

Through
THE
Looking
Glass

The NEW BERN MIRROR

VOLUME 12

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1969

NUMBER 20

Even if you aren't a baseball fan, this newspaper account of New Bern's victory over Raleigh in 1874, for the State championship, is a journalistic gem you'll appreciate.

It was written on the scene of battle in the Capital City, and the clipping was included in a scrapbook of the late Miss Mary Roberts. Join us as we turn back the pages of time to a golden yesterday.

"The match game of baseball between the Athletics of Raleigh and Elm City of New Bern came off on the grounds of the State Fair, in the vicinity of Raleigh last Thursday, in the presence of thousands assembled from all parts of this and adjoining states, to witness the many interesting incidents occurring on the occasion of the State Fair.

And though at the time the game was being played, several very important, as well as exciting, races were being performed on the course nearby, yet an almost intense interest was manifested in the contest between these two rival clubs for the championship of the state.

People were seen running hither and thither amid the greatest excitement, anxiously inquiring how the game stood, and at the close of each inning as one club retired to the field and the other came in to the bat, the interest became so intensified that the spectators became almost wild with excitement, and the pressure of the crowd as they impetuously gathered around the scorer's stand became so great as to render it almost impossible to accurately score the game.

Almost everybody present, who had a sufficient knowledge of the game, kept a score of their own, and so anxious were they of the result, that they frequently interrupted the scorers in their duties, by repeated inquiries respecting the progress of the game.

We think it is the popular sentiment, and the great interest manifested is an indubitable proof of it, that the game was one of the most attractive and principal features of the fair. Judges, lawyers, clergymen, merchants, mechanics, tradesmen and men of every profession or occupation seemed alike interested in the game, and especially the result.

Then what a tumult of excitement ensued, immediately subsequent to the close of the game, as the spectators irresistably thronged around the scorer's stand impatiently awaiting the announcement of the contest; then everybody became almost frenzied with enthusiasm, and amid repeated and tremendous applause of the assembly, the "Elm City's" were declared the victors and the champions of the state.

The young ladies from New Bern, (God bless them) who were present to witness the game, and though less in numbers were none the less beautiful or attractive than the more numerous delegations from other sections, seemed to be perfectly delighted with the result, and were so fully enthused by the success of the Newbern nine, that they rushed almost frantically to meet them, as they re-

(Continued on page 2)



ALL SET — New Bern High school's trim majorettes are ready for the 1969 pigskin parade. That's more than can be said for Coach Roger Thrift's perspiring Bears, who face many a tough scrimmage before they take to the field for their first year of 4-A competition. The fever that is called football lies dormant from one season to the next, but once it asserts itself, as autumn hovers on the horizon, the pleasant malady reaches epidemic proportions. Many things go to make up a game, and all of them are important. You've got to have players and officials, of course, and stands packed with partisan fans. Scoring a touchdown in an empty stadium wouldn't be much fun. And

you've got to have cheerleaders, a marching band, and one small mongrel dog, intent on traversing the field at exactly the wrong moment. New Bern has a gridiron heritage that any town could be proud of. Not the least of its distinctions is the fact that the South's first nationally recognized college star, Tom Daniels, hailed from our city. Daniels won acclaim at tiny Trinity (now Duke) and later coached and played at Auburn. But, getting back to the majorettes seen above, they are, left to right, Martha Pendleton, assistant head majorette; Susan Lee; Susan Proctor; Pat Woody, head majorette; Rita Lee; Cathy Skinner and Debbie Alligood.—Photo by Chick Natella.