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There may be prettier trees than the dogwood, but we can't think of one offhand that gives you as much beauty to behold both in springtime and autumn.

Drive around New Bern and you'll be proud (or should be) of the countless homes surrounded by well kept grounds. Make no mistake about it, this old town has thousands of nature lovers who are willing to toll long hours in the sun to achieve attractive surroundings.

Appreciation of trees and flowers doesn't necessarily indicate that a person has other commendable qualities. Some mortals, for example, steal floral wreaths from graves. And yet, we invariably get the feeling that people worth knowing reside in houses where flowers bid you welcome before you reach the door.

Nikita Khrushchev's promise to "bury" us notwithstanding, we've encountered no New Bernian who seemed happy over his departure from the Kremlin. It appeared evident to most of us that come what may he never would have initiated nuclear war.

There is little reason to believe that his successors will be less concerned with the ominous threat of Red China, but under pressure they may knuckle under and adopt a more aggressive attitude toward the West. This has been the chief bone of contention between the two Communist powers.

Ex-President Herbert Hoover's death removed from the American and world scene a man who had outlived the tremendous condemnation heaped upon him in the heartbreak days of the Great Depression. Years of prosperity have dimmed memories of bread lines, bank closings and the W.P.A.

Whatever may have been Hoover's limitations as a national leader, following the Wall Street crash, we're inclined to feel that blaming him for the Depression was less than fair. His sin, if any, wasn't the bringing on of a financial collapse, but prolonging the distress of it by standing pat and promising that renewed prosperity was just around the corner.

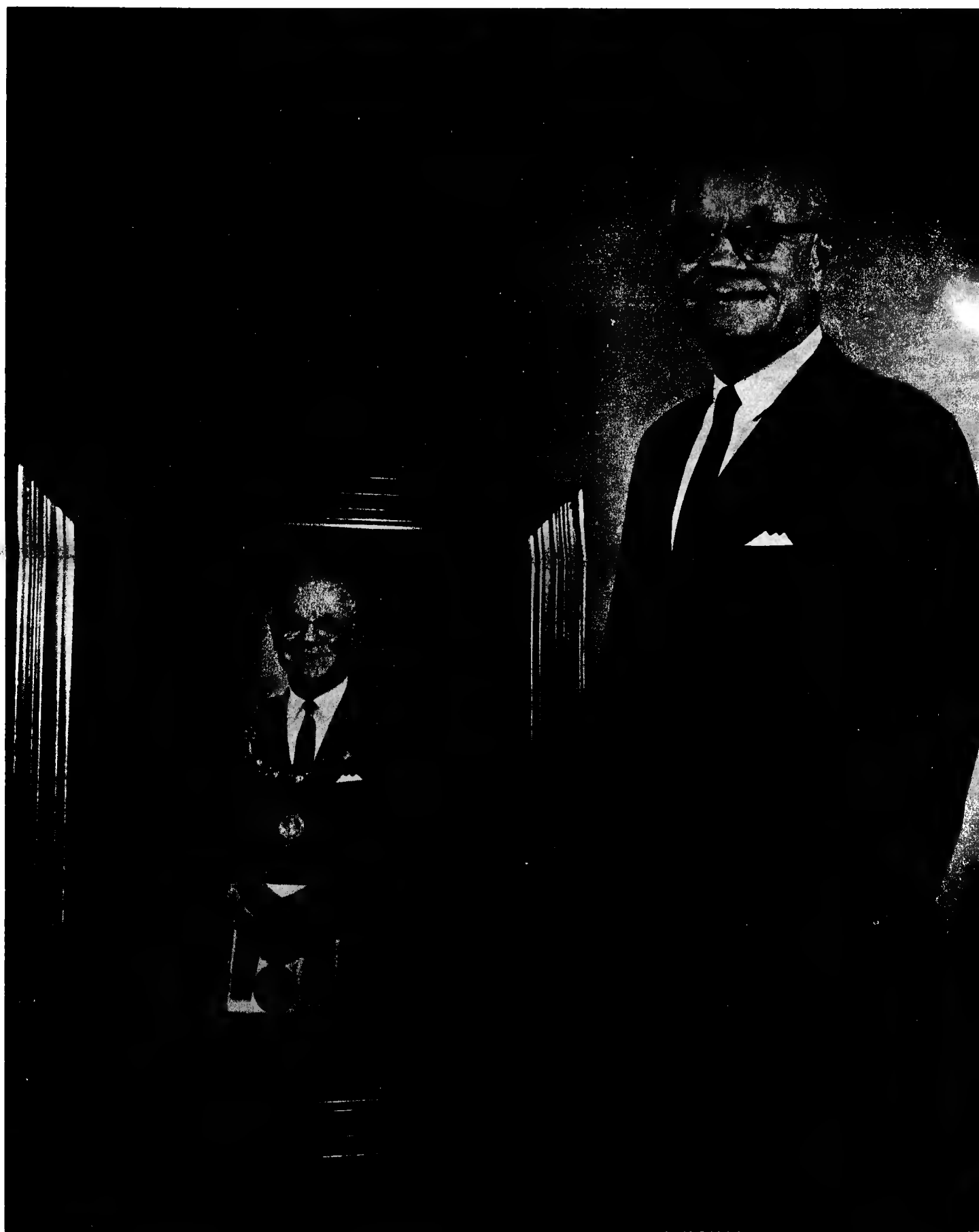
To his everlasting credit, he took the abuse leveled at him without flinching, and emerged from the merciless barrage showing no trace of bitterness. As best we can remember, he didn't whine or complain of unjust treatment, and in the years that followed he served his nation with distinction and dignity.

Among other things, he ably filled the job of chairman of the Commission on Organization of the Executive Branch of the Government, receiving his appointment from a Democratic Administration in 1947.

His so called Hoover Commission, established by the Eightieth Congress, brought about sweeping changes aimed at eliminating wasteful methods of operation and improving the efficiency of the executive branch of our Federal Government.

His thoroughness in this capacity was not unlike his expert raising and handling of a billion dollars during World War I to feed Europe's starving victims. Historians say he established a record for honest use of public funds to good ad-

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GOOD LIKENESS—Robert L. Pugh, past master of New Bern's Doric Lodge and past grand master of the Grand Lodge of North Carolina, stands beside the portrait that Doric's members will officially add to their lodge room Friday night. Pugh received the honorary degree of 33rd degree Mason in 1945 as a member of a distinguished class in which President

Harry S. Truman was the active candidate. An ordained Baptist minister, he has been Superintendent of Craven County Schools since 1937 and lecturer for New Bern's Scottish Rite Bodies since 1938. Appropriate ceremonies have been arranged by Doric Lodge for Friday night's gathering.—Photo by Billy Ben-