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New Bern motorists who cuss parking meters, or consider them at best a necessary evil, would find the business streets of Peace River in Alberta interesting.

Mayor E. R. Whitney, insisting that the public should be trusted, has seen to it that there are no time clocks on the town's newly installed meters. Those who park overtime are expected to put another dime in the slot.

Police don't even check on parkers, to see if they're as honest as the Mayor believes they are. "It will never become necessary for us to put time clocks on our meters," predicts Whitney.

Speaking of parking meters, who would have dreamed less than half a century ago that buildings would one day be torn down in New Bern's downtown business section to provide vacant lots for automobiles?

Incidentally, how many New Bernians recall when you could drive up to the curb on Middle street, between Pollock and South Front, and get your gas tank filled? Leon Scott, Sr., had a handy pump on the outside edge of the sidewalk. At least, that's the way we remember it, and probably so do you.

Incredible as it may seem, the word from Louisiana is that citizens have had a state song for 30 years and the fact was overlooked. According to the official records, it is "Song Of Louisiana" written by Vashli R. Stopfer.

North Carolina's state song, penned by New Bern's William Gaston, has been around a lot longer than Louisiana's, but you can safely estimate that perhaps as many as two million Tar Heels know neither the tune nor the lyrics.

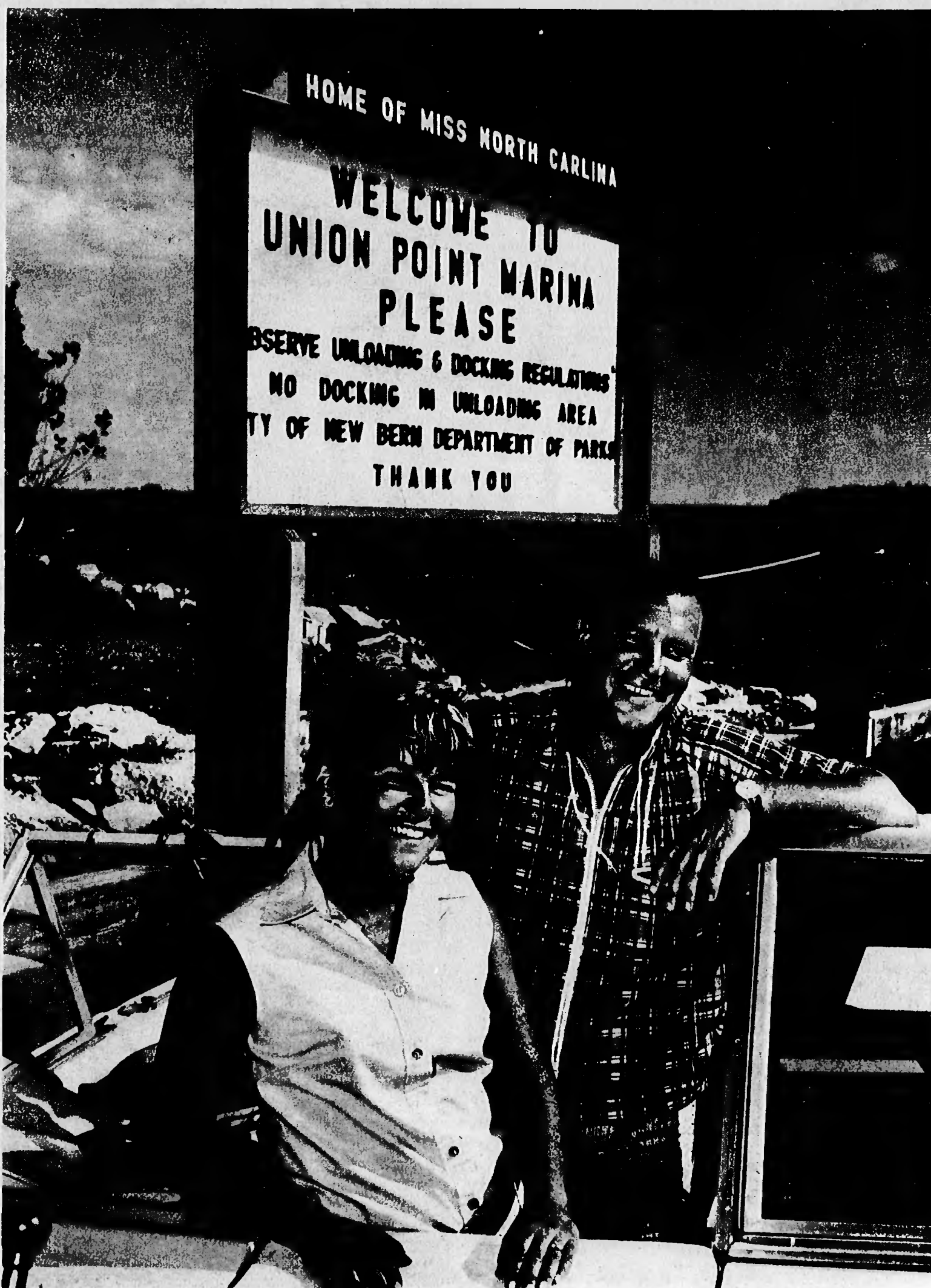
Without question, the most familiar and best loved of several good Carolina songs is "Carolina Moon." Morton Downey, the soprano-like tenor, gave it maximum radio exposure when, quite appropriately, it was chosen as his theme song for the coast to coast Camel program.

Imagine the reaction of a visitor from the mountains who might expect to find a semblance of familiar terrain in New Bern's Country Club Hills, Forest Hills or Colonial Heights. Our town has much to offer, including attractive subdivisions, but honest to goodness hills just ain't.

That's too bad, because viewing New Bern from way up, as you can when you're in a plane, you are able to appreciate its beauty. Air travelers, many of whom don't have occasion to stop, get an excellent impression of this city of ours where the Neuse and Trent join hands.

We envy residents of Bridgeton. Not the least of what their proud little community has to boast of is an excellent vantage point to gaze at sunsets. Those who live close to the shoreline are treated to one of Dame Nature's most beautiful sights, as twilight approaches.

Of course, New Bernians have a chance to see dawn from our side of the Neuse, but few take advantage of it. No two dawns are alike, nor for that matter no two sunsets. God, in His



HAPPY VOYAGERS—Bill and Kathy Dimond, traveling 8,500 miles from Alaska to Florida in an outboard motor boat, had completed 7,300 miles of the journey when they pulled in to New Bern's Union Point on Monday. The cruise is being sponsored by Evinrude Motors to demonstrate the dependability and durability of their product. Charlie Kimbrell, local distributor, was on hand to greet the Missouri couple, chosen for the trek from 1,800 applicants.

Also present were City officials, Miss North Carolina and Miss New Bern, and a reception at the Holiday Inn's Charcoal Hearth followed. The pair left Juneau Alaska on June 10, and expect to reach Key West approximately October 9. The remainder of their trip, along the inland waterway, should offer smooth sailing compared with portions of their jaunt. (By the way, the spelling of Carolina on that sign could stand a little correcting.)—Photo by Bill Benners.