



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Almost 50 American towns will hold anniversary celebrations this summer, highlighted by historical pageants.

No community, according to our best information, is going to make New Bern's blunder and stage its pageant indoors with a small cast, as was done on our 250th birthday.

You'll recall The Mirror pleaded with those in charge of the matter for an honest to goodness pageant, under the stars at New Bern High school stadium. It could have been everybody's pageant, with hundreds performing.

This editor was soundly criticized, but what happened? Despite the air conditioning system installed in New Bern High school auditorium for the pageant, it played to empty seats and was a financial flop.

Other towns, before and since, displayed better judgment. Their pageants (outdoors of course) have had casts ranging as high as 1,500. In every instance, such pageants drew larger crowds than all other anniversary events.

Records show that during the past 60 years, more than 4,000 American communities have celebrated anniversaries. Few of the towns had a historical heritage that could compare with ours, but for runs ranging from five days to five weeks their pageants were successful.

You're apt to find yourself in the midst of one of these celebrations, if you travel very far on your vacation this year. Seaford, Del., started its Centennial last week, and Portsmouth, Ohio, launches its Sesquicentennial on June 5.

The Centennial at Clarion, Iowa, opens the following day, and two days later, Arkansas Pass, Texas, unveils its 75th anniversary celebration. On the same day, Lee's Summit, Mo., starts its Centennial. Wilburton, Okla., and Bloomfield, Neb., each will be observing their 75th anniversary for four days starting June 9, while Stroudsburg, Pa., and Greenville, Ill., open their Sesquicentennials for five-day runs on June 15.

Osmond, Neb., is observing its 75th birthday June 17-20, while Kirkwood, Mo., and Mason, Mich., have Centennials June 19-26. During this same period, Ashland, Ohio, will have its Sesquicentennial.

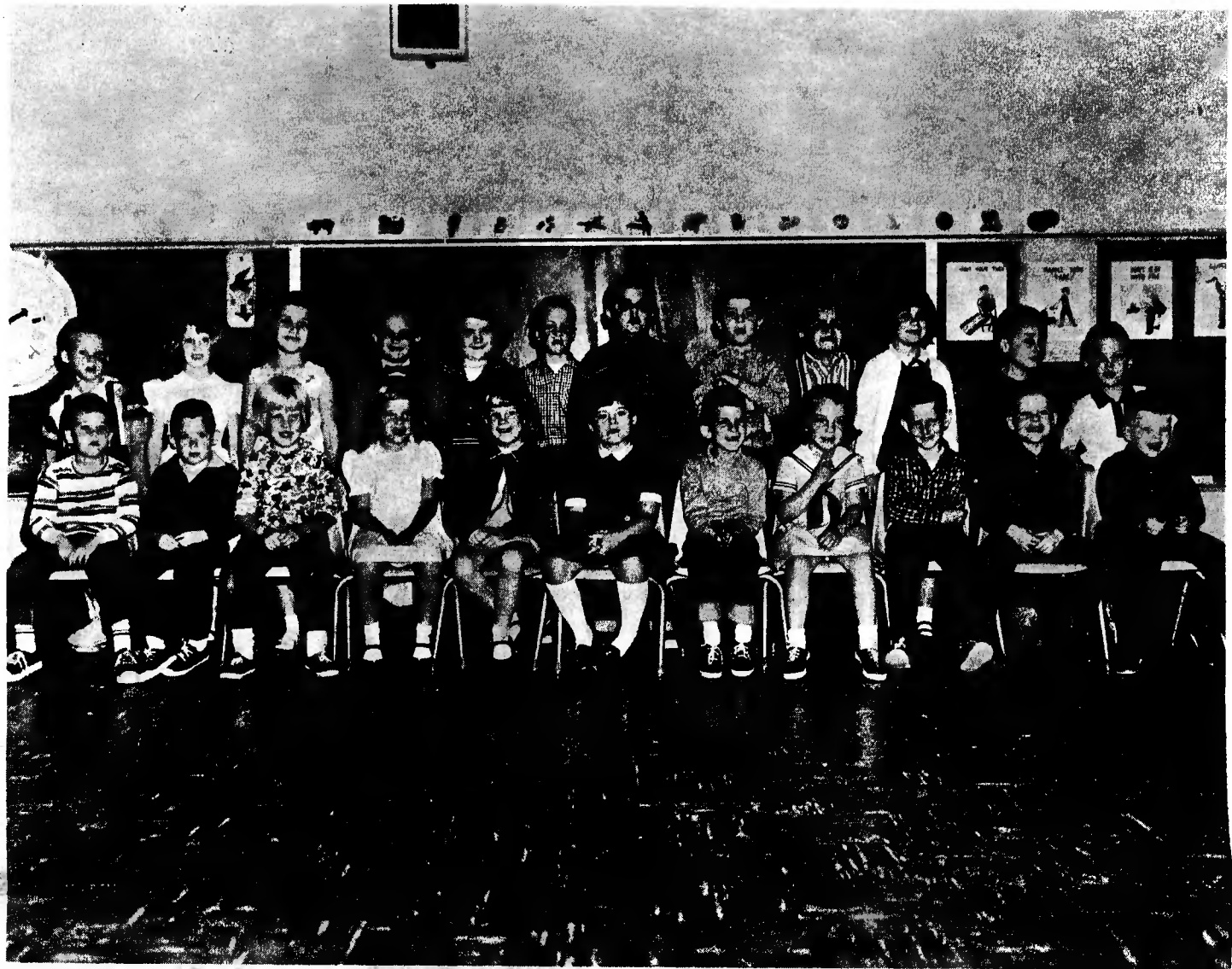
Wilmerding, Pa., celebrates its 75th birthday June 23-26, and Port Lavaca, Texas, observes its 125th anniversary June 29-July 4. Carrollton, Ohio, is equally excited about its 125th anniversary, July 1-4.

Woburn, Mass., only town on the list that is as old or older than New Bern, stages its 325th anniversary celebration July 3-10, and Pottstown, Pa., will present its Sesquicentennial July 5-10.

Carlisle, Indiana, has its Sesquicentennial July 14-18, while Cass City, Mich., and Lockport, N. Y., will observe their Centennials July 18-24 and July 19-24 respectively. Stockton, Ill., has its 75th anniversary July 11-17.

Friendship, N. Y., holds its Sesquicentennial July 25-31, and Six Mile Run, Pa., its Centennial July 29-August 1. Seneca, Ill., has its Centennial July 27-August 1, while Orleans, Ind., comes up with its

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COULDN'T BE CUTER—Pictured are members of the Garber Methodist Kindergarten, on Country Club Circle. Berleen Burnette, their teacher, launched the venture two years ago. Seated left to right are Rusty Sugg, Kenny Tyndall, Tanya Ives, Beth Kunkel, Cindy Overman, Paula Batten, Tommy Pate, Nan Blackerby,

Paul Hill, Bill Pope and Tommy Robinson. Standing are Steven Gwaltney, Lane Alcock, Linda Lafferty, Michael O'Daniel, Liza Turley, Peter Summerville, Scott Campbell, Nicky Grabarz, Mark Pelurie, Elizabeth Gryb, Duff La Vigne and John Johnson. Louanne Smith wasn't present.—Photo by John R. Baxter.



WE'VE DONE IT AGAIN—Here's another remarkable Mirror photograph for your scrapbook. You see here 16 of the 20 members of New Bern High school's 1914 graduating class, with their teacher, Miss Bessie Summerell. See if you can identify George Green, Sophia Hollister, Fred Cohen, Georgia Keene, Char-

lotte Howard, Margaret Smith, Mollie Swinson, Charles Wooten, Boone Groves, Lacy Meredith, Sam Ferebee, Pearl Jennette, Ida Gardner, Lula Disosway, Ruth Baxter and Dot Rea. Hot rodding was fun then too.