

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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NEEDS ENLIGHTENING

Ordinarily, we wouldn't suggest that the Federal Government spend any more money than the billions already appropriated. However, it might be worth the investment to give the Postmaster General a good course in human nature.

His only accomplishment, it seems to us, in banning "Lady Chatterly's Lover" from the mails was to increase sales tremendously. Here in New Bern there has been no lack of eager purchasers since the Postal Department let it be known that somebody in Washington had decided that the book wasn't fit reading matter.

What else could the Postmaster General expect? Think back to your childhood, and you'll recall that chewing gum in school was doubly delightful because the teacher said you couldn't do it. Censor anything and you come up with forbidden fruit that someone will quickly pick.

The pathetic thing about the whole matter is the fact that D. H. Lawrence wasn't reaching out for gutter readers when he wrote what he considered an honest and realistic work for intelligent people to peruse.

Actually, his book is far less filthy and degrading than a lot of other stuff peddled on the nation's newsstands. In fact, many New Bernians who relish smutty literature are apt to be keenly disappointed because it isn't as "bad" as books they've previously read.

Of one thing the Postmaster General can be sure. Whether some of us approve of the public's taste for literature or not, the public is going to read what it wants to. Much of what it reads will be trash, while better books and magazines gather dust.

Nothing is going to change that. For our part, we think it would be sort of nice if all New Bernians read worthwhile books regularly. And likewise, we would like to see a greater appreciation of fine music, and all the other noble things around us.

But we intend to keep on reading what we want to, and fully expect you to do the same.

A GOOD SHOW

No one who visited the New York World's Fair 20 years ago should be surprised at the impressive reception cooked up by the Russians for Vice-President Nixon.

Well do we remember the Russia exhibit, and how the lighted red star on this multi-million dollar extravaganza all but dominated the World's Fair scene.

No other country, not even our own, went to greater lengths to put across its propaganda message of international superiority. Stalin and his cohorts were already trampling free people underfoot in Europe, but what you saw at the Soviet exhibit was supposed to portray Communism as a veritable paradise on earth.

One whole side of the great structure was covered by a mural of a joyous May Day celebration in Moscow. Heaven only knows how many competent artists wielded their brushes on this tremendous endeavor, but imagine if you can a painting with thousands of individuals displayed in complete detail. Needless to say, each and every face was a happy one.

Another huge mural on the other side of the building wasn't quite so pleasant. It showed the bloody fighting in Red Square, when the Czar was kicked out. There was enough gore and violence to make even the morbidly curious get butterflies in the stomach.

Placed at strategic spots about the exhibit were giant bronze statues of Stalin, Lenin and others that would dwarf the usual statues seen in America. We're no authority on art, but it appeared to us that a great deal of talent had gone into the project.

And, of course, there were movies, depicting what was said to be the agricultural, industrial and cultural life in Russia. Among other things, women were shown driving tractors as expertly as any man could.

The Russian exhibit didn't sell us on Communism, but it did convince us that the Russians are pretty smart operators. Mr. Nixon, no doubt, would agree.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

A Letter to James G. Stanly, Esq.,
C. S. C., New Bern, N. C.
Greenville, N. C.
Oct. 12, 1852

Dear Sir:—

My brother C. C. Battle, Esq. has been engaged by Mr. James Davis of this place, and other relatives of one John Davis of the Revolutionary War to prosecute a claim for land, duly surveyed and located in Shelby County, West Tennessee of 2560 acres, entered and located for the heirs of John Davis of the Continental Line of North Carolina! My brother is now in Tennessee at Brownsville collecting information and preparing to substantiate the claim for James Davis and others of this County, but before he can proceed further, it becomes necessary that proper proof be furnished him by the claimants that this Uncle John Davis is the same man who was in the service during the Revolutionary War, and was the only John Davis who was an officer in the Continental Line of North Carolina. My brother has just written to me stating that he has ample proof of the survey entry and location of the land for the heirs of John Davis' and has engaged my attention to obtain the necessary proofs from this State to identify, if possible, that the John Davis of whom you wrote about to James Davis, the 26th April last is the same for whose heirs the land was located. If so then he will have no difficulty of establishing the claim of his clients I called on Mr. James Davis this morning to obtain information and he gave me your letter to him of the 26th April, '52, in which there is this statement "I was informed by Captain John T. Lane that General Thomas A. Green told him that your Uncle John Davis and himself were captured by the British during the Revolutionary struggle, and was taken from on board an armed vessel of the Americans, but whether she was a public or private armed vessel he did not remember to have heard and that so inhuman was the treatment of the British to your uncle that he died in his presence while their prisoner. Captain Lane added that old Mr. Carter who used to live on the Palace Square confirmed the truth of General Green's account". This statement, it strikes me will be very important evidence as far as it goes, and

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Village Verses

SEEING IS BELIEVING

The things you tell him with your lips
Are clever and quite wise;
And yet, far more revealing
Are the words seen in your eyes.
Your mind controls your voice quite well,
Yes, every single thought;
But that's of small concern to him,
He'll take what's in your heart.
For lips can be misleading,
And bring their share of lies;
While words unspoken fairly shout
The truth found in your eyes.
So, if sometimes he fails to hear,
Good reason there may be;
He's probably listening to your heart
Speak words that he can see.

—JGMcd.

in behalf of Mr. Davis and his fellow heirs of John Davis. I request you to obtain from Captain John T. Lane an affidavit of the above facts in due form of law, and have it proven before a magistrate and get the county seal to it and forward the same to me as early as practicable, and I will see that you are paid for the service. I think it would be well to embrace in the affidavit that the John Davis spoken of by Captain Lane was the Uncle of James Davis of this place, if he should know that to be a fact.

I have also been informed by Mr. Davis this morning that the wife of his Uncle, James Davis, burned the papers of his Uncle John, which were in the hands of his Uncle James, to keep the heirs of his Uncle John from ever being benefited by the property of which they were the legal evidence. Will you also obtain information of this fact and if any, put into legal form as it may serve a good purpose. I have taken the liberty of thus writing so freely from the promise you made Mr. Davis in the closing part of your letter to furnish him with any further information if you should meet with it in the records of your county.

My brother writes me that he has discovered that the heirs of a Thomas Brown and John Brown of North Carolina are entitled to some land in Tennessee. While examin-

ing your County records if you should find anything relative to either of these names connected with the Revolutionary service, please inform me of its nature.

Mr. James Davis and myself will come to New Bern if necessary to obtain more information if we should find that what you can furnish will not fully answer his purpose. Please let me hear from you at as early a day as convenience will permit, and to oblige your obt. servt.

A. I. Battle"

Minutes of Craven County Court
December Term, 1855
Wednesday, December 12, 1855
(Extract)

"John T. Lane appears in open court, and being sworn upon the
(Continued on Page 5)

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