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Mamie Miller, our Buds and Blossoms columnist, and Mrs. Arthur Whitford of Ernul once discovered just how gracious and down to earth Eleanor Roosevelt was.

With several thousand other club women representing every section of the United States and a number of foreign countries, they were attending a gigantic lawn party at the White House. Naturally, it was the dream of all delegates at the affair to shake hands with the First Lady.

"It was really a mob of people," Mamie recalls, "and they were crowded so close together you could hardly breathe. Slowly we were moving along with the other thousands of women in the direction we thought Mrs. Roosevelt was."

According to Mamie, Mrs. Whitford got "fainty" and they decided to get out of the milling multitude. As they turned around, they were astounded to discover Mrs. Roosevelt within arm's length. The First Lady smiled, and extended her hand.

As she started to shake hands with Mrs. Whitford, she accidentally knocked the Ernul woman's bright red hat from her head. "Instead of just apologizing," says Mamie, "she showed just as much concern as you would have expected her to accord an important dignitary. She won our hearts with her genuine friendliness, and forever after I admired her not only as the wife of a President but as the kindest person imaginable."

Eleanor Roosevelt was always like that. A relative of ours who saw the First Lady on a number of occasions has told us that her tremendous personality made you forget that she wasn't blessed with physical attractiveness. "In her photographs she appeared homely," is how this relative explained it, "but she never seemed that way when you actually saw her."

It is no secret that she annoyed and in some instances angered many Americans with her views on racial matters. Southerners in particular didn't always see eye to eye with her. However, her most severe critics on both sides of the Mason-Dixon line never tried to dispute the sincerity of her convictions. Eleanor Roosevelt had great compassion for all mankind, and her humanitarian qualities did, in truth, make her the First Lady of The World.

Because so many of us are ugly ducklings, the manner in which she surmounted her homeliness should give us courage and confidence. Pretty is as pretty does is a saying that she exemplified in full measure. Even her own mother, who died as did her father when she was a little girl, bluntly warned the future First Lady that she didn't have any "looks" and would have to get by on something else.

Eleanor Roosevelt, whatever her other faults and failings might have been, didn't for a moment yield to the most fatal of all emotions—self pity. Instead of feeling sorry for her—

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NEW HOME—The folks you see here in front of a spacious brick dwelling on Tryon Road are a happy group. Members of New Bern's Tabernacle Baptist church, they have come calling on their pastor, the

Rev. John W. Long, at the parsonage provided for him. The Tabernacle flock is fond of its preacher, and this lovely home is tangible evidence of that fact.—Photo by John R. Baxter



FAMILIAR SIGHT—When plane pilots pass over the New Bern Shipyard, seen here, they know they'll be landing shortly at the Simmons-Nott Municipal Airport just across the river. The boat building firm at-

tracts business from a wide area, and plays a role in New Bern's industrial economy. Old timers will recall an earlier day when Meadows Shipyard was at this same location.—Photo by John R. Baxter