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Many writers, including the editor of the Mirror, have done stories on New Bern's Ed Wallnau for various newspapers. One of the better ones appeared in the New York Times on June 11, 1956.

Meyer Berger wrote it, and since a feature about yourself in that most respected of all dailies is about as high as you can get, we are reprinting it today to remind fellow New Bernians of the esteem that outsiders feel for one of our home town boys.

Here is the New York Times column devoted entirely to Ed:

A curious figure at the United States Military Academy graduation at West Point the other day was a tall, rapid-talking civilian, an honorary member of the class of '31.

He virtually ran the class' 25th reunion. He wriggled with delight as West Point's high brass and cadets hailed him at all turns and called him by name.

He is Edward Wallnau, vice-president of the Picadilly Hotel, off Times Square, a native of New Bern, which was North Carolina's eighteenth-century capital. It was through Col. Marcellus Duffy, another New Bernian, class of '31, that Mr. Wallnau came to adopt West Point as his hobby a quarter of a century ago.

The colonel invited Mr. Wallnau to the class graduation as a family friend and neighbor. In that same year Mr. Wallnau, as an assistant manager at the Astor Hotel, had just begun to meet a run of West Point officers and cadets.

They stayed at the Astor frequently, mostly on holidays and when they were down for football. They got a special rate there, as they do at the Picadilly now. It was unofficially the West Pointer's home in the city.

Mr. Wallnau delighted in getting railroad and theater tickets for the visiting cadets, in lending them small sums to sweeten their dates when they ran short of cash.

In return he asked for their autographed photographs, of which by and by, he had hundreds. His office in the Picadilly now has no more wall space for cadet pictures.

All desk and table surface is covered with Howitzers, the West Point yearbooks, and with works by former Academy-men, Generals Omar Bradley, Mary Clark and William Dean, among others.

Shallow wicker baskets in Mr. Wallnau's office hold thousands of officers' and cadets' visiting cards, some already yellowing, many left by boys who went to the wars and never came back.

Framed pictures of these dead on the office walls carry gold or silver stars—one gold star for men killed in action, two gold stars for dead who had won decorations, a silver star for men who died behind the lines or in peacetime Air Force accidents. Mr. Wallnau knew them all when they were youngsters.

His scrapbooks are heavy with notices of weddings, births and deaths, sent by cadets after they got out of West Point. He has news clippings of their military exploits, watches the journals for them all the time.

His class books go back to 1904, given by old grads who heard of his hobby. He carried the whole collection to the Picadilly when he left the Astor in 1937. He took with him at that time a whopping bit of the Astor's West Point business.

During World War II West Point graduates on all fronts deluged Mr. Wallnau with V-mail. He has kept it all. One run of wartime correspondence brought him \$115,000 in checks. These came when the West Point grapevine carried word that Mr. Wallnau was thinking of start-

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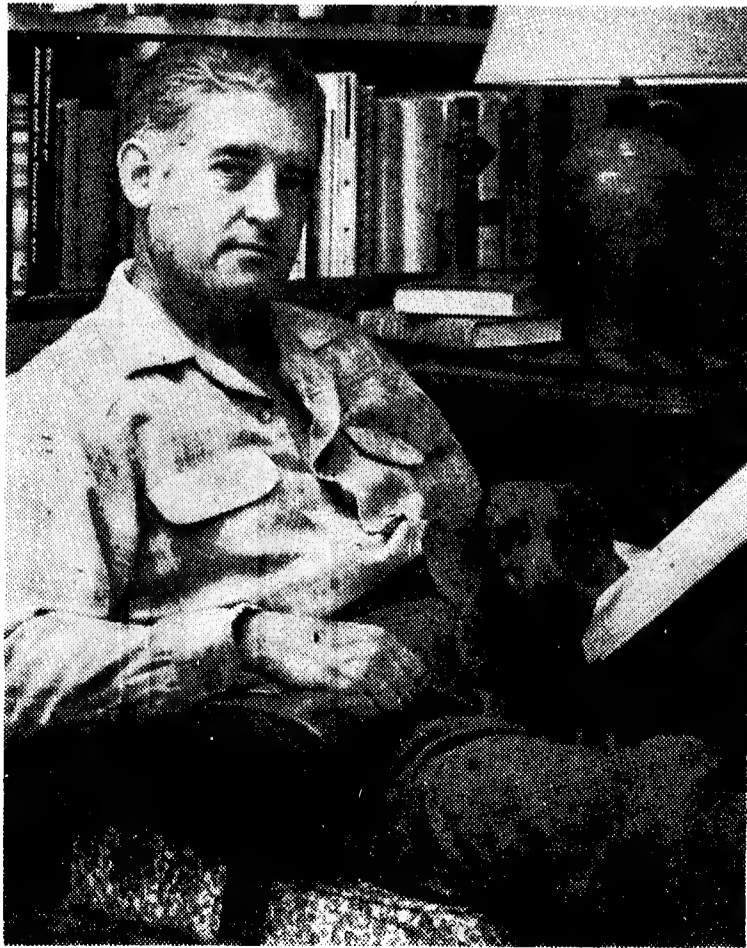


A TOAST FROM OLD BERNIE—Having covered the Tryon Palace story thoroughly in recent weeks with our series of front page photographs, we reached out thousands of miles to get just the right scene for today's issue of The Mirror.

We got it too, thanks to the cooperation of the Mayor and others in our mother city. What could be more appropriate than the famed bear cubs of Berne, lifting their bottles of milk in a toast to New Bern and the now restored Palace?

Burke Davis Will Be Among Notables in City Next Week

Not the least of the noted personalities who will be here Wednesday for Tryon Palace doings is that distinguished Durham biographer and novelist, W. Burke Davis. Author of eight books in the past ten years, including "To Apomatox", a Literary Guild selection now on the best-seller list, he will be at the Southern Book Center on Pollock street during the day for an autographing party.



Currently covering the General Assembly for the Greensboro Daily News, Burke has been a reporter for 20 years. At present he is living in a log cabin with his family in Guilford county. Built almost 200 years ago by a Quaker settler, James Ross, the dwelling has been enlarged and renovated.

A prolific producer, once he gets started, Davis writes a book in six or seven weeks, but to do that requires a full year of research and ground-work. He has found limitless material in the drama, bitterness and heartbreak of the Civil War, and expects to write on this theme indefinitely.

His "Jeb Stewart" received the Fletcher Pratt Award for the best Civil War book published in 1957, and two of his Civil War biographies have been placed in the White House library among "the two hundred leading titles of the past four years."

From 1937 to 1947, he was a sports writer for the Charlotte News, and also did editorials and features for that leading Tar Heel daily. After four years as a reporter on the Baltimore Evening Sun, he headed back to North Carolina and sunk his roots near Greensboro.

Although Burke will be much too busy while in New Bern to do research, there is an abundance of Civil War history in the first State Capital. An authority on that tragic conflict, he is already familiar with some of our lore, and no doubt will pursue the matter further in due time.

The Durham native has proven

once again the adage that a writer can do his best work if he concentrates on the section where he first saw the light of day. Burke wasn't around when Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson were leading the boys in gray, but he is more than casually acquainted with hallowed Confederate ground.

In fact, 50 soldiers of the 71st Highland Regiment are buried on the spot where his log cabin stands. He disclaims any "professional Confederate" label, but those who read his books are convinced that the Lost Cause is embedded deep in his heart.

Because he is an accurate reporter, Davis writes as factually as possible. As a result, his biographies don't always strike the fancy of some readers. The ones who don't see eye to eye with him, often bombard him with scathing letters, but he tries to answer these letters, good or bad.

You might think, offhand, that his greatest following is below the Mason-Dixon line. To the contrary, interest in Civil War books extends the length and breadth of America, and is remarkably high in Northern states.

Burke didn't enjoy real success in the realm of books until he turned to the Civil War for inspiration. His initial book was a contemporary novel, "Whisper My Name", and it was a rather feeble seller. So was his second novel, "The Ragged Ones", with a Revolutionary setting.

Things started looking up but definitely when he set his sights on

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