

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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TIGERS AND TRYON

Having been treated to the world premiere of Ringling Bros., Barnum and Bailey Circus at Charlotte last week, could it be that the General Assembly will feel a slight let-down when it comes to the Tryon Palace opening in April?

With or without elephants and clowns, and peanuts and popcorn, New Bern's historic shrines should prove thoroughly entertaining. However, even with a Palace in the center ring, it's hard to put on an extravaganza that will challenge the Greatest Show on Earth.

On this second occasion, just like the first, there is going to be plenty to behold. Certainly, P. T. Barnum, if he were still among the living, would be the first to agree that a trip through the Palace is well worth anybody's time.

Of course, a Barnum would handle the opening here a little differently than will the Palace Commission. Instead of ladies dressed in Colonial costume serving as guides, he would round up a crew of loud-voiced barkers and have them spieling all over the place.

If nobody stopped him, he might even have the Wild Man from Borneo howling and growling, just inside the front door. And, to make sure that visitors were in a pleasant frame of mind when they departed, a Barnum would save his best clown act for the last.

There won't be any sawdust at the Palace opening, no trapeze performers—or a trained seal playing the Minuet. Snake charmers are more or less taboo, not to mention lions, bears, and most especially monkeys.

The only freaks you can count on at the Palace are the usual number of freakish-looking people that are included in any crowd of considerable size.

Yet, there's room in the world for historic restorations, as well as circuses, and the General Assembly, along with Governor Hodges, will, we feel confident, be quite impressed by what is to be seen here.

FOOLS NEED LABELS

It is The Mirror's firm conviction that a law requiring any and all motorboats to have an identifying number displayed conspicuously on their bow is wise legislation indeed.

Anyone who has been on the Neuse and Trent rivers in recent years is acutely aware of the hot-rod maniacs who consider it grand sport to recklessly endanger the lives of others by operating their boats with wanton disregard for the rights and safety of all.

Unlike the idiot who drives an automobile or flies a plane in such a manner, the fool in a motorboat has heretofore been able to escape detection.

Since his craft had no license number, and looked pretty much the same as numerous other boats on the river, he had nothing to fear if he took criminal advantage of some stranger.

Although it hasn't always held true, most of the offenders here are from other sections of the State. They hurry to our waters on Wednesday afternoons and weekends, put their boats over, and then spoil the pleasure of decent, law abiding citizens.

Fortunately, serious tragedy hasn't occurred yet, but occur it will if these empty-headed jerks are permitted to continue their criminal acts. It will be too late to do something about it, when lives are lost.

No one should be more concerned over existing conditions than those boat owners who display common sense and common decency. They, above all, should support the numbering of motorboats, and drastic punishments for anyone guilty of recklessness.

The rivers belong to us all, and are ours to enjoy to the fullest so long as we don't regard them as a place to behave stupidly at the expense of others.

It shouldn't take laws and stiff punishment to make an operator of a boat observe the Golden Rule. But that's what it's going to take, and The Mirror would like to see every offender spend the summer in jail.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

A suit by Doctor John O. Meara against Pierce Manning and Edward Kean, Merchants of New Bern, for the absence of a pump and for damage to items sent to him at Trinidad, Cuba, in 1800 and 1801. The correspondence changed from friendly to furious, and finally Mr. Manning wrote the Doctor that "any further correspondence is unnecessary."

New Bern, N. C., August 7, 1801. Letter from Pierce Manning and Edward Kean to Doctor John O. Meara. Dear Sir: We have sent you on the BRIG NEUSE, Captain James Harker for GRENADA, your boy Ned, and six trunks, one case, a writing desk, backgammon table, a tin box, and a pine box with Captain Harker's receipt enclosed, which he is to deliver at Grenada for you. Enclosed is your account with Pierce Manning. There are two small accounts due to Doctor Osborne and the Printing Office still unsettled, which will be paid. The carpet, tea kettle and two earthen pots will be sold at vendue for your account, not thinking them worth paying freight for. Pierce Manning wrote his friend to apply to Edward Moore and company of New York for your protested bills, which they refused to deliver until they are paid \$49.00 for their commissions. John Ellis of New York is to be paid five dollars which he demanded on the same account.

Wishing Ned and the things safe to hand, we remain, Sir, your most obedient servants. Pierce Manning, Edward Kean. P. S. The bed and mattress are at Mr. Kean's in the country.

The account of Doctor John O. Meara with Pierce Manning, 1800-1801, among other items, 1 pair short kid gloves, 1½ yards of white ribbon, 200 pump tacks, 1 skein black silk, 23 yards fine linen, 1 bunch tape, 2 1/6 loaf sugar, 4 pair long kid gloves, cash paid servants for attending the funeral, Jacob Banks for bringing Mrs. O. Meara from Mr. Kean's plantation, cash paid to Captain Cox for house rent, cash paid to Jarvis Buxton, amount of bill for making a coffin, postage of letters from Philadelphia, cash to John L. Taylor for 9 months hire of servant, cash to Isaac Taylor amount of his bill for things for Mrs. O. Meara's funeral. May 19, 1801, by James J. Mazurin for the net proceeds of your bill on England sold R. Smith, New Bern, I have given O'Brien Smith of Charleston, orders to draw on me for \$400.00

Trinidad, January 17, 1802, Gentlemen: In ten days after sight of this my first draft pay to Captain Josachar Stroude of SCHOONER EXPERIMENT or to his order the sum of One Hundred Fifty pounds, thirteen shillings, North Carolina currency for value received and place the same amount to account

Village Verses

JUST FOR YOU

I'd like to have the rhythm of the rain
That pitter patters on a city street;
A small boy's whistle on a country lane;
The joyous sound of toddling baby feet.
I'd like to have the tom toms of the sea,
Beating their challenge on fast-changing sands,
A night bird's call, a brook's soft melody,
The sigh of winds that come from distant lands.
Although my idle wishes are all wrong,
And having these things would never do;
I'd like to blend them, in a song of songs,
Then hurry home to sing it, just for you.
—JGMcd.

with or without advice of, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant, John O. Meara. To Mr. Pierce Manning and Mr. Edward Kean, Merchants, New Bern, North Carolina. New Bern, N. C., on the 25th day of March, 1802, at the request of John Devereaux, Merchant of New Bern, I, Nathan Tisdale, a Notary for the Port of NEW BERN, State of North Carolina, duly appointed and sworn, went with the original bill of which the above is an exact copy to the dwelling houses of Pierce Manning and Edward Kean . . . Mr. Edward Kean answered that he would not pay said bill as he had not nor never had any money or other funds of the drawer in his possession. Mr. Pierce Manning said he had to the amount of 140 pounds of John O. Meara in his possession, but that he should not pay the bill or any part of it, unless a power from the drawer accompanied the same authorizing some person to settle with and give him a receipt in full of all demands. WHEREUPON, I the said Notary did and do by these presents protest as well against the drawer of the said bills as all others whom it doth or may concern for all costs, damages and interest suffered and to be suffered for want of payment.

Thus done and protested at New Bern aforesaid in the presence of John Knowles and Marcus C. Stephens, witnesses hereunto required.

In Testimony Whereof, signed by Nathan Tisdale, N.P.

The suit being referred to us the subscribers we are of the opinion that the defendant, Mr. Manning, is indebted to John O. Meara, the plaintiff in the above sum of One Hundred and Fifty Seven pounds, twelve shillings and that he deliver to the plaintiff the pump charged in the account, February 7, 1803. William Shepard, John Harvey.

Witnesses: William Kyle, James McKinlay, James Taylor, John Devereaux, Captain Thompson, Thomas Kenny, Mr. Chapman. Bond signed by Pierce Manning, John Harvey, John Gooding, W. Arnett, C.S.C., February Court, 1803.

ONE MAN'S OPINION

The most glaring fault of some men is that they can have self-respect without half trying.

VITA-VAR PAINTS

MITCHELL'S HARDWARE

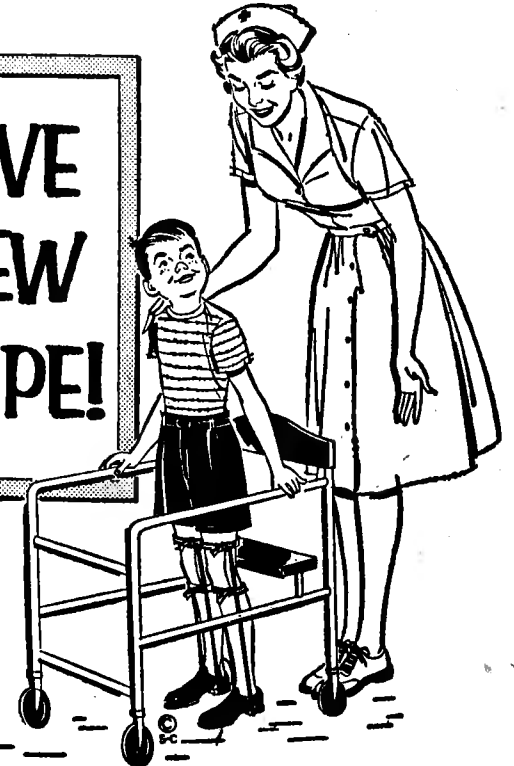
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