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It came as quite a revelation to citizens of New Bern last year, when The Mirror published an exclusive story that told how TV Newsmen David Brinkley once clerked at an A & P store here.

This editor, fresh out of High School at the time, was then working at Carolina Gas & Electric Company, and later Tidewater Power Company, with David's older brother, W. G. (Red) Brinkley. Incidentally, Red is married to a New Bern girl, the former Ida Bell Gaskins.

David, with the Great Depression in full swing, came here to live with Red, and managed to latch onto the chain store job. Later he returned to Wilmington, and worked on the Star before moving to bigger things in the journalism. Still in this writer's personal file are telegrams from Brinkley, asking us to give the Star sports coverage on football games played between New Bern and Wilmington High schools at Kafer Park. They're rather faded now.

Even in those days, when he was just a gangling youngster, David was a reliable reporter. Like his brother Red, he had a whimsical sense of humor. You can still see it lurking in the sly smile that crops up occasionally when he is appearing on television. Knowing the brand of Brinkley wit that he manages to submerge, we are always half way expecting him to toss dignity aside and cut loose with a wise crack.

David, as everyone knows by now, is coming here this month to speak at the annual banquet of the New Bern Chamber of Commerce. You'll get a public glimpse of him then, and we can assure you that you'll be impressed. Speaking to various groups doesn't pose any problems for a man whose voice and image is familiar to countless millions.

But what about David Brinkley in private life? Well, join us this morning, and we'll take you into his home for a visit. He and his wife, Ann, and their three young sons—Alan, Joel and John live at Potomac, Md., in a lovely home overlooking the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal, the Potomac River and the distant Virginia hills.

It's a split-level rambler type house, and among its fine features are the picture windows in the living room. The Brinkleys, with Ann providing the imagination, decorated the home themselves. Speaking of the living room, it is of bleached Philippine mahogany, with beige, wall-to-wall carpeting. Colors used for the furnishings are beiges, browns, golds and pale orange.

Visualize, if you will, a dwelling with an entryway at ground level, that extends out in front at a height almost that of the adjacent trees. In a literal sense, the Brinkleys can be termed cliff dwellers. In addition to the living room and an entrance hall, this floor has the dining room, and a "green room" where you'll find a television set, spinet piano and love seat, as well as a separate bedroom wing.

This wing includes a master bedroom, a guest room, and David's small but complete study, where he reigns supreme at a large, old-fashioned roll-top desk. The guest room, thanks to Ann, has a strictly feminine touch. Everything is pink, including the grass cloth wallpaper, antique satin draperies, a plaid chair, and a bed with a Victorian style headboard.

The master bedroom has a window wall, and affords the same view of the Chesapeake & Ohio Canal that the living room has. Furnishings are walnut Georgian. The downstairs floor, reached by stairs from the living room and kitchen, includes bedrooms for the children, baths, a tiled playroom, a room for the maid, and David's workshop.

Brinkley is quite a hand at tools, fashioned his own hanging bookshelves and a hi-fi cabinet of pro-

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IT'S SERIOUS BUSINESS—These youngsters studying art at the New Bern Recreation center are so intent on their drawings that they aren't even aware of the camera's pres-

ence. Mary Duffy Hughes, widely known for her portraits, is the enthusiastic instructor.—Photo by John R. Baxter.



FIRST STEP TO FAME—A child in this creative group may grow up to be world renowned, for little do we know where exceptional talent lies. More important for most of these

boys and girls at the New Bern Recreation center is the joy of fashioning things with their own hands.—Photo by John R. Baxter.