Through Looking Glass

The NEW BERN



VOLUME 9

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, JULY 1, 1966

NUMBER 14

As we approach our greatest national holiday, these words published by Norfolk & Western Railway in the public interest deserve a place in this paper, and your heart. They are titled I Am The Na-

"I was born on July 4, 1776, and the Declaration of Independence is my birth certificate. The bloodliness of the world run in my veins, because I offered freedom to the oppressed. I am many things, and many people. I am the nation.

"I am 195 million living souls--and the ghost of millions who have died for me.

"I am Nathan Hale and Paul Revere. I stood at Lexington and fired the first shot heard around the world. I am Washington, Jefferson and Patrick Henry. I am John Paul Jones, the Green Mountain Boys and Davy Crockett. I am Lee and Grant and Abe Lincoln.

"I remember the Alamo, the Maine, and Pearl Harbor. When freedom called I answered and stayed until it was over, over there. I left my heroic dead in Flanders Fields, on the rock of Corregidor, on the bleak slopes of Korea and in the steaming jungle of Vietnam. "I am the Brooklyn Bridge,

the wheat lands of Kansas and the granite-hills-I am the coalfields of the Virginias and Pennsylvania, the fertile lands of the West, the Golden Gate and the Grand Canyon, I am Independence Hall, the Monitor and the Merrimac.

"I am big. I sprawl from the Atlantic to the Pacific. . . . my arms reach out to embrace Alaska and Hawaii. . . 3 million square miles throbbing with industry. I am more than 5 million farms. I am forest, field, mountain and desert. I am quiet villages -- and cites that never

sleep.
"You can look at me and see
Ben Franklin walking down the
streets of Philadelphia with
his breadloaf under his arm.
you can see Betsy Ross with her needle. You can see the lights of Christmas, and hear the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" as the calendar turns.

"I am Babe Ruth and the World Series. I am 130,000 schools and colleges, and 320,-000 churches where my people worship God as they think best. I am a ballot dropped in a box, the roar of a crowd in a sta-dium and the voice of a choir in a cathedral. I am an editorial in a newspaper and a letter to a Congressman.

"I am Eli Whitney and Ste-phen Foster. I am Tom Edison, Albert Einstein and Billy Graham. I am Horace Greeley, Will Rogers and the Wright brothers. I am George Washington Carver, Daniel Webster and Jonas Salk.

"I am Longfellow, Harriet Beecher Stowe, Walt Whitman, and Thomas Paine. "Yes, I am the nation, and these are the things that I am.

I was conceived in freedom and, God willing, in freedom I will spend the rest of my

days.
"May I possess always the integrity, the courage and the strength to keep myself unshackled, to remain a cita-del of freedom and a bacon of hope to the world. "This is my wish, my goal,

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THEY'RE POPULAR—Permit us to introduce the Polka Dots who have made a name for themselves on state and on television in their home town, Winston-Salem. Left to right are Alice, Christy, Susan and Sally Hill. The four are daughters of Fred and Page Daniel Hill, and granddaughters of Louis and Christine Daniel of New Bern. As the saying goes, it seems to be saying goes. only yesterday that Page was a youngster only slightly older than Sally is now, playing the Mirror editor's

kid sister in Thornton Wilder's "Our Town" here. She was a real trouper, and her talented daughters have the same flair for show business. Like their vivacious mother, the Polka Dots will probably forego professional careers, but not before they bring a lot of pleasure to those who find their vocalizing a treat for the ears. Need we add that silence is taboo at the Hill house?—Photo by Jim Keith.