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New Bern's most surprised man this week was Nelson Banks, popular and efficient recorder of Sudan Shirne Temple.

Back in 1945, he was serving on Luzon Island in the Philippines with the Army's 32nd Division. Two of his buddies at Headquarters were Paul R. Salzman of Huntington Park, Calif., and Fred G. Koessell of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The trio got pretty bored during a lull one day, and tried to think up something interesting to do. They decided to write their respective names and home addresses on a single dollar bill, and put it back in circulation.

Nelson, whose home was then in the original Washington--Washington, N. C., wrote his name first because the prank was actually his idea. It was the last any of them saw of the dollar bill, and after 19 years the incident had been completely forgotten by Banks.

The other day he received a letter addressed to his former address in Washington. It had been promptly forwarded to New Bern. The sender was somebody named Pauline Myrick, Box 152, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Inside, with a note, was the dollar bill--in very good condition--that Nelson and his buddies had autographed in the Philippines almost 20 years before. The dollar was so well preserved that Pauline obviously experienced no trouble reading Nelson's name and address.

She figured (correctly) there might just be a story connected with the three signatures on the bill. In the letter she told Sudan's Recorder it was worth giving up a dollar on the chance she would learn the circumstances surrounding the triple signing.

Pauline's curiosity, and keen desire to do a far-away stranger a favor, won't cost her. Banks is not only answering her letter--with facts included--but is reimbursing her for the dollar she wanted him to have.

It may be that Sudan's Recorder, an expert detective when it comes to locating missing members all around the world, will be able to track down his two buddies. They would like to hear about the outcome of the autograph party too.

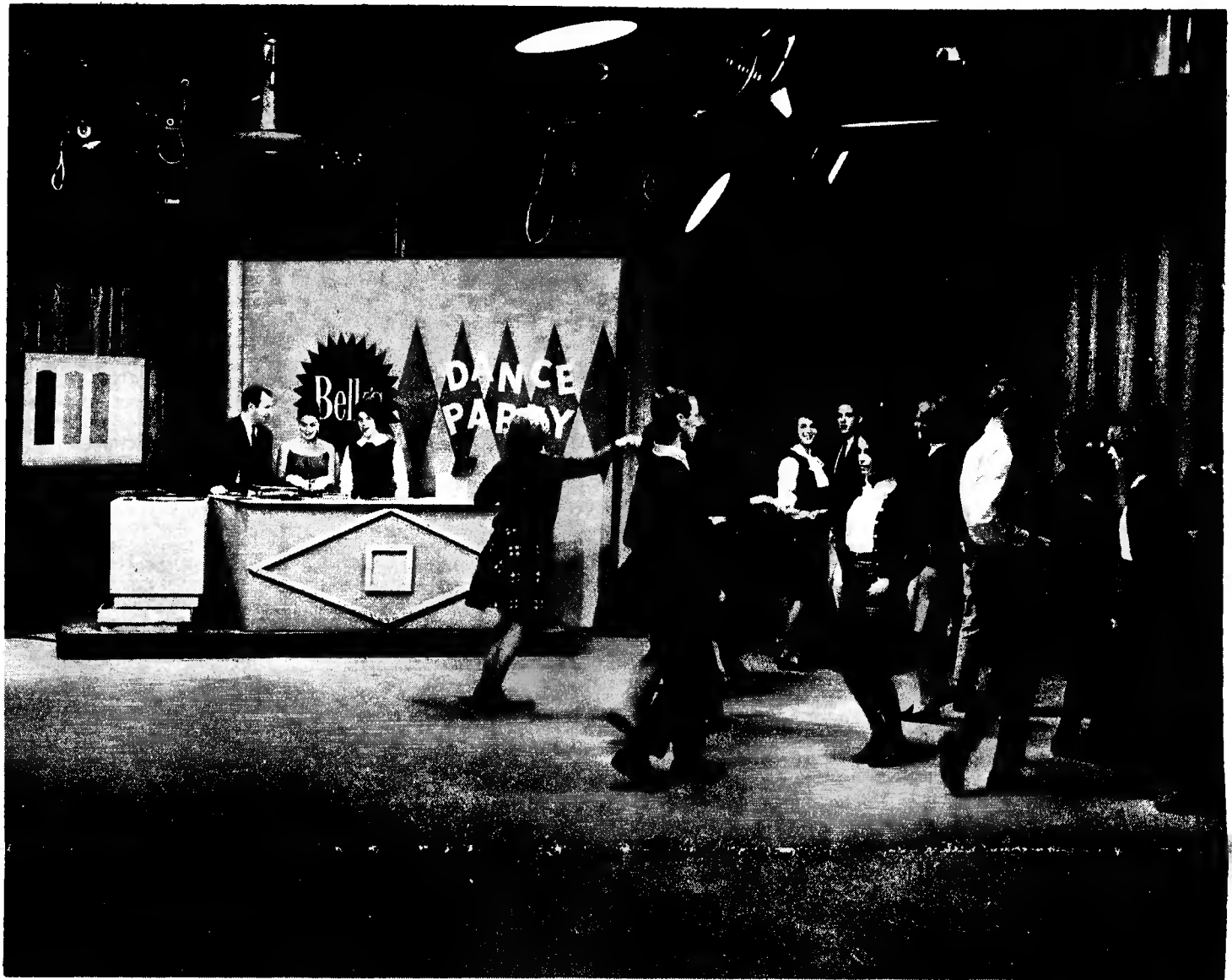
Dollar bills are not only hard to hang onto, but quite perishable. Most of them become unfit for currency, because of wear and tear and general mutilation, before they've been in circulation a year and a half.

Evidently, the dollar bill that Nelson and his two buddies parted with on Luzon has had gentler treatment than most bills. It would be interesting to know where it has been salted away for all these 19 years.

While we're talking about years, let's try to overtake fast-sprinting Emmie Gaskill as she makes her collecting rounds for the floral concern that bears her names--Emmie's Flower Shop.

Emmie, who is just 87, sold out to Monnie and Janie Smith a few years back, but kept right on working. In fact, Emmie has been working since she graduated from school at the age of

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A POPULAR SHOW—Aimed at teen agers, the Dance Party is seen on Channel 12, WNBE-TV, Saturdays at 1:30 p.m. Marie Wallace of Jacksonville serves as hostess for the half hour program. When this photo was made, Marie was sharing her mike with two

special guests — Tom Davis, a Jacksonville dancing teacher, and Nonie White, a New Bern High school student. Other local youngsters are dancing. How many do you recognize?



HERE IT IS—Where else but in The Mirror would you expect to find a photograph of the very first drive-in service station built in New Bern? Erected and operated by John H. Parker on what is now the Seashore

Bus Terminal site on Broad Street, the station opened early in 1920. Before then, motorists got their gas from pumps placed close to the curb. There were no parking problems.