



Although Judge Albert Wallace Cowper of Kinston has been wearing the judicial robes of his high office for just a few short weeks, there is nothing awkward or amateurish about the 49-year-old ex-FBI agent.

He brought to Craven Superior Court, for the two-week criminal term ending today, natural dignity, keen insight, and the patience and tolerance that a good jurist must have. Without these qualities, and of course others, no occupant of the bench can hope to render distinguished service.

As the son of a Superior Court judge, Cowper bids fair to follow ably in his father's footsteps. Even at this very early stage of his career, it is our candid opinion that the native Kinstonian is considerably more capable than some other judges who have held court here in our generation.

He is a worthy successor to Judge J. Paul Frizelle of Snow Hill, and that's as big a compliment as you could possibly pay the rookie jurist. In some respects, Cowper reminds you vaguely of Frizelle, Judge Walter Bone of Nashville, and the late Judge Don Gilliam of Tarboro. Like these three, he has the mark of a gentleman, and you don't have to be in his presence very long to find it out.

He graduated in law from the University of North Carolina, and one of his classmates, if we have our facts right, was a New Bern attorney, John Beamish. John has had some cases tried during the aforesaid two-week term, but you may rest assured that he hasn't received any favored treatment from Judge Cowper.

"I joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation in 1941," the youthful jurist told us this week during the course of a Mirror interview. "I worked in Washington, Newark, Boston, Portland, Me., and Jackson, Miss."

For four years, he recalls, his duties were primarily concerned with espionage and sabotage. "It was a killing grind," says Cowper. "Those were war years, and you never had a chance to let up. One of the subjects I was assigned to keep under surveillance in Newark loved double feature movies. I never attended so many movies in my life."

Everywhere the man went he was tailed by Cowper or other FBI agents. Yet, so adept were the agents at remaining inconspicuous that the party admitted, when arrested nine months later, that he never knew he was being followed.

Speaking of arrests, the FBI never expects an agent to attempt an arrest singlehandedly, Judge Cowper told The Mirror. For their own protection, agents are expected to keep armed.

"Once a subject is arrested," says the Kinston jurist, "he should never be let out of your sight. Agents who have been killed usually made this mistake. They permitted the arrested person to leave their presence on the pretext of getting a coat or a shirt, or some other items before leaving with the agent."

"I once made a foolish mistake at Lewiston, Me.," Cowper told us. "I stopped at a man's house, and didn't have my pistol with me. When I informed him that I would have to take him in, he fled into another room."

Cowper pursued him. "As I entered the room," the judge remembers, "the man already had his hand in a bureau drawer. He pulled something out of the drawer, and wheeled around. It was a bottle of whiskey."

Cowper declined when offered a swig, but the arrested man made away with a hefty drink, then cheerfully turned to Cowper and (Continued on Page 8)



WAY BACK WHEN—Here's another rare photograph that Miss Harriet Marks was kind enough to lend us. The youngsters, dressed in their Sunday best for the camera, were pupils of Leah Jones Stevens in her class of approximately 70 years ago. Her home, shown here, is now used as an administration building at Central School. It is located adjacent to the campus.

Charlie Byrum Is Honored as Our Young Man of the Year

New Bern's Young Man of the Year couldn't be present Thursday night to receive his Distinguished Service Award from the local Junior Chamber of Commerce, but his deeds of community service spoke for him.

Eltón H. (Charlie) Byrum, Jr., of 2209 Woodland Avenue is the recipient, and well deserved tribute was paid him at the annual Key Award banquet held in the Hotel Governor Tryon.

A native of Greenville—born in 1934—he graduated from high school in the Pitt town. He attended East Carolina college, following which he spent three years in the United States Air Force.

Married, he has two daughters, Karen and Kim, and one son, Gary. Manager of Larry's Shoe Store on Middle street, he became actively identified with civic and religious causes as soon as he moved to this city.

He is a past president of the New Bern Junior Chamber of Commerce; a former state chairman and a former district chairman for the North Carolina Junior Chamber of Commerce; a former member of the board of directors of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce; and a former member of the board of directors of the United Fund here.

Recently elected president of the New Bern Merchants Association, he found it necessary to resign because of serious illness. He is credited with having much to do with acquiring a credit bureau for the Merchants Association.

Charlie's religious life has been of great importance to him. He has

taught the Pioneer Sunday school class at the West New Bern Presbyterian church, is past chairman of the Christian education committee, a deacon, and is chairman of the Stewardship committee.

His Distinguished Service Award

is the sixteenth to be presented by the New Bern Junior Chamber of Commerce since 1941. Such awards were originated in 1938 by the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce, and incidentally, President John F. Kennedy was a na-

tional winner several years ago.

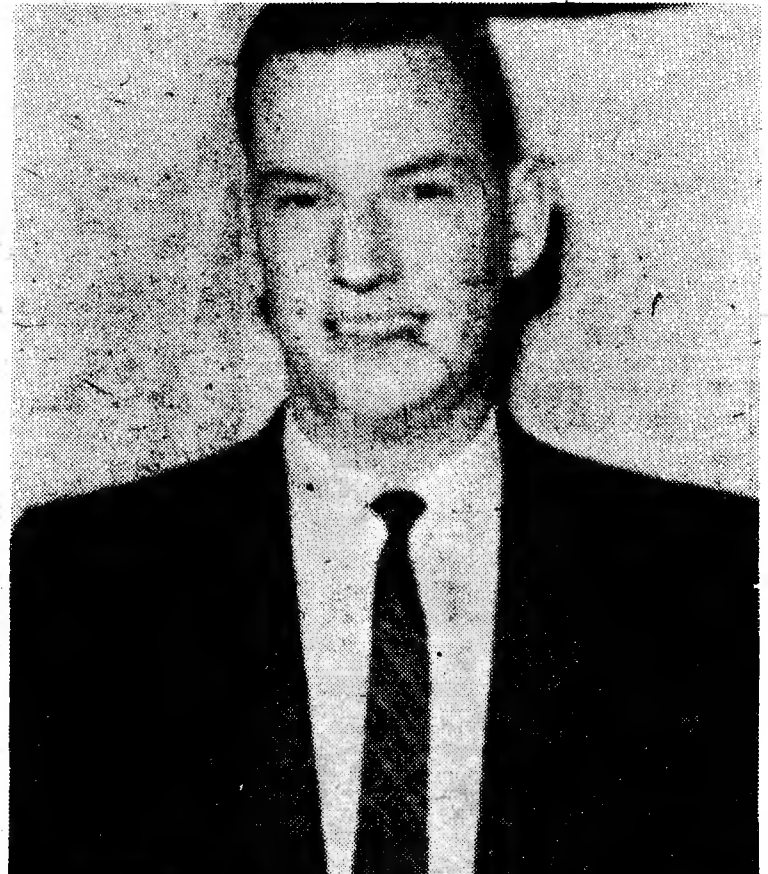
Any New Bern young man between the ages of 21 and 35 is eligible for a Key Award. Selection is made by a secret panel of five local citizens. A point system is used to evaluate the merits of those individuals who are under consideration.

Points are divided into three categories: (1) Contributions to the general community welfare during the year—50 points; (2) Evidence of leadership ability—25 points; (3) Evidence of personal or business progress—25 points.

The Distinguished Service Award has a two-fold purpose. It publicly honors young men between the ages of 21 and 35 for outstanding service to their community, and it calls attention to the vital and important role of all young men in improving their communities.

Dr. Lewis Bratton was last year's recipient. Others honored with the award have been Hubert A. Terry, Rev. John Murray, James Stutts, James O. Simpkins, Ralph T. Morris, Alfred Ward, James C. Ridoutt, Dr. Roy Miller, T. K. (Gus) Mann, Donald Smith, Raymond Pollock, T. R. Shapou, George Smith and J. Gaskill McDaniel.

Selection of Charlie Byrum, Jr., as this year's winner will meet hearty approval from many New Bernians who are familiar with a wide range of community services that he deserves credit for.



DESERVED RECOGNITION

After silence that which comes nearest to expressing the inexpressible is music.—Aldous Huxley.