

++ PROFILE OF RALEIGH'S BELOVED LAWRENCE THOMPSON LIGHTNER ++



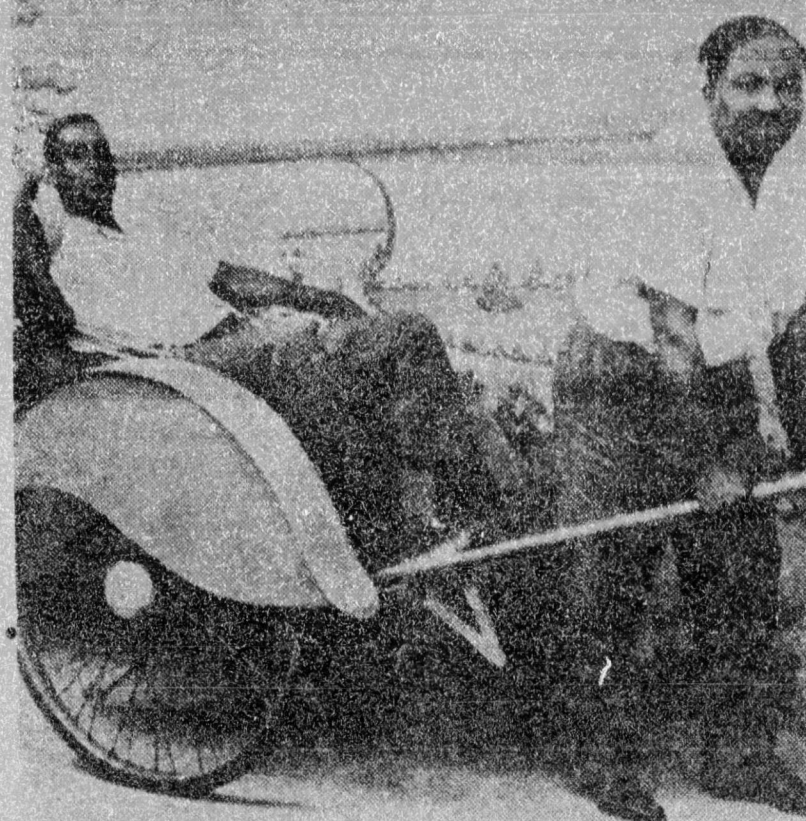
COURTING DAYS—Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Thompson Lightner are shown here at North Carolina College, Durham, during their courting days. This photo was taken in 1939. Mrs. Lightner is the former Miss Roberta Fair. Mr. Lightner succumbed last Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. at Duke Hospital, Durham, after an illness of a few days. Mrs. Lightner was among the persons near his bedside when he died.



FAMILY MAN—Lawrence Lightner was a family man as is evidenced by this photo which includes his wife and daughter, Barbara Elaine, who was 5 years old at the time. Miss Lightner, now a teenager, attends the J. W. Ligon Junior-Senior High School here. This picture was taken on the side of the funeral home, Smithfield Street. At the time of this photo, Mr. Lightner had not been in the undertaking business too long. The funeral home had its beginning on E. Hargett Street where the Home-Eckers Hotel is now located. It has been in the present spot for about 18 years. Lawrence was frequently seen about town with his family—at athletic events, the movies, visiting friends and relatives and most important of all—his church.



JUST STARTING OUT—Lawrence T. Lightner is shown here near a service station as he was starting to manage the Lightner Funeral Home. At the time this photo was made it is believed that he was about 22 years of age. Lawrence, as shown here, was a familiar figure around various businesses in the city and country, where he never failed to leave the persons inside laughing with his vivid sense of humor. Many persons have said: "Lawrence T. Lightner will be missed around here for years to come."



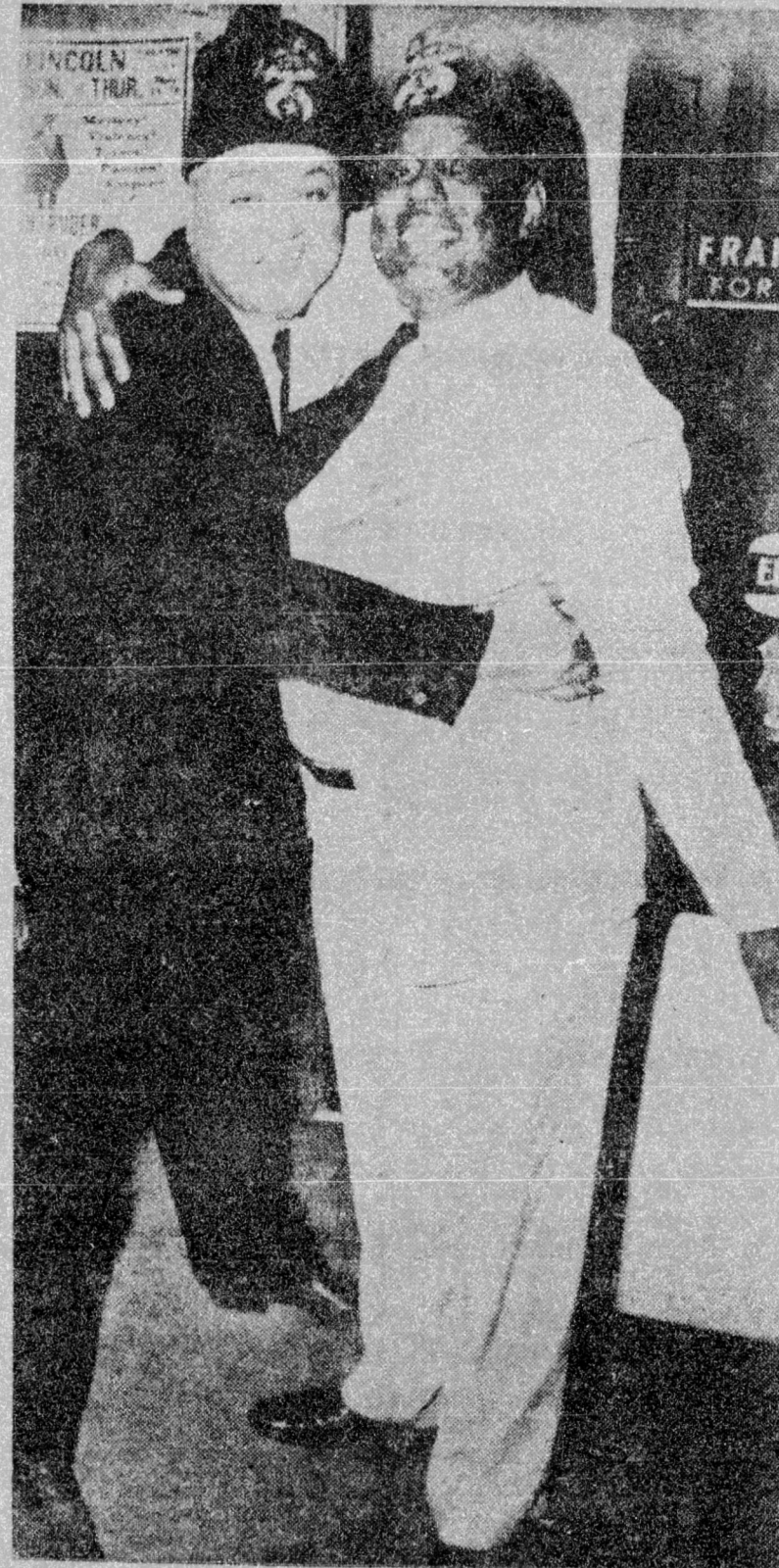
AT ATLANTIC CITY CONVENTION—While attending a morticians convention several years ago in Atlantic City, New Jersey, Mr. Lightner (seated) is shown as he and Mr. Scarborough of Durham posed for a "fun photo" in the resort city.



HIS PLACE OF BUSINESS—The Lightner Funeral Home which stands at 312 Smithfield Street here, was business managed by Lawrence Lightner, who succeeded his father, Calvin E. Lightner, as its manager. Mr. Lightner devoted most of his time to his business and could usually be found there or attending to business connected with his institution.



HIS DAUGHTER—Miss Barbara Elaine Lightner, teenage daughter of the late Lawrence T. Lightner, is shown above in a recent photograph. Miss Lightner, an outstanding student at the Ligon School, attended St. Monica's Catholic School. She is active in student affairs at Ligon and well-liked by her fellow students. Hundreds of Miss Lightner's classmates and teachers came to the funeral home on Smithfield Street last Thursday and Friday to pay final respects to the undertaker. Many of the students and teachers were also seen in the throng of persons who attended the funeral services at the Davis Street Presbyterian Church, and interment at Mount Hope Cemetery. Miss Lightner was known to have had a strong attachment for her father. His particular interest in her well-being and more-than-usual fatherly love, inspired this affection from her. She is also a member of the Davis Street Presbyterian Church, where she is active in the work of the Sunday School.



WITH SHRINE BROTHER—Lightner, on the right, is shown being greeted by a brother Shriner during a convention in 1939. Widely known as a fraternal leader, Lawrence was affiliated with the Elks, Masons and Shriners, several of the organizations held eulogistic services for him last week. He was also a member of Iota, Iota chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity.



ON THE JOB—L. T. Lightner is shown at Chavis Park recently during a baseball game, ready to come to the aid of injured players if the need arose. Shown in the ambulance are the sons of his brother, Clarence Lightner. The youths are Bruce and Lawrence.



IN A PARADE—Riding with the Rev. A. J. Turner, local minister, left, L. T. Lightner is shown driving in a Shrine parade several years ago. His Cadillacs were regularly seen in parades given by local schools and organizations.

"LAWRENCE"

A testimonial in pictures, on this page, presenting the life of Lawrence Thompson Lightner, would be incomplete without a mention of his deeds of kindness.

A recent story tells of LAWRENCE, as he is familiarly known, giving a family the entire funeral without charge. That was not enough . . . he went to a neighborhood grocery and bought \$25.00 worth of food and gave that to the needy family, also. Another recent story that came to our attention is the early morning rising of LAWRENCE during the big snow, to taxi people to work when cars and buses were at a standstill . . . and cabs hard to get.

To us, an appropriate summation of LAWRENCE is: A fellow who was trying to find out which way you were going . . . so he could have the pleasure of taking you there.

He made himself belong to everybody . . . no matter what the cost to him . . . even at the cost of his life.

WITHOUT YOU!

Without you my heart would be
A candle unlighted;
A window through which a star
Could never be sighted;
A stone by a glassy sea;
A mirror so dull,
Only shadows would flicker and mar.

Without you, my life would be
In sorrow and darkness,
A desert with no calm moon
To spangle its starkness,
A highway where no bright sky
Held hope in its light;
A December and never a June,
Just endless night.

... From Mrs. Lightner's Scrapbook



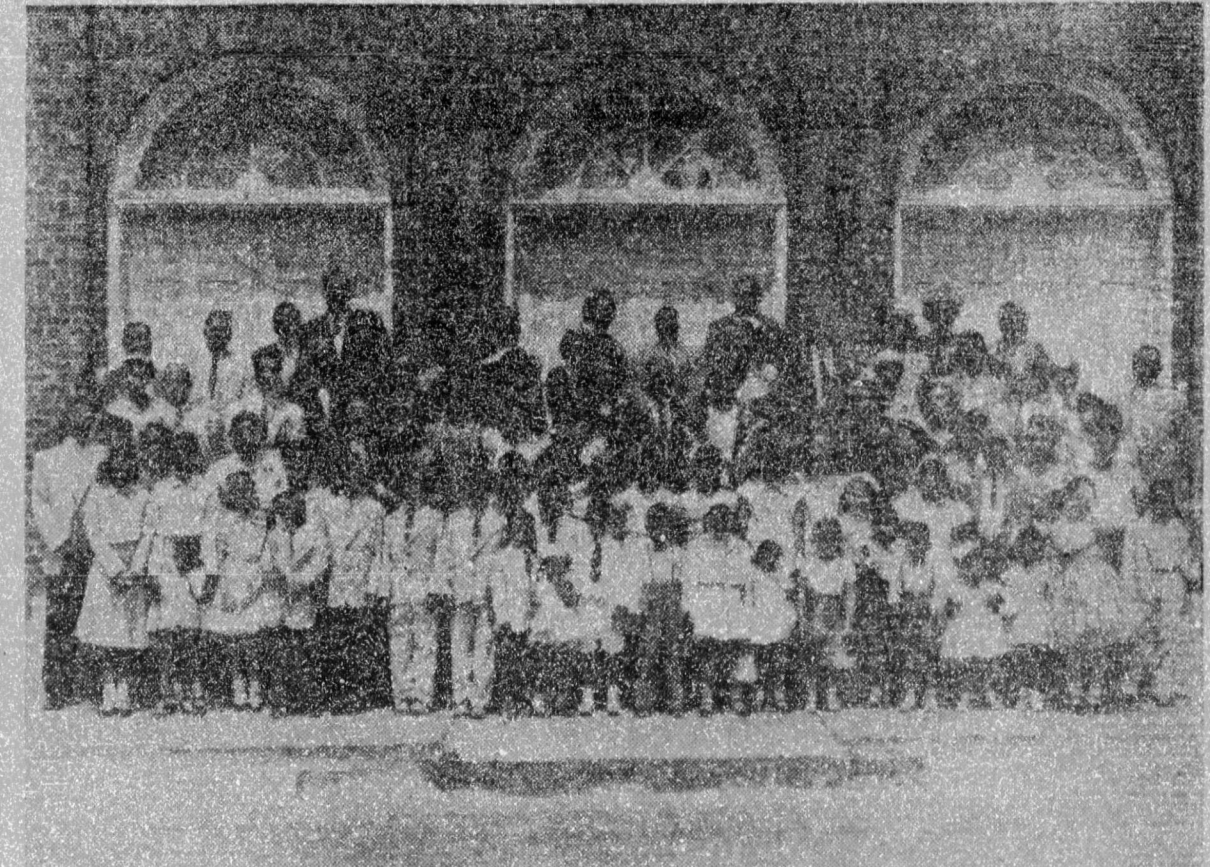
FUNERAL DIRECTORS SESSION—Lightner is shown on the front row, kneeling, with several other area funeral directors at a confab several years ago. A staunch member of several funeral directors' groups, Lawrence was well-known by affiliates of the North Carolina Funeral Directors Association. Also on the front row is C. A. (Dull) Haywood, owner of the Raleigh Funeral Home.



"ROYAL 23" STALWART—Shown with other members of the "Royal 23" Club in 1943 is Lawrence Lightner, (on the left in back row). This club was at one time one of the city's most popular and was noted for its charitable acts in the community. Several other well-known personalities in the city are recognizable in photo.



AT BROTHER'S GRADUATION—When Clarence Lightner received his degree from North Carolina College in 1942, the entire family was on hand to congratulate him on the occasion. Shown on the NCC campus, from left to right, are Calvin E. Lightner, Mrs. Margaret Lightner Hayes, the late Mrs. Mamie Blackmon Lightner and the late L. T. Lightner.



JACK AND JILL SUPPORTER—L. T. Lightner was a supporter of the Jack and Jill Club, Inc., in which his wife and daughter held memberships in the club proper and its auxiliary, Gays and Dolls. Lightner is shown on back row, left, posing with club members and their children. This photo was taken recently at the Martha Street Baptist Church here.