



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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It was nice to have Minette Duffy Bickle back in town the other day for a short visit, along with other members of the family. Knowing the dream her mother had of a restored Tryon's Palace, it wasn't at all surprising when Minette, Charlotte, Charles and Sophie Sue showed up for opening ceremonies.

We were particularly interested in chatting with Minette, since she left her native New Bern as a promising artist and has continued her portraits while living in Boston, Hamilton (Mass.), Pittsburgh and now Philadelphia.

Married to William C. Bickle of the Gulf Oil Co., she moves from place to place with him as his duties demand. At the moment she is busy settling down on Moreland Avenue in the Quaker City's Chestnut Hill section.

Study to enhance her God-given talent never ends for this slender, smiling New Bernian, who is probably the easiest person to interview of all the famous and non-famous folks we've popped questions at in 30 years of newspapering.

In addition to study at the St. Louis School of Fine Arts, and at the Art Students League in New York, she has been studying privately. Now she is enrolled in the Pennsylvania Academy.

"You never stop learning," she told us. "You might disagree with some of your teachers, but each one of them gives you something you can grasp. I feel it is a mistake to remain with one instructor. By going from one to another, you broaden your scope."

As far back as Minette can remember, which isn't so very long compared with some of us, she has been drawing. However, she didn't actually paint until she was 17.

One of her earlier claims to fame was the portrait she did of Tyrone Power while he was stationed at Cherry Point. Incidentally, another Marine notable who sat for a portrait was General Larkin. If we're not mistaken, it has remained displayed at the Marine Corps Air Station.

Few of her subjects have been more interesting than Monsignor Irwin, and it is fitting that this portrait is at St. Paul's Catholic school here. "Older people are the easiest to paint," says Minette. "Their character has definitely developed in the lines of their faces."

As a matter of fact, she prefers to work with adults, rather than children, although a number of her subjects have been juveniles. She is intensely fond of people in general, and this is reflected in her portraits as clearly as a writer's heart is reflected in the phrases he fashions.

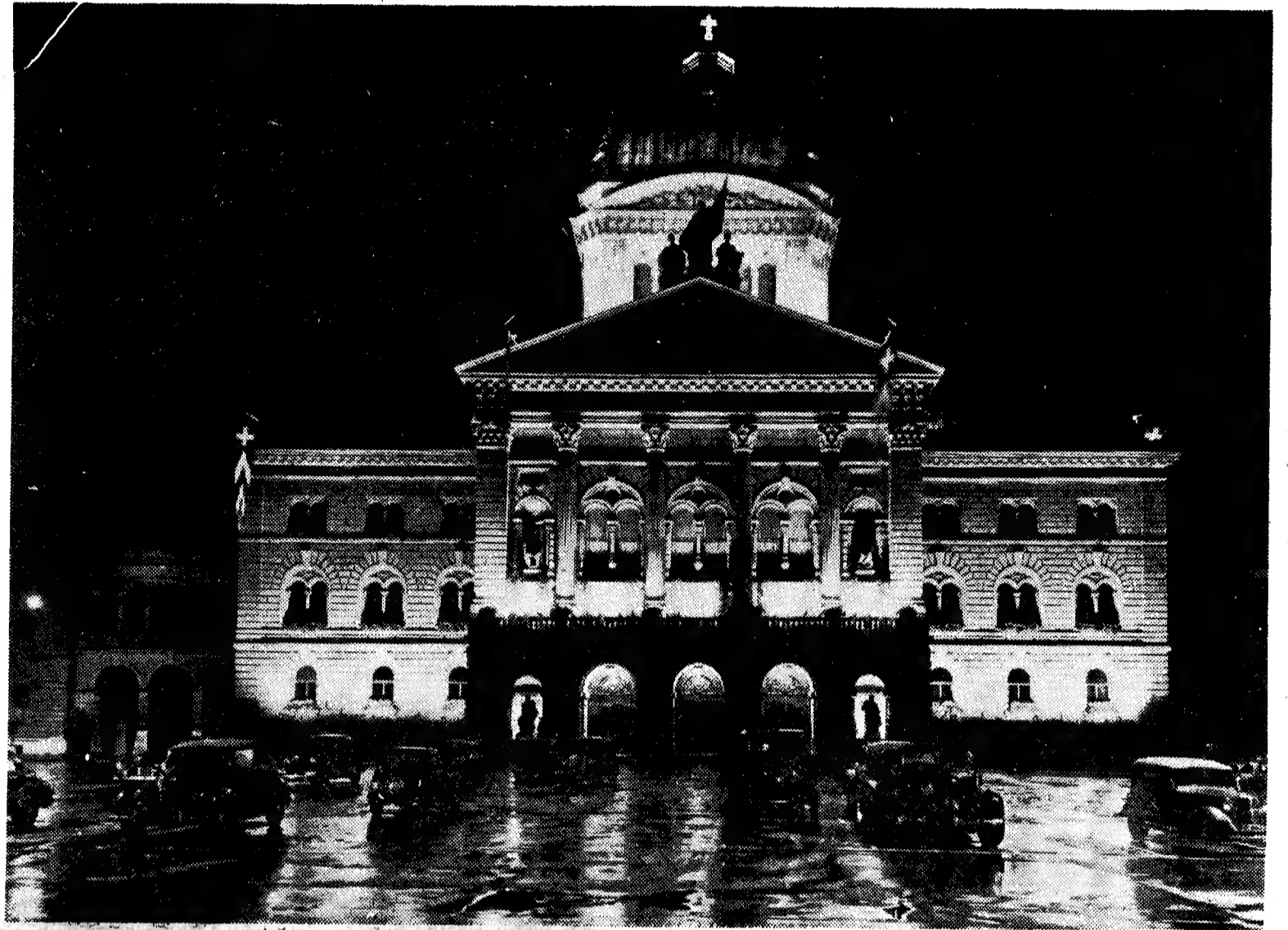
Most of us who aren't overly familiar with art have the impression that portraits are almost always painted on canvas. Not so with the fine work done by Minette.

She paints on paper or wood, and prefers the former. By utilizing paper, she achieves an oil pastel look. "You can work quicker," she told us, "and your portrait has a soft effect. It is made permanent by placing it on a board."

Minette relies on two techniques—the Old Masters and the Egg Tempera. It surprised us to learn that the latter technique, just as its name implies, calls for the use of whole eggs in the paint, along with other ingredients that include powdered zinc.

While in New York she did a portrait of Lynde Selden, vice-chairman of the board of the American Express. A number of other outstanding persons have posed for her above the Mason-Dixon line. In every instance, she is commissioned to paint the portraits.

There's nothing uppity or tem-



A GEM IN THE DARKNESS—As we approach the 250th anniversary of New Bern's founding by the Swiss, The Mirror will bring its readers a series of magnificent photos depicting our mother city of Berne. They were arranged

through the cooperation of top-ranking officials far across the sea. Here, in its nocturnal splendor, is the Swiss House of Parliament, glistening in a Spring rain.

## New Bern Can Learn a Lot From Its Famed Mother City

The history of Berne, our mother city, has something of the fantastic about it.

At the end of the 12th century the Duke of Zähringen, an imperial subject holding lands in Bergundy, founded a fortified town at a strategically important river crossing.

The nobility of the district and artisans and workers soon became an important part of its population. Gradually, this small imperial city with its many towers and walls grew in size. Building materials came from the ruins of Roman settlements and the sandstone quarries around Berne.

At the battle of Laupen, only a century and a half after its foundation, Berne won an important victory over its threatening neighbors, and now the town expanded in all directions. By the 16th century it was master of an area stretching from the Lake of Geneva almost as far as the Rhine.

Politics, diplomacy, war, agriculture, and administration were the tasks which "the smallest of the great powers", as Berne has been named, was faced. In many ways the city and republic of Berne may be compared with ancient Rome, and there were Bernese statesmen whose ideas and ability bear comparison with the

great Romans of the past.

The arts, intellectual pursuits, commerce and industry were only

of secondary importance. And

Berne has remained an important political center-right to the present

day.

However, the Bernese have produced great writers and artists such as Niklaus Manuel, the great poet-doctor Haller, the Nobel prize-winner Theodor Kocher, the artists Ferdinand Hodler and Albert Anker and the famous author Jeremias Gotthelf.

The kings of France placed great value on a friendly relationship with the Bernese nobility, whose ruling families monopolized the government of the Bernese nobility, whose ruling families monopolized the government of Berne until the French Revolution and the new liberal ideas of the 19th century destroyed them.

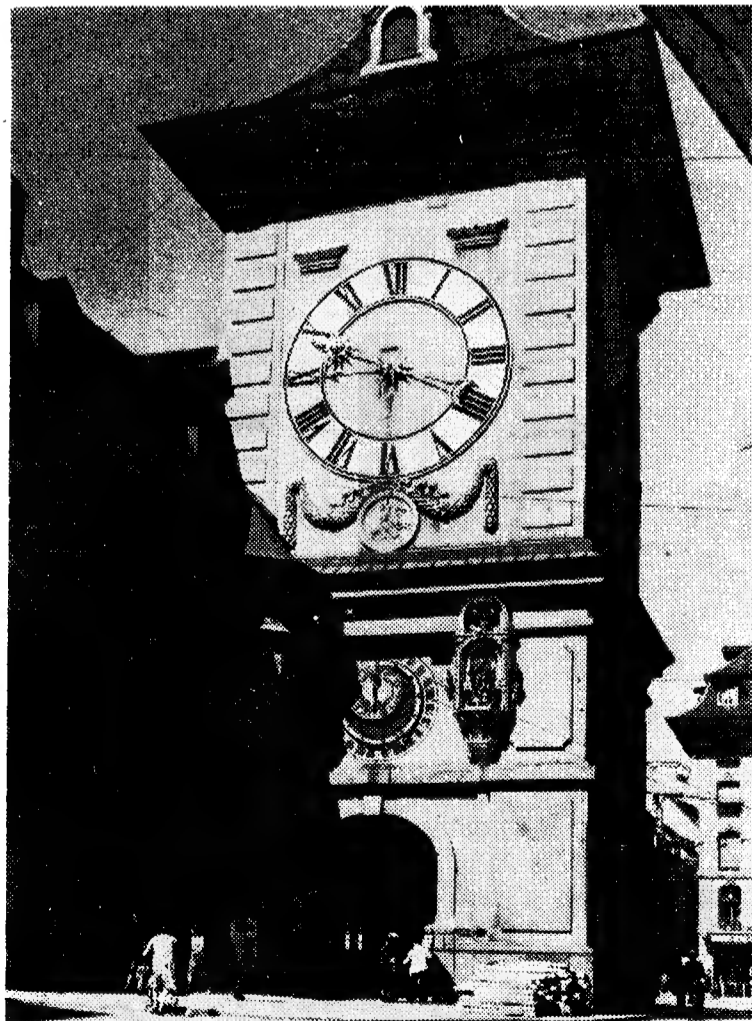
Napoleon visited Berne before he rose to power as Consul and Emperor. The young secretary at the French embassy in Berne, Count Gobineau, later to become a famous author, found Berne a boring place.

He wrote in this strain to the great political thinker, Alexis de Tocqueville, complaining of the unpolished manners of the first federal councillors. De Tocqueville's reply was anything but sympathetic, however.

Just as the clock on New Bern's City Hall has become a symbol of the town, the Clock-Tower in Berne is that city's best known landmark. In 1527, Casper Brunner of Nuremberg set up the astronomical clock which still stands.

This justly celebrated work is a superb witness to the grand and impassioned epoch, influenced at once by humanism and the reformation. Gothic art began to penetrate north

(Continued on back page)



BERNE'S TOWN CLOCK