



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Little Mickey Gunnerson—just so high—had dreams of someday reaching Broadway when she made her stage debut in one of the earlier editions of the Yuletide Revue.

Unlike thousands of other theatrical-minded kids who are doomed to disappointment, she saw her hopes realized. Currently appearing at New York's 46th Street Theater in the hit show, Tenderloin, she has danced with distinction in such Broadway production as Pink Tights, Pajama Game, and New Girl In Town.

Sandwiched between her foot-light chores have been numerous television appearances, including a Bennie Goodman spectacular—Swing to Spring. Despite her success, she is still refreshingly modest and completely unsophisticated.

Because the Yuletide Revue was the springboard that started her on her way, she has always been quite sentimental about America's oldest Christmas charity show. Each year she expresses her best wishes with a telegram, and would give a lot to be here on December 15 for the Revue's 25th anniversary.

Aside from exceptional talent, that was evidenced from the very beginning, Mickey has displayed the perseverance necessary to get somewhere in the theater. Her tireless efforts to perfect the grace and flawlessness expected of a top-ranking professional ballerina paid off.

It's the same sort of determination that Marsha Kersey, another Revue graduate, came up with in attaining a place in the Washington Civic Ballet a short time after she left New Bern High school. Kathy Young, also an erstwhile Revue performer, had it too, as did Johnnie Genolius.

Kathy became a Paramount starlet, out in Hollywood, and in more recent years a much-in-demand photographer's model. She has been featured repeatedly on the covers of leading magazines.

As for Johnnie, he got his break as a dancer in the Broadway show, Gentlemen Prefer Blondes. Like Marsha Kersey, his climb to the top of the ladder was rapid, and there are still brighter things ahead.

Not all of the Revue's performers have achieved professional prominence, of course. Many of them elected to enter other fields of endeavor rather than the field of entertainment. But a list of those who have succeeded in varying degrees would be quite lengthy—too much so to detail here.

When you stop to think of it, countless hundreds of entertainers have contributed their talents to the Revue's editions over the past quarter of a century. And a great many other people who were never seen on stage have made their notable contribution to the show's long life.

Some of its most enthusiastic boosters are no longer among the living. For example, there was Oscar Kafer, manager of the Masonic, who permitted the use of his theater without charge in the early days, and George R. Fuller, who was happy to furnish pianos and organs as long as he lived. His sons are still exhibiting the same generosity.

For years Claude Springle, who died a few years ago, had a big part in handling the lighting for Revue performances. Bill Pierce, director of the New Bern Recreation Department, was a lot of help too, especially during the several years that the show was presented at the Recreation Center.

Thanks to press, radio and television, the Revue has been publicized from coast to coast, time and time again. And a large number of the great stars in the entertainment world—celebrities like Cecil B. DeMille, Jimmie Durante,



WE COULDN'T RESIST—It's a little late in the season for river settings, but this Trent Pines scene is so beautiful no newspaper editor would dare pass it up. New Bern's Jackie Hancock wields the net as Morehead City's Nona

Blanchard pulls in her catch. It wasn't much of a fish, but the picture more than makes up for it.—Photo by Billy Benners.

## High School Choral Group Is Ready for Christmas Concert

If you love good music, superbly sung, don't miss New Bern High school's annual Christmas Concert next Wednesday night, featuring the 58-voice capella choir, the 105-voice girls' glee club, and the 45-voice boys' glee club.

Appearing in the high school auditorium at 8 p.m., under the capable direction on Donald Smith, who heads the music department, the three groups will add a new chapter of excellence to the concerts presented by Smith over a 21-year span.

Surpassing previous concerts will require considerable doing, and this year's youngsters may not accomplish the feat. However, after sampling their rehearsals, The Mirror is inclined to believe that they'll do just that.

Included on the agenda for the capella choir are two excerpts from the Messiah—"And The Glory of The Lord" and "O Thou That Tellest Good Tidings." In addition, the choir will sing "I Wonder As I Wander" and "The Christmas Song." An ensemble from the choir, with 11 soloists, will render the ever delightful "Twelve Days of Christmas."

Adding greatly to the fine per-

Roy Rogers, George Gobel, Bill Cullen, Ray Milland, Arlene Francis and Sid Caesar have given it their blessing.

So you see, when people are flattering enough to refer to the Yuletide Revue as a one-man show, it is less than an accurate summation. It was one man's dream, but along the way he had help, and inspiration.

formance of the choir will be the talent of its pianist, Eloise Stilley. Recently awarded a full scholarship at Catawba college—recogni-

tion richly deserved—Eloise is as conscientious as she is proficient, and is held in high respect by fellow members of the choir.

With Nancy Ward, Carol Nelson and Priscilla Jenkins on hand, the choir isn't short on soloists. They compare favorably with soloists of the past, and you'll agree when you hear them Wednesday night.

As for the girls' glee club, with Louise Whitty as pianist, they are certain to make an emphatic impression with their rendition of Schubert's "Ave Maria" and "Carol of the Drum." Sherril Joyner is the soloist, and fills the assignment quite nicely.

Jan Marshburn is the pianist for the boys' glee club. Soloists are Donald Davis, William Reel, Wayne Mumford and Lloyd Lane. You'll like the glee club's portion of the concert, including as it does such compositions as "Let It Snow," "The Boar's Head Carol," and "O Little Town of Bethlehem." The latter carol features a male octet.

All in all, the Christmas Concert should give those attending one of their most satisfying evenings in years. That it will awaken or add impetus to the holiday spirit here is a foregone conclusion.

Donald Smith's work with the New Bern High school music department since the pint-sized professor shuffled into town from Buffalo two decades ago has been phenomenal. He had worked wonders, and it has been said repeatedly by outsiders that his choir is superior to some college choirs. His glee clubs as well as the choir are highly regarded in scholastic circles.

Smith's influence and his instruction have had far reaching effect in the community. Various (Continued on Page 8)



ELOISE STILLEY  
... Talent to Spare