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How long has one of New Bern's best known citizens, Burke Taylor, been a resident of our city? The answer is 40 years.

"When I came here," says Burke, "I told the folks that if they would give me a chance to make a living I would try to repay the community by helping to make it a better place."

He prospered and kept his word. Right from the start he took part in civic causes, and is still going strong. Every Civitan member in North Carolina is familiar with Taylor's fruit cake sales during the holiday season.

Largely through the sale of these cakes, once a year, Tar Heel Civitans were able to build and furnish the first cottage for youngsters at Boys Home on Lake Waccamaw. Burke has personally sold several tons of the cakes, and aided in the promotion of many more sales.

At one time during the years that New Bern had a Coastal Plain League ball club he owned and operated it. Like every other community leader who spent time and money on a team in the circuit during its semi-pro days he had a tough go of it.

His enthusiasm for all sports dates back to his boyhood, and it has never lessened. Each year he presents three sports trophies at New Bern High school. Burke would be the first to admit that his presentation speeches can't be classified as great oratory, but his generosity speaks for itself.

Although he has never publicized the fact, hundreds of bereaved families over the years have had their burden eased by a thoughtful gesture from Taylor. Quietly and considerately, he provided an automobile of the latest make for the use of the immediate family in the funeral procession.

More often than not, the recipients of this kindness were in the lower income bracket, and would in all probability never be a prospect for one of the automobiles sold by Burke's agency. Even when a funeral involved an out of town trip, he gladly provided a car and a driver.

One of our Mirror subscribers in California, who hails from the Old North State, says North Carolina is mentioned more frequently on West Coast news programs than any other state.

"Maybe I'm just listening for Tar Heel items," she adds, "but they certainly give our section excellent coverage." And, she is happy to report, most of the publicity is favorable.

Much as we hate weeds, we can't help but admire their determination. What constitutes a weed anyhow? Webster's definition is "a wild plant growing in cultivated land and injurious to the planted crop; any plant without beauty or usefulness."

You're no longer a spring chicken if you can remember when the Mason Stock Company, a tent show, played annually on the spot where New Bern's Central Fire Station stands.

There was a different play each night, for a full week, and the owner's daughter, Dorothy Mason, was always the heroine. She had golden curls, and on



OUTSTANDING—Pictured with City School Superintendent Harry MacDonald you see four New Bern High school students who have done exceptionally well at the Governor's School in Winston-Salem this summer. Donna Potter, Bill Russo, Edward Warren and Kevin Mauney faced stiff competition from the State's top teen scholars, but they more than held their own. As a matter of fact, collectively they rate higher scholastically than students attending from

larger North Carolina schools. Like all institutions of learning, New Bern High can stand improvement, but year in and year out it produces college bound hopefuls who go forth to make exceptional records. As we've often said, and no doubt will repeat in the future, New Bernians young and old compare rather favorably with people elsewhere. Don't low rate your own town and section, until you've given other places close scrutiny.