

The NEW BERN

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By the time Neuse River reaches New Bern it has already traveled 226 miles, and will add 34 more before it finally empties into Pamlico Sound. The stream is formed eight miles north of Durham by the confluence of the Eno and Flat Rivers.

Not all of our Tar Heel Rivers journey to North Carolina's coastal region. For example, the Hiwassee, Little Tennessee and French Broad join the Tennessee River and join the Ohio and then the Mississippi to end up in the Gulf of Mexico. All three rise in the Blue Ridge Mountains, in the Land of the Sky.

The Broad River originates in this beautiful range near Hickory Nut Gap, and flows 166 miles in a southeasterly direction for its blending with the Saluda River at Columbia, South Carolina. Combined they form the Congaree River, and join the Wateree River at Wateree, to become the Santaree.

The Catawba River also rises in the Blue Ridge Mountains, west of Marion, and then flows easterly about 80 miles. At that point, it heads south for 215 miles for its junction with the Wateree, southwest of Charlotte. Both the Broad River and the Catawba are tributaries of the Santee River.

The Yadkin-Pee Dee River comes into being on the eastern slope of the Blue Ridge Mountains in Caldwell, Watauga and Wilkes Counties. It roams approximately 100 miles in a general northeasterly direction, and then southeasterly 335 miles to enter the Atlantic Ocean through Winyah Bay near Georgetown, South Carolina.

The 202 miles of the stream above the Uwharrie River are known as the Yadkin, and that portion below, comprising 233 miles, is known as the Pee Dee or Great Pee Dee. Needless to say, these mileage figures for all rivers mentioned in this week's column will surprise many New Bernians.

The Roanoke River rises on the eastern slope of the Appalachian Mountains in south-central Virginia. It flows 410 miles in a general southeasterly direction, and empties into Albemarle Sound, seven miles northeast of Plymouth. The principal tributary is the Dan River, which enters the Roanoke at Clarksville, Va., and rises in our Stokes county.

The Cape Fear River is formed by the confluence of the Deep and Haw Rivers near Moncure. It flows in a general southeasterly direction for approximately 202 miles, and empties into the Atlantic Ocean at Cape Fear.

The Chowan River originates in Virginia, flows in a general southeasterly direction, and empties into Albemarle Sound near Edenton. There are still other Tar Heel streams we haven't mentioned, including the Pamlico, Tar, and Trent, but this ought to give you an idea of the vast area involved.

Our nearby Pamlico Sound has over 1,700 square miles of water, and is three times the size of Washington State's famed Puget Sound. It extends some 70 miles in its longest northeast-southwest dimension, and varies from 10 to 30

(Continued on page 8)



ALL THAT THE NAME IMPLIES