

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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THEY'RE GONE

Having a National Save The Horse Week to honor nags and mules is a wonderful idea, but New Bern's horse population will never hear about it.

The trusted steeds won't know about it, because they've been dead these many years. Paying compliments to a deceased horse, or a mule that stopped kicking long ago, is as futile as bailing out the ocean with a thimble. You just don't get anywhere, no matter how much you try.

Maybe it's different out in Colorado, where the Denver Post started this whole idea. And of course, it's different on television, where horses gallop across the screen in much the same ratio that ants and flies show up at a Sunday school picnic in July or August.

It wasn't waning popularity, but the march of modern gadgets that consigned New Bern's forlorn hayburners to oblivion. There was nothing but oblivion waiting remaining, when the horsepower in gasoline engines and the watts in electric voltage replaced bit, harness and reins.

First casualty here, or certainly one of the first, was the steed who pulled a local trash wagon, and doubled as a fire horse. The fire truck and garbage truck put him out of commission, even as tractors eliminated most horses and mules on Craven county farms.

Then, of course, the good old dray horse that used to come into your backyard with a load of dry kiln or slabs met his doom too. Those modern gas and electric stoves, replacing the old wood range that your Ma cooked wonderful vittles on, sentenced him to certain extinction.

You need not be told what happened to the horse that pulled the ice wagon. You got to know him real well as a kid, when you hopped on the back step of this enchanted conveyance, and scooped up chips of frozen pleasure while the ice man was delivering a 50-pound lump to Mrs. Jones, on the second floor of the house across the way.

The ice-wagon horse was a nice horse. Much nicer, as we recall, than the spirited critter at the front of the milk wagon. He would take a nip at you, if you tried to pat him, and the horse that provided momentum for the bread truck was just as ornery.

But the ice-wagon horse was gentle, or maybe he was perpetually tired. Anyhow, he obeyed the ice man's commands with unflinching precision. The ice man called to him from the sidewalk, or porches, and his horse would take a few steps along the oyster-shelled street until he was right smack in front of the house where the next customer lived.

The most patient horse of all, however, was the trash horse that tumbled into a hole up to his neck, when Metcalf street caved in near the corner of Pollock.

If he was the least bit surprised, he didn't show it, and he waited with astounding dignity while employees of the city labored to extricate him from his unexpected predicament.

And we've told the story before about the momentous morning when a run-away mule from James City headed straight for Mitchell's hardware store, and dropped dead the moment he entered the establishment.

Friends of the popular proprietor, Tom Mitchell, (the father of Buzz and Johnnie) joshed him to a fare-thee-well about the matter. One wag insisted that the mule keeled over when he found out how much Tom wanted for a set of horse shoes.

All in all, New Bern's horses were good citizens. They never got drunk, snatched nickels out of the collection plate on Sunday morning, or lived beyond their means.

It's fitting that they're being appreciated, along with America's other horses and mules, but why did it have to happen too late?

Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

"HOW EACH STATE
CAME BY ITS NAME"
1868-1871

"LOUISIANA: When LaSalle in his voyage of discovery reached the mouth of the Mississippi he claimed for his Sovereign Louis the Great, all the Country watered by that stream and its tributaries, and called it in his honor. The name has been retained by only a very small portion of that vast territory, but it covers the spot where the column and cross were planted in April 1682, by the Great explorer. 'The Creole State' and 'Creoles' are well known designations.

"MAINE: The wife of Charles I, had already been remembered in the naming of Maryland and as it was the desire of those having charge of the matter to pay still further homage to that branch of the Royal family, it became necessary, it seems for them to cross the English channel, and make the new American Province a namesake of the French Province of Maine of which the King's consort happened to be the landed proprietor. Maine is 'The Pine Tree State' and its people are 'Foxes'-pine trees and foxes being plenty. It is sometimes dubbed, 'The Lumber State'.

"MARYLAND: Henrietta Maria, wife of Charles I, supplied this name; as Maryland appears to be without a sobriquet, let one be furnished it in 'The Bivalve State'. The natives are called 'Craw Thumpers'.

"MASSACHUSETTS: This is another one of Indian origin, and according to some authorities signifies, 'The Country of Hills' while others maintain that 'Blue Hills' is the correct interpretation. The name is 'Bay State' from the bay on the eastern coast, and the natives are 'Bay Staters'.

"MICHIGAN: This is also a word of Indian derivation, the meaning of which is 'Great Lake';...bordering on five lakes, from one of which it was named Michigan is appropriately called 'The Lake State'. The wolves, however, have furnished another title in 'The Wolverine State', inhabited by 'Wolverines'.

"MINNESOTA: Is so called from the river of that name. The word is of Dakota origin denoting according to Schoolcraft, 'bluish green water', 'Minne' water, and 'Solato' bluish green. Featherstonhaugh, however, says 'The Indian name of the St. Peters is Minnaysotor' or 'turbid waters'. It has three fictitious names: 'The North Star State', 'The Land of Lakes' and 'The Gopher State' peopled by 'Gophers'.

"MISSISSIPPI: The significance of this word in its application to the river from which the State received its name is popularly but erroneously supposed to be 'The Father of Waters', The true definition is 'Great River', and comes from the combination of two Algonquin words 'Missi' great and 'seppe' river. Mississippi is the 'Bayou

Village Verses

WHEN DAY IS DONE

In sunset clouds, a blaze of red and gold
Brings us a promise of smiles after tears;
God's sunset clouds, they renew dreams of old,
And paint the hopes of faded yesteryears.
Each saddened heart finds sincere sympathy,
As twilight draws the curtain for its play;
Beneath a scene of bright hued majesty,
The night comes down, to softly kiss the day.
—JGMCD.

State' and from its many outlets, and the residents are dubbed 'Tap poles'.

"MISSOURI: Another river name given to a state--It has the meaning of 'Great Mud Water' or 'Great Murky Water' though one authority pretends that the true one is 'Canoe' and that is first appears on Marquette's map, as Wemissouret. This last statement is correct. The state is the land of the 'Pewkes' and is without a sobriquet.

"NEBRASKA: This is a compound Sioux word that signifies 'Water Valley', Ne, the water; and Abraska Valley. It is also without a fancy name, though its inhabitants are noted 'BUG EASTERS'.

"NEVADA: The Spanish for 'Snow Clad', which characterizes the mountain range of that name to the west of the State. This is the 'Sage-hen State' and the boys and girls are all 'Sage-hens', without regard to sex, and are probably very wise.

"NEW HAMPSHIRE: Was so named for the county of Hampshire England, and it enjoys the wellknown sobriquet of 'The Granite State' and the people that of 'Granite Boys'.

"NEW JERSEY: George Carteret a part owner of the grant under which New Jersey was settled was a former Governor of the Isle of Jersey and from these circumstances the colony received its name. 'The Jersey Blue State' is the whimsical

name and the natives are said to be 'Clam Catchers'."

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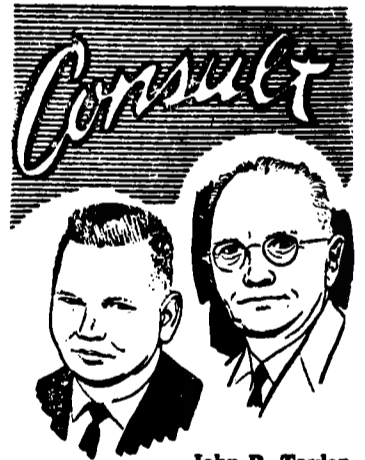
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GROWERS OF FINE

TREES, SHRUBS

AND PLANTS

1918 - - - - - 1963



John R. Taylor

John R. Taylor, Jr.

About This Question:

My business was almost wrecked when my partner died and his heirs interfered in business operations. Could we have had an insurance policy on both of us which would have paid out the heirs in case of the death of either of us?

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