

# The NEW BERN

# MIRROR

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Yesterday was when millions of young lovers, and older sentimentalists, felt a tug at the heart whenever they heard the strains of Hoagy Carmichael's Star Dust. Recordings of the haunting tune sold heavily in New Bern.

Along about 1935 (the song came out in 1931) this editor conducted a newspaper poll for the State press to determine what composition, popular or classical, was best loved by Tar Heel notables, from the Governor on down.

George Gershwin's Rhapsody In Blue, Schubert's Serenade, and several others were named, but Star Dust drew more support than all the rest put together. A similar poll, anywhere in America, undoubtedly would have had the same result.

Born in Bloomington, Indiana, on Nov. 22, 1899, and christened Hoagland Howard Carmichael, he was taught to play the piano by his mother, who was no professional entertainer but could pound out rousing ragtime.

Although he paid his way through law school at Indiana with a three-piece orchestra, and got his first song published, music was not his first love. He was serious about being an attorney, but didn't make a go of it.

In 1927, a band he formed and led made several recordings. A couple of guys named Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey were in the group. Later, two more budding geniuses recorded with him, Benny Goodman and Bix Beiderbecke.

Carmichael, tremendously wealthy and still drawing big royalties from his songs of yesteryear, lives in luxury at Palm Springs. Although he hasn't abandoned his efforts to write another top seller, the old magic is hard to come by.

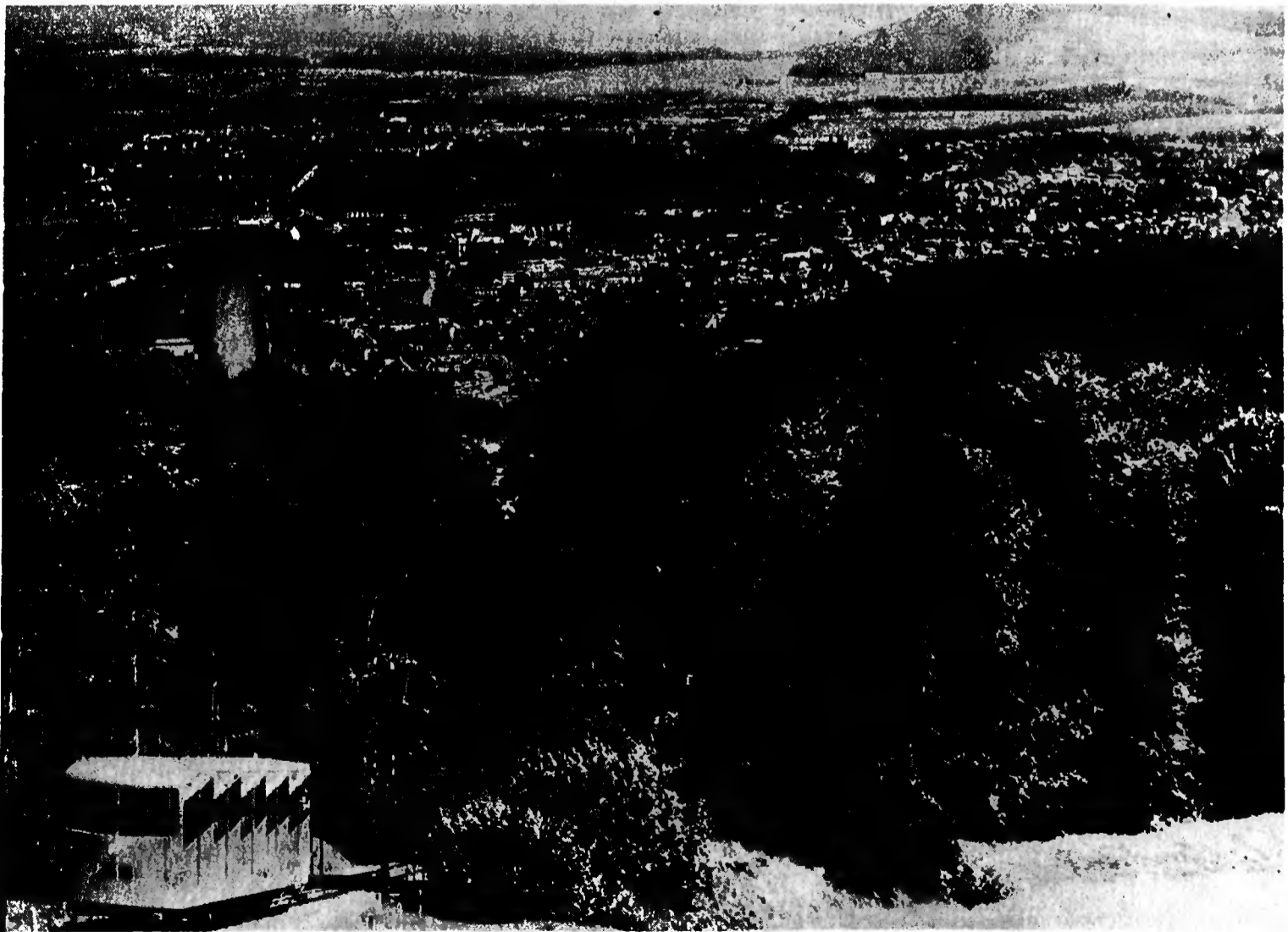
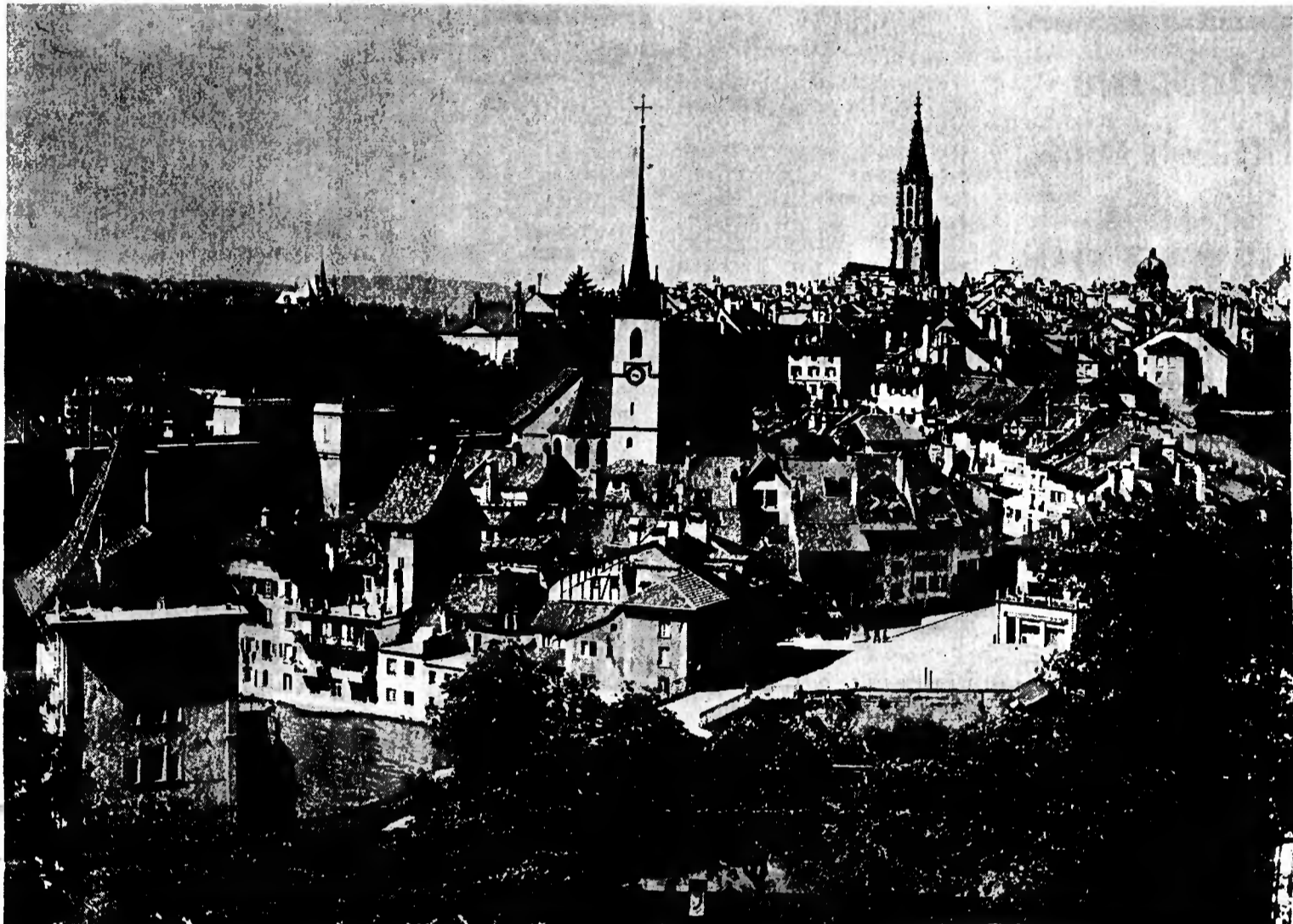
However, no one can say he didn't have his day. As late as 1951, he won an Oscar with In The Cool, Cool of The Evening. Johnny Mercer penned the lyrics, and Bing Crosby sang it in Here Comes The Groom.

Local oldsters, who find it well nigh impossible to enthuse over or even comprehend modern music, still remember Georgia On My Mind, Old Rocking Chair, Lazy River, Little Old Lady, Hong Kong Blues, Ole Buttermilk Sky, Lazy Bones, Skylark, and I Get Along Without You Very Well.

Yesterday was when Cliff Edwards, the incomparable Ukelele Ike, won the admiration and affection of New Bern movie fans. They loved the way he sang Singing in the Rain, the hit tune of Hollywood Revue of 1929.

It was the first of many feature films in which he appeared, and by far the most successful. Hundreds of his records were sold here, or probably it went into the thousands.

His best seller, passing the three million mark was June Night. Several others exceeded the million mark, including Sleepy Time Gal, I Cried For



Charm Awaits The Stranger Who Visits Old Bern.

