

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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BEGIN AT HOME

Betty Rae Lawhon of Rutherfordton, currently reigning as North Carolina's Rhododendron Queen, is blessed with all too rare combination of beauty and brains.

Last weekend, during her visit here, we had occasion to interview her. Among the things we learned about her was the fact that she was a member of the National Honor Society in High school and a representative to Girl State.

"I firmly believe that we can achieve world peace," she told us. "Maybe I believe it because I want it to happen so much. I would hate to think that the young people of my generation will never have an opportunity to marry and have their families, and live a life of service."

Although Betty Rae insists that she knows very little about international affairs, she feels that each individual must share the responsibility for promoting peace. "We must begin right in our own home," she said. "If we can't get along with our own folks, how can we expect to get along with anyone else?"

Having learned to live in peace within our own household, Betty Rae suggests that we then help to promote peace in our own civic, fraternal and religious groups, and in our neighborhoods. After that we can broaden our efforts to city, county, state, national and international levels.

There's really nothing new about her line of reasoning, but her deep sincerity impressed us. "I feel," she told us last Saturday, "that the young people of today are quite concerned over the world's troubles, and that the majority of them are determined to improve conditions when they inherit the problems now confronting their elders."

Queen Betty will make almost 200 personal appearances before she leaves her Rhododendron throne next June. A student at Meredith College in Raleigh, she dropped out of school for a year in order to fill the many engagements that her royal position demands of her.

She'll be back at Meredith next September, with a full scholarship. In her case, a scholarship is a mighty good investment in everybody's tomorrow.

AN AMAZING MAN

Year in and year out, Walt Disney continues to turn out excellent motion pictures. His latest and one of his best—titled "Almost Angels"—has been playing at a local theatre this week.

It gives viewers a close glimpse of the famed Vienna Boys Choir, and lives up to the claim that it was fashioned as entertainment for all ages. From the outset of his fabulous career—back when Mickey and Minnie Mouse were his chief creations—Walt has placed emphasis on beautiful music.

Some of the loveliest songs ever written were interwoven in Disney's full-length cartoons. A good example, with melodies that countless millions will forever remember, was "Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs." That one film alone included several compositions of exceptional worth.

No one else in Hollywood has been honored with an avalanche of Oscars like Walt. A single Oscar is a memorable event in the life of a great star, but Disney has received dozens of these coveted awards to far outdistance everybody else in the motion picture industry.

In Hollywood, he is unanimously acclaimed as an honest-to-goodness genius. As a matter of fact, it has been said by some competent observers of the cinema scene that Disney is the only genius Hollywood has produced since Charlie Chaplin, the little Englishman with the reed cane, baggy trousers, and derby hat, brought his inimitable brand of humor to the silent screen.

How lasting will Walt Disney's fame be? Considering the fact that Mickey Mouse, born in the artist's ink bottle in 1928, is now 34 years old, we would say that Disney has given the world something as permanent as it is delightful. That goes not only for Mickey but for his "Three Little Pigs"—now 29 years old—and for Bambi, Pinocchio, and all his other characters.

His whimsical animals, birds and fairy-tale creatures have been supplemented by educational films that did not employ cartoons, and feature movies with real people as actors and actresses.

And he did it all without resorting to filth or violence. Walt's faith in the decency of fellow mortals has made him a multi-millionaire.

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Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

1874 RECOLLECTIONS OF NEW BERN FIFTY YEARS AGO, STEPHEN F. MILLER.

Allen Backhouse kept a store near the market stocked with articles for family use. He was a half brother of Mrs. Chapman. His son Allen A. Backhouse went to Mr. Hutton's school when I did and was a youth of great intellectual promise. He was an orator from his boyhood. After graduating at the University in 1830 he entered the ministry.

James A. McCain in addition to the office of town constable exercised the vocation of a merchant in the sale of family articles. He was a tall muscular well formed man and kept a handsome portrait where it could be seen by persons visiting his store.

Mr. Jones near the market was represented by his wife, who had children named Morris by a former marriage. She did the purchasing of produce and articles in the market, and the drumming for customers. Mr. Jones acted as chief clerk to his more active companion. Their son Alfred Jones was a Methodist.

Captain Wicker was also represented by his wife in the same vicinity. He was at home only during intervals between his voyages at sea. Their son William was something of a beau in his dress and quite pompous in his walk.

William Duncan belonged to the market group of operators. Besides keeping up his provision establishment he was a noted shaver whose many profits may be inferred by his exacting a discount of 25% on 90 days paper well endorsed. Persons in distress at times yielded to his rates and no fraud was imputed to him. Of course, he flourished in his finances.

George A. Hall, James C. Stevenson, Daniel Jackson, Henry Dewey, Charles Slover were severally in trade, but whether in the dry goods line or as family grocers, I do not remember.

Nathaniel Street, Sr. had a store in which he kept leading articles for family consumption. He was the father of John Street, the lawyer, of William R. Street, the latter of whom owned a bridge across Neuse River, known by his name. He had a son Nathaniel Street, Jr. who was a cadet at West Point Academy. Mr. William R. Street married a sister of James Saunders.

Boarding Houses. Although it is quite probable that several housekeepers took private boarders, I cannot recall but one, Mrs. Conner, who resided between Justice's corner and the dwelling of Mr. LaMotte on Pollock Street. One of her permanent boarders was a Mr. Kay, a Scotch gentleman, whose employment I have forgotten. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and a story is told of him that at a prayer meeting while reading the devotion he suddenly paused in the midst of his prayer, when it was discovered that he had accidentally blown out a candle by which he was reading his beautiful petition.

James Barney near the county

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Village Verses

THE CHALLENGE

Here she comes along the street,
An adorable sight to see;
Her hat is cute, her dress is sweet,
Her lipstick bright as can be.
The birds sing gaily overhead,
While flowers burst into bloom;
And yet, her eyes reveal a dread
That heralds impending doom.
Her stride is halting, insecure,
Despite her determination;
She's uncertain, that's for sure,
In this trying situation.
There's no hiding her despair,
For no one ever conceals
Grim expressions all girls wear
In the very first pair of heels.

JGMD.

wharf kept a house of entertainment for sea faring people, whose merriment and good natured singular phases afforded amusement to passers by, except when these sons of neptune quaffed too freely the fumes of Bacchus.

Fruit Shops. A number of persons mostly foreigners had shops for the sale of West Indies fruits. As I never had occasion to know much about them personally all their names have perished from my memory except that of Antonio, an Italian who kept a handsome sail boat, which he was in the habit of hiring to pleasure parties. In this way I formed his acquaintance. After I left New Bern, he killed a Mr. Johnson and was executed for murder. Poor Antonio had deep blue eyes, a lively and expressive face, and was obliging to patrons. The stiletto so much used by his countrymen in passion or revenge proved his ruin.

(N. B. Craven County records show that Manuel Antonio was attending a "beef shooting" in New Bern on the 4 day of September, 1825; that William Johnston was killed by a stab in the left side by Antonio. On his way to Portugal in an open boat, Antonio was picked up by Captain Otway Burns and brought back to New Bern, where he was condemned to death. Judge William Gaston befriended him by lending him money. His case was appealed to the Supreme Court

where opinions were given by Justice John Louis Taylor, Justice Leonard Henderson, and Justice John Hall. The Supreme Court upheld the death sentence and Antonio was executed in New Bern. In his will Antonio left a small legacy to the child of William Johnston "as a slight testimony of my grief and contrition for the rash act which deprived it of a father.")

Quoted from Recollections of New Bern fifty years ago by S.F. M. Vol. 1.

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WALKING WITH GOD

Who walks with God must take His way
Across far distances and gray
To goals that others do not see,
Where others do not care to be.

Who walks with God must have no fear
When danger and defeat appear,
Nor stop when every hope seems gone,
For God, our God, moves ever on.

Who walks with God must press ahead
When sun or cloud is overhead,
When all the waiting thousands cheer,
Or when they only stop to sneer;
When all the challenge leaves the hours
And naught is left but jaded powers,
But he will some day reach the dawn,
For God, our God, is moving on.

—Selected.

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