



The NEW BERN

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Our thanks to Paul Cox for arranging an interview with Christine Bolomey, the refreshing 18 year old Swiss girl who has been visiting New Bern under the Youth Exchange Program of Lions International.

There wasn't anything formal about the relaxed question and answer session. Paul brought her by the house, and the three of us sat beneath a tree in our backyard and indulged in small talk.

Christine's parents were living in Lisbon, Portugal when she was born. Her father is a civil engineer, and the family didn't return to Switzerland until she was two or three years old.

The Bolomeys live in Lausanne. It is a city of 100,000, a couple of hours or so by rail from Bern. Despite its population, her home town covers a limited amount of space, just as Bern does.

"Here in America you build houses with plenty of room between them" the perpetually smiling young lady told us. "In Switzerland we're surrounded by mountains, so there is no way to spread out."

When we mentioned Swiss chocolates to her, and commented on their excellence, her expressive eyes fairly danced. Her country is immensely proud of three products, its candy, cheese and watches. No one has been able to surpass it in these three categories.

What the Swiss don't have are hamburgers and hot dogs. Christine has developed a tremendous liking for both. "I think I'll take a hot dog in my pocket when I go back home," she said.

Of all the things she has encountered in North Carolina during a tour that started on July 5 and ends on August 25 in N. C. Lions District 31-H, she has been impressed most by the friendliness of our people.

"We are friendly in Switzerland too," she hastened to inform us, "after we get to know someone, but here you go out of your way to be friendly right from the start."

It amuses her when she is asked to say something in Swiss by an American who isn't aware that Switzerland has no language of its own. French and German are the tongues spoken most frequently.

Christine has studied German and English, as well as French in school, along with history, geography, chemistry, mathematics, Latin and Greek and physical education.

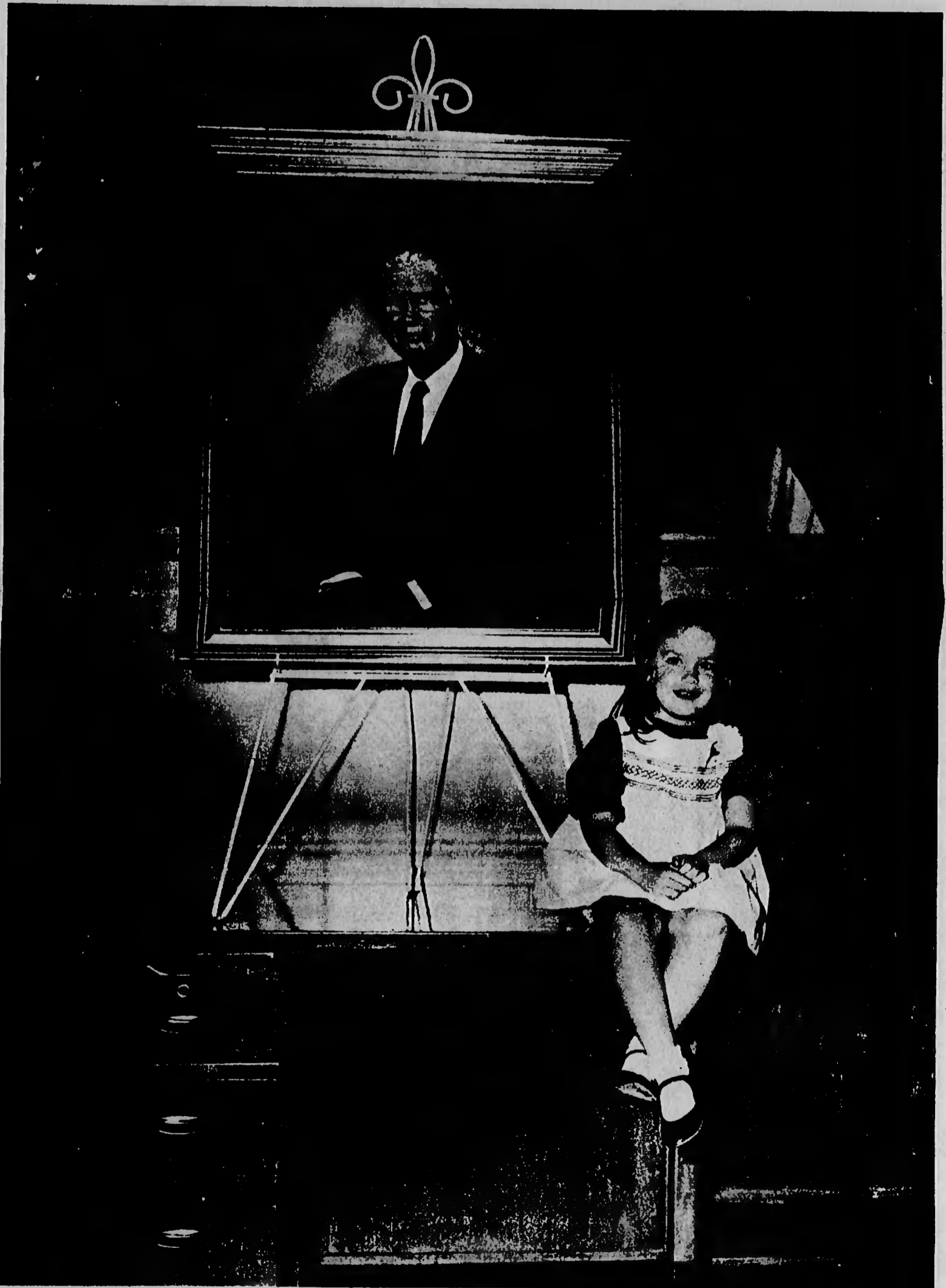
What we call Elementary school here is known as college in Switzerland. This is followed by two years of Gymnase, and then students who pursue their education further enter a University.

Christine wants to be a journalist, and plans to study in France. She hasn't decided on her field yet, fiction or non-fiction, but is interested in a magazine or newspaper career.

She is very observant, came up with some thought provoking answers while we were together and displayed a keen sense of humor. It is easy to see that she is blessed with a knack for expressing herself in an original manner.

Teenagers in Switzerland, we learned, have musical tastes

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**OUR CHOICE**—There were all sorts of dignitaries at the Courthouse Monday, when this portrait of Craven County's retiring Auditor and Accountant was unveiled. However, The Mirror preferred to pass up pictures of assembled notables and concentrate on a happy one year old child. No one else at the recognition ceremonies for Ben O. Jones caught our fancy like Betsy Bryan, so when the bigwigs cleared out, Eunice Wray (who also did the portrait) snapped the

photo you see here. The moppet, daughter of Frances and Billy King Bryan of Greenville, S. C., adores her Granddaddy Jones. The carnation she is wearing graced his lapel during the event, but she had no trouble talking him out of it as soon as the doings were over. Jones had been one of Craven's public servants for 42 years when the Stork brought Betsy. Quite a record and quite a grandchild.