



# The NEW BERN MIRROR

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Yesterday was when New Bern's radio listeners wouldn't think of missing Major Bowes and his weekly "Amateur Hour." Bowes was around from 1934 to 1948. After his death, Ted Mack took over.

Mack, his real name is William Edward Maguiness, turned musician in high school at Greeley, Colorado. He couldn't read music, but later teamed in Hollywood with a couple of other hopeful bandmen, Glenn Miller and Matty Malnick.

Gentlemanly, and instinctively polished, he left radio for television 22 years ago, and has been on the tube ever since. Don't regard him lightly, for included among his discoveries were Frank Sinatra, Robert Merrill, Maria Callas, Pat Boone, Connie Francis, and Jack Carter.

Sinatra wasn't even a soloist when Mack gave him his chance, but the cockiest member of a Brooklyn quartet called the Hoboken Four. Mack humorously recalls his "dese, dem and dose" accent, and the song the group sang, "A Bold in de Gilded Cage."

Yesterday was when you could see proof on every street that New Bern wasn't a one-horse town, and kids who used foul language got their mouth washed out with Octagon soap.

Yesterday was when Western Union had competition from Postal Telegraph, and every church had a bell. There were several tobacco warehouses in the village, and you bought your oysters right off the boat, at the market dock down at the end of Middle street.

Every school desk included an ink well. Fountain pens were only for pupils with rich parents, and the ball-point type were unheard of. Those staff pens they expected you to write with legibly were best used to puncture the posterior of the boy seated in front of you.

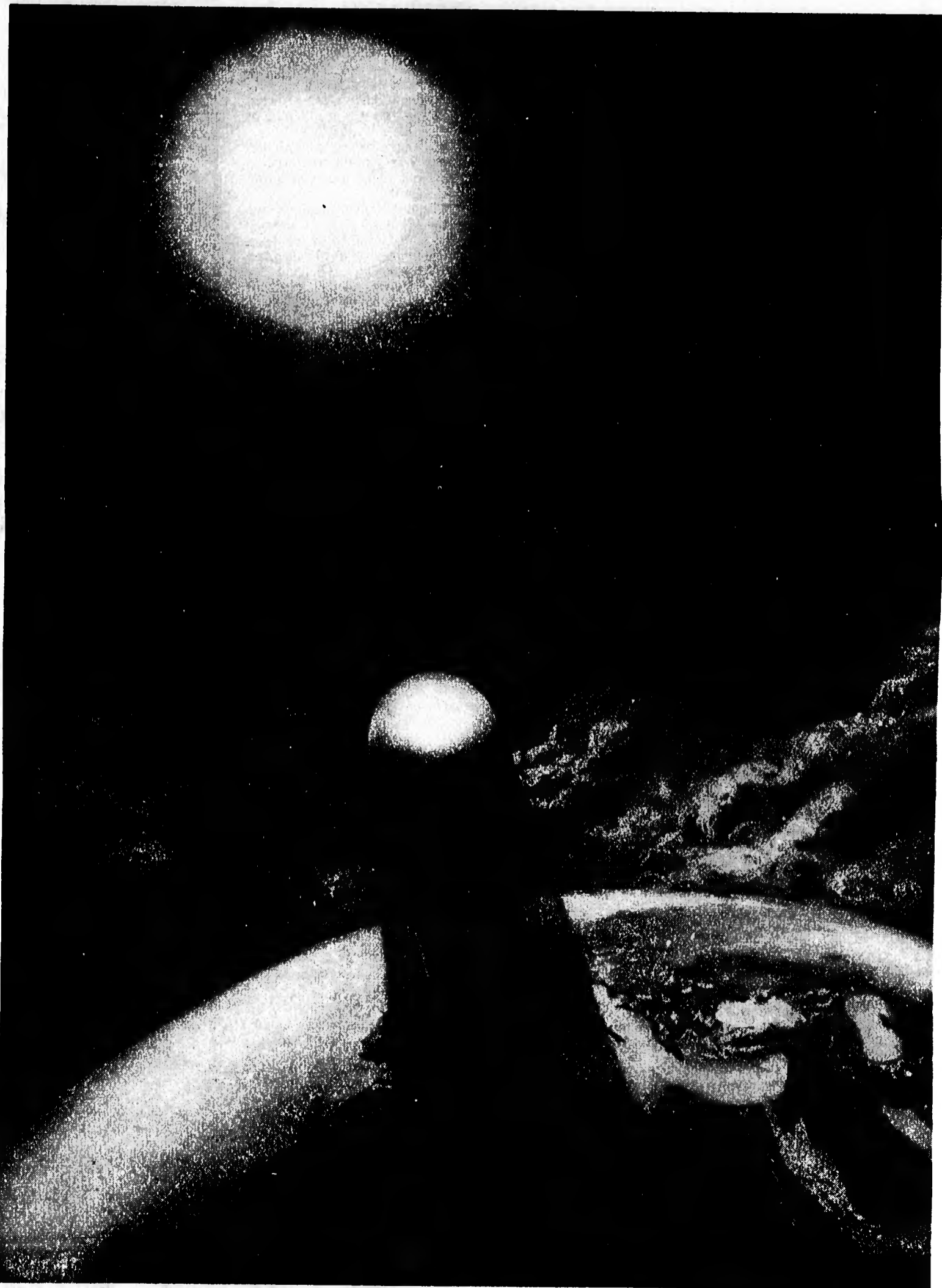
Yesterday was when one of the most popular motormen on Callie McCarthy's streetcars, Captain Bill Davis, sported a moustache that put one in mind of a friendly walrus. King Watson, owner and operator of a famed riverfront eatery, wore impressive foliage above the upper lip too, but his made him look like a plump rooster.

Yesterday was when everybody, even poor folks, had two houses. The little one, out back, usually got capsized by devilish young ramblers on Halloween... Fastidious ladies preferred to do their snuff dipping on the sly, and didn't use a long tooth brush.

Yesterday was when a barber was happy to shave you in exchange for twenty cents, and a quarter got you a good haircut. Customers squawked to high heaven when the price soared to forty cents. Electric clippers were yet to arrive on the scene, and those hand clippers pulled like all get out.

Yesterday was when the only phonograph record that came close to challenging the popularity of Gene Austin's "My Blue Heaven" was Moran and Mack's "Two Black Crows." Sales of Johnny Marvin's "Old Man Sunshine" also ran high. Earlier, the record most in demand was "Mr. Gallagher and Mr. Sheen."

Now why would anyone keep  
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Enjoy the rare spectacle, but protect your eyes from harmful rays, when Saturday's solar eclipse hangs its curtain of day-time darkness above eastern

North Carolina. Cloudless skies could make the sight an even greater attraction.