

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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PRESERVING THE PAST

Are your favorite pictures beginning to fade out? Are you fretting over the problem of where to store the mounting mass of records that you must keep, and concerned with clippings that are yellowing and disintegrating with age?

Could be that you New Bernians are in the same fix that the State's department of history finds itself today—except that the State's relics and records concern more than 4,500,000 North Carolinians.

And the 59-year-old history department is crammed into and spilling over parts of four separate buildings that were never designed for the department's highly technical and specialized functions.

That's why the department needs a new building, it plaintively asserts, if it is to keep pace with the tremendous surge of historical interest in Tar Heelia that has blossomed over the past 10 years.

The gathering of valuable, permanent and irreplaceable documents the past few years has exhausted the space that was adequate, if not scientifically designed for correct storage, when the department moved into its present headquarters in the Education Building in Raleigh 23 years ago.

Because these valuable records, containing the seed and the foliage of the State's history, have always come first in the allotment of space, department workers and their equipment have suffered the consequences. Scholars and genealogists have likewise suffered in the fight for space.

As a result, a tiny area designed as a telephone booth is now a workshop, and the most valuable collection of North Carolina maps in existence (2,500 in number) is now housed in a public hallway beside cluttered desks.

The department's research area, where the public has access to records, is much too small. Even the microfilm reading area, where there are only four microfilm machines, is entirely inadequate.

This current year, because the microfilm machines had previously been assigned to interested parties, vexed and disappointed would-be researchers have shown up from Baton Rouge, Richmond, Washington, Dallas, and Birmingham, as well as from our own cities like Winston-Salem, Mount Airy, New Bern, Greenville, and Edenton.

North Carolina's records are irreplaceable. They are not like books, of which numbers of copies exist. If destroyed, the records are gone forever—records valued at millions of dollars, which go far back into the Colonial period and which are the only records of much United States history as well as State history.

At present, the records are deteriorating. Trunk lines of State's heating system, carrying heat to State buildings beyond the Education Building, run through the old records area. In the winter time in particular, the heat generating from the pipes and the resulting low humidity are slowly eating away the paper. A properly constructed building, with temperature and humidity controls would easily solve this problem.

North Carolina isn't the only state with a great historic background to be faced with such a problem. The difference is that North Carolina—so often the leader in the South and sometimes in the nation—is lagging.

New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Mississippi either have or are getting adequate history buildings. Many Tar Heel visitors to Columbia, S. C., have seen the elegant new building that our sister state recently erected.

This year Georgia let a contract for a \$6,000,000 structure. New Jersey in 1964 will open a new building as part of the commemoration of its 300th year. Incidentally, North Carolina will observe its own 300th anniversary a year earlier.

If a new state history building went up, this very action would release some 60,000 square feet for other state agencies to use—about 40,000 square feet in the Education building, and 20,000 feet elsewhere. According to the State Department of Administration, the State is now paying a whopping \$77,000 annually for much needed rental space in Raleigh.

Within a few years, it appears, this saving would pay back construction of a history building.

Historical Gleanings

—By—

ELIZABETH MOORE

OYSTER BOAT RETURNS, 1896

Irwin Allen, Captain of Schooner Marvin D. White, makes affidavit that the oysters with which said schooners is loaded were caught with hand tongs only, in February, 1896; that said oysters were taken from JUDITH NARROWS in Hyde County by F. Jennett, and M. F. Haskett; that he has this day sold to Montgomery & Company 82 bushels. Feb. 29, 1896. Sworn to before J. B. Parsons, Deputy Inspector of Shell Fish.

Similar affidavits made by:

Captain Irwin Allen concerning oysters taken from BAY RIVER in Pamlico County by John Jones, Marshall Jones, Amos Wheaton, and Rufus Simpson, sold to George N. Ives and Son.

Captain J. R. Bateman of schooner Defiance, taken from waters of Pamlico Sound by B. A. Sadler and J. P. Spain, sold to Montgomery and Company.

Captain Emanuel Davis of Sharpio Mary E. Reeves, oysters taken from waters of BRANT ISLAND in Pamlico River by Elijah Davis, Basil Hamilton and Simon Davis, sold to C. T. Watson, C. S. Wallace and George N. Ives & Son. Others taking oysters from water E. L. Davis, Barno Davis, William P. Davis, and Robert Har-ker.

Captain A. G. Fulcher of Sharpio Ella Horton, oysters taken from waters of HARBOR ISLAND, Carteret County, by Henry Slater, Milton Lee and A. G. Fulcher, sold to Thomas Dainels, C. T. Watson, Sarah Webster, Diamond Calloway.

Captain M. R. Fulcher of Schooner Mary Ruffin, oysters taken from

waters of CORE SOUND, Carteret County, by J. O. Mason and Ephraim L. Fulcher, sold to L. A. B. Davis, M. W. Chapman, David Speight, J. L. Pater, Samuel Elliott, C. S. Wallace, Geo. N. Ives, W. S. Idlett, Thomas Davis, and Sarah Webster.

Capt. Thomas Gaskill of Schooner Julia F. Hill, taken from waters of BRANT ISLAND, Pamlico County by Norman Gaskill, Lorenzo Gaskins, William Salter, and sold to D. D. Winfield and others.

Capt. David Gaskins of the Schooner Dolphin, oysters taken from BAY RIVER, in Pamlico County by Raymond Potter, R. Flowers, and B. Jones and sold to Montgomery and Company.

Capt. W. D. Gaskill of Schooner J. F. Norris taken from waters of SOUTH ISLAND, by J. W. Gaskill, J. W. Hopkins, J. G. Sadler, sold to Montgomery and Company.

Capt. S. B. L. Hathaway of the Schooner H. Hill, taken from the waters of SOUTH ISLAND, in Pamlico County by James Overton, and Amos Sadler, sold to Montgomery and Company.

Capt. J. S. W. Hellen of the Sharpio Nina Dare, waters of NORTH RIVER by J. S. W. Hellen, James T. Gilliam, and sold to George N. Ives and Son.

Capt. Mike Hill of the Schooner Sarah F. taken from the waters of CORE SOUND by Joseph Wallace, Joseph E. Salter, and Carrawan Nelson, sold to L. A. B. Davis.

Capt. P. C. Jones of the Schooner D. C. Willis, taken from the waters of BAY RIVER, Pamlico County by Council Moseley, Paul Jones, Joseph Richardson, John Ives, John Fulford, and sold to George N. Ives and Company.

Village Verses

TOUGH ON SNOOZERS

Once we complained in a stuffy pew,
Sweltering like a steaming stew;
Our tempers soared with the temperature,
To a point where saints might not endure.
Then air conditioning saved our plight,
But fleeting indeed was our delight;
Now we're complaining, just as of old—
Saying the church is much too cold.

—JGMCD.

Capt. W. Lewis of the Schooner Sea Flower, taken from the waters of CORE SOUND in Carteret County, by W. Lewis, Jorabel Lewis and Wadell Lewis, sold to Sarah Webster, David Speight, C. T. Watson, D. D. Winfield and others.
(Continued next week)

Great is the reward of self-sacrifice, though we may never receive it in this world.—Mary Baker Eddy

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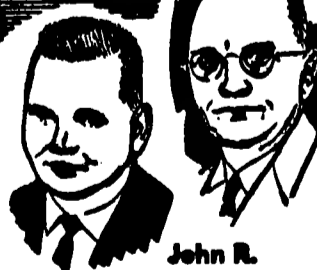
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DON'T WAIT A MINUTE

If you have hard work to do,
Do it now.
Today the skies are clear and blue,
Tomorrow clouds may come in view,
Do it now.

If you have a song to sing,
Sing it now.
Let the notes of gladness ring,
Clear as song of birds in spring,
Let each day some music bring—
Sing it now.

If you have kind words to say,
Say it now.
Tomorrow may not come your way,
To do a kindness while you may,
Loved ones will not always stay,
Say them now.

If you have a smile to show,
Show it now.
Make hearts happy, roses grow,
Let the friends around you know,
The love you have before they go—
Show it now.

—Selected.

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