

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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TO BE REMEMBERED

Next to a deep desire for life after death in God's unrevealed eternity, most mortals earnestly hope that they'll be remembered on earth by those they leave behind.

Not only do they want remembrance when they depart from the ranks of the living, they would very much like recognition while they are still here.

It's a craving that starts in earliest childhood, and lingers to the brink of the grave. Which explains in large measure why you'll see cut into many a New Bern sidewalk the names and initials of small fry who have long since advanced into the realm of adulthood.

Those youngsters weren't just being devilish, when they marred the wet cement. They knew that in a matter of hours it would harden into a state of lasting permanence. That's what intrigued them, the thought that here at least their name would be seen forever and a day.

For the very same reason, countless desk tops in New Bern's public schools have been mutilated with a jackknife. You knew that after a year you would be moving on to some other classroom, and eventually making your final exit from the school itself. And what you hated and feared was the fact that in all likelihood you wouldn't be missed.

Although we have no way of knowing, we rather suspect that Adam and Eve's two brats—Cain and Abel—managed to leave their mark on a few things too. Certainly it is reasonable to believe that this urge to stand out from the throng has existed among humans since the beginning of time.

Actually, the impulse is not without merit, and we feel sure that the Good Lord Who created us had this in mind when He gave us this desire to excell. Out of it have come the great discoveries and inventions, the beautiful music and poetry, and the magnificent works of art.

Yes, kids want to be recognized and remembered, but don't we all?

YESTERDAY'S TEACHER

New Bern teachers don't get many apples in this sadly sophisticated era, but they do have the consolation of greater freedom. Most folks are willing to admit that they're human beings, and can be left unchained to follow a normal pursuit of life.

It wasn't always so. We are forcibly reminded of this by the terms of a teacher's contract that the state of Idaho cooked up in 1923. Maybe our North Carolina contracts didn't spell out the same restrictions, but the prospective teacher was instructed to walk a very narrow chalked line.

Here are some of the rules applied in the not so good old days: "Don't get married, and don't keep company with men; be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; don't loiter in ice cream parlors; don't smoke cigarettes; don't drink beer, wine or whiskey; don't leave town without permission."

Still worried about the evils of being around a man, the Idaho contract said, "Don't ride in a carriage or automobile with any man, except your father or brother." Apparently, uncles and cousins were dangerous too.

And, the rules added, "Don't dress in bright colors; don't dye your hair; don't use mascara or lipstick, and do wear at least two petticoats." We assume that a sufficiency of other lingerie was to be taken for granted.

In New York, back in 1872, the law was laid down in no uncertain terms too. It was made clear that "Women teachers who marry, or engage in unseemly conduct, will be dismissed. Men teachers may take one evening each week for courting purposes, or two evenings a week if they go to church regularly. After 10 hours of school, the teacher should spend the remaining time reading the Bible or other good books."

Furthermore, "any teacher who smokes, uses liquor in any form, frequents pool and public halls, or gets shaved in a barber shop, will give good reason to suspect his worth, intention, integrity and honesty. The teacher who performs his labors faithfully and without fault for five years will be given an increase of 25 cents per week in his pay, providing the board of education approves."

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Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

William Bryan and wife, and Rachel Herriage by Bryan Whitfield, Petition to divide Real Estate-- September, 1795. The Bryan Whitfield

Petition to divide Real Estate--September, 1795. The petition of William Bryan and wife, Elizabeth, and Rachel Herriage by Bryan Whitfield, her guardian, show that last December in the year 1792, John Herriage, late of Lenoir County, died intestate that he was seized of about 700 acres of land in Craven County on Jemmy's Creek, a branch of Trent River, about three miles from New Bern, with a dwelling house and plantation; That he was also seized in like manner of about 1400 acres of land in the County of Lenoir on Neuse River, which tract of land is commonly called Harrow, and another tract lying near the last described land, also lots in Kinston;

Your petitioners further say that the said Elizabeth and Rachel are the daughters of the said John Herriage, his only living issue; that said John left a widow whose dower has been allotted to her but no division of the aforesaid real estate of the said John has been made between your petitioners.

Petitioners pray for partition of said land.

By Thomas Badger, attorney, for petitioners

Commissioners to divide: Robert White, Needham Whitfield, Fred Lane, George Lane, James Whitfield.

Petition of Rachel Blount and Frederick Blount, respectfully showeth that your petitioners, Rachel, formerly Rachel Bryan was lawfully married with James Bryan, formerly of Craven County. That said James died intestate some time about the day of January, 1806, seized of considerable real estate to-

Village Verses

THE CHALLENGE

Here she comes along the street,
An adorable sight to see;
Her hat is cute, her dress is sweet,
Her lipstick bright as can be.
The birds sing gaily overhead,
While flowers burst into bloom;
And yet, her eyes reveal a dread
That heralds impending doom.
Her stride is halting, insecure,
Despite her determination;
She's uncertain, that's for sure,
In this trying situation.
There's no hiding her despair,
For no one ever conceals.
A grim expression all girls wear
In their very first pair of heels.

—JGM&D.

wit: about 1600 or 1700 acres of land lying on the North side of Neuse River, known as the Sand Hills, a lot of land in New Bern on Pollock street, with improvements, which was the residence of said James Bryan at the time of his death. That said James was also seized, with the heirs of John Bryan, deceased, of a parcel of land on Slade's Creek, supposed to contain 640 acres. Petitioners further show that at the March Term 1806, Craven County Court, administration on the estate of James Bryan was granted to Rachel, who in the month of October, 1807, intermarried with your petitioner Frederick Blount. It is also shown that said James Bryan left living at his death three children, John Bryan, James Bryan and Elizabeth; and that said Elizabeth died an infant intestate, about the month of June, 1810, said John and James are infants, whose guardian is John Cobb, Esq.

Petitioners show that as yet the dower of Rachel in the lands of her first husband, said James Bryan, has not been laid off or allotted to her. Prays for dower to be laid off. By J. R. Donnell, Attorney for Petitioners.

Commissioners to divide: J. B. Carney, John P. Daves, Rufus Wiley, Thomas Wadsworth, Francis LaMotte, D.

Shackelford, John S. Morris, John R. Good, Benj. C. Good, Thomas H. Daves, Sheriff.

(Clerk's Loose Papers, Craven County, N. C.) (Bryan Family Records)

I will have nought to do with a man who can blow hot and cold with the same breath.-- Aesop.

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