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So much of what an oldster sees as he walks along the streets of his hometown actually isn't there any more. In his mind's eye, and for memory's sake, he perceives until his dying day the things that once were and for him will always be. These things are lost to the Johnnie-Come-Lately.

That's why no stranger can ever feel quite the same affection for this venerable first State Capital that its natives feel. Fondness may grow, and does fairly often in the hearts of newcomers, but the deepest love comes from roots that go equally deep.

Show us an outsider who takes to New Bern within a period of months of a few short years, and we'll show you a man or woman who sees in the town a good deal of what was left behind at the site of their birth. Human nature being what it is, they can find familiar things and cling to them if they care to.

For example, those who loved children in the community from whence they came are bound to love our children too. Watch the tourist who stops to pat a stray dog on the head, and you know for sure that somewhere many miles away there are other dogs that wag their tails in happy recognition when they encounter them on familiar thoroughfares.

We've told the story before, but it bears repeating. An old man approached by a new couple that had just moved into town was asked, "What kind of people do you have here?" When asked what sort of people lived in the town they came from, their eyes lighted up and they answered, "They were sweet and wonderful and kind."

"You'll find the same sort of folks here," the old man said, and he was so right. That's why, when we see newcomers wearing a chip on their shoulders and complaining incessantly, we have little doubt that they grumbled just as much back home.

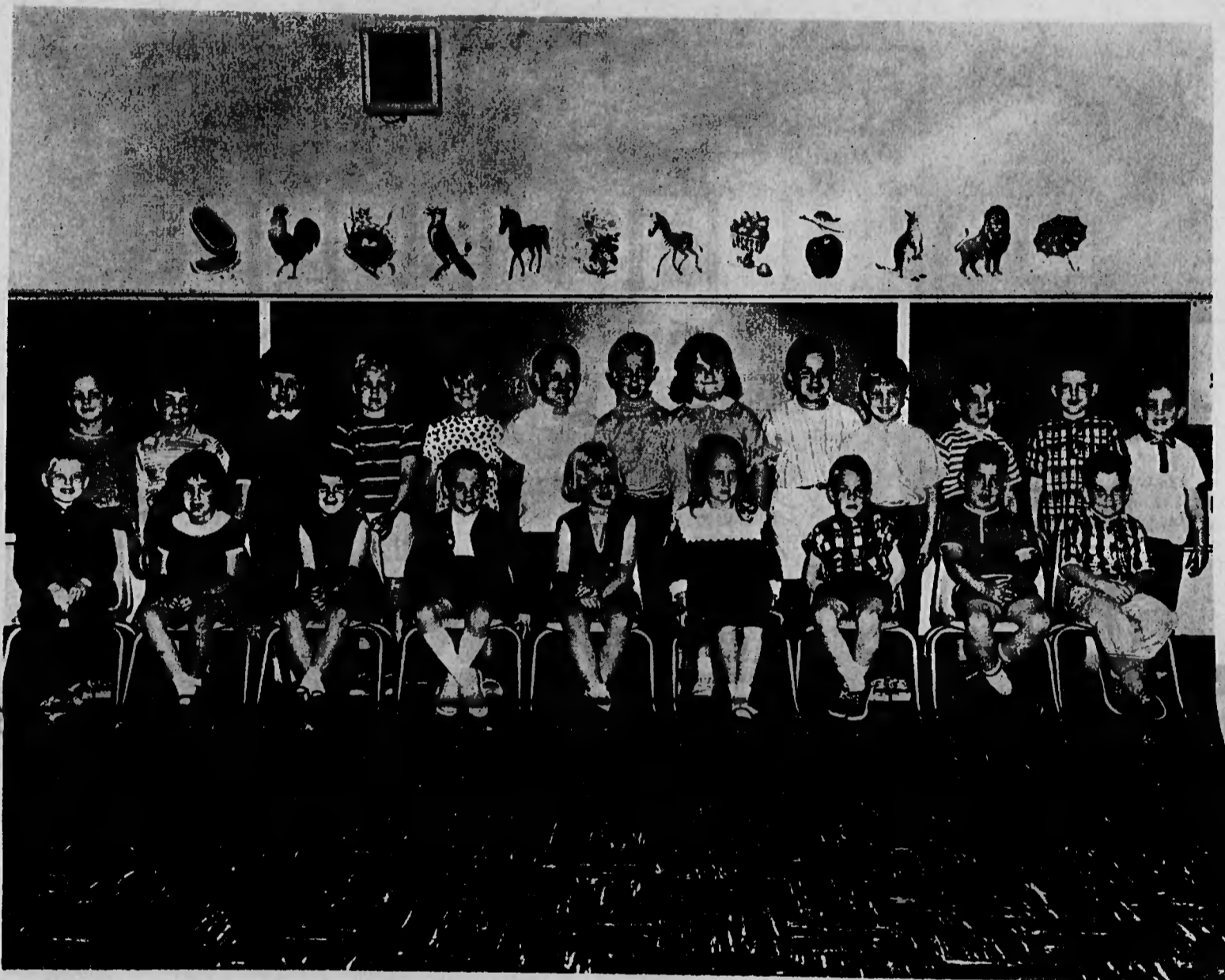
This isn't to say that New Bern is perfect. It could stand a lot of improving, but those who knock it most--newcomers and natives alike--usually do the least to make it a better place in which to live.

It has been said by some that it's hard to get acquainted in our village on the Neuse and Trent. Admittedly, some folks are inclined to be a little bit standoffish, and there are a few snobs. Thank goodness, they are in the minority, and are invariably dull company anyhow. No one is more boring than the phony social climber, who uses those who befriend as stepping stones to more coveted things.

Get your dictionary out, and look up the word aristocracy. You'll find it defined as "a ruling body of nobles" and as "any class that is superior because of birth, intelligence, culture or wealth." Significantly, wealth rates last in the things that are associated with aristocracy. With or without wealth, how many New Bernians would you include if you were making up a ruling body of nobles?

Noble people, whatever their station in life, are those who live nobly. Again turning to the dictionary, we learn that a noble is "high and great in character--showing greatness of

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HAPPY OCCASION—Posing for this Mirror photo, snapped by John R. Baxter, pleased the members of Garber Kindergarten, at Garber Methodist Church on Country Club Road, immensely. Absent, and understandably disappointed, were three other youngsters equally cute, Tom Rossi, Jeff Carter and Jay Batten. Seated, left to right, are Tommy Robinson, Charlotte Holmes, Beth Arthur, Paul Sumrell, Carolyn Tuthill, Julie Smith, Mike Pridden, Keith Bordeaux and Robert Osborne. Standing, left to right, are Mark Watts, Harris Huddle, Karen Walker, Carl Wheeler, Cindy Overman, Mike Strader, Danny Neil, Liza Turley, Mark Pelurie, John Johnson, Bob Gryb, Bill Pope and Mark Amick. Four years ago, Mrs. Berleen B. Burnette spent many months surveying the need for a kindergarten in the Country Club area. With encouragement from the board of directors and members of Garber Methodist Church, and their coopera-

tion, her goal was accomplished. In a fast growing community, demands must be met and Mrs. Burnette has skillfully and capably established a class for preschool children that quickly earned a place in the section where these youngsters live. Her major purpose is to help children understand their world and live intelligently in it, gathering information, expressing themselves creatively, and participating in the molding of their own future. This sounds like a pretty large order for kids who haven't reached school age, but they take it in stride, and have loads of fun in the process. Needless to say, the 25 members of Garber Kindergarten have personalities that differ widely, and expecting the unexpected is routine in the classroom. But careful supervision, without curbing a child's individuality, teachers each moppet to get along with others. If nothing else was accomplished, and a great deal more is, a project like the Garber group would be worthwhile.

SCHOOL IS OUT

Please Drive Carefully

During Summer Vacation

