

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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WHAT IS POETRY?

Edgar A. Guest's passing brought sadness to the hearts of many a New Bernian the other day. Like millions of Americans—living and dead—they had found joy and pathos and inspiration in his rhymed lines.

In hundreds of local homes, no doubt, there is at least one volume of verse that came from his pen. He wrote simply about simple things, and his work was fully appreciated by folks who recognize grandeur in the little things of life.

There were those far more learned than this editor who contended that Eddie Guest was no poet. They sneered at his writings because there was nothing complex or involved in them. He was accused of being shallow and too easy to understand.

If simplicity is a weakness in writing, David didn't measure up when he wrote the 23rd Psalm, and Abe Lincoln flopped miserably when he fashioned his Gettysburg address. Neither excelled at ponderous and hazy phrasing.

Curious to know how the dictionary defines poetry, this is the explanation we ran across: a poem is a composition in verse; an arrangement of words in lines with a regular repeated accent; a composition showing great beauty of language or thought.

In the first two instances, Guest undoubtedly qualified. And in the third instance it can be argued that notwithstanding the absence of frills and extra-syllable words he did manage to come up with beautiful language and beautiful thoughts.

Some writers in their efforts to impress the reader resort to the biggest words imaginable. And they pride themselves on burying the meaning of their message so that it has to be dug for. More often than not, what's to be dug up isn't worth the digging.

A "deep thinking" poet in this category is just as inept and foolish as the artist who would like to add a few dabs of color to the rainbow, or the musician who thinks he could improve on the robin's song.

Personally, we liked Mr. Guest just fine the way he was.

VICTIM OF FATE

Any chance that Governor Luther Hodges might have had to get the vice-presidential nomination on the Democratic ticket has probably gone down the drain as a result of the prolonged Henderson strike.

Even though the national press has looked upon him with favor, and at least one news magazine touted him to the skies, there can be little doubt that Labor would bitterly oppose him because of events that transpired at Henderson.

This handicap, coupled with the fact that he has two strikes against him as a Southerner, is apt to be insurmountable. Labor's animosity is ironic, since Hodges has been a leader in North Carolina's rapid industrial expansion.

He has prided himself on this Tar Heel industrialization, and has worked tirelessly to bring it about. Some observers in the eastern section of the State have complained that the Piedmont and Western areas seemed to have the inside track in this respect.

However, it is likely that natural advantages rather than any favoritism lured smoke stacks in greater numbers to locations not embraced by our Coastal Plain. And, of course, it is a matter of record that some pretty important industries, including the DuPont operation near Kinston, have come down this way.

Opinions differ on what could or should have been done to effect a settlement at Henderson long before now. It goes without saying that Labor isn't too happy over the unfavorable light in which it has been placed. The prestige of Unions has suffered nationally, and politically Governor Hodges is apt to be the goat of the whole sad affair.

Many another aspiring politician has likewise been a victim of circumstances over which he didn't have a great deal of control. It's an exasperating predicament. In this case, Labor's frown evolves into the kiss of death for a man who certainly had achieved national recognition.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE and ELIZABETH MOORE

1769, February 13. James House of Onslow county conveys to James Oliver of Brunswick county, Va., a tract of land on the West side of Northwest Branch, bounded by the lands of Stephen Dampier, part of a patent to Samuel Johnston, Esq., in 1740, and transferred to William Williams, Jr., who conveyed it to Francis Godfrey, who conveyed it to William Ambrose, who conveyed it to Lewis Williams, who conveyed it to James House. Wit. Isaac Oliver, John Smith. E-319.

1772, October 30. Onslow county, James Oliver conveyed to Isaac Oliver for better maintenance, 150 acres of land on the West side of Northwest Branch of New River for natural love and affection, part of a patent to Samuel Johnston, Esq., dated 1745, and by him conveyed to William Williams, Jr., and by him to Francis Godfrey and by him to William Ambrose and by him to Lewis Williams and by him to James House and by him to James Oliver. Wit. Thomas Jarman, Isham House. E-508.

1803, November 20. Asa Hatch of Onslow conveyed to George W. Noble a parcel of land on the Southwest side of New River on Bramble Fullwood and Charles Branch, part of a patent to Ivy Hatch on Bumbles Creek, emptying into it. E-67.

1802, January 2. Onslow county Jeremiah Fonville of New Hanover county conveys to John Averett for twenty pounds, land beginning at Collier's and Fonville's corners, to Benjamin Hall's line, to Isler Hargett's line. E-135.

1805, July 11. Onslow county, Francis Oliver, surviving executor of James Oliver, of Duplin county and Elizabeth Oliver, widow of Benjamin Oliver, deceased, of Onslow for 454 pounds, 1 shilling, the property of Benjamin Oliver, deceased, coming from the estate of James Oliver, deceased by his will, except the part Benjamin Oliver bought from Zachariah Barron and Lucretia, his wife, and Frederick Fonville and Rebecca Fonville, his wife, all the property the said James Oliver, deceased, bought of Rains Tucker, of Virginia, 400 acres directed by the said James in his will to be sold and the money di-

Village Verses

FINALE

This is the end, and yet you too must know
That you'll live on among his souvenirs;
He'll wear a smile, wherever he may go,
And he'll be gay, to banish unshed tears.
Life is a play, and his a young fool's part,
Fate draws the curtain on his happiness;
And no one knows the sorrow in his heart,
Nor senses tragedy in each new jest.
This is the end, and yet when shadows fall,
He'll see your image in a wind-swept sky;
And though, perhaps, it isn't right at all,
He still will love you, as the years go by.
—JGMCD.

vided between his children. B-254.

1820, April 13. Edward W. Fonvielle to Brice Fonvielle, 76½ acres on the East side of Houston Creek, joining the lands of Brice Fonvielle, a parcel of land willed to Edward W. Fonvielle by his grandfather, Edward Ward, deceased. Witnesses: Davis Ward, Jacob Taylor. B.13/50.

1820, April 13. Brice Fonvielle conveys to Edward Fonvielle 34 acres on the East side of Salyers Creek on Salyers Bay, part of a tract of land left to the heirs of Athela Fonvielle by her father, Edward Ward, deceased. Witnesses: Davis Ward and Jacob Taylor. B.13/51.

1823, July 14. Onslow county, Edward S. Franck conveys to Frederick Foy of Jones county 621 acres on the West side of White Oak river. B.14/15.

1816, December 21. Hatcher Fonvielle conveys to Hardy Gilly 57 acres on Stone's Creek. B.7/170.

1805, September 5. Onslow county, Jeremiah Fonvielle of Jones county to Jacob Johnston of the same county, 640 acres of land on Mill Run and Benjamin Hall's line, granted to said Jeremiah, except part sold to John Averett. B.1/11.

1804, November 26. Onslow county, Jeremiah Fonvielle conveys to Jacob Johnston land on Stone's Creek, including the mill race, deeded to the said Jerry by Woodhouse Rhodes in 1791, where the said Jerry formerly had mill stones cut, agreeable to my deed from Woodhouse Rhodes, was sold or leased from said Woodhouse Rhodes to me, the said Jeremiah for 58½ years, commencing Decem- (Continued on Page 5)

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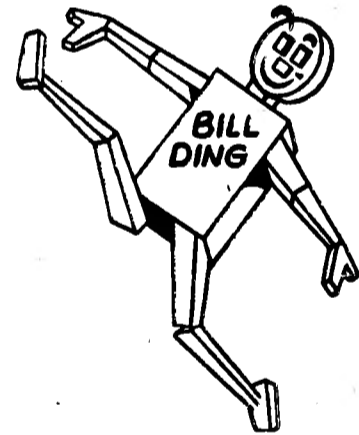
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