



The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Roy Tucker's death has removed from the local scene a native New Bernian who loved the town's history, and wanted it preserved for posterity.

He not only loved history, but was a part of it in this first State Capital. He was one of the better athletes produced here in a long-ago era, and as a volunteer fireman was among the daring lads who brought world-wide fame to the Button Fire Company.

In this connection, it should be added that Roy was the prime instigator in the establishment of the New Bern Fireman's Museum a few years back. He got very little credit for his interest and efforts, when publicity releases were handed out, but at least he was made chairman of the museum committee. As such, he was a credit to the cause.

He didn't live to see his hope fulfilled for preservation and restoration of the hallowed spot where Battleground Park is located, across Trent river from New Bern. It was a dream close to his heart, and the last time we had occasion to chat with him he talked at length about it.

Unlike some amateur historians, Tucker didn't seem to be overly concerned with tracing his own ancestry, and pointing with pride to members of his family tree. He apparently took a broader view, and was more interested in developing the entire picture of New Bern's golden past.

Actually, Roy was somewhat ahead of his time. Many New Bernians are now enthused about history—and more power to them—but the former superintendent of mails at the local post office was already cognizant of the town's heritage, along with a few others, a generation or more ago.

He was a member of the Button hose team that set a world's record at Charlotte in 1911, and the record still stands. Bob Whitley, Sr., was captain of the team. With Whitley and Tucker were George Herrington, Don Sparrow, Tom D. Davis, Claude White and Fleet Smallwood. Fleet was driver for the horse-drawn wagon, and the trusty steed that helped make the record possible was named Ben Hurst, after a leading citizen of the town.

The mark was established on May 20, 1911, while State firemen were holding their annual convention in conjunction with Charlotte's celebration of the Mecklenberg Declaration of Independence.

Whitley, who certainly knew Roy as well as anyone else, says he not only was an outstanding competitor in tournaments, but an excellent fireman when confronted with a serious fire.

"While I was chief of the New Bern fire department," recalls Bob, "I didn't worry when I saw fellows like Roy, Albert Jowdy, Emmett McSorley and Bill Smith in the thick of things."

Just as a number of other intimate friends, Whitley appreciated Tucker's modesty. He was never one to seek the limelight or try to hog the glory. This, we suspect, is why it didn't worry him in the least when the full credit due him for starting and pushing the firemen's museum didn't come his way, as it should have.

Roy played halfback on New Bern's football team, back in 1913. His teammates included Edgar Tynes, Lyle Smith, Jamie Tolson, George Terry, Ed Land, Fred Aberly, Carlyle Harker, Fred Hardison, and Roy Shupp. William "Slim" Lewis and Charlie "Dutch" Seifert were the coaches.

In those days, a football squad consisted of very few players. If you were good enough to be on the team, you were expected to perform the entire game. No injury, short of something downright fatal, was a valid excuse to limp or



QUALIFY FOR HIGH HONOR—These eight New Bern boys have completed requirements for the God and Country award, presented to Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts who exemplify through study and deeds the ideals of religious service. Left to right are Houghton Chunn Purser, Charles Stephen Alford, James Thomas Johnson, Jr., Horace Eu-

gene Stowell, David Lawrence Toler, Jr., Edgar William Hunt, and Robert Miller Tyson, Jr. They are members of Boy Scout Troop 13 and Explorer Troop 13. Charles Taylor, Scoutmaster, and Ellen Carraway, Explorer advisor, are their adult leaders.

'Miss Lucia' Didn't Mind Her Exchange of Fame for Junie

When New Bern's Lucia Hutchinson got married a few years back to a fellow from Williamston, she was without doubt the best-known bride in eastern North Carolina. Her "Romper Room" program on Greenville's WNCT had endeared her to countless thousands of television fans.

As for the groom, folks down this way knew less than nothing about him, except that his name was Elbert Sidney Peel, Jr., and his nickname was Junie. To this day, far too little is known about him by the average New Bernian.

We say that because Junie, like Lucia, is outstanding in his own right. He is much too modest to seek the limelight, but seeing as how he is hitched to one of the nicest and most talented girls this town ever saw, it's high time you got better acquainted with him.

Among other things, he is the State senator from the Second-District, which comprises Pamlico, Beaufort, Martin, Hyde, Tyrrell and Dare counties. A freshman in the past General Assembly, he was so

crawl to the sidelines.

From what we hear, Tucker was quite a baseball player too. Because of his interest in athletics, it must have been a keen source of satisfaction when his own son, Roy Jr., and his daughter, Shirley, also turned out to be outstanding athletes.

Yes, Roy's passing removed from the local scene a man to remember.

popular in his section that no one ran against him when he announced his candidacy.

This political tribute from those

who reside in his district isn't surprising, considering the record of this unassuming, soft-spoken native of Martin county. He has packed a

lot of accomplishments into his 37 years of living.

Son of Elbert S. Peel, Sr., and the former Myrtle Manning, he graduated from Virginia Episcopal High school at Lynchburg, Va., in 1940, after graduating from Williamston's 11-grade school in 1939. At Williamston he was picked as the school's most outstanding athlete.

He graduated in 1944 from the University of North Carolina. In college he played three years of basketball, was vice-president of the student body, made Phi Beta Kappa, was tapped for the Golden Fleece, president of Zeta Psi fraternity, and a member of Gimghoul.

Junie entered the Navy in 1944, attained the rank of lieutenant (jg) and served in the Atlantic during World War II. When he came out in 1947 he entered law school at the University of North Carolina, and graduated in 1949.

He entered legal practice with his father at Williamston, and in 1950 was responsible for the forming of the National Guard unit in his home town. Called to Korea in 1951, he served two years as a captain, and returned to the practice of law in 1953.

Despite the fact that he has been kept pretty busy earning his hoe-cakes, he wasn't one to dodge his share of community service. He was president of the Williamston Junior Chamber of Commerce during 1954-55; secretary-treasurer of the Kiwanis club in 1958; president

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