

# THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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## TO EACH HIS OWN

It has been said that junk furniture is anything that is too old for poor folks, and not old enough for rich folks. What no one seems able to agree on is the age necessary to make an item a genuine antique.

Prior to 1966, you could purchase abroad, and bring into the United States duty free, whatever caught your fancy that had been produced prior to 1830. Now the exemption applies if the object is 100 years old.

This doesn't set well with some of the self designated experts in the lucrative antique business. They point out that authentic handmade items should predate 1850, when the "industrial revolution" ended.

Since that approximate year, machines have taken over tremendously, and it is argued, not without logic, that the stuff turned out by mass production, no matter how ancient it is, ain't an antique in the true sense.

Maybe not an antique, but currently you can peddle almost anything imaginable for a pretty price, as long as it's rare and hard to latch onto. Which to us makes sense, if we want to feel superior to friends and neighbors.

Thousands of New Bernians could be richer today, but for the fact that they failed to save their Mickey Mouse watches, Shirley Temple cups, the colored glass they "won" at carnivals, and their Charlie Chaplin hat and cane.

Remember when Papa and Mama died, the family broke up housekeeping, and you got rid of that brass bed? And how about that Seth Thomas clock that wouldn't run, the copper clothes boiler, and Grandpa's chamber pot?

Much has been made of youth's distaste for the establishment, but no one around is more steamed up about nostalgia than the younger generation. Antique dealers are cashing in heavily on their boundless enthusiasm.

In some instances, speculation rather than sentimentality is their motivation. They allow as how something that there ain't many more of is bound to grow increasingly valuable with the passing years.

For those of us who are in the midst of, or fast approaching, the sundown of life, gambling on the distant future has few advantages. Having thrown away the wrong things, we've reached the point of no return.

Of course, we've still got a few things left. They're not marketable, and we wouldn't sell them if they were. Early photographs of the children, a high school annual, faded letters, crayoned drawings, baby shoes.

Will the younger generation be more practical in their hoarding than we were? Will they have the foresight to save, if indeed they have room, worthless stuff that later could be valuable? Probably not.

It wasn't a great degree of wisdom that made some of our old timers preserve the relics now scrambled for. It was mostly laziness, procrastination, and an attic they could always count on.

## Historical Gleanings

—By—  
ELIZABETH MOORE

Heirs of Ann R. Bryan, Petition for Partition, Dec. Term, 1811  
Thomas Bryan, John Justice and Maria, his wife; Stephen B. Forbes and Elizabeth, his wife, of Sally Bryan, Alice Bryan, and Mary Bryan, infants by Mary Ann Bryan, their mother and guardian; John C. Bryan, an infant by Bryan, mother and guardian; of William Tisdale, Betsy Tisdale, Maria Tisdale, infants of Nathan Tisdale, their father and guardian;

Show that Ann Bryan, daughter of John C. Bryan, late of Craven County, died in the year of under age and without issue, seized of real estate in Craven County, devised to her by the will of her father, that your petitioners:

Thomas Bryan, Maria Justice, Elizabeth Forbes; Hardy Bryan were brothers and sisters of aforesaid Ann on the part of her father, and Sally Bryan, Alice Bryan, Mary Bryan, her sisters by the same parents

That your petitioners William, Betsy, and Maria Tisdale the children of Mary Tisdale, a sister of the said Ann on the part of her father; who died before said Ann, in the year, 180, whereby the real estate of said Ann Bryan descended to your petitioners, Maria Justice, Elizabeth Forbes, Thomas Bryan, Sally Bryan, Alice Bryan, Mary Bryan and Hardy Bryan, each 1/8 and one other part descended to your petitioners: William, Betsy and Maria Tisdale, as tenants in common in fee simple the said Hardy Bryan, having since died, duly made and

## Village Verses

### NO COMPLAINT

My memory lane is  
A one-way street,  
Where forget-me-nots  
Are always sweet,  
And friends I knew  
Still pass and smile,  
Or stop to chat  
For a little while.  
Only us older folks  
Learn to know  
That twice lived joys  
Have a wondrous glow.  
-JGMcd.

published his last will and testament, devised his estate in said real estate to your petitioner, John C. Bryan, his only child and heir at law.

Your petitioners desire to have partition made of said land and the share of each allotted in severalty, pray that commissioners may be appointed.

++++  
Summons to Craven, December, 1811 for William Shepard, Francis Hawks, William Good, John Sears, John Moore, to divide estate of Ann Rebecca Bryan between the heirs.

Summons to Craven, December, 1812, for same commissioners except John Moore. Others summons issued from time to time.

++++  
To the heirs of Ann R. Bryan: 1/8 to Thomas Bryan; 1/8 to John Justice in right of his wife; 1/8 to S. B. Forbes in right of his wife; 1/8 to John C. Bryan, son of

Hardy Bryan;  
William Tisdale, Betsy Tisdale, Maria Tisdale ) 1/8 or 1 twenty-fourth  
1/8 to Sally Bryan  
1/8 to Alice Bryan  
1/8 to Mary Bryan  
++++  
Craven County Estate Papers.

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