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Maybe they've been on counters and in store windows before, but this is the first year we've noticed jack o' lanterns that sport a cheerful smile instead of a leering and ominous grin. Some of them look as friendly as a stray puppy.

As a matter of fact, they seem to be considerably happier and more optimistic than the average New Bernian you meet on the street. In view of the world situation, this comes as no surprise. Halloween ghosts and witches are hard put to frighten most of us, after we've been exposed to real-life goblins like Nikita Khrushchev, Fidel Castro, and lesser international hoodlums in the same category.

Frankly, we've never actually seen a witch riding through the heavens on a broom stick, but it is doubtful that one of the critters could make us as uneasy as a man-made satellite, sailing along in orbit. And it would take a spook as big as all outdoors to intimidate us more than the incessant talk about guided missiles, that can obliterate everything and everybody on the face of the earth in the twinkling of an eye.

Instead of being oppressive, we expect Halloween to provide a welcome respite from things far more dangerous and sordid. When the town's small fry knock on our door, and go into their trick or treat routine, we'll have the usual goodies waiting. Not because we fear violence, but for the simple reason that, even with a scare face on, kids are pretty wonderful.

Ironically, and quite innocently, the moppets who work both sides of the streets with their trick or treat routine are using the same sort of strategy that Khrushchev and Castro resort to. Supposedly (but not actually) little boys and girls who come to your house in quest of candy are ready and willing to do you dirt with a vengeance, if they don't get what they want. And that, of course, is the self-same approach that Nikita and Fidel rely on.

Folks who are mean enough to turn the tots down, when they make their rounds, are well aware that no reprisals of consequence will be forthcoming. But with Khrushchev, particularly, there is no such assurance. Like our village small fry, he too may be bluffing, and then again, in his emotional and obviously irrational state of mind, he may fly off the handle.

Even Khrushchev himself has at least one goblin to worry about on Halloween. His dreams of ruling the world with his personal brand of Communistic enslavement have been turned into nightmares by Red China. The yellow hordes he expected to dominate so easily from the Kremlin have demonstrated that they have ideas of their own. This bodes no good for the Free World, but it is also a grim fact that it isn't adding to Nikita's peace of mind either.

You may rest assured that the spooks haunting the blustering Soviet boss as Halloween approaches have almond-shaped eyes and live on a steady diet of rice and tea. And, in the final reckoning, they are certain to be harder to deal with than the youngsters you'll be doing business with very shortly.

Speaking of those youngsters—"terrible" teen-agers included—their behavior on Halloween is downright angelic compared with the vandalism that their parents and grandparents were guilty of in the so-called good old days. We've said as much in The Mirror before, but it's worth repeating.

At one time or another, during their youth, New Bern's most respected citizens helped to pull pranks that in retrospect can hardly be classed as harmless mischief. Destroying property is never funny, whether it happens to be

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WORTH PRESERVING—Pictured here is a view of the warmly inviting parlor in the Attmore-Oliver house on Broad street. By restoring this dwelling to its original charm, the New Bern Historical Society has demonstrated

what can be done to make the most of our rare but oft neglected landmarks. In this instance, vision for the future called for a glance toward the past. The results are deeply satisfying.—Photo by Billy Benners.

High Honor for R. C. Godwin Brings Publicity for New Bern

Seldom has any New Bernian past or present been accorded a higher honor than that bestowed upon R. C. Godwin at Miami a few days ago, when he was elected Vice-Commander of the American Legion.

During the coming year he will reign over an area that embraces North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, Florida, Texas, Kansas, Oklahoma, Kentucky, Maryland, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, Panama and Mexico.

Under his leadership and guidance he will have more than half a million Legionnaires, including approximately 50,000 in the Old North State. And, before his term of office is over, he will travel countless thousands of miles to take care of the visits that his job as vice-commander involves.

Godwin, who was a corporal in the 119th Infantry during World War I, has been active for several decades in American Legion affairs. He was State Commander in 1949-50, and has served as National Committeeman and on the Committee of Internal Affairs.

Aside from his Legion activities, he is personally known by a great number of North Carolina's ex-servicemen because of his work as Veterans Representative for this state, under the GI Bill of Rights.

He is looking forward to a continuation nationally of the Legion's rehabilitation projects and its youth program. In both fields the organization has distinguished itself over a long period. Perhaps the best known phase of the youth work, as far as the general public

is concerned, are the American Legion junior baseball teams. Quite a few major league players, including a number of outstanding stars, got their start in Legion ball.

Vice-Commander Godwin is optimistic about America's future, as he approaches the responsible task ahead of him. "I believe that we are strong enough, and our foundations are sound enough, to meet whatever may confront us," he told The Mirror this week.

And, surveying the political scene from the American Legion's non-political viewpoint, he expressed the opinion that the nation will be in good hands regardless of which candidate is elected President in the approaching November 8 election.

"Kennedy and Nixon are both able men," he said, "and I believe either of them can give us national and international leadership of a high caliber." In short, Godwin isn't one to view the future with alarm, the cold war notwithstanding.

It was in March, 1919, a few months after World War I ended, that members of the American armed forces overseas got the idea for an organization to keep alive their comradeship and to honor the memory of their dead.

A group of servicemen met in Paris to lay the groundwork, and another meeting was held in St. Louis the following May. Then, in September, the American Legion received its charter from Congress. In November, just a year after the Armistice, it held the first of its international conventions in Minneapolis.

When the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor plunged the United States into a second World War in December, 1941, the Legion took immediate steps to alter its membership policy. At its 24th annual convention in Kansas City the following September, it opened its ranks to veterans of this conflict. It became official in October, when Congress amended the eligibility clause of the Legion's charter.

Many have been the worthy projects of the organization. It has helped veterans get jobs, hospital care and compensation for disabling injuries sustained in service. And it has promoted laws helpful to veterans, and brought about reorganization of agencies engaged in their behalf.



However, not content with furthering the interests of veterans, the Legion has been untiring in its child welfare work. And, in educational circles, it has been instrumental in promoting school awards and in establishing citizenship schools for the foreign born.

The American Legion, in conjunction with the National Education Association, launched the annual observance of American Education Week. It has also pushed occupational guidance for boys, Youth activities include sponsoring the Boy Scouts, the Reserve Officer Training Corps, 4-H clubs, junior rifle clubs, and National Boys and Girls Week.

There will be no slackening of the pace this year, and Vice-Commander Godwin expects to be busy for the full term of his office. During that term he will have a golden opportunity to publicize New Bern as he makes his rounds in state after state. That he will spread the gospel about our town on the banks of the Neuse and Trent is a foregone conclusion. And our guess is he'll make an excellent vice-commander.

Dairy calves stay healthier in separate outdoor hutches than by groups in warm barns, South Dakota specialists have found. The loss of calves from respiratory ailments was cut from 20 per cent in the barns to six per cent in the hutches. They get fresh air, isolation, sunshine and draft-free atmosphere in the hutches.

Farmers own one-third of all the commercial forest land in the United States: 165 million acres.