

# THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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## YOU HAVE COMPANY

Don't feel snubbed, just because no one has ever knocked on your door and interviewed you for a national public opinion poll. The odds against such a thing happening are overwhelming.

The highly regarded Gallup Poll considers 1,500 as the best unit to determine the sentiments of a nation that exceeds 200 million population, and draws its findings, ordinarily, from 320 sampling locations.

During an election year, there is an increase in the number of citizens queried, to permit according to George Gallup "the reporting of voting behavior and preferences by subgroups within the population, such as labor-union members, Negroes, etc."

You've probably wondered whether interviewers are allowed to skip here and there, according to their own whim or convenience. To the contrary, they are given maps of their assigned area.

They are required to start at a specific point, and head in a specific direction. And "at each occupied dwelling unit, interviewers are instructed to select respondents following a systematic method that provides male and female quotas."

It may surprise you to hear that the average interview lasts from 30 to 45 minutes. Understandably, Gallup says that after this period of time the interest and cooperation of the party interviewed diminishes.

Those who conduct polls contend that, arguments notwithstanding, voters aren't influenced by week to week tabulations. They disagree with the theory that the public is inclined to switch to candidates who appear headed for victory.

They cite what happened in 1948. All of the polls indicated that New York Governor Thomas E. Dewey would clobber President Harry S. Truman. Instead, of course, the Man of Independence fooled everybody but himself by riding into the winner's circle on a tidal wave of unpredicted ballots.

You can't deny success. During its 35 years, the Gallup Poll has deviated from actual election results by an average of only 4.0 percent. And since 1948 the deviation has been just 1.6. That's almost as pure as Ivory soap.

## MIRROR MIRTH

Despite what the cartoonists make him look like, Uncle Sam is a gentleman with a very large waste. . . It's a good thing that Moses didn't have to submit the Ten Commandments to a committee for approval.

When some people trade in their automobiles, they should

go to the abused car lot. . . The hardest tumble any man can take is to fall over his own bluff.

. . . It's not hard to spot a fool, unless he's hiding inside you.

A small town is the place where a fellow with a black eye doesn't have to explain to folks. They know. . . Sometimes traffic is so bad on Broad Street that even back seat drivers can't help much.

New Bern is a delightful place to live if you are a delightful person to live beside. . . College professors get what's left after the athletic director and the coaches are paid off.

Poor handwriting has one advantage, it covers up a lot of mistakes in spelling. . . Love is like eating a mushroom. By the time you know whether it's the real thing it's too late.

Soaking a wedding ring in dishwasher three times a day makes it last longer. . . The main thing you learn from short-wave radio is that nearly every country in the world is full of sopranos.

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## Historical Gleanings

—By—  
ELIZABETH MOORE

JAMES RIGGS VS.  
BENJAMIN TILLMAN AND  
CHURCHILL RICE

North Carolina, Craven  
County, 1822-1823

The deposition of WILLIAM JONES, a witness for the plaintiff, before EDWARD C. KING, one of the Justices of the Peace for Craven County, on 12 February 1823:

Many years ago, I believe in the year 1791 or 1792 I was present at the running of the GALES patent on JONES BAY, near the mouth of BAY RIVER, beginning at a live oak called GALES corner . . . having crossed DITCH CREEK and DOWDY'S CREEK, . . . COLONEL HENRY TILLMAN, who was the surveyor on the occasion, then mentioned there was vacant land between the third line and the River, and if some of them did not enter it, he would. The survey was made by COLONEL TILLMAN as a private surveyor for DOWDY to show where his land lay that he had bought out of the GALES PATENT from SPARROW and DELAMAR, or one of them. There were present at the time JOHN DOWDY, his son WILLIAM DOWDY, JONAS JONES, DAVID JONES, EDWARD CREEKMAN, and JAMES RIGGS, SR., THOMAS SHANAWOLFF and myself were the chain bearers. The last line was run to show AMOS SQUIRES where his land was, which was likewise included in the GALES PATENT.

Deponent further saith he was present the second of the same lines by JOHN ALLEN, who was then surveyor of BEAUFORT COUNTY, the lines were run the same courses and distances as before and appeared intently to correspond. The second running was to lay off a tract of land to JONAS JONES, which he also bought out of the GALES PATENT from SPARROW and DELAMAR, or one of them. Some time after the survey by ALLEN, I believe the next season, THOMAS JONES and JAMES RIGGS had their entries of vacant land, which they had taken up, surveyed by THOMAS BEASLEY, the Deputy Surveyor of BEAUFORT COUNTY. JONES land was run out first, beginning at a stake in the mouth of the ditch at the Head of DUMP CREEK, running 80 poles to a gum standing in the line which COLONEL TILLMAN and ALLEN had run as GALES lines, the gum is a tall and notable tree, and has been shown by me to Messrs. R. SHIPP, STREET and RICE. The gum was then and there

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—JGMCD.

marked as FRANCIS JONES' second corner, at this gum JAMES RIGGS began his survey. Myself and HARDY JONES, I think, were the chain bearers. . . .

In 1972 or 1793 JAMES RIGGS settled on this land which he entered in 1793, he built a house on it. AMOS SQUIRES assisted him in building it, which house he lived 20 years or longer, and continued to live there until he was depossessed by the Sheriff, after the termination of a suit brought against him by COLONEL HENRY TILLMAN or his heirs. Deponent being cross examined by the defenant says I never heard any dispute about the dividing line between RIGGS and the GALES PATENT, until after COLONEL TILLMAN bought from SQUIRES. . . .

There was no dispute to my knowledge between COLONEL TILLMAN AND RIGGS about the land. I was with REDING SHIPP, when for our own satisfaction we ran the last line of RIGGS' PATENT. . . . (Signed) William Jones. Before Edward C. King, Justice of the Peace. J. W. Guion, C. C. by J. G. Stanly D. C. (Clerk's Loose Papers, Craven County, N. C.)

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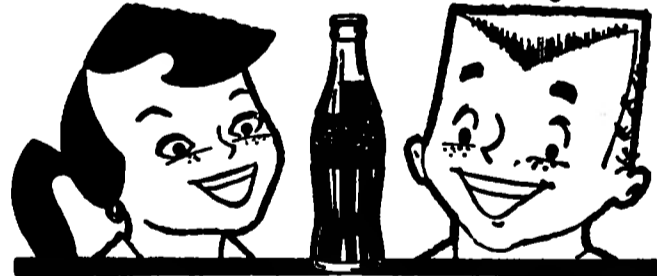
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