



New Bern Public Library  
The NEW BERN

# MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
PART OF  
New Bern Public Library  
407 New St.  
5¢ Per

VOLUME 4

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, MARCH 23, 1962

NUMBER 46

Here in New Bern, we shiver and shake when the mercury drops as low as 15 or 20 degrees above zero. Imagine living in Bemidji, Minnesota, where an official reading 10 miles north of the town on January 17 showed the thermometer holding firm at 56 degrees below.

Some folks say that we feel the cold worse here because of the damp climate, but damp or dry, we can't visualize the brutal weather that residents in the northwestern states are subjected to. They try to prepare for the blizzards, but there's just so much you can do before the wintry blasts move in.

Millions of dollars are spent each year by northern cities to clear away the snow from blocked street. Even with modern equipment that you'll never see anywhere in Dixie, frustrated Yankees find it's impossible to battle on equal terms with Mother Nature when she dumps repeated blankets of white on hapless mortals below.

Things may be far from perfect in New Bern and the rest of Carolina's coast country, but we'll still try to hang on here in preference to the frozen areas up north. And with springtime in store for us, there shouldn't be too much desire to look elsewhere for beauty. April and May are usually glorious months in these parts, and we aim to make the most of them this year.

One of the unique aspects of the present political picture is the lack of appeal that being District Solicitor holds for the average successful attorney. Although the job pays well, compared with the income that some men make, various lawyers with whom we've talked say they want no part of it. They allow as how a Solicitor has little time to call his own.

That is why, we are told, no other attorney saw fit to oppose New Bern's Cecil May when he announced for the office that Farmville's Bob Rouse is giving up. When Rouse first ran to succeed Greenville's Dick Bundy, after Dick was appointed Superior Court judge, there were numerous other candidates in the race. It is almost unbelievable that in a few short years the office has ceased to be attractive, but such is the case.

Solicitors in this sprawling District are faced, if we remember rightly, with 40 weeks of Superior Court each year. They must do a great deal of traveling. If they devote the time and effort necessary to properly prepare the prosecution of important cases, it means burning the midnight oil. If those cases aren't prepared thoroughly, there will be a scarcity of convictions resembling the Perry Mason show.

Probably the biggest reason for Solicitor Rouse's decision to retire was his conscientious devotion to duty. Bob wasn't one to drag his heels in his determined efforts to fully explore the facts in a pending case. Because he went all out to live up to his solemn responsibility, he was away from home a great deal. For a typical family man, who enjoys being with his wife and kids, the pressure was too great. Bob got fed up with it.

Fortunately for May, he lives closer to the center of the District than Rouse, and can stay home more nights. In fact, it will be a reasonably short drive in every direction, and he can get to court in plenty of time by leaving home fairly early.

Having a Solicitor who resides in Craven county is something that the District hasn't experienced for many a year. Only oldsters recall

(Continued on Page 8)



OUT OF THE PAST—You'll have to go back approximately 50 years to remember New Bern's Knights of Pythias band. Pictured here, ready to strike up the music are Joseph Nelson, Fred Thomas, Clarence Crapon, Albert T.

Willis, John R. Taylor, Guy Cox, Eugene Robinson, Ollie Pigford, Leopold Sutan, Eph Brinson, Oscar A. Kafer, and Elliott Pittman. Robinson was the director. In their day, these tooters and drum beaters were strictly first class.



STILL GOING STRONG—Jasper High school has turned out many a fine girls basketball team, and the 1962 ball club was no exception. Coached by R. H. Woodard, the outfit set a fast pace in the Craven-Carteret Conference. Here

the happy youngsters pose with their latest trophy. City schools have abandoned the girls game in North Carolina, but it's still popular in rural areas.—Photo by John R. Baxter.