

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

New Bern youngsters who celebrated Halloween by dressing as spooks, witches and other supposed-to-be frightening characters were following in the footsteps of their parents, their grandparents and their ancestors even further back.

It was a strange way indeed to observe the eve of All Saints Day, an occasion that is intended to have real religious significance. Few of us recognize it, probably because in this instance the saints have been supplanted by carved pumpkins and false faces that gladden the heart of childhood.

This failure to emphasize All Saints Day in a proper manner is hardly unique, here in New Bern and around the world. On two other religious holidays that are even more meaningful—Christmas and Easter—jolly old Santa and Peter Cottontail rather effectively obscure Bethlehem's manger and Calvary's cross for many professing Christians.

Yet, The Mirror has the feeling that God in His heaven doesn't begrudge little children the joy of masquerade parties on an October night, lights glorifying a cedar flanked by gifts when Christmas comes, and a frantic hunt for gaily colored eggs on the day that Christ arose.

It seems to us that a kindly Creator must surely have placed His blessing upon these events that mean so much to us when we are young, and continue to mean a great deal to us when adulthood leaves us nothing of our childhood but fond retrospect.

How else can we account for the fact that He has permitted them to remain constant and wonderful through the centuries? When the Man of Galilee said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, for of such is the kingdom of heaven." He made it rather clear that little boys and girls are quite important in the marvelous plan of Creation.

A religious holiday should always have room for religion in it. But the laughter of little children, to our way of thinking, doesn't necessarily desecrate it.

IT WAS PLEASANT

Autumn is a leaf littered Memory Lane, where the clock turns back to things you remember most and loved best.

Always, when the crisp days arrive, we miss the odor of burning wood. Everywhere you looked you saw smoke drifting to the skies from countless chimneys. Inside the lighted homes you passed you knew there was an open fireplace, and neighborliness.

Nothing else, except maybe bacon sizzling in a skillet, smells nicer than the right sort of chimney smoke in the gathering haze of a brisk November twilight. A fireplace in this modern era is just as impractical as a kerosene lamp, but something pretty wonderful disappeared from the New Bern scene when open fires became an oddity rather than a luxurious necessity.

A fireplace never was much for generating enough heat to fill a room, much less a house, with steady and evenly regulated warmth. However, it did warm your heart, and there was something about the glow and the crackle and the rising sparks that made the commonplace of simple existence into a veritable world of magic.

Many a tall story has been told beside an open fireplace, and many a fanciful dream cooked up. It made a perfect setting for courting too, if you could maneuver the old folks into another room. If an ardent suitor couldn't make headway in the field of romance when he had an open fire to help him, he might as well give it up as a hopeless pursuit of the maiden's hand.

Fireplaces were meant for folks who appreciate the fun to be had just staying at home. Today, if for no other reason, a fireplace would be impractical for a lot of us because home is a place to get away from.

Anyhow, on Autumn's leaf-littered Memory Lane, we miss the smell of chimney smoke as much as anything else.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

FRANCES B. CLAYPOOLE
and
ELIZABETH MOORE

1840. CRAVEN COUNTY. ACCORDING TO A RESOLUTION OF THE SCHOOL BOARD THERE SHALL BE THREE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS IN EACH DISTRICT, THE FOLLOWING APPOINTED, TO-WIT:

District No. 1, William P. Biddle, Samuel S. Biddle and Isaac B. Cox. No. 2, Thomas Wadsworth, Levi J. Kent and J. Y. Carman. No. 3, Johnson Bryan, William C. McCoy and William Wise. No. 4, Jeremiah Fonvielle, John Green and Elisha Ernul.

No. 5, Nathan White, Jeremiah Heath and Fred Ipock. No. 6, Edward Rhem, Joseph Green and Washington Carman. No. 7, William French, John H. Richardson and Haywood Rhem. No. 8, Henry Shute, Solomon Witherington and Worsley Davis. No. 9, John H. Jones, John M. Hargett and Lemuel Hudler. No. 10, William S. Blackledge, William V. Barrow and M. Manley. No. 11, Gilfred Murphy, John Bryan and Jesse Noble.

No. 12, Bishop E. Dudley, Spicer Lane and Elisha Griffin. No. 13, Alderson Ellison, John Jackson and Abner Heartley. No. 14, William Bright, Linclarc Lancaster and Levi Wayne. No. 15, John Askins, Charles Kelly and Jacob Birch. No. 16, David Whitford, Sr., John Powell and Bryan Whitford. No. 17, Thomas Ewell, William M. Herritage, Jr., and Stephen Willis. No. 18, James F. Lincoln, David Cutrell and C. Dixon. No. 19, Samuel Brinson, Daniel Holton and Lorel Lee.

No. 20, Shadrach Lee, Samuel Willis and Morgan Banks. No. 21, James Bennett, James Hardison and Thomas Willis. No. 22, James Pittman, William Bennett and Benjamin Brinson. No. 23, Caleb Dixon, William S. Delamar and Oliver S. Dewey. No. 24, Joseph McCotter, Richard McCotter and Hawkins Delamar. No. 25, Jacob McCotter, Henry Woodard and William C. Leith. No. 26, John Wise, Thomas Jones and Abner Brickhouse.

No. 27, Horace B. Spencer, Lewis Fowler and Levi Wharton. No. 28, Matthew Holton, Thomas Lincoln and Samuel Jones. No. 29, William D. Fulford, William Lewis and Burney McCotter. No. 30, Sylvester Tingle, Noah Miller. No. 31, Richard Smith, John Frieze, Sr., and Thomas Austin. No. 32, Council B. Wood, John Smith and Stephen Hardison.

No. 33, William Holland, James Mrashall and Joseph R. Franklin. No. 34, Samuel Hyman, Needham B. Whitford and David Gibson. No. 35, Hardy L. Jones, Abner White-

Village Verses

YOU'LL NEVER KNOW

If you would like the sort of home
That's spic-and-span and neat,
Then close the door on childhood
And toddling baby feet.
You'll never have to wring your hands
At smudges on the wall;
You never stumbled over toys
And get a nasty fall.
Your bedroom slippers you won't find
In quite the strangest places;
Those prized tomes on your book shelves
Will bear no penciled faces.
And when you crave a movie
You won't have to tend some brat
Who sprinkles talcum powder
In your one and only hat.
That lovely vase, or is it vazz,
Can rest on any table;
You won't invest in diapers
While you long for mink and sable.
There won't be night-long vigils,
Kept because a curly head
Is burning up with fever
In its little trundle bed.
You'll live without restrictions,
Doing everything that's nice;
Never knowing that a baby
Is cheap at any price.

—JGMCD.

(Reprinted by Request.)

head and Joseph Physioc. No. 36, Left out. No. 37, E. M. Dudley, Thomas Parsons and James Austin.

No. 38, John H. Nelson, James G. Stanly, Jr. No. 39, Josephus Hall, James Masters and James Salter. No. 40, Charles Willis and William Thomas, Calvin Huff.

All which is respectfully submitted. Craven County, February 10. A. D. 1840, by John T. Lane, chairman, William B. Perkins, F.

P. Latham, Nath. H. Street, M. C. Gogey, Thomas J. Pasteur, George S. Attmore, W. B. Wadsworth.

The number of children under 18 exclusive of the Town of New Bern, 2,093.

* * * *

1841, June 19. The names of the children in District No. 1: (Location of school districts published in the New Bern Mirror in the is- (Continued on Page 5)

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IT MATTERS TO HIM

My child I know thy sorrows,
Thine every grief I share;
I know how thou art tested,
And, what is more—I care.
Think not I am indifferent
To what affecteth thee;
Thy weal and woe are matters
Of deep concern to Me.
But, child, I have a purpose
In all that I allow;
I ask thee then to trust Me,
Though all seems dark just now.
How often thou has asked Me
To purge away thy dross!
But this refining process
Involves for thee—a cross.
There is no other pathway
If thou would'st really be
Conformed unto the image
Of Him Who died for thee.
Thou canst not be like Jesus
Till self is crucified;
And as a daily process
The cross must be applied.

—Selected.

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