



The NEW BERN MIRROR

WEEKLY OF
Mr. & Mrs. A. N. Murphy
2000 Arundell St.
New Bern, N. C.
5¢ Per

VOLUME 4

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1961

NUMBER 7

We've always remembered, as the years rolled by, that no one in our graduating class at New Bern high school had a longer name than Christopher Sylvanus Beker, Jr.

He was inclined to be slow and deliberate, and still is, but he was an outstanding student and carried a lot of good sound thinking between those ears of his.

After graduation from the United States Naval Academy he rose eventually to the rank of Rear Admiral. Now retired, and living in his native New Bern, he has interesting views on the plight of this troubled world.

"I consider war useless," says Chris, "and it would be entirely unnecessary if people were educated and believed in God. As a Naval officer with a limited education, I have been forced to accept the following philosophy—'My country right or wrong.' Thus I have accepted the leadership of the civilian authority and carried out their dictates.

"It is my belief that all wars are fought over either religion or money. Money or power is synonymous. Let us take a quick look at the Revolutionary War. In school we were taught that the basic cause of this war was taxation without representation.

"The British Parliament repealed all taxes except the tea tax in an attempt to forestall this war. Tea and coffee are in a class with cigarettes—most people who use the items consider them necessities—but we fought a war to remove the tax and thus far a stamp tax has never been placed on tea or coffee.

"I doubt if I would have been a willing volunteer for this war. The Revolutionary War, as we justified it, established two principles. The right of self determination of the people of a country, and that all people are born free and equal under the law.

"This year we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Civil War. I believe we should mourn the lack of communication and understanding that existed between the North and South in that era, and to this day the North still fails to understand the basic problem of the South.

"In school we were led to believe that slavery was the basic and controlling issue that led to the Civil War, when in fact South Carolina refused to pay an increased import tax on cotton goods, which brought about her secession from the Union.

"North Carolina voted against secession in January, but in June she seceded, having refused to raise troops against her neighboring states. My grandmother told me that during this period Union patrols would pass a farm and order all able bodied men to fall in. I believe this action of the Union Army spurred our legislature to secede. Thus we became the last state to join the Confederacy.

"World War I, it seems to me, was fought to keep the Kaiser from gaining too much power, and power is money. It started on a small scale because a Duke was assassinated. We joined, it was said, to fight a war to end all wars. We helped to win that war.

"President Wilson had a plan—a League of Nations to govern the world. He sold his plan to all principal nations except his own. We did not join the League of Nations and it became ineffective. Net result—World War I set up a situation in its parceling out of territories that was to lead to World War II.

"World War II was another war to stop a man from gaining too much power. We in the military knew that it was coming, and we

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MUSIC IN THE AIR—Informality reigns when New Bern High school's happy warblers present their Pop Concert each May. Friday night's presentation, in the high school auditorium, promises to be the best yet. Pictured here is

a well remembered scene from last year's pleasing performance, with the high school choir in the spotlight.—Photo by Billy Benners.

Friday Night's Pop Concert Will Be Easy on Your Ears

If you're fed up with a steady diet of rock 'n' roll, and convinced New Bern teenagers aren't even on singing terms with the sweet and sentimental, this is for you.

Friday night, at 8 o'clock in the New Bern High School Auditorium your discord—battered ears will be soothed and caressed for a change by the familiar strains of show tunes dear to your heart.

There won't we dare say, be so much as a single jarring note bouncing off the Auditorium rafters, when the New Bern high school choir and the boys and girls glee clubs take you on a return stroll along A Melody Lane that has almost been obscured of late by oft-played recorded bedlam.

Strangely enough, the kids themselves will have just as much fun presenting their annual Pop Concert as you will listening to it. For weeks they've been slaving under their diminutive conductor, perfection-minded Donald Smith, to master a delightful assortment of songs that will still be around after rock 'n' roll has gone the way of all slightly silly fads.

Staging for the performance is being handled by Danny Kellum, Lloyd Lane, Sue Jo Lowery and their assistants, while June Ipock and Jimmy Murray have done an excellent job on the lighting. There's nothing amateurish about this phase of the evening's musical menu.

Eloise Stilley is the pianist for the choir. Louise Whitty will be at keyboard for the girls glee club, and Jan Marshburn for the boys glee club. Other instrumentalists, appearing with the choir, are Donna White and Betty Biggers.

Soloists for the choir are Carol Nelson, Lyle Robinson, Kay Phillips, Jane Knowles, Johnny Pauza and Priscilla Jenkins. Selections include "It's A Grand Night For Singing" (from State Fair) by Rodgers; "Do I Love You?" (from Cinderella) by Rodgers; "It's De-

Lovely" by Porter; "Wish You Were Here" by Rome; "I Got Rhythm" (from Girl Crazy) by Gershwin; "You And I" by Willson; "I Enjoy Being A Girl" (from Flower Drum Song) by Rodgers; "Anyone Would Love You" (from Destry Rides Again) by Rome; and "Fine and Dandy" by Swift.

Soloists for the girls glee club are Sherrill Jayroe, Emma Humphrey, Mary Elizabeth Fox and Lyle Robinson. There's a double trio too, featuring Sharon Smith, Claudia Blandford, Sherry Provo, Judy Darnell, Christine Lamm and Carolyn Clark.

For its portion of the program, the glee club will offer "While Hearts Are Singing" by Straus; "Where Or When" by Rodgers; "Ten Minutes Ago" from Cinderella by Rodgers; "With A Song In My Heart" (from Spring Is Here) by Rodgers; "Where Are Y'Goin'?" by Gearhart; "The Sound Of Music" by Rodgers.

Soloists for the boys glee club are Lloyd Lane, Eddie Barnard, William Reel, Wayne Mumford, Donald Davis and Wyatt Laughinghouse. In addition, there's an ensemble featuring Michael Cogdale, Wyatt Laughinghouse, Stroud Tilley, Wayne Mumford, Donald Davis, Lloyd Lane, John McCotter, Byron McCoy and William Reel.

Selections will include "A Real Nice Clambake" (from Carousel) by Rodgers; "Down The Open Road" by Haney; "Wagon Wheels" by DeRose; "Happy Days Are Here Again" by Ager; "If You Were The Only Girl" by Ayer; "Do You Ever Think Of Me" by Burnett; (Continued on Page 8)



WHAT'S MY MOVE?
A New Bern Cardinal Playing Chess.
—Photo by Billy Benners.