



The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Add Etta Gaskins Woodard to the list of New Bernians who have roamed to far places and made their mark in the world.

An interior decorator at Carlsbad, Calif., she conceived the idea four years ago of bringing live theater to her community. So notable has been her success that the city's leading newspaper did a recent feature about this loquacious gal who has never seen a stranger.

Etta didn't reach her objective overnight. She first got in touch with Don Donham, owner of the Carlsbad Guild Theatre, who agreed to the use of the building if enough local citizens became interested in the project.

After 12 months, according to a clipping kindly passed along to us by mutual friend Kay Turner, the Carlsbad Business and Professional Women's Club voted to sponsor the theater. On Dec. 17, 1962, 100 interested citizens gathered in the theater and there and then the Carlsbad Guild Players was born.

Mayor Earl McPherson, then Carlsbad's chief executive, arranged with Ed Prout of the San Diego Gas and Electric Company for the use of a rehearsal hall at the Encino plant. Dale Austin, Oceanside city attorney, drew up the organization's charter.

Starting in May 1963, the players have put on three productions a year. The first was "The Man Who Came To Dinner." Former members of New Bern's now deceased Little Theater will recall that they too produced this Monty Wooley Broadway hit, with Gerald Colvin in the title role.

Following this first play, the Carlsbad Guild Players presented "Pillow Talk," and "Harvey" as well as "Come Blow Your Horn" and "The Moon Is Blue."

Mentioning this last named play reminds us that New Bern's Ann Edwards performed professionally in a production of "The Moon Is Blue" several years ago, in New York and Chicago. Ann has appeared in plays with such well known stars as Franchot Tone, Jackie Gleason and Lorraine Day.

Recently she and Dick Stark (another former New Bernian) performed together in an off-Broadway run of "Tiger." Both got early experience in the Little Theater here, which is reason enough to lament the passing of this organization in a city that offers creative talent virtually no chance to develop.

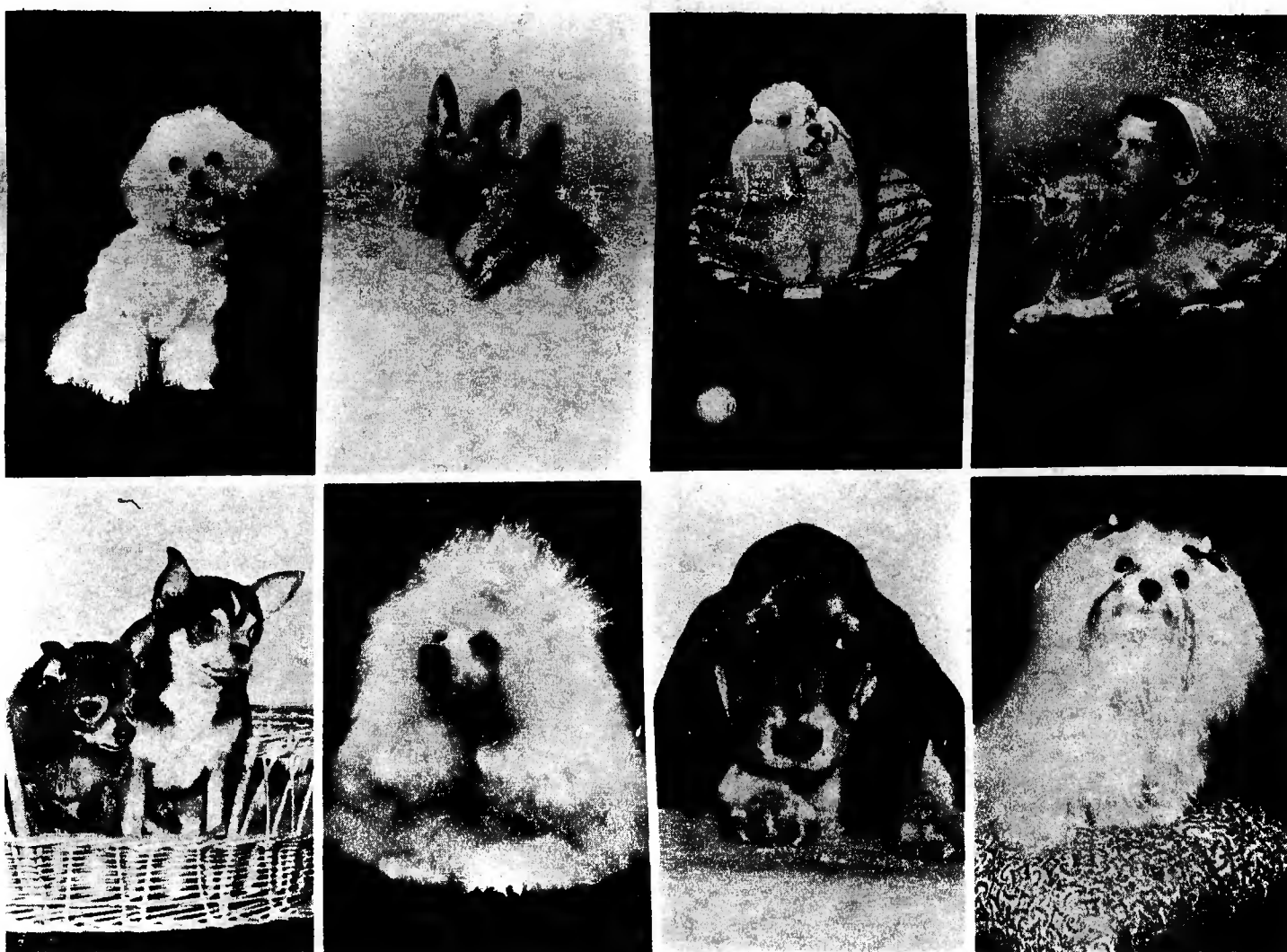
Getting back to Etta Woodard, Carlsbad's Guild Players chalked up their latest achievement in their delightful production of "Arsenic and Old Lace." It has been estimated that the group has spent more than \$14,000 in the community during the short time it has been in existence.

To show its appreciation to Etta and the tireless workers who were inspired by this breezy, transplanted New Bernian, the city of Carlsbad declares a "Carlsbad Guild Players Week" each year. In the realm of amateur theatricals, that's eating some kinda high on the hog.

We remember Etta (and Kay Turner too) most pleasantly

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This Is National Dog Week



Pictured are some of the prize pets pampered by members of the Craven Kennel Club. They are owned, left to right, by Eva Dagley, Capt. B. T. Burke, Jo Ann Frank, Felix Rodriguez, Mrs. Earl Griffin, Mrs. Fay Houston, Tommy Marsh, and Mrs. Elbert Lipman.
-Photos by Florence Hanff.