



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

Mr. & Mrs. A. N. Murphy  
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Every newspaperman, if only for vanity's sake, likes to recall some particular story that provided him with the scoop of a lifetime.

Ours came in 1948, when we scooped the entire press of the nation and world with the exclusive revelation that President Harry S. Truman, newly elected, would attend Sunday morning services at New Bern's First Baptist church.

To this day we've never told anyone how we got the story almost two days before it was released officially by the White House in Washington. And, feeling as we do now, it will still be an undisclosed secret when we go to our grave.

How did we get carefully guarded information? That's what conscientious and highly efficient John Campion of the Secret Service wanted to know when he questioned us the day before Truman arrived.

Squirming a little, the writer replied that he was going to stand pat on a reporter's time-honored right not to divulge the source of his information. Campion smiled and said, "I don't suppose you would be much of a newspaperman if you'd tell me." And that was that.

Little did either of us know at the time that John, during Truman's weekend visit, would fall in love with a New Bern girl, Georgia Brewer, and marry her soon afterwards. Incidentally, the Campions—12 years later—are still happily married and he is still safeguarding Presidents.

This much we can say about the Truman scoop, the facts were meager. At first, according to our unofficial information, he was planning to attend church in Wilmington. Then he chose New Bern instead.

As soon as the writer learned that the Chief Executive would be attending the First Baptist church here, he called the pastor, Rev. Tom Fryer. Then he telephoned Congressman Graham A. Barden, who happened to be home from Washington. Next morning, at Williams Restaurant, as the two of us chanced to meet at the counter, Hap remarked that there still wasn't anything official in the papers concerning a Truman visit to New Bern.

"Are you sure your story is right?" the Congressman asked as he sipped his coffee. We assured him it was, but while we told him we were saying to ourselves, "It had better be true, after the broadcast we did last night about it." The fat was definitely in the fire. If the President failed to come to New Bern, the writer was going to be saddled with a reporting blunder that could never be lived down.

Relying on the luck of the Irish, and taking a gamble that still makes us shudder, we had said on the broadcast that, official silence notwithstanding, the President would definitely put in an appearance here on the Sabbath. He would land his plane at Cherry Point and come to New Bern by automobile.

Truthfully, we had no advance information at all on the Cherry Point angle. However, we did know that the Presidential party would be flying in Truman's plane, and we knew that the Marine base could provide a great deal more landing room than New Bern's Simmons-Nott airport. By putting two and two together, as the saying goes, it was reasonable to assume that the plane would light at Cherry Point. Our hunch paid off, and the entire story blossomed into reality on schedule.

Fortunately, we were forgiven on the day before President Truman arrived for breaking the story prematurely. Campion, who with the

(Continued on Page 3)



ATTRACTIVE FOR INTERIORS — Dried flowers can be made into beautiful arrangements. Here Miss Rebecca Colwell, home economics agent for Craven county, is shown admiring the arrangement of one of her club women, Mrs.

M. A. Horner. Both were attending the handicraft workshop held at the Manteo 4-H Camp. Handicraft is a popular hobby among Craven's rural women.

## Pat Allen, While in the Air, Is Still Strictly Down to Earth

New Bern's Pat Allen has flown more than a thousand hours during her first exciting year as a stewardess for National Air Lines. Her major run is from Miami to New York, but sandwiched in between have been trips to Houston, New Orleans, Boston, Havana and elsewhere.

"I've enjoyed every minute of it," the charming 23-year-old told us this week. "In fact, when I was flying to Miami for the interview that I hoped would get me a job, I knew I would love it. That was my first time on a plane. I can't think of a more satisfying profession."

To qualify for a stewardess physically, a girl must be between the ages of 20 and 26, between 5-2 and 5-8 in height, and weigh between 105 and 130. "I was 5-6 and weighed 115," says the ex-New Bern High school majorette. Then, smiling that lovely smile of hers, she admitted, "I weigh 120 now."

Pat had a year at Peace college in Raleigh before she set her heart on being a stewardess. Having made up her mind, she wrote all of the major air lines. They sent material to her, and offered her interviews. "I decided on National," she reasons, "because it has a stop-over in New Bern and I can get home in a hurry if the occasion for it arises. Besides, I wanted to fly along the east coast." It was a choice she has never regretted.

We are happy to report that she hasn't changed one iota. She still has the same friendly manner, the same love for people, and the same deep sincerity that makes her one of the nicest persons we've ever known. No wonder the regular

travelers on National Air Lines call her by name and look forward to chatting with her high above the clouds.

She gets kidded about her delightful southern drawl, but she accepts it good naturedly. Maybe

her slow and easy way of talking is relaxing to passengers. At any rate, it's a fact that only four of them have been air sick under her care. They were the notable exceptions, and might have gotten sick anyhow if they had been rid-

ing in an automobile, on a train or maybe even in a wheelbarrow.

"The men, women and children I've served have all been wonderful," says Pat, "but I liked Red Skelton best of all. He was on my plane from Houston to Miami about six months ago. There weren't many passengers, and I wasn't busy. We sat together and talked for two hours."

During those two hours, the famed comedian didn't tell so much as a single wisecrack, but Pat found out that in serious conversation he had as striking a personality as he does when clowning on television. For the most part, they talked about his travels throughout the world.

"I told him how much I enjoyed his program, and mentioned specifically his Thanksgiving show about the turkey. I said Freddie the Free Loader was my favorite among the characters he portrays, and he told me he loved doing it. I guess one reason I admire him so much is because of the many kind and generous things he has done for others."

Another thrill for Pat came when Robert Stack, who stars in "The Untouchables" on TV, was a passenger, and she was pleasantly surprised one day when New Bern's Laurence Stith, Jr., and his bride, Jane Morgan, came aboard. "Laurence and I recognized each other immediately," Pat said, "and I found Jane to be a very sweet and very gracious person."

Pat, when asked, revealed that men make better air passengers than women. "Usually the men

(Continued on Page 3)

