



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

ISSUED WEEKLY  
PART OF  
Regional Library  
400 Johnson St.  
New Bern NC 28560  
5¢ Per

VOLUME 13

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 19, 1970

NUMBER 14

New Bern-Craven County Public Library

A lot of water has gone under the bridge since Colonel Frank Knox, as Secretary of the Navy, visited this coastal section and put his blessing on Cherry Point.

His approval, after viewing the spot from the air and on the ground, was a momentous decision, since it resulted in the establishment of a mammoth Marine Corps base in Craven County.

It fell our lot to be the only New Bern reporter who made the tour with Knox. There was no fanfare attached to his presence in the vicinity. During a single day he not only made a careful survey of this immediate area, but scrutinized Onslow County, where Camp Lejeune came into being.

A former newspaper man, and all things a Republican serving in the Cabinet of a Democratic President, he had the alertness of a hawk, the nervous energy of a hound on the trail. He moved swiftly everywhere he went.

Perhaps no one except Knox visualized the immensity of the military facility he had under consideration. To this editor, who remembered crabbing on Cherry Point when he and another boy were the two humans around, the whole thing was somewhat astounding.

Knox was not a man inflated with his own sense of importance, but you got the impression that by nature he never did anything half way. If he wasted time on trivialities on this occasion we failed to detect it.

The story is told that once, during World War Two, he was asked by an old friend a casual question about the movement of certain Navy vessels in the Atlantic. It was, of course, thoughtless and highly improper.

Knox handled the situation admirably. He leaned over with an air of confidence, and whispered, "Look here, can you keep a secret?" The friend eagerly assured him that he could.

"Well," said the Secretary, "so can I." Needless to add, Knox didn't find it necessary to brush aside any more questions, and the friend gained even greater respect for a man who served FDR and the nation well.

"I believe with all my heart," Knox once said, "that cultivation has produced nothing finer than a man or woman who thinks and practices true tolerance. Someone has observed that most of us don't think, we just occasionally rearrange our prejudices."

"And I suspect that even today, with all the progress we have made in liberal thought, the quality of true tolerance is as rare as mercy. That men of all creeds have fundamental common objectives is a fact one must learn by process of education. How to work jointly toward these objectives must be learned by experience."

Knox, a man of considerable compassion, never became case hardened to the grim realities of war. They weighed heavily on his shoulders. Every man who died on the high seas brought to him a sense of personal loss, and no doubt



Walls cannot imprison  
The magic of each page,  
For books will take you places  
Regardless of your age.  
To distant lands enchanting,  
Beyond a world of care,  
Where any girl's a princess  
In her castle in the air.  
—Photo by Dr. Bruce Schlein.

(Continued on page 2)