



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Perhaps you noticed, in reading last week about New Bern's 1910 Bi-Centennial Celebration, that it relied on the talents of home-townners rather than outsiders for its spectacular success.

We of this generation apparently lack the faith in our own capabilities that these old timers had. They believed, and The Mirror feels rightly, that New Bernians had enough intelligence, imagination and enthusiasm to do the job properly without hiring somebody else to do it for them.

What applied a half century ago applies today. It's a sad commentary on our confidence, or absence of it, when we deem it necessary to rely on others rather ourselves for what should have been a community prepared, produced, staged and enacted 250th anniversary pageant.

Such a pageant, in its proper proportions, deserves a cast composed of hundreds of men, women and children. Anything less, whether we like to admit it or not, is a sorry excuse for an occasion as momentous as this.

We may try to kid ourselves, but we're not going to kid other North Carolinians who have not only seen their share of honest to goodness pageants but in many instances have produced and taken part in such pageants in their own home towns.

Since New Bern and Craven county taxpayers have had to shell out thousands of dollars to defray the cost of the pageant, it appears to The Mirror that they deserved an opportunity to at least speak their piece as to how the money was to be spent.

Instead they were completely in the dark while a small group met in top secret sessions, and came forth at long last with something all cut and dried. Even a committee of outside "big names" appointed by Governor Hodges arrived on the scene too late to do much except go through the formality of endorsing an accomplished fact.

If by any chance you've wondered, as a taxpayer, why the press didn't keep you informed on the matter, The Mirror can explain that. You see, the top secret sessions were off limits for newspapers too, along with, we understand, the news media of radio and television.

It was all over but the shouting, as far as major plans for the pageant are concerned, when the public finally learned what had been done in its name and with its money. At that, they learned only a portion of the plans and little if anything about the pageant budget.

This much is a mathematical certainty. If the pageant runs 15 nights in the New Bern High school auditorium, and every seat is filled for every performance, only 16,350 persons can see it. That's just a fraction of the New Bern and Craven county taxpayers who are furnishing the money to put it on.

Compare this with the attendance possible, had the pageant been presented in the high school stadium—one of the finest and best lighted high school stadiums in America.

Any additional expense involved in an out-of-doors production, which wouldn't have been as great as some folks would have you believe, could have been more than offset by the much larger number of cash customers who could be seated for the performances.

Aside from excellent lighting that could have been easily supplemented, the high school stadium has a public address system that could be utilized. Somehow, it seems, somebody here has gotten a pageant confused with a play presented on an indoor stage of lim-



**BACK HOME**—Robbie Kennel, sporting a beard that comes of today, smiles his appreciation as Jean kids him about a large photograph of the couple that appeared in the San Francisco News-Call-Bulletin when their ocean liner arrived on the Pacific coast from Australia. Pictures of the

Kennels also appeared in the San Francisco Examiner, and they were interviewed on the San Francisco Chronicle's television program. Everywhere the youngsters have been goodwill ambassadors for their native New Bern.—Photo by Billy Benners.

## New Bern Jaycees Honored Outstanding Trio Last Night

A New Bern dentist, a Cove City farmer and a 1959 New Bern High school graduate were honored last night at the annual Awards Banquet of the New Bern Junior Chamber of Commerce, held in Hotel Governor Tryon ballroom.

Named as the city's young man of the year by a secret committee of civic leaders was Dr. Lewis P. Bratton, a local dentist who lives at 2109 Grace Avenue with his wife, the former Audrey Marie Campbell of Raleigh, and their two children, Charles, who is two years old, and Pamela, who is seven months old.

Dr. and Mrs. Bratton have lived in New Bern since September 1958. While here he has been active in community affairs. Among other things, he has served as a member of the United Fund committee for Craven county, and is a member of the board of directors of the Craven county Cancer Society.

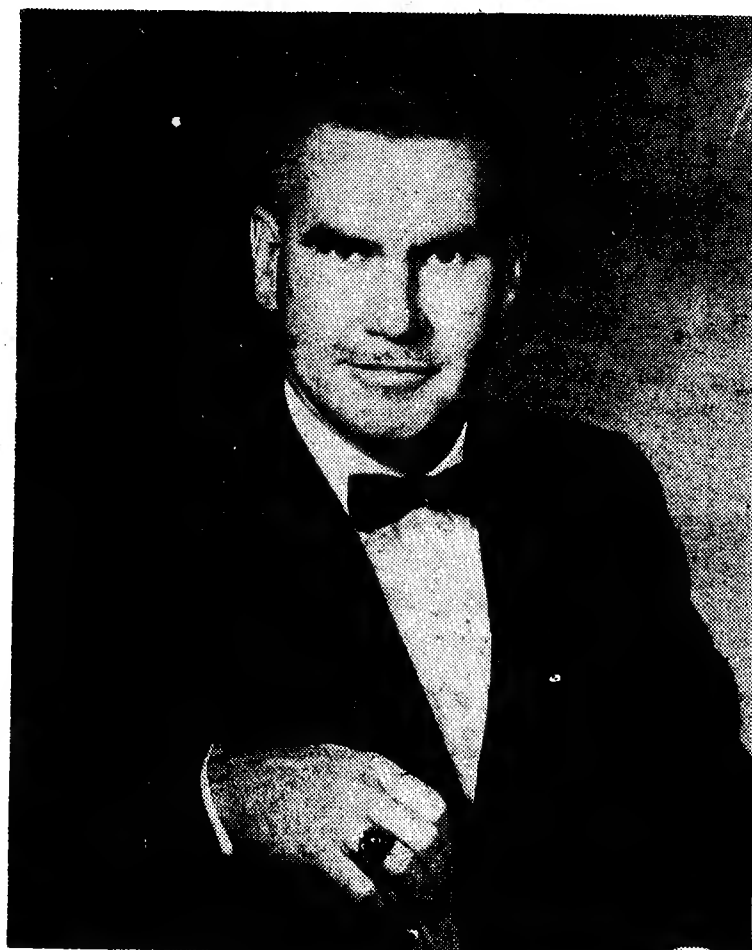
As a Jaycee, this year's Distinguished Service Award winner has done outstanding work as District Chairman for Youth Fitness, and as a member of the board of directors for the local Junior Chamber of Commerce.

ited dimensions.

Our dictionary defines a "pageant" as "an elaborate spectacle, a procession in costume." For our part, we're glad we don't have the responsibility for presentation of anything in that category on a high school stage. But of course, the dictionary could be wrong. Anyhow, if the procession is a little one we might get by.

Active in church work, he is secretary and treasurer of the Sunday school at Grace church. He

was born in Raleigh on December 2, 1926, graduated from Needham Broughton High school in 1944.



**DR. LEWIS P. BRATTON**  
Young Man of Year

Dr. Bratton joined the Air Force and left the day before High school graduation. Assigned to the Medical Corps at Keesler Air Force Base near Biloxi, Miss., he was discharged in 1946. He entered the University of North Carolina and graduated in 1950 with a Bachelor of Science degree in chemistry. Later, after receiving a degree with honors in textile chemistry and dying from North Carolina State, he worked for two years with DuPont in Camden, S. C.

He received his D.D.S. degree from the University of North Carolina, and during his practice of dentistry here in New Bern has made many friends. The Jaycee honor which he received last night goes to some young man in the community between the ages of 21 and 36.

Selected as Craven county's Outstanding Young Farmer of the Year, and honored last night, was James Carlton Ward of Cove City. Twenty-nine years old, Ward is married and has two children.

He began farming in 1952, after the death of his father. He has continually improved his farming operation by practicing approved agricultural methods. He has increased his yield from crops, and increased the size of his farm operation.

In addition to his crops, he has a large herd of beef cattle, and is grading his herd for better results. He has a well-rounded grazing program including Ledino clover, Fescue, Lespedeza, and Coastal Bermuda grass.

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