

# MIRROR

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New Bernians who traveled repeatedly to Raleigh and Wilmington to see and hear "The Sound of Music" before it played here can appreciate the enthusiasm of a grandmother in Glasgow, Scotland. This dear soul, for three solid years, has managed to view the Julie Andrews triumph twice weekly.

Which reminds us, Washington's Ford Theater, where Abe Lincoln was fatally wounded 102 years ago, will be back in business January 30. No play has graced its boards since the night the President was slain there, but the national park service is arranging to have drama of the Lincoln period presented regularly.

The Ford is ancient, but can't compare with our own Masonic Theater, a show house that has been in operation since 1812. George Washington had been dead just 10 years when the Masonic opened its doors. As for Honest Abe, he was still a kid.

Not everyone agrees that a school board appointed rather than elected serves the best interests of our town's educational system, but the national trend appears headed in this direction.

Roughly 86 percent of the boards in America are chosen by public vote, but in many cities the belief is mounting that appointment tends to assure members of higher quality. This column is in no mood to argue the point, pro or con.

Last Friday night, after the New Bern-Greenville game, we had the happy privilege of sampling the prize-winning pound cake that Paul Cox has come up with. One of the ingredients is Mountain Dew (free plug). The slice we swiftly consumed with never a care for calories was almost as delicious as Paul's sweet potato pudding.

Cox shows up at every Bear contest with a liberal supply of peanuts he parches himself, and distributes them to eager friends. Peanuts he can get, but finding small paper bags around the house to sack them in is a problem. Although the thought had never occurred to us, supermarkets have virtually eliminated little bags from our way of life.

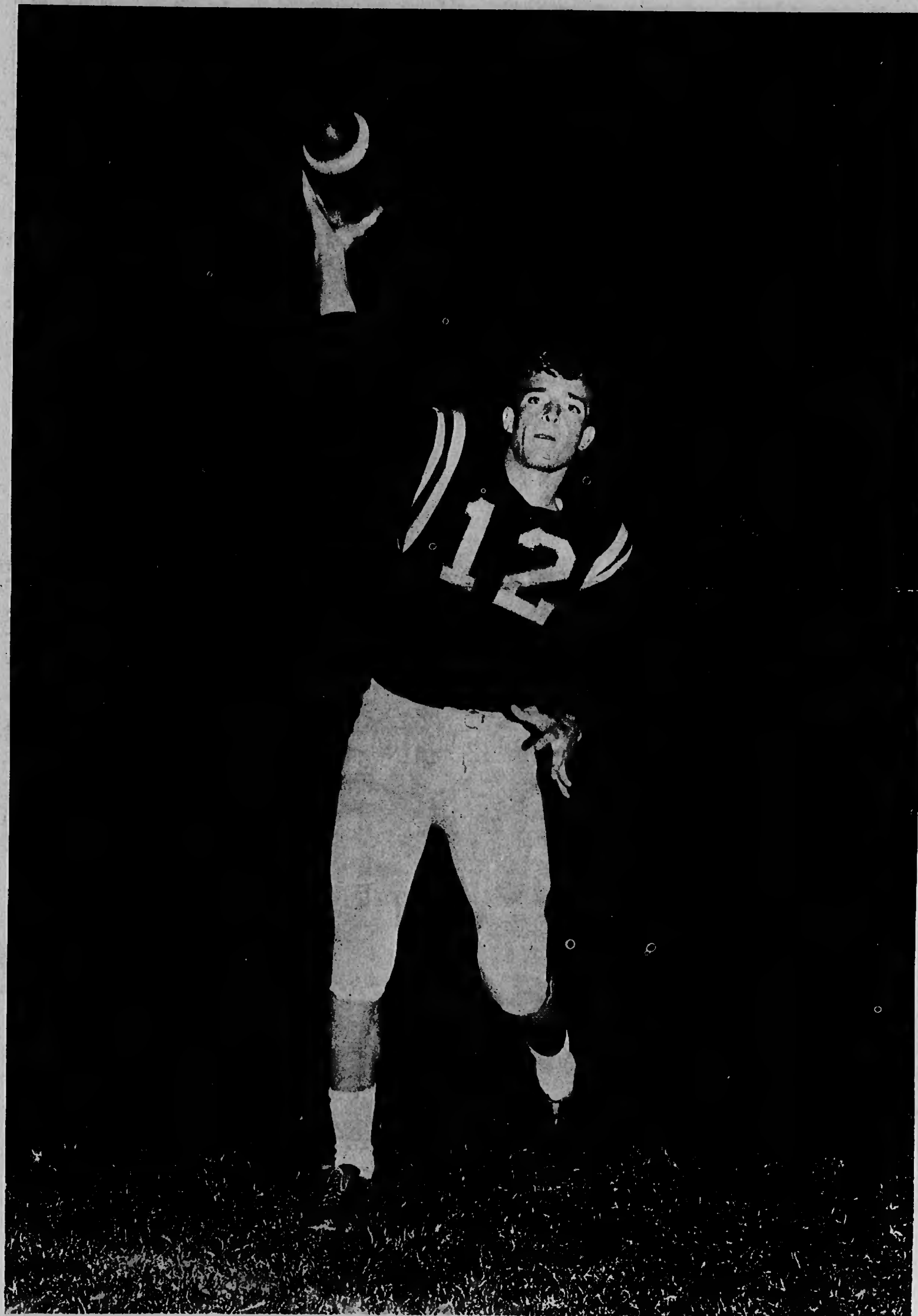
Do you pause, as we often do, at New Bern's lively graveyard? You'll find it within the shadow of City Hall, at the eastern end of the Christ Episcopal Church grounds, where saints of ages past sleep and last long sleep beneath ancient stones.

There, among epitaphs all but obliterated by the ravages of time, noisy youngsters attending kindergarten tax the durability of playground equipment installed for their benefit. It is a familiar sight, Monday through Friday.

Such capering may seem in extremely bad taste to some of the visitors in our town, but New Bernians, having viewed the carrying on for eighteen years, apparently see nothing downright sinful in it.

As for the kids, mercifully unperturbed by worn marble slabs that attest to man's fleeting stay on earth, they accept grave stones in close proximity to their romping as naturally as a rose accepts the

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**RADAR RICHARD**—That's The Mirror's nickname for North Carolina's No. 1 quarterback. Like the dictionary says, he establishes through timing the distance and direction of motion of any object in the path of his beam. The objects concentrated on by Stilley are New Bern High School Bears, and the beam is a bundle of inflated pigskin that reaches its destination with uncanny accuracy. Aided and abetted by Dickie Tuttle, Clem Brinson, Dan Jenkins, David Johnson,

and versatile Garland Ballard on the receiving end, and a stalwart line headed by Ballard, New Bern's star of stars passed successfully 77 times during regular season. Of the 77 completions, 14 were touchdown heaves, and his trusty arm accounted for 1,452 yards, all told. Only three of his tosses were intercepted, a figure that intrigued and astounded college scouts. In addition, he scored seven touchdowns himself and three extra points.—Photo by Chick Natella.