

New Bern Publicity

The NEW BERN

MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
THE HEART OF
NORTH
NB Public Library
407 New St.
5¢ Per.



VOLUME 7

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1965

NUMBER 46

In case you've forgotten, it has been 20 years since the first New Bernians to own a ballpoint pen shelled out amounts ranging up to \$20 for these gadgets.

A fellow named Reynolds introduced the novel writing instruments on the market, and quickly became a multi-millionaire. Since you can buy ballpoints today for a few pennies, you can imagine his percentage of profit.

Hard to believe is the fact that ballpoints were first patented in 1888. From then until 1945, when Reynolds made his killing, millions of Americans (including us) passed up a golden opportunity to make a fortune on the idea.

It sort of reminds us of another incident. Walter Donaldson, who had become quite wealthy composing and publishing many popular songs in the Twenties, turned out still another tune one day.

He thought so little of it that, rich though he was, he declined to gamble a few hundred dollars on its publication. Instead, he crammed the melody in a desk drawer and ignored it for several years.

Paul Whiteman, the King of Jazz, happened to see the sheet music by accident during a bull session with Donaldson, and said he would like to do an orchestration for the famed Whiteman band. Donaldson, of course, had no objections.

Whiteman played the song at one or two engagements, and Gene Austin, (World War I bugler turned warbler), heard it. He saw its possibilities, and recorded it for Victor.

Donaldson's lack of faith in the composition wasn't shared by the public. The name of the song? "My Blue Heaven" and Austin's version alone sold 7-1/2 million discs.

North Carolina's latest travel booklet, publicizing the countless attractions in Variety Vacationland, is a beautifully prepared mailing piece. It contains more than 150 color photographs of scenes from the mountains to the sea.

Included is New Bern's Tryon Palace. Among the other subjects are the State's three outdoor dramas, The Lost Colony, Unto These Hills and Horn in the West. There's a photo of the U. S. S. North Carolina too, with azaleas blooming in the foreground.

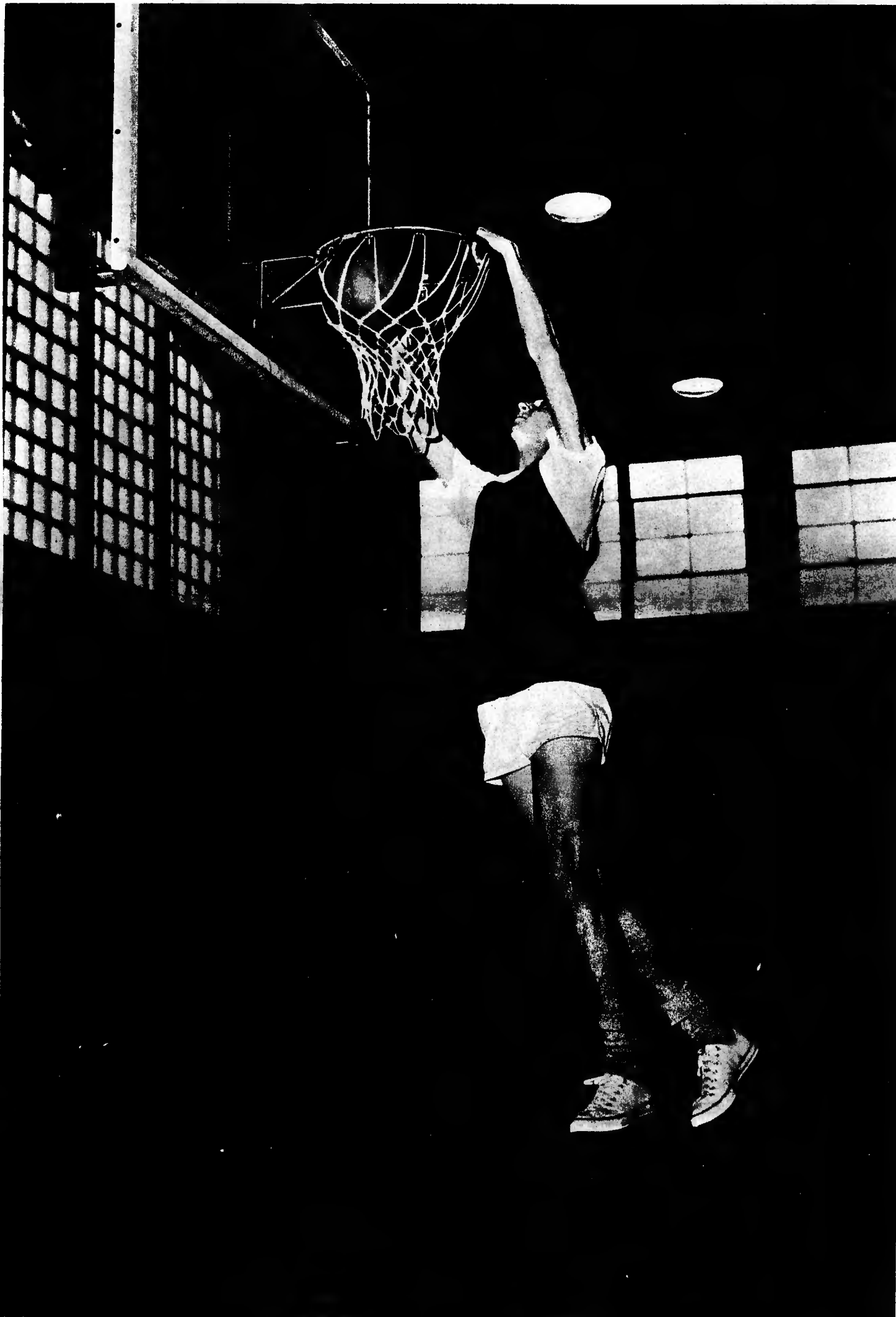
Historic attractions, such as Old Salem, Bath and Edenton, are given excellent coverage in the booklet, along with the Wright Brothers National Memorial near Kitty Hawk, but the promotion doesn't restrict itself to ancient landmarks.

Nature lovers won't have to thumb through many of the 63 heavily illustrated pages before reaching the conclusion that the Old North State is a veritable paradise. The mountain views are literally breath taking in their splendor.

Perhaps the scenes in our coastal region will be equally fascinating to prospective tourists. Living as we do in close proximity to the Atlantic, a sea-shore subject is apt to seem somewhat commonplace to us.

Much of the information in the publication will be enlightening not only to outsiders but to native Tar Heels. For example, rockhounds can find

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EASY AS PIE—New Bern High school's Bill Bunting doesn't have to do much stretching to dunk a basketball. Neither would you, if you measured 6-8 and could jump like a kangaroo stung by a bumblebee. Top college coaches and scouts (Carolina, Duke, Wake Forest and State all are drooling) have converged on our town from several states to offer him grants in

aid. One scout (Neal Reid of the University of Kentucky) has made four trips, which gives you an idea of the constant traffic. "He'll be great," says Press Marovich of N. C. State. "Can end up a pro," says Wake Forest's Bones McKinney, formerly with the Boston Celtics. Bunting, never one to talk much, says nothing up to now.—Photo by Chick Natella.