



MAN-ROOT . . . is the name of sparkling white leaves which flower profusely during the marsh morning glories with heart-shaped summer months along the shores of the Trent.

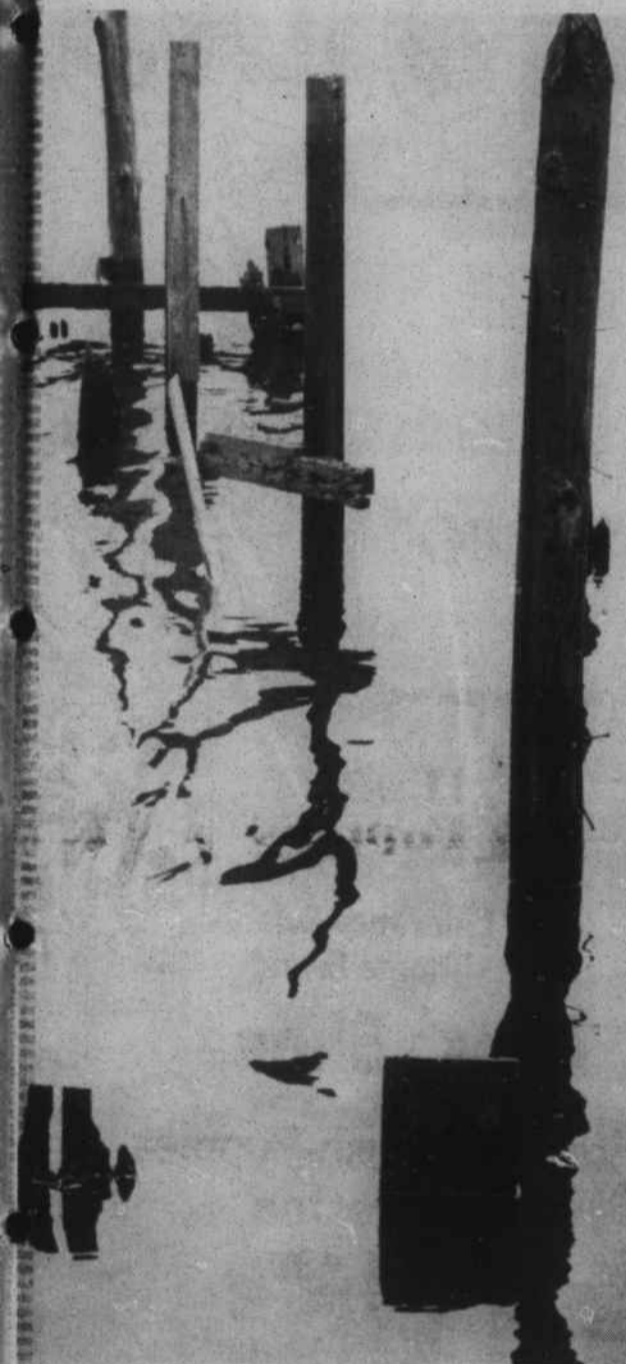


Vantage Point

A FINE VANTAGE POINT . . . This newly constructed enclosed platform at the end of a pier affords an excellent vantage point of a lovely vista of water plants, shrubs and

trees. A lone red-wing blackbird, one of a large flock chattering in nearby cypress trees, perches on the platform rail, perhaps to get away from the noise of his compatriots.

Scenic Backwaters Along Trent River



At the southern boundary of the historic town of New Bern, the water of Trent River empties into the broad flow of the Neuse River. In contrast to the blue-gray waters of the Neuse, the waters of the Trent are dark, its movement almost imperceptible except when a storm ruffles the surface or motor boats leave a temporary wake.

Along the shores of the Trent in New Bern and for several miles upstream on both sides of the river, the area abounds in numerous small backwaters, canals and inlets that terminate in quiet circles or crescents of still water. At points of easy accessibility in these areas, docks and piers have been constructed through the years. A number of these have been abandoned, but support piles in numerous instances have remained standing, adding weather darkened vertical lines to the structure of the surrounding landscape.

Whatever the season, these miniature lagoon-like bodies of water are encircled by green. In winter the evergreen colors of pine, myrtle and pin oaks are interspersed with the browns of dead marsh grasses and cattails and the grays of bare branched maple and white oak.

In spring, the vegetation takes on a wider spectrum of green as cypress, willow and maple trees show their new leaves.

By the time June arrives, the dense vegetation on the shores of the dark waters burst into a festival of moisture loving flowers — white man-root morning glories that furl closed in the heat of the day, lavender spikes among the large waxy leaves of pickerel weeds, and the most delicate of all, the pale pink petals of swamp roses on bushes that often reach a height of 12 feet or more.

Dragonflies, iridescent blue, bronze, gray or black, hover in the air like nature's helicopters, and water bugs dart erratically across the still water. From time to time a fish breaks the surface of the water in pursuit of a tasty insect meal.

Red-wing blackbirds chatter in trees, then on signal dash to another site, displaying in flight brilliant splashes of scarlet. Martins and swallows swoop and dive in long, graceful arcs over the water, while blue jays call in strident song.

These are seductive, secluded areas, favorite places for local residents who know the small paths that lead to the water. Here they can relax with a cane pole for an hour or two of bank fishing, or wind their way through the intricate pattern of inter-connected waterways on a motorless flat-bottom boat.



HOPING FOR A GOOD CATCH . . . This trio of local New Bern residents expressed high hope for a good catch of perch as they readied their gear to pull away from shore on a flat-bottomed

boat. A thick stand of pickerel weed grows along the shore in the foreground. The attractive purple flower spikes of this water-loving wildflower blooms during the summer months.

**Text And Photographs
By Jerry Raynor**



A Place Of Beauty

A HIDDEN PLACE OF BEAUTY . . . The upright timbers of an abandoned pier complex add an architectural note to this tranquil place of beauty in which varied shades of green are

provided by myrtle, cypress, marsh grass, and water oak. Numerous backwater scenes similar to this one can be discovered along the shores on both sides of the Trent River.



THE DUCK POTATO . . . shown here growing in a clump beneath overhanging green myrtle, is a common marsh flower found in streams,

canals and ditches of the coastal plain of Eastern North Carolina.