



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
IN THE HEART OF  
NEW BERN NORTH  
NB-Craven Library  
400 Johnson St.  
New Bern, NC 28560

VOLUME 11

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 1969

NUMBER 46

"Collecting epitaphs is an ancient, honorable, and rewarding hobby. My own adoption of this hobby grew out of an interest in American history and American literature, and specifically from a desire to visit the birthplaces and the graves of our most distinguished men."

So says Alonzo C. Hall to explain the origin of his little book titled "Grave Humor." There's a copy in the Craven-Pamlico - Carteret Regional Library here. After perusing it, you may want to purchase the collection of tombstone inscriptions for your own bookshelf.

Included are several gems credited to New Bern. Among those cited by the author is this one in Cedar Grove Cemetery: "In memory of Mrs. Martha Clark, wife of Wm. W. Clark, D. 1839 age 83. She was a member of the Baptist church for sixty years. There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God."

Also in Cedar Grove, and offered by Hall as an example that hope springs eternal in the hearts of some spinsters, is the following: "Mary E. Oliver, daughter of John and Elizabeth Pearson Oliver. Died March 6, 1836. Age 82 yrs. Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Certainly the book would have been less complete, if its pages didn't detail the ancient inscription on a tombstone in the churchyard of our Christ Episcopal church that reads: "To the memory of Charles Elliott, An Attorney General for this province Who died Anno 1756. An Honest lawyer indeed."

Likewise credited to New Bern is this one: "Malachi Haughton, Attorney at Law. B 10 Dec. 1790. D. Sept. 8, 1847. A wit's a feather, And a chief's a rod; An honest man's the noblest work of God." The author of "Grave Humor" says this same inscription, penned by Alexander Pope, is one the gravestone of George Washington's private secretary at Portsmouth, N. H.

Still another epitaph that the author says is here, although we can't personally vouch for it, reads: "Poor he lived, Poor he died, Poor he was buried, And nobody cried." Perhaps nobody did cry, but obviously someone went to the time and trouble and expense to place an inscribed marker on his grave.

New Bern isn't the only North Carolina town that gets frequent mention in the book. No less than a half dozen epitaphs found in Beaufort's ancient cemetery are in the collection, which isn't surprising. This has to be one of the most intriguing graveyards in America.

Singled out by the author of "Grave Humor" as one of the most common epitaphs the world over, with its countless variations in wording, is the following inscription credited to Waynesville. "Come blooming youths, as you pass by, and on these lines do cast an eye. As you are now, so once was I; As I am now, so you must be; Prepare for death and follow me."

The version found in New Bern's Cedar Grove Cemetery, not referred to in the little book, reads this way: "Reflect, on man, while passing by, as you are now, so once was I,

(Continued on Page 8)



**THEY LOVE HER** — Gaining the confidence of children to the extent that they ignore the television camera, and join her in fun, is Patsy Bevill's major accomplishment on "Romper Room." A native New Bernian, Miss Patsy in four short years on WNBE-TV, Channel 12, has attained the polish of a true professional without becoming case hardened. Wife of Billy Bevill, who set base stealing records for the New Bern Bears as a Coastal Plain Leaguer, Patsy has

youngsters of her own, and isn't pretending when she displays affection for the small fry appearing on her program. As she ruefully admits, you have to expect the unexpected in dealing with children, and keeping "Romper Room" on even keel isn't recommended for a skipper who is faint hearted, or lacking in patience. The seemingly effortless way she steers to safe harbor each morning is remarkable.