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Dusting off the memories: When Paul Stevens became a Justice of the Peace years ago, he discovered that it could lead to some interesting if rather disconcerting complications.

His first marriage ceremony involved an elderly couple. The prospective bride and groom were as nervous as a frying-size chicken when the preacher comes calling. As for Paul, he got the shakes so bad the tremors all but busted his shoe laces.

The bride to be did quite well in her responses, but the man couldn't have done worse. Paul was having a tough time too, which didn't help matters any. Finally, the elderly husband to be threw up his hands and fairly shouted, "I'll do anything, so help me God."

Whereupon his intended bride clapped her hands in glee and added a rousing "Amen." With an all-inclusive pledge like that from the object of her affection, she could hardly be blamed for this exhibition of boundless joy.

Whether the old man lived up to his comprehensive proclamation, made in the presence of witnesses, is something we are in no position to pass upon. More certain is the fact that no other Craven County groom, before or since, ever got more completely wedded.

It actually happened at a New Bern drive-in one night, quite some years ago. A man parked in his automobile noticed a mongrel puppy sniffing around the wheels of the vehicle.

Curious, the motorist got out and discovered that the small dog was scrutinizing a crisp dollar bill. Summoning a waitress, the driver ordered a dollar's worth of hamburgers, and gave them to the hungry pooch.

"After all, he found the dollar," the man said. Judging by the way the hamburgers disappeared, the dog couldn't have picked a better item on the menu if he had placed the order himself.

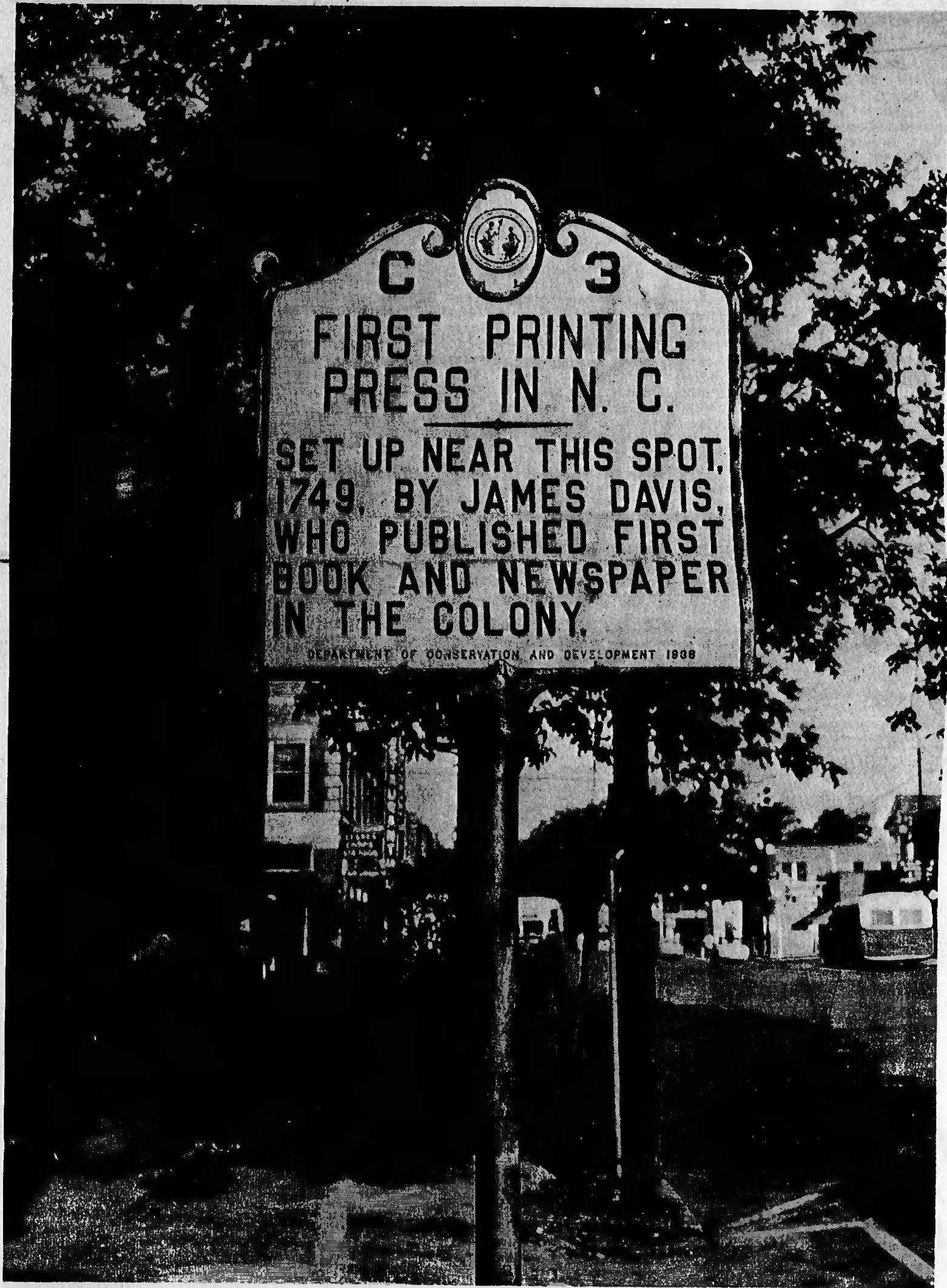
Before the motorist could be identified he drove away, looking as happy about the whole matter as the mongrel he had befriended.

Can you really tell how a kid is going to turn out, simply by watching his childhood antics? Maybe yes, and maybe no. Take Teddy Shapou, for instance. Instance.

Everyone in town knows, or should, that he was New Bern's most decorated hero during World War II. His great combat flying earned him the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross, China's Air Heroes Medal, and, if we remember rightly, one or two other awards.

Teddy (named for Teddy Roosevelt) was as daring as they come. First associated with General Chennault's famed Flying Tigers, he flew many a successful mission before he returned to the United States and became a test pilot.

His serious and permanent head injuries were sustained while he was serving in his test piloting capacity. Lots of folks have forgotten the contribution he made to his country's cause while in service, but the record stands for those who



HOW IT WAS — If you remember New Bern, the way it looked 20 or more years ago, you'll recognize Broad Street, heading west, near its intersection with Middle. The frame building on the left housed Eula Waldrop's Green Door, where delicious Southern meals could be topped off with the best Boston cream pie you ever tasted. Broad Street, not yet widened and strip-

ped of its beautiful trees, was rarely congested, and crossing it presented no problem. Some of the stately trees, growing in profusion, can be seen in the background. The Queen Anne Hotel and Kafer Memorial Hospital, converted from the Blades and Jones mansions, aren't seen in the photograph, but both were still standing.