

THE NEW BERN MIRROR

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ON TAPE

Some modern discoveries and inventions have done little for our peace of mind and happiness. Much to the contrary, they make us apprehensive if not downright fearful.

This holds true especially in the military field, where it is frankly predicted that every nation large and small will eventually have a ready supply of the deadliest missiles yet perfected.

However, there really are a few things that have brought improvement to our era. One invention that qualifies in this respect is the tape recorder. It isn't always utilized to good advantage, or even employed in an ethical manner, but from the standpoint of preserving history the device is of value beyond compare.

At relatively low cost it is now possible to permanently record the actual voices of those who speak on epic occasions, as well as the other sounds attendant to these unforgettable moments.

There is nothing complex about the operation of a tape recorder. A child can make it function as easily as an adult can, and its light enough to be transported without difficulty.

The invention isn't new, of course, but not until recently has its worth for historical purposes been fully recognized. From here on out you may be sure that files will be kept on all major events, as well as some events that could hardly be regarded as important or significant.

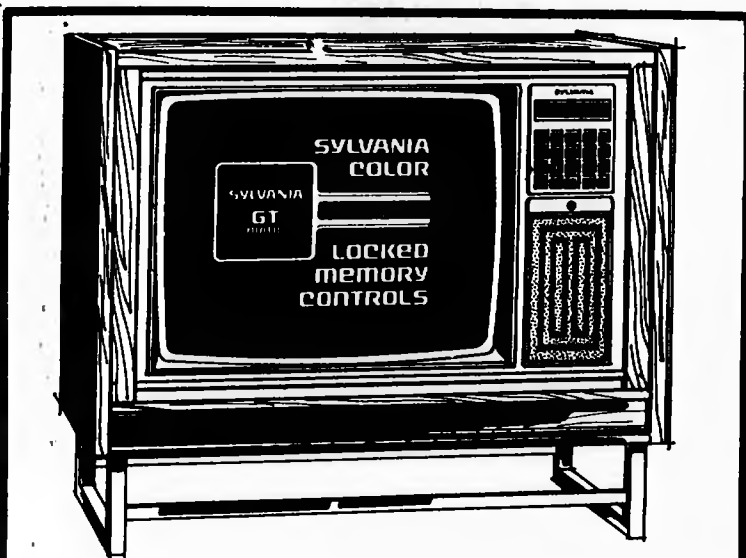
It's too bad we can't turn back the clock and put on tape such things as Lincoln's Gettysburg address, Patrick Henry's "Liberty or Death" speech, and George Washington's farewell oration.

To go back even further, think how momentous it would be to hear Christ preach His sermon on the mount and Moses speak to the Jews as he brought to them the Ten Commandments handed down by God.

Wishful thinking such as this may seem pretty ridiculous, but science tells us that every sound ever made still exists. If this is indeed a scientific fact, then the songs the angels sang over a Bethlehem stable are still present in the space around our globe.

It would be utterly fantastic to assume that man in his increasing knowledge will someday figure out a way to isolate and reclaim sounds from the past. But who among us, a few years ago, expected satellites manufactured by human hands and manned by humans to be whizzing over our heads?

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NEW BERN

Historical Gleanings

—By—
ELIZABETH MOORE

NEWBERN, NEWBERNE,
NEW BERN, NEW BERNE,
NEWBURN

The following research in 1891 on the name of New Bern by William Hollister Oliver was submitted by his granddaughter, Caroline P. Constable of Charlotte:

"Department of the Interior, United States Geological Survey Geographic Branch, Washington, D. C. June 6, 1891--to the City Clerk, New Bern, N. C. Dear Sir: I find uncertainty in spelling the name of your city. It is spelled Newbern, Newberne, New Bern, New Berne and Newburn.

"I take the liberty of appealing to you to inform us as fully as possible what the usage is in the official documents of your city.

"In case you have information at hand, I should be glad to know under what name the city was chartered. Very respectfully, Henry Gannett /s/ Chairman, Executive Committee on Geographical Names."

"NEWBERN, N. C. June 10, 1891. Henry Gannett, Esq. Chairman, Executive Committee, &c. Dear Sir: Yours to our City Clerk has been handed to me with request that I would reply to it.

"From the earliest information that I can obtain up to the year 1862, the name of the town was spelled Newbern. The name under which it was chartered was Newbern, I send you a bound copy of the Acts of the General Assembly published in 1793. By reference to it, you will see the Laws published by the General Assembly which was held at Newbern, N. C. while under King Charles, II, King George II, and King George III. In numerous places, in fact, all over the book reference is made to the town of (New Bern) Newbern. I send you a copy of the charter of the Town of Newbern chartered by Act of the General Assembly in 1723. A number of amendments have been made but no change has legally been made in spelling Newbern.

"Refer to Hawks' report, Supreme Court of North Carolina, case, Vestry of the Protestant Episcopal Church of Newbern vs. Trustees of Newbern Academy, argued by William Gaston and John Stanly, all through the case it is New Bern. Judge Gaston and Mr. Stanly doubtless knew the legal name of it. A large number of the old citizens have always continued to spell it Newbern.

"I enclose you a hand bill just issued by our City authorities in regard to some ordinances in which you will see that in a few lines the name of the city is spelled Newbern, New Bern, New Berne. To the eye of a stranger this must appear not only inconsistent, but ludicrous. Very respectfully, your ob't servant, William H. Oliver."

"Extracts from the Laws of North Carolina, from A. D. 1715 to A. D. 1868.

"A. D. 1677, King Charles, II, granted to the Duke of Albemarle, Earl of Craven Sir George Carteret and others, the Province called Carolina.

"A. D. 1715, The first meeting of the General Assembly was held at the house of Richard Sanderson on Little River. Charles Eden, Governor. At this meeting Bath Town was incorporated.

"A. D. 1723, at a meeting of the Assembly held at Edenton the 23rd day of November, 1723, the following act was passed: "Whereas a certain plot of

Village Verses

TIME TESTED

Though new friends if true friends
Are good to have and hold,
Short acquaintance can't replace
A friendship that is old.
And so I pen these lines to those
I've known for many years,
Who have shared my days of laughter
And the darker days of tears.
I'm not so much for antique things
Sometimes I'm unimpressed,
But friends, they're an exception,
The old ones I love best.

—JGMCD.

ground being part of a tract of land lying in fork of Neuse River, late belonging to Hon. Col. Thomas Pollock, deceased, but now the property of Mr. Cullen Pollock, was formerly laid out into a township by the name of Newbern (describing it) be it enacted to his Excellency the Palatine and the rest of the true and lawful Proprietors of the Province of Carolina, by and with the advice and consent of the rest of the members of the General Assembly, now met at Edenton, that the same is hereby declared confirmed, and incorporated into a township by the name of Newbern' Signed William Reed, Esq. President, T. Pollock, M. Moore, Charles Gates, and John Lovick, Lords Proprietors.

"A. D. 1738. The first Assembly held at Newbern Gabriel Johnson, Esq. Governor.

"A. D. 1739, Assembly held at Newbern. An Act "for enacting the village called Newton in New Hanover County into a town and township by the name of Wilmington.

"A. D. 1740, Assembly held at Edenton. An Act "to erect a Church at Newbern, Craven County" (Church was at the corner of Pollock and Middle Streets)."

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