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NO.

Ordinarily, we aren't too impressed with "This Is Your Life," the gooey tear-jerker that Ralph Edwards serves up weekly to his television audience.

Often, it seems to us, the program shows bad taste. Always, or almost always, it is melodramatic to a nauseating extent. However, it makes a difference when you're personally acquainted with the celebrity placed in the spotlight.

Hence, when Ted Lewis, the high hat tragedian of jazz, was the subject recently, we found the program thoroughly entertaining, and not over done. Ralph pictured Ted as a very fine individual, and indeed he is.

Talent isn't the only thing that has kept him on top as a great showman for half a century. It's an honest humility that makes him love all people, and appreciate the smallest favor.

That's how the editor of The Mirror got to know Ted, close to 30 years ago. Young in the newspaper game, we wrote a Sunday feature for the Raleigh News and Observer, and mentioned Ted in one paragraph. He was mentioned quite briefly, along with a dozen or more other entertainers.

Somehow, somewhere, he happened to see the story. Maybe a clipping service mailed him a copy. At any rate, we were astounded to get a letter of thanks from him several days later.

Scrawled in his own handwriting, the warm and lengthy communication was as friendly as it was obviously sincere. To this day, we've never received a more cordial note from anyone. To a kid reporter, it was just as thrilling as having the Sunday feature accepted in the first place.

Lewis included his address, 18 Central Park West, New York City, in the letter, so we immediately wrote to express our appreciation for his appreciation. And from that a friendship was born.

Later, we did a story on Ted for Carl Goerch's State Magazine, calling attention to the many "Carolina" songs that he and his orchestra played in their journeying from coast to coast.

Since then, when Christmas rolls around, we always get a Christmas card from Ted and his wife, Adah, to whom he has been happily married for 43 years. Undoubtedly, many another writer is likewise remembered, and is, we hope, just as grateful as we are for being remembered for so long a time.

To us, one of the things that makes Ted so great is the pride he holds for his home town, Circleville, Ohio. During his lengthy career he has always made it a point to mention his birthplace at every opportunity.

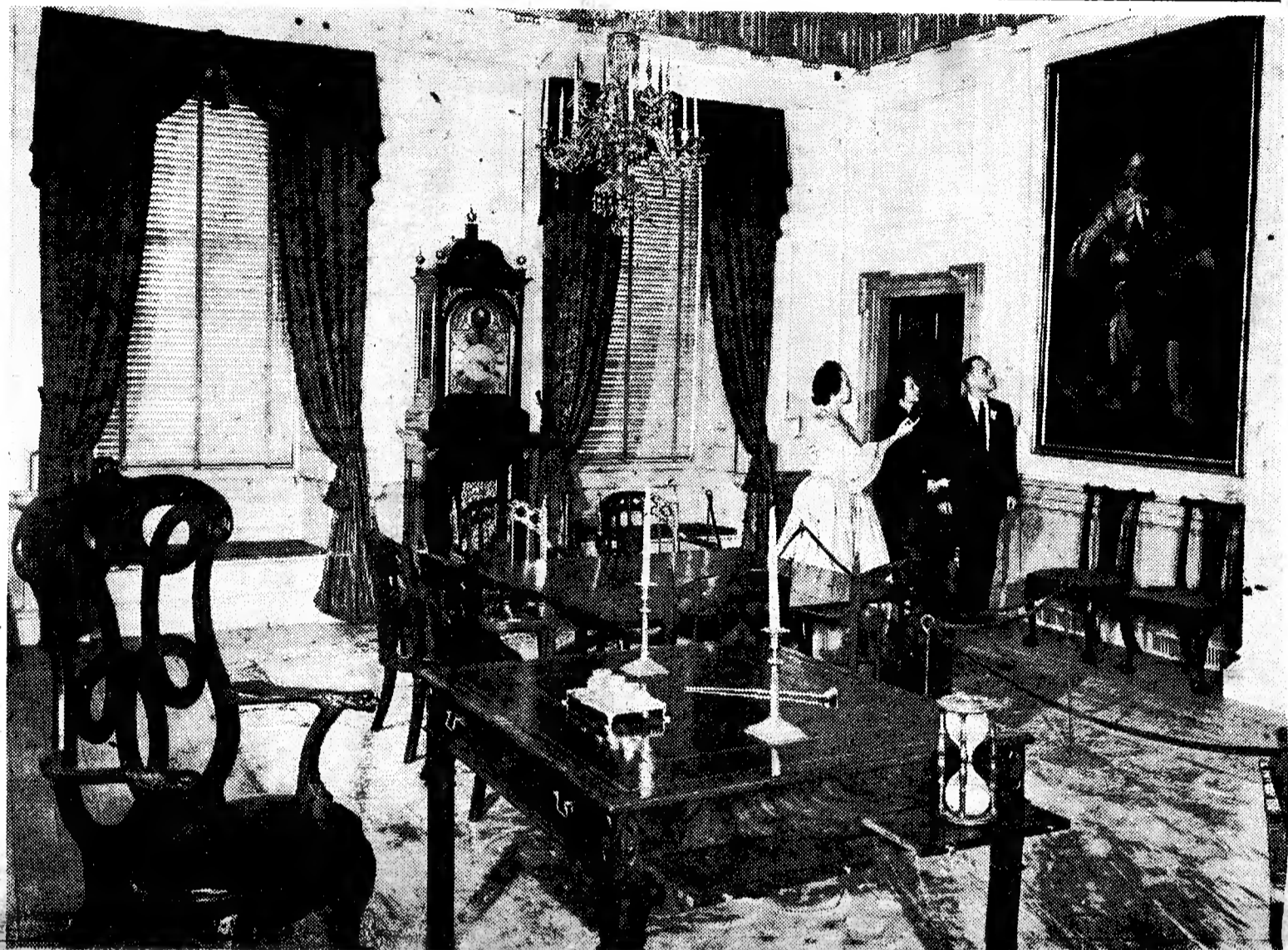
Circleville, in turn, has named its park for him, and each year, on his birthday, the schools there declare a full holiday. His charities are legend, especially when the cause concerns children.

Rudyard Kipling, in one of his poems, used the line, "And walk with kings, nor lose the common touch". How true this is of Ted Lewis. He has been privileged to entertain and mingle with the greatest of the great in all walks of life. Yet, no one to him is unimportant.

Most of the really big people are like that. It remains for the phonies to play the role of snob, and lord it over others. Such folks point to the truly great and call them lucky.

Well, luck does play a part, but in the most fickle and unpredictable of all professions, Ted Lewis has succeeded by just being himself.

Sometimes it turns out to be a lot better to have loved and lost than to be the other fellow.



COUNCIL CHAMBER—This exquisitely furnished room in Tryon Palace illustrates the original building's dual function as Royal Governor's Residence and seat of Colonial Government for the Colony of North Carolina. A Chippendale mahogany table desk from Lulworth Castle is shown

here, with mahogany council tables and Gothic Chippendale chairs. The portrait is of King George III of England; the clock was made in 1736 by Charles Clay of London. It has chimes and bells, and even plays operatic tunes.—Photo by Bill Gulley.

Guy Parsons Was a Credit As Native Son of New Bern

A man that everybody else in Philadelphia wants to be like. Such was the unanimous Quaker City label placed on New Bern's Guy Edgar Parsons.

They said these things about him in life, and since his death on January 31, 1959, the same complimentary remarks have been uttered time and time again.

Even as another New Bern native, Johnnie Sullivan, enjoys the highest plaudits of law enforcement circles in Washington, D. C., so did Guy win the hearts and the acclaim of a major American city.

No other town in the United States, or the world, has duplicated New Bern's feat in contributing not one but two distinguished sons to the top rungs of police leadership.

Readers of The Mirror are already familiar with Sullivan's accomplishments, thanks to the exclusive story recently carried on him in this paper. After this morning you'll be equally acquainted with Parsons and his claim to fame.

For more than 40 years—dating back to August 31, 1917—he reflected credit on the Philadelphia police department. Eventually he became a living legend, not only in that city and in all of Pennsylvania, but in the nation at large.

So impressed was President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the New Bernian's ability that he was offered the position of Chief of White House Guards. Roosevelt knew Guy personally, often spoke of him in flattering terms. Yet, so dedicated was this man to his work in Philadelphia that he declined an

appointment that countless others coveted.

Leading newspapers in the Pennsylvania metropolis—the Inquirer,

Record, Evening Bulletin and Daily News—revealed his decision on April 15, 1942. At that time, Parsons was very much in the public

eye as Philadelphia's chief air raid warden, although he was best known as a traffic control authority with an international reputation.

In an effort to give you the story without prejudice or exaggeration, The Mirror went to the Philadelphia police files for the exact words describing his special outstanding assignments.

These assignments are listed as follows:

Placed in command of all uniformed units during the 1944 trolley strike, and commended for his impartial and efficient command.

Sent to Louisville, Ky., during the flood catastrophe, in command of 200 Philadelphia policemen, to aid and assist to bring order out of chaos. Returned in two weeks with high praise from officials of Louisville.

In charge of 150 policemen sent to Atlantic City during the hurricane of 1944, to assist in law and order.

Sent to Washington, D. C., in command of 100 men during two Presidential inaugurations.

Placed in charge of special units during the Republican and Democratic conventions that were held in Philadelphia.

A 30-year banquet was tendered to Guy in Philadelphia's Convention Hall, and it was the largest testimonial banquet ever tendered to an individual in Philadelphia. There were 3,000 well wishers in attendance, including outstanding members of all phases of civic life, prominent locally and nationally.

(Continued on back page)



GUY EDGAR PARSONS