



The NEW BERN MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
IN THE HEART OF
EASTERN NORTH
CAROLINA
5¢ Per Copy

VOLUME I

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1958

NUMBER 38

On this very date, back in 1936, the first Yuletide Revue was presented at 11 p.m. in the Masonic theater. Thus, the stage of America's oldest operating show house became the birthplace of what was destined to become America's oldest Christmas charity show.

Little did the man who originated the Revue dream that it would serve as a springboard to national stardom for talented youngsters who were getting their start thousands of miles from Broadway and Hollywood.

Nor could he visualize a time when the top celebrities in show business would stop in the midst of their busy schedules to wish the venture continued success. Yet, displaying the generosity of heart that characterizes every truly great trouper, they have sent many a telegram expressing their warm and affectionate sentiments.

Distinguished Tar Heels themselves have sent similar telegrams, including Gov. Luther H. Hodges, Senator Sam J. Ervin, the late Senator W. Kerr Scott, Mayor Marshall C. Kurfees of Winston-Salem, Mayor Phil Van Every of Charlotte, Mayor J. M. Silverthorne of Washington, Mayor George W. Dill of Morehead City, Mayor M. A. Cowell of Jacksonville and others too numerous to mention by name.

It's flattering to the Revue's originator to have it referred to as the accomplishment of one individual. However, no one knows better than he that the Yuletide Revue owes its long life to many persons living and dead.

Any bows that he is privileged to take are accepted not only for the thousands who have appeared on stage and assisted backstage, but for the dozens who handled reserved seat sales so willingly and efficiently at their respective places of business.

Last but by no means least, the Revue most certainly owes a tremendous debt of gratitude to the audiences that have supported it year after year for almost a quarter of a century.

The Yuletide Revue is a traditional part of New Bern's Christmas because the citizens have seen fit to make it so. Revue audiences radiate a Christmas spirit that performers feel across the footlights, so more than the friendly folks seated out front will ever realize, they have made the show what it is.

A multitude of memories will be lurking in the wings tonight at the High School Auditorium. The memory of Mickey Gunnerson, as a tiny tot, taking her first steps toward a Broadway career that landed her in the cast of shows like "Pink Tights" and "Pajama Game."

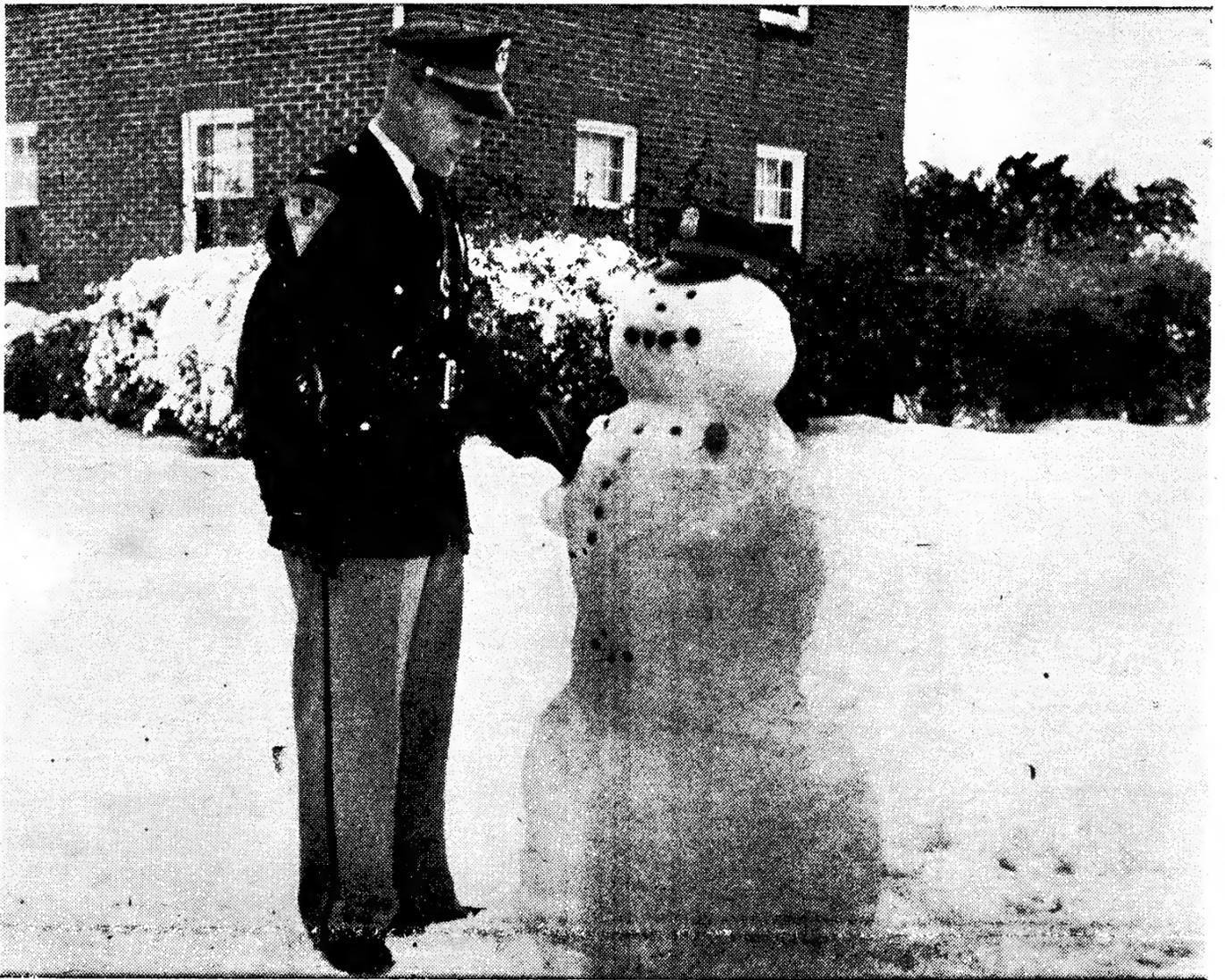
With it will be the memory of Johnny Genolius, an unknown Cherry Point Marine who was discovered by the Revue and went on from there to a dancing role in the Broadway hit, "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes."

Kathy Young of Greenville, like Mickey Gunnerson, was only so high when she tapped her way into the hearts of a typical Revue audience. Eventually she journeyed to Hollywood, became a Paramount starlet, and played in films with Bing Crosby and Cary Grant.

One of these movies was "Christmas Holiday." Appearing in it was a far cry from Kathy's first Christmas production—the Yuletide Revue. Today she is a photographer's model, and has posed for covers on the nation's leading magazines.

All of the wonderful people connected with the Yuletide Revue through the years haven't been in the spotlight, but all were very important. For example, we cite O. A. Kafer, manager of the Masonic, who donated his theater for use in the early years, and George R. Fuller, who provided pianos and

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WELCOME TO THE FORCE—Chief J. E. Pearsall of the New Bern police department hands Frosty the Snow Man a night stick to go with his badge and cap, after making him an honorary member of the force. It was sub-freezing

weather, and sleeting, when the ceremony took place. Pearsall, a good sport about it, didn't hesitate when The Mirror asked him to pose with Frosty as a gag.—Photo by Billy Benners.



NAME IT AND CLAIM IT — These two kids don't seem the least bit terrified by the strange creature hauling them away to parts unknown on their tiny sled. They know full well that he isn't a man from outer space, but their own

adoring Daddy, R. D. Baskervill. In fairness to Baskervill, he usually looks much better, but dressed for the rigors of the occasion he lost most of his charm. That smile he is wearing tells you it was worth it.—Photo by Billy Benners.