

Through
THE
Looking
Glass

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New Bern's pride in its early smoke eaters is much in evidence at our local Fremont's Museum.

However, Salem's fire department, dating back to 1803, has us topped in one respect. Not only able bodied men but women and older boys and girls went into action with specific duties when a blaze broke out, in the old days.

It may surprise you, as it did us, to learn that the sale of motorcycles and scooters in the United States during 1965 increased one thousand percent over 1964. The boom is continuing this year.

If we were to ask you to tell us the two last names that appear most frequently in New Bern's telephone directory, you would say Smith and Jones and be correct. There are 105 numbers listed under Jones, and 91 under Smith.

But what about the third most frequent name? It is doubtful that one New Bernian in a hundred could guess it offhand. Certainly we wouldn't have picked Williams, but check and you'll find 83 of them listed.

You'll discover the Moores in fourth place with 57, the Gaskins in fifth with 56, and the Whites in sixth with 55. The Davis clan has 52 phones in the New Bern directory, the Taylors 45, the Dixons 43, the Edwards 40, the Ipocks 39, the Browns 31, and the Millers and Fulchers 30.

Writing in Nation's Business, Alden H. Sypher, retired editor and life-long journalist, says that "Government by feat is causing bands of silence to fall across the land.

"Noise still rises from bearded buildings of dissension, but in increasing numbers the more responsible, mature and highly qualified people are withdrawing from public discussion."

This highly respected former editor adds that this inclination toward silence is "restricting the exchange of ideas that could result in honest consensus. It is the product of fear--the fear of a vastly increased central authority with tremendous power and little restraint in its use.

"The fear of farmers whose livelihood is largely controlled in Washington and whose product prices have been affected by stockpile manipulations.

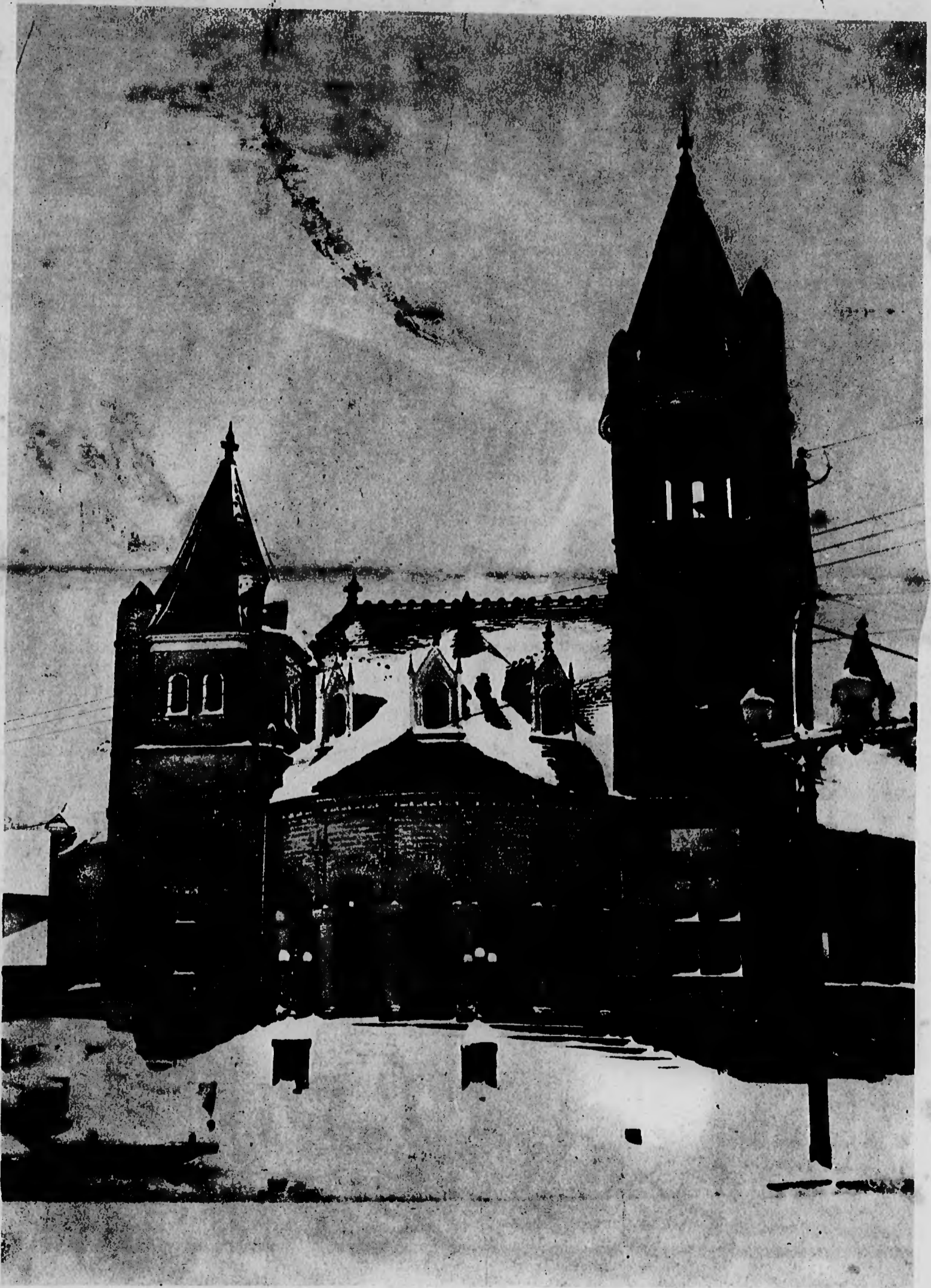
"Of businessmen who have seen controls become effective not by law, nor uniform patterns, but by unbearable pressures of central power and authority.

"Of educators who have seen sudden withdrawal of federal funds for failure to conform--and just as sudden replacement of the funds through intervention not by educators, but by political figures.

"Of city leaders who see in the anti-poverty war new political alignments that may be directed or at least greatly influenced by Washington.

"Of little people who rest uneasily under the benevolence of power they have seen unleashed, over which they have no control."

And, says the Oregon Voter, "beyond the self-imposed silence and fear of economic repercussions, there lies the historically proven danger of be-



NEXT BEST THING--Much as we would like to, we can't bring you snow in July to cool your perspiring brow, but we can print this photo of Centenary Methodist church taken a number of years ago and leave the rest to your imagination. As you see, there was plenty of the white stuff blanketing New Bern, and at the moment you were no doubt wishing for a sultry day in July. If this doesn't do the trick, turn

to our back page and you'll find more of the same. Having been in New York City on July 3, when the temperature was pushing 107, we've made a resolution not to complain no matter how hot it gets in the old home town. Bearded beatniks and mop-top rock and rollers resembled half drowned rats as they toted all that excess foliage along Broadway.

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