

# MIRROR

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Through  
THE  
Looking  
Glass

Of interest to New Bernians in general, and Dr. Sherman T. Lewis particularly, is the acquisition by Keystone Junior College of Christy Mathewson's priceless souvenirs.

Sherman didn't know until he was told that the great baseball pitcher used to hunt at Camp Bryan, down in Craven County's lake region. Naturally this intrigued "Doc", inasmuch as he did a special issue on Mathewson, years ago, while he was student editor at the Pennsylvania school.

Matty's first athletic fame was achieved on the gridiron, not the diamond, at Keystone. Until his death from tuberculosis in 1925, he had a special place in his heart for the college, and when his wife, Jane, made her will she left all of his treasured mementoes to the school.

Today the relics are housed in a fireproof vault, and eventually will be placed in a special room of the Christy Mathewson Memorial Field House. Alumnae of the college has given the project top priority, and are going all out to see that the structure is completed in the near future.

In his day, Matty was idolized by all America as "sportsman and Christian gentleman." Playing with the New York Giants in the early 1900's, when roughneck ball players was the rule, Christy Mathewson stood above the crowd. His language was clean, his behavior above reproach, and his ideals lofty and unassailable.

Children, whom he loved, followed him about. Sports writers strained their minds, trying to describe his greatness. Fans turned out to watch the Giants play, and to worship the man they called Matty or Big Six.

He was accorded unequalled adulation because he was not only a superb human being, but also a superb ball player in a day when baseball truly was the national game. No other athlete in history ever rated the respect that rich and poor, young and old, reserved exclusively for this diamond immortal.

He pitched 30 or more victories for the Giants in three successive seasons, and won 353 games during his career. He hurled shutouts in three consecutive World Series games, something no one else has been able to do in all the years since.

Matty's ability wasn't limited to the mound. He could play first base and the outfield quite capably, and was called upon to pinch hit on quite a few crucial occasions. Like Babe Ruth, who also hunted in these parts when he was riding the crest of fame, Big Six could do it all.

Included in the Keystone collection is an oil painting of Matty in his Giants warmup jacket, a fine likeness by J. F. Kernan. Directors of the Baseball Hall of Fame at Cooperstown, where Mathewson is honored with the greats, would give their eye teeth for this portrait.

There are many other treasures in the Keystone souvenirs, such as hit contracts for such tiny salaries as \$4,000 a year at the height of his career, and \$12,000 for man-

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**IN FAVORED ROLE**—New Bern High school's experienced Bears have been picked with Kinston and West Carteret to be front runners in the tough Northeastern Conference. Standing, left to right, are George Byrd, Ray Dunn, Bruce Wolfe, Calvert Weatherly,

Thomas Stovall, Scott Davenport, Pat McGuinness, Chuck Mohn, O. A. Adams, Richard Stilley, Billy Farmer, Donald Lamar. Kneeling are the managers, Jimmie Beck and Jeff Stocks.—Photo by Chick Natella.



**ON THEIR WAY**—These youngsters, members of the New Bern High school Junior Varsity, have hopes of stardom in a year or two. They are the building blocks in the Bruin basketball program. Standing, left to right, are John Gaskins, Joey Justice, Larry

Moser, Johnny Rogers, Brad Sneed, James Johnson, Tim Coates, Bobby Marshburn, Frank King, Tony Hickman, Bobby Fulcher and Buck Jones. Kneeling are Chip Heath, Glenn Russell and Charlie Meekins.—Photo by Chick Natella.