

Through
THE
Looking
Glass

The NEW BERN

MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
- HEART OF
NORTH
175 Mrs. A. N. Murphy
2000 Arendall St.
Morehead City, NC
5¢

VOLUME 8 NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1966 NUMBER 44



Never underestimate a bird's intelligence. When gale winds whipped through New Bern early Sunday morning, hundreds of our feathered friends headed directly into the storm instead of fleeing before it.

Their knowledge, or instinct, told them that bad weather with its hard driven snow would be over quicker if they could fly where it had been, rather than where it was going to be.

Only the ostrich, with his head buried in the sand, is foolish enough among members of the bird family to think you can avoid or eliminate the unpleasant by turning tail and pretending it isn't there.

Humans, including most especially newspaper editors, make the same mistake that the ostrich is guilty of, time and time again. Many of you start with your first waking moment, when you turn over for that second snooze.

As a henpecked husband who does the dishes fairly frequently, and isn't ashamed to admit it, we finally learned that it's better to tackle them promptly, after a meal, than to spend a half hour or more dreading the ordeal.

Because nations are simply a bunch of humans lumped together in a given area, they behave like an ostrich too. This attitude on the part of big nations, when Adolf Hitler was gobbling up smaller ones, led to the greatest blood bath the world has ever known.

Falling to face this challenge, as those birds did Sunday morning when they braved the freezing gale, brought death by quick violence or slow torture to millions. Some of their names are on the marble shaft erected on the lawn of our Craven County Courthouse.

It is safe to say that never before in history have so many Americans been embittered by acts of their elected leaders, and yet much of the blame lies with those of us who either refuse to take a stand for fear of being "involved" or meekly say, "There's nothing you can do about it."

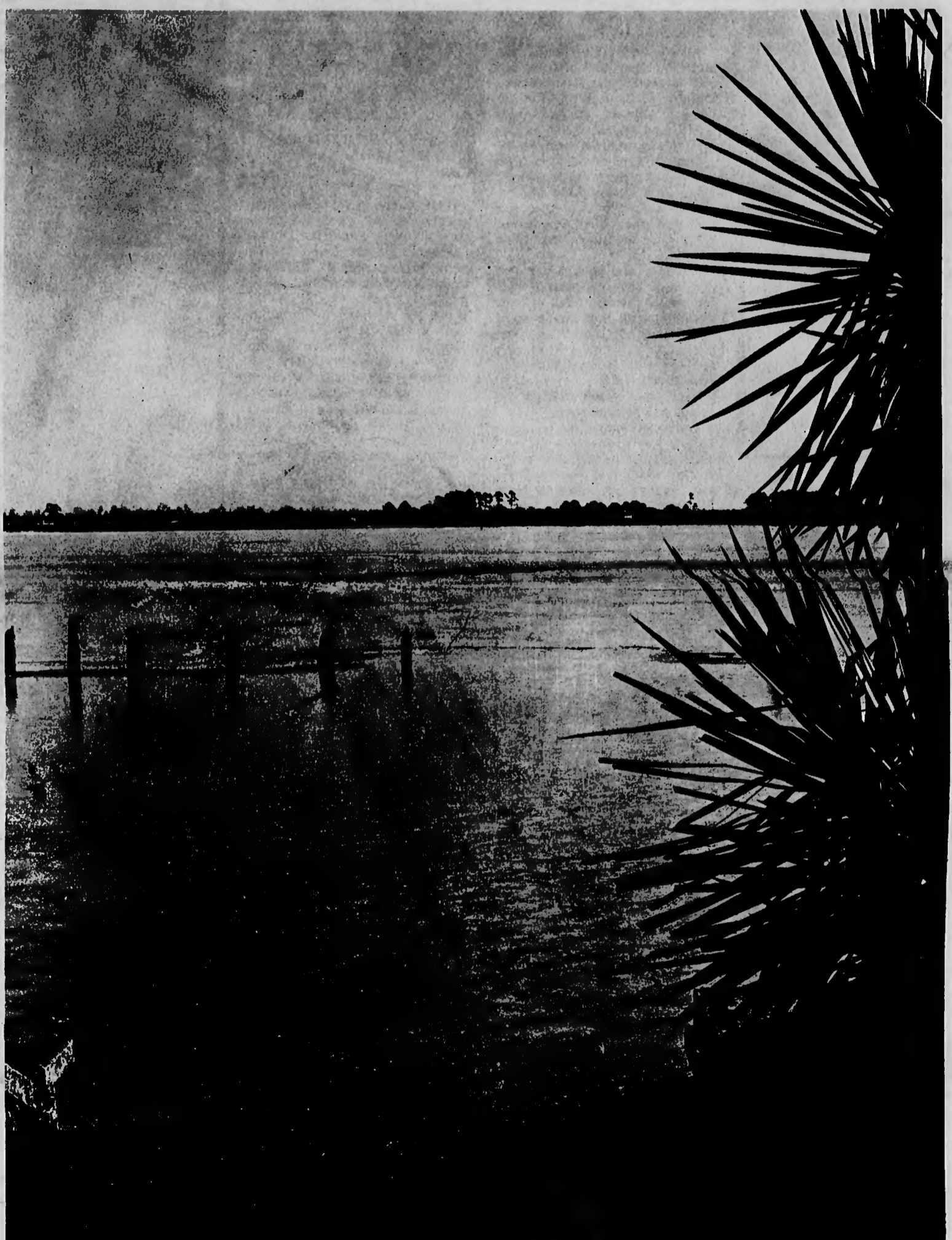
People who don't want to get involved show their cowardice in many ways. In New York City, for example, scores of citizens in surrounding apartment houses declined to call police several months ago when a man beat and stabbed a woman repeatedly in the street below, and returned a third time to finally kill his victim. No one wanted to be "mixed up" in the affair.

Could such a thing happen in New Bern and Craven County? Ask the injured motorists we talked to recently, who said the car immediately behind his when a wreck occurred pulled around the collision and sped away.

Accidents are never pleasant, but thank God there are still thousands of drivers white and black on North Carolina's highways who are willing to stop and lend a helping hand to someone in dire and desperate need. But for such assistance, and prompt calls for ambulances, the death toll would be multiplied.

Do you have the courage of your convictions, or do you remain silent on matters of vital concern to your community?

(Continued on page 8)



YOU'RE WRONG—At first glance you're apt to mistake this for an out of season photograph of a typical summer scene. Instead it pictures the Neuse frozen solid Monday morning from New Bern to Bridgeton. The wave you think you see some distance from shore isn't a wave at all, but a ridge of ice that humped up when the river's frigid crust was forming. The tropic-appearing foliage that provides a right border for this

photograph, snapped by Billy Benners, will probably be recognized by two of our Mirror readers, the Harold Maxwells. We trespassed in their garden, on East Front street, to get just the setting we wanted. Rarely does the Neuse freeze over, so you may want to save this week's issue to show your grandchildren some day when they doubt your stories of way back when.

