



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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M. Ronald Smith, Jr., of 806 Clark avenue, is a native of our town who can personally testify about the beauty and friendliness of New Bern's mother city—Berne, Switzerland.

Back in 1952, while serving as a staff sergeant with the U. S. Air Force in Germany, he made it a point to visit the Swiss capital, and came home with deep respect and warm affection for the people there.

"When I got to Berne, I decided to call on the mayor," says Ronald, "but naturally I didn't know how to go about reaching him. I started off by talking with a janitor in a broom closet in the Public Works Department, and worked on up from there."

It took a little time, but he finally got to the top, where he was treated very cordially as a visitor who hailed from New Bern. "In fact," recalls the tall New Bernian, "The mayor's secretary was assigned to me as a guide, and that afternoon we toured the city in a limousine."

Two points of interest that appealed particularly to young Smith were the Rose Garden and the Bear Pit. "Those bears were really something to watch," he says. "Spectators would toss carrots and other vegetables to them, and they clapped their paws in human fashion to show their appreciation and ask for a second helping."

Since Switzerland is recognized all over the world as a nation that symbolizes peace, Ronald was surprised to learn during his brief stay in Berne that all males young and old were in the Army and undergo training each summer.

"They have a very small standing army," he tells us, "but every man and boy is ready to defend his country if it becomes necessary. The soldiers are very striking looking too in those monstrous helmets that they wear."

There are a great many national shooting matches, and through frequent use of rifles in this sort of competition the men become excellent marksmen. This brings to mind the World War I story of how Germany's Kaiser threatened to send 5,000 soldiers into Switzerland.

Asked what they would do if the order went through, the Swiss replied, "We will issue 5,000 rounds of rifle ammunition." When it was suggested that 15,000 soldiers might be sent into Switzerland, the answer was, "In that case we'll issue 15,000 rounds." Thus did the military in this peaceful country remind the Kaiser that they knew how to use bullets without waste.

According to Ronald, he discovered quite pleasantly that Berne doesn't take advantage of tourists when it comes to prices. "Everything was reasonable," he says, "and I found that true in staying at one of the biggest and best hotels."

Not being able to talk their language wasn't a handicap to Smith either. "Even when I came across people who couldn't speak English, I managed to make them understand me. They were courteous and patient and considerate. That helped, of course."

So impressed was the New Bern service man that he went back to Berne several times. He has quite a few souvenirs to remind him of these visits, and some excellent photographs. Perhaps more than anyone else, he has found the photos of Berne carried in The Mirror during the past year particularly interesting.

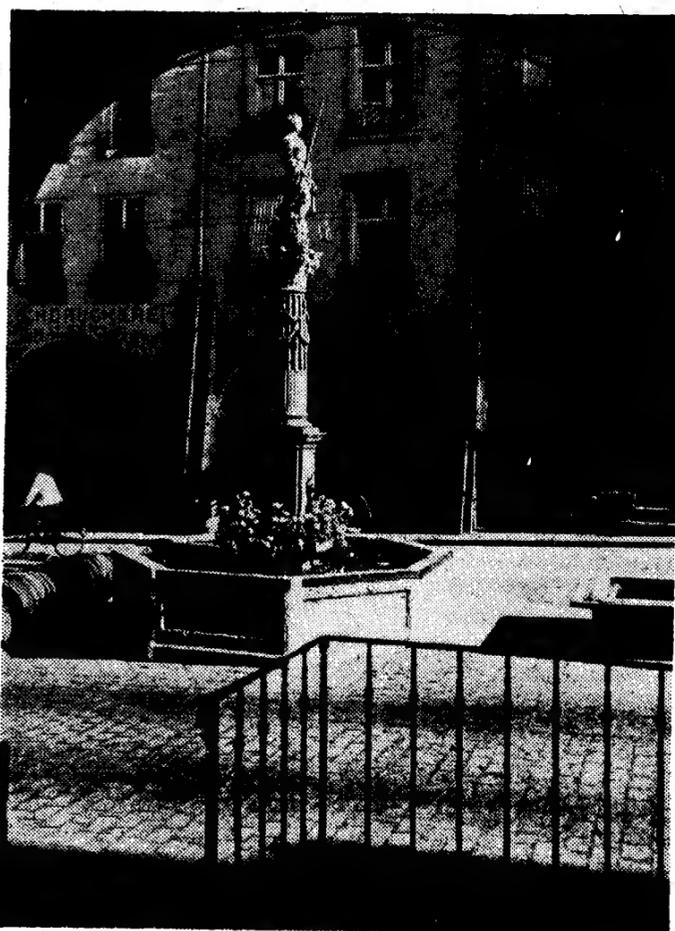
"One learns very quickly," he says, "that the Swiss are proud of their country and their heritage. This no doubt accounts for their efforts to preserve its beauty, and to get along with others in a world

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NO PARKING PROBLEM—There were fewer horseless carriages in the good old days, so it was easy for Hyman Supply Company to line up its cars and trucks for this photo in front of the establishment on South Front street. If you remember scenes like this, you're no spring chicken. In fact, you're pretty much of a museum piece yourself.

## Don't Shoot Those Bushes, You Might Hit a Candidate



BERNE'S JUSTICE FOUNTAIN

On the surface, there doesn't seem to be much agitation in New Bern's political pot at the moment, but down underneath there's more turbulence than meets the eye.

Our two local candidates for the Congressional seat that Hap Barden is vacating—State Senator James O. Simpkins and Mayor Robert L. Stallings, Jr.—are going through the bushes like a berry picker competing for grand honors. Other aspirants for the Third District office are similarly engaged.

With a second primary a certainty, the big problem for those running is the business of garnering enough votes outside their own immediate camping grounds to remain in the race after the first ballots have been cast.

It goes without saying that both Simpkins and Stallings will run strongly in New Bern. By the same token, Dr. David Rose can count on a heavy vote in Goldsboro and the rest of Wayne county, while David Henderson's strength in the Wallace area can't be seriously challenged in the first round.

Although Morehead City's Skinner Chalk has made it clear that he is campaigning on a financial shoestring, the reports from down east say that he will have a very creditable vote in Carteret county, if nowhere else.

From the local viewpoint, both Simpkins and Stallings have expressed confidence that they will be in the second Primary. Obviously, somebody is due for a disappointment, since no one interviewed in a sample Mirror survey feels that New Bern has the remotest

chances of finishing first and second with its candidates on the initial trip to the polls.

Seasoned political prognosticators throughout the District are saying that Simpkins is the front runner, with Henderson in the runner-up spot. In their reasoning they cite the fact that the former, an admitted novice at the time, ran a surprisingly good race against Congressman Barden when the two tangled in the last election. Simpkins, since elected to the State Senate, is admittedly the best known candidate of the lot and can count on a great many key supporters who helped him in his first Congressional race.

Stallings, an excellent organizer, is undoubtedly smart enough to realize that he must cover a lot of ground in a short period. He must meet voters—a great many of them—and sell them on his qualifications.

New Bern's mayor intends to do just that, and friends say he is making plenty of headway. It is a known fact that a number of influential people throughout the district are in his corner.

In the governor's race, New Bern is strong for John Larkins of Trenton, with Fayetteville's Terry Sanford in the runner-up spot. With Dr. I. Beverly Lake in the race now, and the racial issues in prospect, there are many persons expressing the belief that Lake will run much better than is generally expected.

There is very little talk about Malcom Seawell here, when the race for governor is mentioned.

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