

The NEW BERN

MIRROR

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Would New Bern's feminine voters support a capable member of their sex who ran for President? Women have a clear majority in the nation, so if you gals ever put your mind to it you can name the Chief Executive of your choice.

The most recent figures we have, compiled by the Bureau of the Census, reveal that there are 5 million more women who are eligible to cast a ballot in national elections than men. Only 67 percent of the fair sex vote, compared with 72 percent of the country's males.

Both figures seem to be unbelievably high, but that's what the Bureau's computers came up with. When women first voted in 1920, after winning a privilege they were entitled to all along, their percentage was 44 percent, but it has steadily climbed since then.

Far too many women, here in New Bern, probably vote as their husbands do, assuming that the man of the house is better versed in politics. On second thought, they may just pretend agreement, and vote as they please. This editor's wife doesn't even bother to pretend, and that's fine with us.

If you're among the New Bernians who have motored to New York City during the past year, you may have been on television without even knowing it. And if you were driving a stolen car, and got caught, your appearance on a screen might explain why.

Since it is estimated that one out of every 300 vehicles on turnpikes has been spirited away from its rightful owner, cameras set up at toll booths along limited access highways are scanning license plates. The information is relayed to a computer, which immediately tells police, up the road, if the car has been stolen.

And here's a sobering fact, and still another reason to make sure that your key hasn't been left in your automobile when you walk away from it. According to the FBI, stolen cars are 200 times more likely to be involved in accidents than other motor vehicles. When you get back your car, and you may not, the odds are it will be in damaged condition.

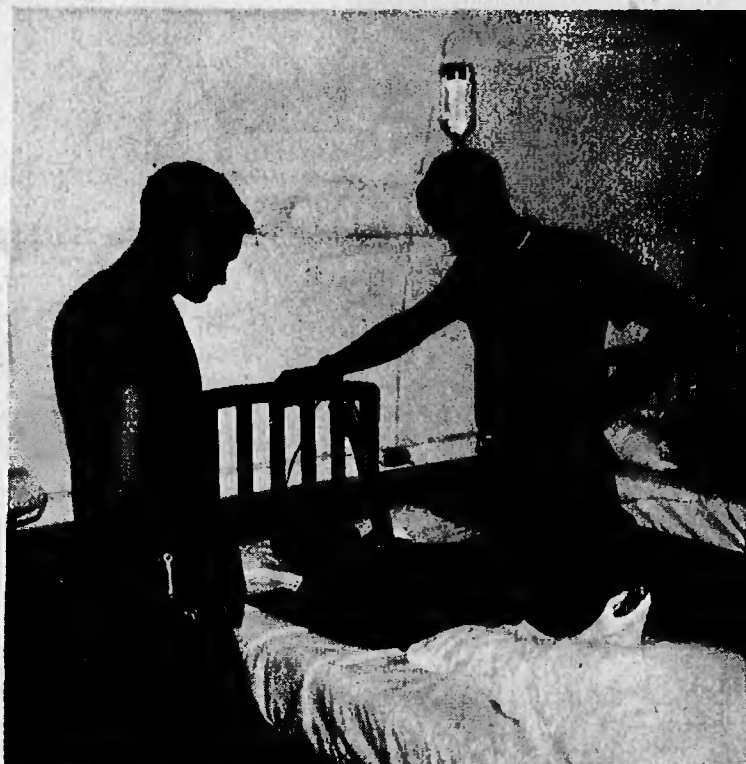
Oldsters, since man was placed on earth, have pined for the good old days and viewed the younger generation with dismay. Disturbing us now is the prevalence of drug addiction among those in their late teens and early twenties.

It isn't a matter to take lightly, but the good old days weren't better, but much worse, if you take into account all age groups. The high mark in America was 1913. That year, the last before the Harrison Act brought Federal control, one American out of every 500 was using dope.

The nation's population at that time was a hundred million, and there were 200,000 addicts, including some sadly conspicuous New Bernians on both sides of the railroad track. Opium, cocaine and morphine were in much demand, and with no law against it you could get them.

Today, with the population doubled since 1913, there are an estimated 63,000 victims of dope in the United States. It is a distressing revelation that a

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HASN'T CHANGED — Eddie Kwasnick, once a New Bern High school basketball star, is gentle by nature and always warms up to kids. His duties as a Navy corpsman in Vietnam bring him face to face with bloodshed and heartbreak, suffered alike by military and civilians, but in his few spare moments he goes out of his way to be kind to children, such as these seen here. Look closely at the two top photos, and

you'll note that the small boy on crutches has lost a leg in a war that not only maimed him for life but bewilders him. In the left center photo, while hospitalized, he smiles at Kwasnick and extends his frail arm in a gesture of affection. Compassion needs no common language to be understood, and no one knows this better than a trusting child and a guy like Eddie.