

The NEW BERN MIRROR

WEEKLY
OF
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Digging in our files the other day, we discovered some interesting facts and figures about the highway bridge that spans Neuse river from New Bern to Bridgeton. For some reason, we never got around to publishing these statistics, so here they are.

Included among items necessary for its construction were 2,017,000 pounds of reinforcing steel; 2,651,000 pounds of structural steel; 6,538 cubic yards of Class A concrete; 31,000 feet of 20-inch, pre-cast concrete piles; and 20,000 feet of creosoted timber piles.

Its cost to the state of North Carolina was \$1,137,224.20. The overall span is one and twenty-three thousandths of a mile, with 148 spans that are 35 feet each, and a swinging span of 223 feet. The roadway from curb to curb is 28 feet wide, with a three-foot sidewalk on each side.

Exploring the aforementioned files further, we came across a notation about Roosevelt Eddy. Quite a number of years ago, fire destroyed the Negro service station attendant's home on F Street here. His three year old child was burned to death, and another of his children — nine years old — was critically burned in the blaze.

Roosevelt himself sustained burns in a vain attempt to save all of his brood from flames that rapidly enveloped the frame dwelling. In their darkest hour, Eddy and his wife discovered that citizens of New Bern are quick to come to the assistance of those in dire need.

At the time of the tragedy, the future editor of The Mirror was doing news coverage for Radio Station WHIT. We went on the air to broadcast an appeal for clothes, furniture, or anything else usual to a home, with an emphasis on wearing apparel.

The response was overwhelming. Listeners rushed to their telephones with offers of clothes and furniture for the man and his wife, and for their surviving children. Long before nightfall, most of their clothing needs had been supplied.

Being a man, we hadn't taken the time to find out what size dresses the woman wore. Belatedly, we found out that she needed Size 40 attire, and none of the garments received fitted this category.

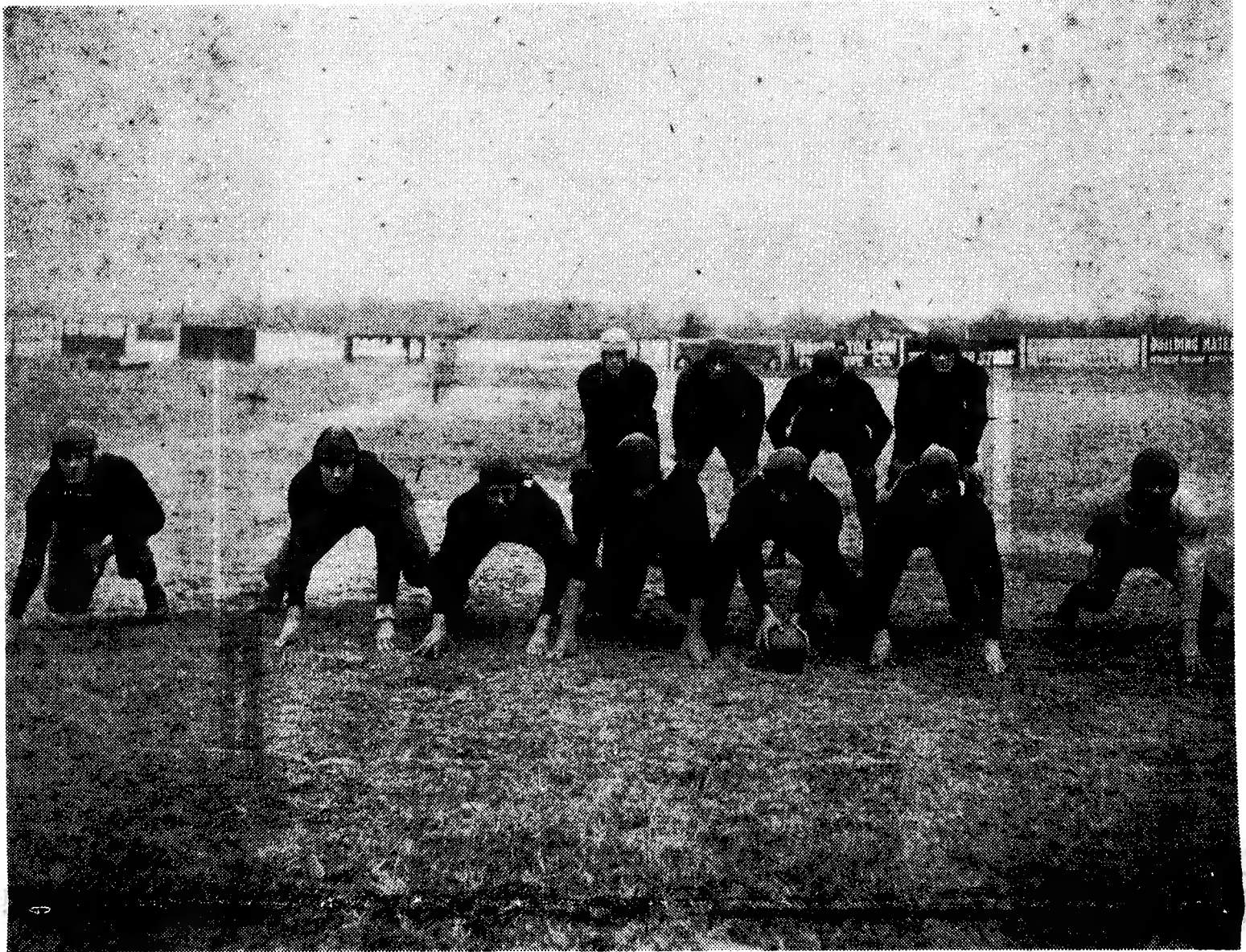
Very few women, we were told, are Size 40, and fewer still admit that they are large. Even so, we returned to the air with a second appeal and specified the size we needed. In a matter of minutes, New Bern housewives who obviously had hearts as big as their frames volunteered all the apparel needed.

We might never have recalled the incident, if the story hadn't turned up in our files, which is another good reason to do a bit of house-cleaning in one's office once in awhile.

Finally, before completing our delving into the over-stuffed filing cabinet, we encountered a reminder that Eleanor Nunn Jones — Sam's wife and the daughter of Judge and Mrs. R. A. Nunn — spent 28 months in England and France as a Red Cross worker during the course of World War II.

She was on her way overseas just a month after joining a Red Cross unit, and was attached to the Army's 160th Station hospital. She knew what it meant to be caught in the midst of an air raid, and can tell you first hand that Germany's robot bombs were even worse than you heard they were.

A subscriber to The Mirror, she will be quite surprised to read about herself in this column, after all these years. It goes to show you that newspapermen have a phobia against
(Continued on back page)



A LASTING LEGEND—This is the 1922 New Bern High school football team that defeated Sanford at Raleigh for the Eastern title, while our town was suffering a 40-block fire. It took Asheville five quarters in the rain to decision the Bears 12-6 at Chapel Hill for the State crown. Linemen

shown are Bob McSorley, Carl Morton, Marvin Griffin, Charlie Henries, Piggie Duval, David Grantham and Redmund Dill. Backs are John D. Whitford, Emmett McSorley, Alvin Phillips and Nickey Simpson.



MENTORS FOR YOUNGSTERS — Pictured here are the coaches who guide small-fry gridders in the New Bern Recreation Department's Midget Football League. Left to right are Bill Smith (Lions), Ray Griffin (Bears), Larry

Swindell (Golden Knights), Ernest Hollowell (Bears), Ray Batts (Golden Knights), Dick Kent and Cliffie Rowe (Rams), Don Wilkins (Lions), and Jim Shine, Athletic Director.
—Photo by John R. Baxter.