

The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Admitting without argument that we're completely out of tune with the times, it still seems to us that folks had more fun when they were singing songs about the moon instead of trying to land there.

Even during the financial difficulties of the Great Depression, New Bernians gave their hearts to Milky Wayish melodies. The lyrics were often putrid and the notes foul smelling, but it mattered not. As long as the virtues of the planetary system were extolled somewhere in the chorus, the world rushed headlong into sentimental acceptance.

Grandpa, and his grandpa before him, suffered enjoyably from a chronic case of the same malady when they were young and foolish. What a pity that such tunes fail to stir the gypsy lying dormant in today's generation. The teen agers of our acquaintance may deny it, but rock 'n' roll — from the angle of romance — is a sorry substitute.

Among the radio and recording stars who were partial to things astronomical, Morton Downey was conspicuous. One of his earlier theme songs was "Wabash Moon" and later he switched his high-pitched warbling capacities to "Carolina Moon" to advertise a well known brand of cigarettes.

Kate Smith became internationally famous in the same era with her own theme song — "When the Moon Comes Over the Mountain." Meanwhile, Cab Calloway, who could out holler any of the brayers we have around now, came up with a number dubbed "Underneath A Harlem Moon." As the title implies, it dealt principally with doings on Lennox Avenue. The words were clever and the notes were catchy.

Harlem had no monopoly on moonlight in the grim, bank-busting Thirties. We had an "Old England Moon" and "Moonlight On the River Colarado" — along with "Honolulu Moon" and "Moonlight on the Ganges." Tin Pan Alley came up with "Virginia Moon" too, but it didn't create much of a stir, even on the shores of the Potomac.

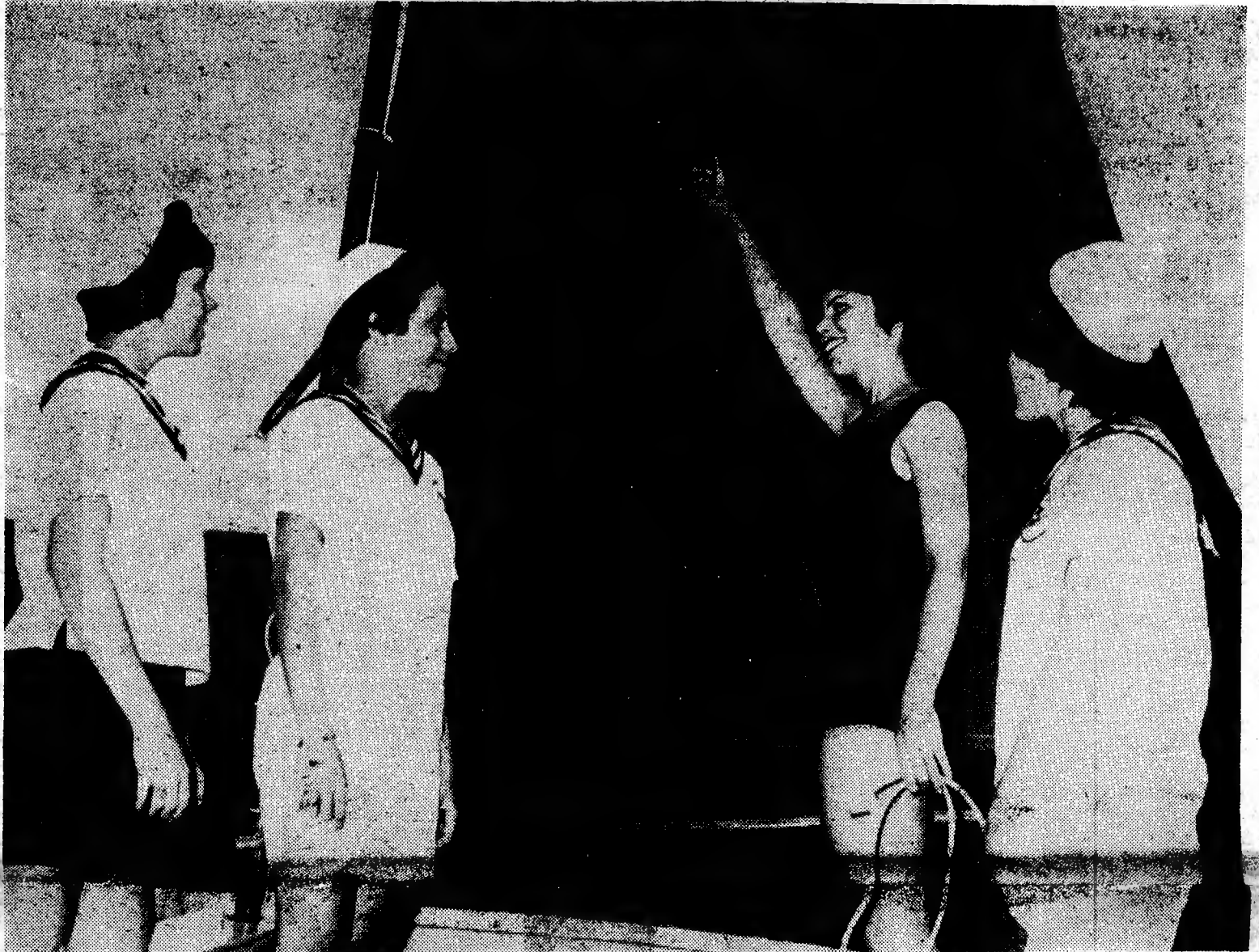
Not content with the tremendous popularity of her aforementioned theme song, Kate Smith achieved success with "A Kiss In the Moonlight." The Boswell sisters, with Connie leading the way, did quite well with the same song. Merely mentioning this sister act ought to strike a responsive chord with you oldsters.

Earlier still, Ruth Etting ascended to heights of popular music when she sang "Shine On Harvest Moon" in the Ziegfeld Follies and recorded it for Columbia. Millions bought the disc at a time when money was almost non-existent. Incidentally, Florenz Ziegfeld rated Ruth the greatest entertainer of them all. Considering the fact that he discovered Will Rogers, it was an incomparable compliment.

One of the more imaginative song writers found gold in "The Valley of the Moon." Another scribbler called the roll, so to speak, with "The Cop On the Beat, the Man in the Moon and Me." Less wordy with his title, but just as successful, was the chap who contented himself with calling his composition "Moon."

Rather than be specific about the stream he had in mind, one composer wrote of "Moonlight On the River." Then there was "Rock-a-bye Moon" and "I Envy The Moon That Shines Upon the Carolines." Apparently, the writer was also envious of the fortune that "Carolina Moon" was making for its originator. That's as far as it went, since the "envy" song flopped with a solid thud.

Volumes, rather than a single column, could be written about the
 (Continued on back page)



KEEP IT GOING—Betsy Smith of Raleigh, an instructor at Camp Seafarer east of New Bern, explains the fine points of sailing a pram to Edie Long of Burlington, Ann Joyner of Farmville, and Ginger Wellons of Smithfield. Established

by the Raleigh Y.M.C.A. as was Camp Sea Gull for boys, Seafarer has attracted hundreds of happy youngsters to our coastal area.



ENTHUSIASTIC CLASS—Carol Williams of Raleigh is the instructor explaining sunfish sailing at Camp Seafarer to Sarah Jones of Rocky Mount, June Campbell of Goldsboro, Pat/Stephen of Durham, Jane Causey of Greensboro, Har-

riet Vinson of Goldsboro, Cathy Cary of Greensboro, and Cecily Satterthwaite of Farmville. Sister camp to Camp Sea Gull, in operation 14 years, Seafarer is having an outstanding first season.