



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Foolish is the mortal who would ask more of life than an abiding faith in God, friendship and respect from his acquaintances, the love and companionship of a happy family, and a chance to earn his daily bread in the town he cherishes.

All of these things have come to Melvin (Jive) Fisher, the 37-year-old Negro shoeshine boy who works at Service Barber Shop on Broad street. His calling may not be high, but for 14 years he has followed it with a dignity and manner that proves beyond doubt that it isn't what you do but how you do it that really counts.

Although Fisher can shine a pair of shoes as well as anyone, and better than most, it's not his ability but his attitude that has given him popularity few New Bernians can claim or deserve.

Courteous and conscientious, he is so thoroughly dependable that everyone would fear the worst if he failed to show up for work some morning. To most of the town's leading business and professional men, no day would be complete if it didn't include a conversation with him on his shoeshine stand.

Indicative of the esteem in which he is held, we happen to know that a New Bern surgeon whose name we won't disclose has performed two operations without charge for Jive. The physician wouldn't have it other way. The surgery was on two of his six children.

But that's only part of the story. Fisher never has to purchase any clothing for himself, his wife, or the youngsters ranging in age from 10 years to five months. His white friends keep him well supplied, and they do it not through pity, which he doesn't need, but simply because they like him and want to express it in a tangible and useful way.

Last summer, for example, Jive didn't have to buy any vegetables for his table. Day in and day out, folks toted tomatoes, corn, beans, and other items to the barber shop to keep his kitchen loaded up. It takes a lot of vegetables to keep a half dozen hungry kids satisfied, but the larder never ran out.

The true test of anyone's popularity is the way he is regarded by the people he works with on the job. If he has faults, that's where the frailties he is guilty of will be easily discernible.

Hence, it is significant that last Christmas the barbers at the establishment where he is employed abandoned the practice of giving each other gifts. Instead, they pooled the money usually spent in this fashion and gave it all to Fisher.

Jive's first pleasant surprise on Christmas eve came that morning. When he arrived at the barber shop, a large turkey was sitting for him in the Coca-Cola vending machine. A friend had fetched it to the place and left it with hearty holiday wishes.

Before the day was gone, the Negro shoe shine boy's pockets were bulging with gifts of cash that amounted to well over a hundred dollars. Needless to say, Jive put the money to good use to make the Yuletide a momentous one for his family.

How does Fisher account for the countless friends he has been blessed with? He expresses it quite simply with a Biblical quotation. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God," he says, and you know he believes the passage.

"I don't know anybody in the world I don't like," he told us with deep sincerity, "and if there's anybody who doesn't like me, I don't know it. Respect isn't something to be demanded, it's something you've got to earn. I can truthfully say that no one ever treats me unkindly or unfairly."

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FIRST LOOK—This is the initial view that visitors will have of Tryon Palace, when they approach the historic restoration after its official opening next month. Louis H. Frohman of Bronxville, N. Y., an architectural and industrial photog-

rapher, welded the camera for this latest in a series of selected Palace scenes that The Mirror has featured in recent weeks.

## New Bern's Albert Suskin Is Standout of Distinguished

So many men and women of great talent reside in Chapel Hill that the exceptional person is almost commonplace. Yet, even in such lofty surroundings of cultural excellence, New Bern's Albert Irving Suskin has distinguished himself.

A full professor in Latin at the University of North Carolina since 1953, his classroom quality is on par with the military record he established earlier in World War II.

Albert served in the Signal Corps from 1942 to 1945, entering uniform as a private and attaining the rank of master sergeant in one year. Having been trained in cryptanalysis, he specialized in code work.

He was sent to England in 1944, and joined Patton's Third Army, for its drive in France and Germany. The diminutive New Bern native, who is just about as peace-loving a mortal as you could possibly imagine, received five battle stars, the Bronze Star, and a special Oak Leaf Medal from the Duchy of Luxemburg, where he was stationed during the Battle of the Bulge.

Born here in 1910, he graduated from New Bern High school in 1927. "I decided to be a Latin teacher in high school," he says, "under the excellent teaching of Miss Marie Dunlap (later Mrs. Jerome Collier)."

Incidentally, Albert has nothing but praises for the calibre of education he was privileged to receive here in his home town. "My high school training in general," he told The Mirror, "I found to be very good in comparison with

the preparation of other students at the University of North Carolina at the time."

At Carolina, where he supported himself all through college, he received his A.B. degree with a major in Latin in 1931. His M.A. de-

gree came a year later, and his Ph.D. in 1937, all at the University.

The quiet, unassuming redhead was appointed a teaching fellow in Latin in 1933, taught briefly as a substitute at Judson College in Marion, Ala., in 1936, and that



Division of the Humanities.

Albert belongs to the American Philological Association, The Medieval Academy, The American Association of University Professors, and the North Carolina Classical Association (of which body newly formed in 1958, Mrs. John F. Rhodes, Jr., of New Bern High school is the Vice-President), and a member of the Senate of the Council for Basic Education.

In addition to writing a number of articles in his field, the 49-year-old educator has written several books. He authored Index Verborum Iuvenalis, in collaboration with Lucile Kelling Henderson, an index of the Roman satirist, Juvenal.

Albert's Roman Literature in Translation, a revision of a work done in 1924 by Professors Howe and Harrer (former heads of the UNC Classics Department) is being published this month by Harper and Bros.

He married one of his students, Lavinia Lee Smith of Asheville and Rock Hill, S. C., in May 1953. Incidentally, her maternal grandfather was James Pinckney Kinard, former president of Winthrop college.

The Suskins have one son, Mark, year became a regular member of the faculty at the University of North Carolina.

From 1946 to 1953 he served as Assistant to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, and from 1950 to 1958 was Secretary of the Department of Classics. At the present time is Secretary of the who is four years old and named for Albert's father. They have re-

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