

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

Published Every Friday at 111 King Street, New Bern, N. C., by the Sole Owner

J. GASKILL McDANIEL Editor and Publisher

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year \$2.50 Six Months \$1.25
Entered as second-class mail at New Bern April 4, 1958, under the act of March 3, 1879.

REALLY TOPS

This month our State Highway Patrol is observing its 30th anniversary, and the fact is worth more than passing mention.

Not that the organization needs any particular boosting. Having already been recognized as America's finest, its achievements are a matter of record.

Fortunately for citizens, including those who don't always appreciate the Patrol's vigilance, its officers and men have rendered outstanding service throughout the 30-year span. The occasional bad apple in the barrel is a rare exception, and doesn't last very long. The percentage of sincere, courteous and dedicated patrolmen is overwhelming, to say the least.

Here in New Bern we have been blessed with able leadership from sergeants like Tom Brown, Clark Teague and Ernest Guthrie. Brown and Teague moved up the ladder to higher rank at Greenville and Salisbury. Guthrie has proven to be a worthy replacement here.

Each of the three is first and last a gentleman. Being one hasn't diminished their efficiency. To the contrary, it generated public respect and confidence that are essential if the Patrol is to function at its best.

Some law enforcement officers in other fields seem to get the impression that a badge and a gun gives one license to behave like a bully. It could be that they've seen too many westerns on television. At any rate, all of us can be glad that the pattern for Highway patrolmen doesn't call for swaggering individuals who behave more like punks than guardians of persons and property.

Naturally, a newspaperman gets a closer view of the average member of the Highway Patrol than does the rank and file citizen. We see them under trying circumstances—at accident scenes, in emergency rooms and morgues, and in court. And we can say without hesitation that the State has every right to be proud of them.

DESERVES YOUR SUPPORT

Having joined the North Carolina Association for Retarded Children, through its newly organized Craven County chapter, we are urging you to do likewise.

All we were called upon to invest, for the annual dues, was two bucks. To us that is a small price for the satisfaction we are getting from the realization that we're among Tar Heel pioneers in a cause so commendable.

It is understandable—yet ironic—that the greatest interest shown in the project thus far has come from the parents of retarded children. A notable exception is the New Bern Civitan Club. Members of that organization had already contributed liberally from club funds to help retarded youngsters, but jumped at the chance individually to join the Craven chapter as soon as it was organized.

Offhand, we are inclined to feel that no one in New Bern should be more eager to give retarded children special training than those of us who have not been faced with the problem and heartaches of such a situation in our own home.

Consider these figures. Out of every 100,000 children born, 700 have heart disease, 200 are blind, 300 are disabled by polio, 350 are victims of cerebral palsy . . . BUT 3,000 are MENTALLY RETARDED. These children need help.

Having a mentally retarded child is no disgrace. As the old saying goes, it happens in the best of families and also in the less well-to-do families. In short, it happens without regard to geography, race or economic status.

More than 70 diseases and other conditions are known to cause it. Further study, however, is needed to find other causes—still unknown—and to find ways to control it.

One of the sweetest little girls we know in New Bern is retarded because of an automobile accident years ago. We covered the accident as a reporter. For her, and for all retarded children who can have their handicaps reduced and minimized, join the cause today.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

CHARGE OF TREASON, 1777-1779

1777. State of North Carolina. Pitt County. Whereas, information has been made to me, one of the Justices for the county aforesaid, that Richard Fen, at a private muster called by Captain Ellis in order to put his company into divisions, agreeable to his instructions, that the aforesaid Richard Fen behaved himself disorderly, and declared against drafting and further insisting that he would not abide by the said draft, and further took a mug of liquor and drank King George's health, and success to Great Britain, which is contrary to the interest and good government of the said State.

You are hereby commanded by authority of the said State to apprehend the body of the said Richard Fen and bring him before me that he may be dealt with according to law, made and provided in such cases. Given under my hand and seal, this 4th day of August, 1777.

To some lawful officer to execute but for want of such, to Mr. Henry Studivant. Signed: James Lanier.

State of North Carolina, New Bern District. At a Court of Sessions, of the Peace, Oyer and Terminer and General Goal Delivery, begun and held at New Bern, for the District of New Bern, on the 1st Tuesday of September, in the second year of the independence of said State, and in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, before the Honorable James Davis, and Alexander Gaston, Esquires, Judges and Justices of the State of North Carolina aforesaid, and by commission from his Excellency, Richard Caswell, Esquire, Governor, Captain General and Commander in Chief, in and over the said State, directed to the said James Davis and Alexander Gaston, under the seal of the State, to hear, try and determine all offences against the peace and good government thereof, which may have been committed or which shall hereafter be committed within the district aforesaid:

The Jurors for the State aforesaid, upon their oath present that Richard Fen, late of the Parish of St. Michael, in the County of Pitt, in the State aforesaid, Planter, being a pernicious and seditious man, and a person of depraved, impious and disquiet mind, and of a seditious disposition, and not having the fear of God before his eyes, nor weighing the duty of his allegiance to the State of North Carolina, aforesaid, but being moved and seduced by the instigation of the devil and maliciously, turbulently and seditiously, intending the peace and common tranquility of the State aforesaid, to disquiet, molest and disturb and to bring the State and the Constitution thereof, into great hatred, contempt and scandal, with all the liege and faithful subjects thereto belonging, did on the 1st day of August in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven, in the second year of the

Village Verses

CAN'T BE SOLVED

Mosquitoes die in winter, but the love bug knows no season,
When boy meets girl, and stardust falls, they lose all sense of reason;
Since time began, the wise guys have puckered up their brows
And have tried to solve the puzzle of a suitor's frantic vows.

Yet, through the years, the joys and tears, this mystery has stayed,
There's simply no predicting, when a young man-woos a maid;
For love blooms in a snow-storm, and beneath a harvest moon
In April it claims victims, in December and in June.

Don't hibernate, you'll find your mate, somewhere in Caroline,
And when you do, assert yourself and claim your Valentine;
Love is quite important, of that you'll have no doubt
But you'll never ever figure just what it's all about.

—JGMCD.

independence of said State, at the Parish aforesaid in the County aforesaid, in an open muster field, in the presence of divers liege subjects of the State aforesaid, with a loud voice, drink success to Great Britain and a health to King George with a view and intention and thereby maliciously, advisedly, publicly and deliberately to excite the good people to resist the government of this State, subvert the Constitution thereof against the duty and allegiance which he the said Richard Fen owes to the State aforesaid against the peace and dignity of the State. Signed: John Cooke, Attorney for the State. Charles Allen and Pett Allen, witnesses for the State. Farnifold Green, Foreman. Sworn and sent, John Cooke for Christopher Neale. (No Bill.)

1779. State of North Carolina, Craven County. Before us, William Tisdale and Andrew Blanchard, Justices for the County aforesaid, personally came and appeared Captain Abraham Gurling and being duly sworn on the holy Evangelists deposed and said, that he entered on board the SCHOONER LITTLE JOHN, a Flagg of Truck, bound from New Bern to New York, of which John Williams was captain. That John Blank entered as a hand on board said Flagg, that they arrived at New York the first day of May, that on their passage from New Bern to New York they spoke the GEORGE AND ELIZABETH, a BRITISH PRIVATEER SLOOP from New York in company with the BLACK PRINCE BRIG, Stephen Williams, captain, that the captain of the GEORGE AND ELIZABETH came on board the Flagg, that John Blank informed the said captain that a French ship lay at Beaufort, and a Polacca (a vessel with three masts used in the Mediterranean) at Ocracoke Bar, as he thought not well armed, and that they might easily take them. This deponent further saith that he heard John Blank further inform the captain aforesaid that at New Bern was lodged a considerable quantity of Continental Stores.

pork, etc., and that a large trade was carried on from Ocracoke Bar to the South Key, which he said they might easily put a stop to by coming in over Ocracoke Bar.

This deponent further saith that Commodore Sir George Collier, on their first arrival at New York, ordered Captain John Williams, John Blank and the prisoners on board his ship and detained them all except Captain Williams the whole night, from the Commodore's ship John Blank and the prisoners went and remained on shore, that some days after John Blank came down and told this deponent that he had better remain in New York, that the matter, meaning the war, would soon be settled, that there was a fleet arrived at Sandy Hook with twenty thousand troops on board. This deponent further saith that from the general tenor of his the said Blank's discourse, he thinks him an enemy to the United States; and further this deponent said not.

Abra. Gurling Sworn to before us, William Tisdale, J. P. Andrew Blanchard, J. P. Taken this 20th day of July, 1779. (Found a True Bill)


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