brunswick to me, his master, and if he should be in want of provisions on the road, let him be supplied at my expense." Signed by Roger Moore and recorded the 9th day

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## Village Verses

### CHRISTMAS THOUGHTS

"Suffer the little children to come unto me," He said,  
And in my mind I can see Him, caressing a tousled head;  
Jesus saw childhood as heaven, really it's right next door,  
And Jesus heard echoes of angels, when baby feet toddled the floor;  
So let us think first of the children, in trying to honor His Day,  
Remember the ones unremembered, for Jesus would have it that way.  
If you can see some chubby nose, pressed hard against a pane,  
And wistful eyes where wonder grows for toys asked for in vain,  
If you can see that in the throng, and know you've done your part,  
Then Santa Claus will dance along the hallways of your heart.  
—JGMcd.

of June, A. D. 1744 by Nicholas Routledge.

The marriage agreement dated January 4, 1747, between Roger Moore and Mary Willson is recorded in Craven County, and stipulates, among other things that "he shall not intermeddle with the legacies belonging to Mary Jones, Harding Jones, Frederick Jones, children of Frederick Jones, deceased, and of the said Mary Willson or Elizabeth Willson, daughter of Colonel William Willson."

In her will Mary Moore gave, among other things, to her daughter Elizabeth a gold chain and locket, a ruby set with diamonds, a crystal ring, three plain gold rings, a silver kane, a silver teapot, and her "father Willson's house" with furniture. Other legacies were to Margaret Vail, "widow and relict of my brother Jeremiah Vail," to

Ricahrd Dobbs Spaight, to Joseph Leech, to Mary Jones, my granddaughter," to nephews John and Miles Gale. She named Joseph Leech, John Starkey and Brice Dobbs Vail as her executors. The will was witnessed by Mary Coor, James Coor and J. Gerrard in September, 1761. The will is signed simply "Mary Moore" and not More as appears on the sign marking the lane running through her CLERMONT PLANTATION, known as MADAME MOORE'S LANE.

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