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New Bern's law abiding citizens could hardly think of anything worse than spending the hot days of summer in jail.

It seems to be different with the criminal element. Autumn for them is the awful time to be behind bars, and a high percentage of the habitual lawbreakers manage to stay free when the frost is on the pumpkin and the corn (shelled corn that is) has been stored in the bin.

It would be nice to think that folks who make a habit of straying from the straight and narrow are turning over a new leaf--a fall leaf so to speak. Or maybe in this harvest season they are doubly aware that what a man sows he is bound to reap.

No one seems able to explain why breaking the law runs in cycles. For reasons beyond the comprehension of otherwise discerning mortals, robberies, assaults and even murders come in bunches. As the saying goes, when it rains, it pours. Autumn just happens to be one of those fortunate dry spells, from a mayhem point of view, but a cloudburst could come any time now.

Boredom gets lots of New Bernians in trouble, and it's that way in the rural areas too. Apparently, it's hard to get bored when autumn arrives, even though so-called normal human beings who never have to face a judge are invariably melancholy during September, October and November.

Law enforcement officers subscribe almost unanimously to the theory that the moon not only controls the ocean's tide, but impels the potential criminal to act up.

Ordinarily, they're amply supported in this contention by crime statistics, but we've had plenty of wonderful moonlight lately with very little misbehavior of a type that gets persons incarcerated.

All this is in sharp contrast, of course, to doings on the international scene. While New Bernians addicted to thieving, violence and general disorderliness are behaving like approximate Little Lord Fauntleroy's, folks far off are calling each other rather strong names and backing up their language with bloodshed.

Contrary to popular opinion, there's no such thing as having the look of a criminal. During the span of a third of a century, we've sat within inches of dozens of killers on trial before the bar of justice. Most of them didn't look the part.

One of the most vicious, cold blooded murders ever committed in Craven county had as its ambush slayer a meek looking teen ager who didn't appear sinister enough to harm a flea. Even when you talked with him, in his jail cell, it was hard to picture him as a brutal killer.

It's a matter of record that quite a few mortals who perpetrate homicide have been fairly law abiding through the years, until they take another's life. By the same token, countless humans are deliberate law breakers for most of their adult days, but could hardly be regarded as a likely prospect to commit a capital offense.

Only a small percentage of the killings in Craven county can be classified as murder in the first degree. Usually, the element of

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WORKING TOGETHER—New Bern's Business and Professional Women's Club is one of the most active organizations in our community, and pictured here are some of the members largely responsible for its success. During recent days they have been promoting

National Business Women's Week, but they're far from idle the remainder of the year. No doubt you'll hear more from the group, as various projects are pushed with limitless energy and enthusiasm.—Photo by John R. Baxter.



WORTH REPEATING—Five years ago we ran this picture of David Turner and Ann Disoway. Hundreds of photos later, with another Halloween at hand, we're still convinced that it's just about the cutest thing

we've ever published. Billy Benners was wielding the camera, when David came up with a wisecrack that convulsed Ann with laughter and even made the Jack-o-Lantern smile. Could any photo be more natural?