



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

ISHED WEEKLY  
PART OF  
RTH  
Mr. & Mrs. A. N. Murphy  
2000 Arendall St.  
New Bern City, N. C.

VOLUME 2

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1959

NUM.

Few New Bernians in their day to day existence lead colorful lives. They may dream of high adventure, glittering fame, or romantic interludes in far-off places, but always they must come back to reality.

Back to the reality, that is, of shopping for groceries with a thin wallet, getting their shoes half-soled, washing and ironing, paying the overdue light bill, and struggling with a cold that won't wear off.

Local wives, particularly, are acutely aware of their monotonous routine, especially if small children have then anchored within the four walls of their home.

Firmly imbedded in the average woman's mind is the notion that her husband has all the best of it when it comes to living interestingly. "You get to see a lot more people," she complains at breakfast, "while I'm stuck here in this house all day long."

What she doesn't realize, or won't admit, is the fact that quite a few of the people seen by her husband before sundown may be folks that he would rather not see. Dealing with the public isn't all sweetness and light. Besides, most of his friends are just as dull as he is, while striving to ignore his enemies doesn't prevent him from acquiring ulcers.

Perhaps the awareness that our lives are more or less colorless is the reason we have injected colors into our conversation. Repeatedly and without thinking, one color or another crops up in our descriptive phrases.

Almost unanimously in our moments of dejection we describe ourselves as feeling "blue." How this way of putting it came about might be hard to fathom. Offhand, blue is a color that could hardly be termed depressing. Certainly God demonstrated his preference for it by placing it in the sky above us and in the sea that covers much of our globe.

More logical as a descriptive phrase than our habit of feeling blue is to say that we are in the "pink" of condition. It is a biological fact that pinkness of complexion is associated with good health. Not many of us past babyhood are pink of cheek, but we do recognize this characteristic as a symbol of vitality.

Whenever we observe our neighbors or others coveting a possession belonging to someone else, we invariably say they are "green" with envy. This too is an expression that would appear to be rather hazy in origin. Then of course we use green to describe a person who is immature or a novice in any line of endeavor. Green in Nature's world around us at least indicates life, so being green as a human it seems to this oldster has advantages over being wise but withered.

To describe a person who is lacking in intestinal fortitude, it is almost inevitable that we describe him as being "yellow." Teenagers don't use the phrase very often, we'll admit. They prefer to say that timid souls are "chicken" but their parents still cling to yellow when they want to infer or blurt right out that there's an absence of spunk in someone's innards.

If you're apprehensive about what lies ahead with the morrow, you no doubt say that the future looks "black." That's what other New Bernians says, and it's doubtful that you're one of the rare exceptions.

On the other hand, if you're optimistic over an expected turn of events, you'll take cognizance of the fact that the future looks "rosy." And any opportunity that is of favorable proportions isn't called other than a "golden" oppor-



READY TO PERFORM—These young men are members of Scout Troop 231 at the West New Bern Presbyterian Church. As you can see, they are serious and excited about the Merit Badge Show to be presented Saturday

night at the City Recreation Center. Every phase of scouting will be demonstrated during the performance by various troops and patrols.—Photo by Billy Benners.

## What Is Marriage Picture in New Bern, Craven County?

There's a lot of talk these days about teen-age marriages, but how prevalent are these youthful hitchings in New Bern and Craven county?

Determined to find the answers to these and other questions dealing with the local marital picture, The Mirror has delved for hours into the official records.

Then, armed with a big batch of statistics, we went about the business of converting these statistics into percentages that readers could digest easily. The figures may or may not surprise you, but at least all guessing has been eliminated.

You might be slightly disturbed to learn that during the first nine months of 1959 over half of the brides who ankle to the altar in New Bern and Craven county were in truth teen-agers.

To put it another way, out of 326 weddings performed the feminine participant in the splicing was under 20 on no less than 176 occasions. The teen-age brides were in

the majority to the tune of 54 percent. On the other hand—or the other finger if it happens to be a double ring ceremony—only 18 percent of the 326 grooms were teen-agers. There were just 59, so the teen-age grooms were outnumbered three to one by brides in the same age bracket.

Less than 17 percent of the marriages—to be exact, 54—presented a situation in which both the bride and groom were teen-agers. So despite the high frequency of teen-age brides, there were probably far fewer completely teen-age marriages than the average citizen thought were occurring.

There were a small number of marriages, of course, that didn't occur in New Bern and Craven county and were naturally not included in the figures. A few couples, aiming at a quick and simplified ceremony, journeyed to South Carolina.

Upon arriving they discovered that marriage regulations in the Palmetto State have been tightened considerably.

Among other things, they were confronted with an unexpected 24-hour "waiting period" and the necessity of submitting a birth certificate or other proof of age. About the only advantage to be gained under the new law, if it could be called an advantage, was avoiding a physical examination and a blood test.

Teen-agers didn't provide all the interesting statistics we were able to dig up in records at the Register of Deeds office here. For example we learned through diligent pencil wielding that 83 percent of the New Bern and Craven county grooms this year have been older than their respective brides.

Only 14 wives—less than five percent—out of the 326 brides in all were older than their husbands. In 41 of the marriages—which figures slightly over 12 percent—both parties were the same age.

You shouldn't be too discouraged if you're getting along in years, and still have a yen to get married. Our survey revealed that 29 women and 37 men who were 40 or older embarked upon the sea of matrimony.

In fact, five of the brides and 13 of the grooms were 60 or older. Although it was not the most talked about marriage involving elderly participants in New Bern and Craven, the honors for seniority go to Theophrastus Tripp of Vanceboro and Carrie Gray Ringgold of Bridgeton. He was a dapper 89 and his bride a very happy 63.



(Continued on back page)