



Our telephone jangled the other morning, and who was on the other end of the line but Anita Johnson, New Bern's Miss North Carolina. What ensued will give those who don't know her an idea of what she is really like.

"I want to thank you," she said, "for publishing the very first newspaper pictures of me, as far back as when I was a sophomore at New Bern High school. You gave me my first publicity, and I've still got those clippings, including the one in which you predicted I would go all the way."

Here she was, the most photographed girl in the State now, expressing appreciation to the editor of a small hometown weekly, who she doesn't need any longer, if she ever did. Newsmen are somewhat case hardened, but the gesture of gratitude was unmistakably sincere and it touched us.

Whatever may be in store for this 19 year old girl, her attitude in the instance referred to entitles her to be classed with every genuine celebrity that ever came our way, and we've been fortunate enough to have personal acquaintance with more than our share.

Perhaps we've just been lucky, but truthfully no famous person has ever been unkind or inconsiderate when we had dealings with them. The folks who tried to give us a hard time were the phoney pretenders to greatness, and this kind you can spot a mile off, even in a heavy fog.

We're happy to report that as best we can tell, Miss North Carolina isn't suffering from a sense of her own importance. What's more, she is frank enough to admit that attention from fellow Tar Heels pleases rather than annoys her. "I'm eating it up," she told us, and could anyone in the limelight speak more honestly?

Henry Clay, a gentleman of monumental wisdom, once said, "In all the affairs of life, courtesies of a small and trivial character are the ones which strike deepest. Small courtesies--things like saying "Good morning" and "Thank you"--a pleasant heartfelt smile--these are the trivial things which make for friendliness."

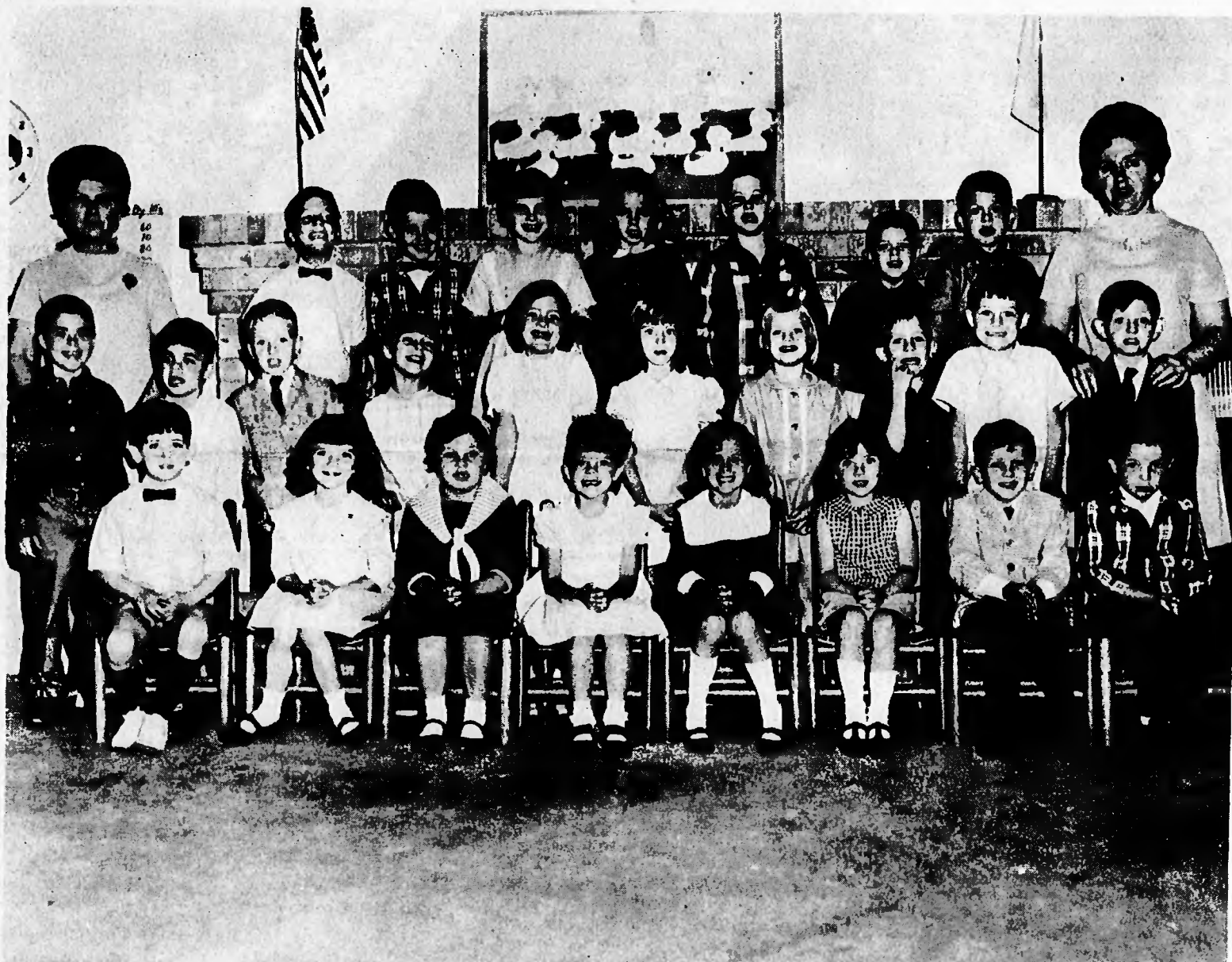
As a fellow New Bernian, we can wish nothing better for Anita than this, that she be forever remembered not as the prettiest, the shapeliest or the most talented of all the Miss North Carolinas, but the friendliest. If this is the image she leaves behind, when her reign is over, she will have been the greatest possible credit to the home town she loves so much.

Last week we interviewed her for Radio Station WPTF in Raleigh. Conceding that a rose by any other name would still be just as sweet, the urge to ask her about the different names she is known by did prevail.

"At birth I was named Esther for my mother and Annette for a Catholic sister at the hospital," she revealed. (Incidentally, this editor remembers Sister Annette quite pleasantly.)

"I hated the name Esther, and as soon as I started talking, I called myself Cika (it rhymes with speaker). I must have made

(Continued on page 8)



OF SUCH IS THE KINGDOM—As always, along about this time of year, it delights us to publish a class photograph of Ruth's Chapel's kindergarten, the New Bern Christian Day School. There are many things at Ruth's Chapel to gladden the heart of its energetic and enthusiastic young pastor, the Rev. A. L. (Bud) Hines, but he takes extra special pride in the boys and girls seen here. You might say that he is a typical Baptist minister, inasmuch as he pulls no punches in the pulpit, but lambasted or not, his congregation has faith in him as the leader of the flock. He dreamed of a modern brick edifice to replace a small frame sanctuary that was inadequate, and his members pitched in behind him to make it a reality. They do

big things at Ruth's Chapel, out at Woodrow Place, and in due time these kindergarten kids will take up where their parents leave off. Left to right, first row, are Stephen Hawkins, Jo Ann Arthur, Annie Anderson, Tina Anderson, Michelle Anderson, Tammy Collins, Eddie Brame and Dale Anderson. Second row, left to right, Tommy Crawford, Jeff Daley, Jimmy Howell, Glenda Perry, Robin McGroarty, Freda Jolly, Karen Washington, Brian Garner, Kent Williams and Paul Duran. Third row, Mrs. Henry Stilley, assistant teacher, Ricky Dixon, Jeff Nelson, Vickie Phillips, Gina Wooten, Jeff Rouse, Scotty Simpson, Danny Lancaster, and Mrs. A. L. Hines, teacher.

