



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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New Bern was downright lucky in the belated preservation of its old-time fire engines and hose wagons.

Similar luck would have saved one of our dinky and picturesque trolley cars for the viewing of posterity, but the decay of time has already taken its toll.

Kids of today live in a world of miracles, yet they'll never know the joy that some of their Moms and Dads, and most of their grandparents, derived from riding along the town's main street on a bouncy vehicle such as this.

We can see Captain Bill Davis right now at the helm, walrus mustache and all. There were other motor men, of course, but Captain Bill had a grandeur that others lacked. To small boys watching him cruise by, enroute to Ghent, Riverside or the Union Station, he was really somebody.

Especially thrilling were the momentous occasions when a circus like Sparks, Sels-Floto or John L. Robinson invaded our village. That is when Callie McCarthy hauled out his assortment of open-air trolleys to supplement the closed-in ones and accommodate overflow crowds who came to town for miles around.

Seeing those ventilated vehicles was almost as much fun as watching a marvelous noon-time parade that featured the usual elephants, camels, clowns and, at the very end, a screeching caliope that belched smoke and steam all over the immediate vicinity.

Excitement incubated by the electrically propelled trolleys wasn't restricted to circus day, however. Local lads figured out a prank that brought them great satisfaction, and repeatedly exasperated the hapless motor men.

Attached to the trolley pole that extended above the car, to make contact with the power line running above the track, was a rope. This rope enabled the motor man to swing the trolley pole around, at the end of the line, and head back in the opposite direction.

It dangled in a loop at the end of the car. The loop was fairly close to the extended headlight, and that gave brats in the village a bright idea. They noticed how the loop would droop a little lower when the trolley was passing a high part of the street, and then get shorter on a low portion of the thoroughfare.

Discovering this, kids would hide at just the right spot, especially at night. Then they would dart behind the passing trolley, put the loop under the headlight, and whoop it up when the trolley pole was pulled off the power line.

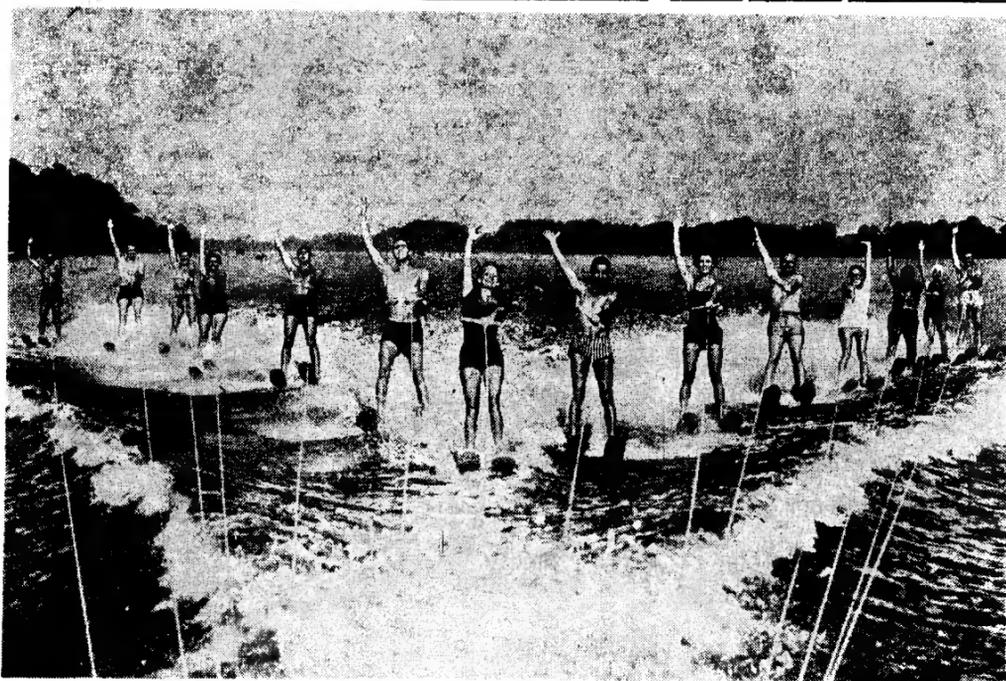
Naturally the car stopped and was plunged into darkness. There was nothing for the motor man to do but hop off, remedy the trouble, and shake his fist in the general direction of his unseen but audible tormentors.

One of the more popular sections for this sort of thing was the stretch of Pollock street between Metcalf and Hancock. You could always count on the trolley pole coming off at Hancock, if the prank was pulled properly.

Another likely location was New street, just as the trolley car rounded the curve from Metcalf. Real disaster cropped up there on one occasion, in broad open daylight.

A school boy, heading home for lunch from Central school, did the usual loop trick. Apparently, the trolley car had more than its usual momentum. At any rate, the trolley pole got entangled in some nearby telephone wires, and pulled down a string of poles before the car finally came to a halt.

There were plenty of witnesses, but none of the other kids squealed on the guilty party. Needless to (See LOOKING GLASS, Page 8)



WHOLESALE ENJOYMENT—Two is company, three is a crowd, but there's always room for one more when you take to water skis on upper Trent river. These 14 water enthusiasts add to a lot of mutual pleasure, and emphasize the blessing that belongs to New Bern in this, the Land of Enchanting Waters.

## Cats Escape Tax Worries In New Bern

If you're one of those New Bern or Craven county citizens who would like to have some tax-free property, get yourself a cat. Unlike other animals that might be roaming around your premises, a kitty will live his nine lives to the fullest with nary a levy on his head.

Try to keep a goat, and the moment they get wind of it down at the county courthouse you'll have another assessment listed opposite your name. They're mighty apt to nag you about a horse, too, and stalling won't keep the tax collector from plugging until he gets results.

When the tax folks dreamed up a tax on cows, they knew they had it in the bag. Even when they extended the shake-down to cattle grown for butchering, they weren't in the mood for your beefing.

A man who doesn't want to pay a tax on his sheep might as well take it on the lamb. Make no mistake about it, they'll ram it down your throat. And if you try to sneak by with a hog, they will give you a bored look while cluttering county coffers with coin.

They'll hound you for your dog tax, too, and give you a pointer or two on the duties of John Q. Public. Even if all you've got is chicken, or turkeys, or ducks or geese, you'll find yourself all fouled up if you try to evade the law.

By the way, you might be interested in knowing that, at last report, there were 2,783 male dogs (See NEW BERN CATS, Page 4)

## Christ Crusade Here to Set Precedent for Our Country

A new first, not only for New Bern but for all America, is in the making here as plans proceed for the Laymen's Witness For Christ Crusade.

Never before, in the spiritual life of our nation, have so many outstanding business leaders on the national level joined forces for a series of religious services in a single city.

Speaking as men of means and high standing, who have dedicated their lives and talents to Christianity's cause, they will deliver their inspirational messages in the New Bern High School Auditorium from August 16 through August 24.

Sponsored by the New Bern

Christian Business Men's Committee, in cooperation with the New Bern Ministerial Association, they will bring collectively to the city the most outstanding array of speakers, religious or otherwise, that the town has ever been privileged to hear within a week's span.

What the impact will be upon the community only time will tell. Countless hours of tireless planning have already gone into the Crusade. Still more hours will be devoted, so that no stone will be left unturned in this concerted effort that bears the name and furthers the aims of the Man of Gal-



NEW BERN'S CHOICE — Talent and looks were the unbeatable combination that brought Sonia Mattocks the title of Miss New Bern. Now she has her eyes on a State contest that will land some Tar Heel lass in Atlantic City for the Miss America pageant. Aside from her attractiveness, Sonia sings exceptionally well.—Photo by Baxter's Studio.

ilee.

Among the speakers will be R. G. LeTourneau, internationally known industrialist of Long View, Texas, who gives 90 percent of his vast income to the Lord. His life story has been told in the best seller, "Moving Heaven and Earth."

Coming also is Tom Willey, vice president of Martin Aircraft Company, at Cape Canaveral, Fla. Others include Colonel John Fain, formerly on General Douglas MacArthur's staff, now a realtor in Atlanta, Ga.; Art DeMoss, an insurance executive of Albany, N. Y.; Waldo Yeager, president of Courtland Produce Company in Toledo, Ohio; Mel Swanson, president of Swanson Enterprises, of St. Petersburg, Fla.; Nate Scharff, Christian Jewish clothing merchant of Dayton, Ohio; and Charlie Jones, an insurance executive living in Harrisburg, Pa.

Rev. Grady Wilson, associate evangelist of the Billy Graham crusade, will be here, while Matt Howell, former Duke university football player, is coordinator for the local series of meetings. Dick

Milham of Orlando, Fla., is the song director.

New Bern, during the week, will be the center of attention for religious leaders throughout the nation. If our own Laymen's Witness for Christ Crusade is the success that sponsors hope for, it will undoubtedly lead to other similar ventures from coast to coast.

Whatever the outcome, New Bern is being accorded an opportunity that no other city has had. What we do with that opportunity is going to be of our own making, as individuals and as a community of professing Christians.

### A Weekend Prayer

Eternal God, our Father, we rejoice that Jesus Christ came into the world, to reveal to us what Thy nature is, and what our natures may become. We are thankful that He has become for us a new and living Way into Thy presence.

Our hearts are overwhelmed, Father, when we meditate upon the wonder of the Master's love for us. Seeing us like sheep without a shepherd, He offered to lead us. Seeing us sinful and stubborn in our self-will, He has given His life to break our hearts, and turn us toward the right.

If our lives still are not right, O God, we realize that the fault lies within us. Thou hast met us more than half-way, offering a marvelous Plan for our wills to choose, and for our hearts to follow. Thou hast done for us, in Christ, more than we could ask or think.

May Christ have His way with us. With broken and contrite hearts, may we accept His offer of forgiveness and new life. May we yield every area of life to His control. May the Holy Spirit be able to use us to Thy glory, both now and in the years eternal.

M. Elmore Turner, Pastor, Broad St. Christian Church, New Bern, N. C.

### 1,800 Pledge Cash For Hospital Here

According to the June report of the Atlantic Baptist association, 1,800 pledges of financial support have been made to the Eastern North Carolina Baptist hospital here.

There have been six pledges ranging from \$5,000 to \$10,000; three ranging from \$4,000 to \$5,000; six from \$2,000 to \$3,000; 18 from \$1,000 to \$2,000; 65 from \$500 to \$1,000; 20 from \$400 to \$500; 11 from \$300 to \$400; 115 from \$200 to \$300; 54 from \$150 to \$200; 273 from \$100 to \$150; 253 from \$50 to \$100; 352 from \$25 to \$50; and 624 for an amount less than \$25.

Total pledges, according to the report, now exceed \$265,000.



FLATTERING ASSIGNMENT — New Bern's Neil Vester will be master of ceremonies for the N. C. Lions State Breakfast, when the International Convention meets in Chicago. There'll be 45,000 or thereabouts attending the Convention, and the North Carolina breakfast is one of the largest and most important functions. Neil will audition talent from all over the world prior to the event, and select the best for presentation. Once a professional showman, born of parents with a foot-light background, he had his own radio show for five years, and was featured vocalist and leader of a Florida dance band for eight years. Neil appeared in many supper clubs, on stage and in radio in Florida, New York and Boston, and acted as talent scout for agencies in Florida and Boston. He had 15 years in the Marine Corps, and was a master sergeant in World War Two and the Korean conflict. At present he is sergeant major of the local Marine Reserve unit, and manages the business machine department at the Owen G. Dunn Co. His wife is the former Mary Ross of Washington, N. C.