

The Cheap Haircut And Checker Playing Live On In "Tin City"

By Joseph E. Green
The \$2.50 haircut still lives in Durham, and that's not all. You can also see some of the world's best checker playing there all day long.

Joe Thomas' barber-shop, located in "Tin City" right off of Fayetteville Street, is that place. If you go in there during the day, you will see Thomas cutting hair, hear stories about women washing men's feet in church, and see some of the fastest moving checker players in the world. At least so say those who play checkers there.

"Tin City," a L-shaped row of prefabricated buildings hunkered down in a vacant lot between the Fayetteville Street apartments and several new buildings on Fayetteville Street, houses what is left of the once-booming predominantly black economic district called Hayti. "Tin City" was supposed to be a temporary location, but that was more than a decade ago.

But in many ways, it simply proves that a cheap haircut and good checkers can live always — anywhere. Wallace Sloan, who has been having his haircut by Thomas for nearly twenty years, said "I come in here because it is like a family. I meet most of my friends here and listen to the fellows talk. The checker matches are like watching the world champions in action. Its good to see the best."

Thomas says that most of his business comes from older men. He prefers to cut with "scissors and clippers." "I don't fool around with 'Jehri Curls,'" Thomas said of the hair style that many young black youths are now sporting. "I have seen it before. We called it the process. It won't be

around for long." Thomas came to Durham from Pelham, North Carolina. He worked in a cotton mill in Danville, Virginia before becoming a barber. "I wanted something new to do and barbering seemed to be it," said Thomas who has two daughters, Cynthia, a researcher at Duke University and Roz, a recent law school graduate. His wife, Mary, also works as a researcher at Duke.

John Babe, who would not give his age, but who appeared to be about 68 years old, played checkers while Thomas was cutting one man's hair.

"I come in here every day," Babe said, "it's a very important part of my life. I am one of the

better checker players who come in here."

"I can beat you old man," said a young man wearing a blue cap with the words Saddlehard written on it, "I can beat you every day of the week."

"Somebody has got to get beat," Babe said, "but today it is not going to be me, its going to be you, big fellah."

Thomas said that he had once thought of raising his hair cutting prices, but that his customers were loyal and he enjoyed his work with them and the fellowship.

"I come here five days each week," said Thomas, "I am here from eight in the morning until six at night. I just like to cut and snip," he said, as he cut another man's hair and watched his friends play checkers.



HAIRCUTS AND CHECKERS—You can still get a haircut for \$2.50 and one of the best checker games in Durham in a barbershop in "Tin City". Photo by Silas Mayfield

Elks To Call Attention To Black Family Plan

WASHINGTON — When the honorable Nettie B. Smith, Grand Daughter Ruler of the Daughters of Elks, the largest black women's organization in the country, raps her gavel this week in the Nation's capital, she will call attention to the Black Family Plan as announced by the Black Congressional Caucus. The Daughters, hailing from every state in the union, Canada, and the Caribbean Islands, will meet in workshops to deliberate on this Plan and other issues confronting black, and particularly women, in America today.

Daughter Leona Denson, State President, will preside over the workshops which will include those elements in the Voting Rights Act which will require diligent attention. The

women, having observed and participated in the "International Years" a declared by the United Nations, are again calling upon their Temples and Lodges to continue the observance of the year of the handicapped through special attention to the laws which frequently disregard the disabled. An example of this is the installation on some highways of "Hot Line" telephones which are inaccessible to those handicapped drivers who cannot reach the phones to call for help. The D.O.E.'s will also learn about the UN's "The International Year to Mobilize Sanctions Against South Africa."

The Daughters, as always, will give their firm support to the Elk's famous Oratorical, Bathing Beauty, and Music Departments' Contests, which place special emphasis on the youth of our country, and their overwhelming needs for higher education, including the technologies and vocational training. This year's Annual

Achievement Award Dinner, which is the inspirational highlight of the Daughter's Convention will feature two celebrations. The Reverend Imogene Bingham Stewart of Washington, D.C. will be presented the coveted "Emma V. Kelley Award." Mrs. Smith, who leads the Women's Auxiliary, and who hails from the Bronx in New York City announced her selection of Rev. Stewart, with the comment that "Rev. Stewart's struggle from anonymity to success is the story of many black women achievers, and will serve as an inspiration to those young women on their way up from the poorer sections of our community."

This year's dinner will also feature a celebration honoring Buena V. Kelley of Norfolk, Virginia, Daughter of the Founder, who is commemorating her 50th year as Grand Secretary. Mother Emma V. Kelley, organized the Daughters of Elks and served as its Secretary until her death. Buena, as she is affectionately called by the women across the country, will be the recipient of many tributes and honors. The Honorable Marion S. Barry, Jr. Mayor of the District of Columbia and Mr. Calvin Rolark, President of the United Black Fund of America will bring special tributes to the honoree.

Carl Cheek Awarded Degree

Carl Edward Cheek, son of General Cheek, Sr. and Mrs. Gertrude Cheek of Commerce Street, Durham, graduated from the University of Nebraska, August 13. He received a bachelor of science degree in recreation and physical education. He is a 1973 graduate of Hillside High School. He is the father of one son, Carl Edward Cheek, Jr.

Dr. Clarke

(Continued from Front)

University and Columbia University, respectively; the Ed.D. degree from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

Dr. Clarke is actively involved in numerous civic and professional organizations. He is a deacon at Martin Street Baptist Church in Raleigh and vice president of Eta Sigma Chapter, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity.

Dr. Clarke and his wife, Mrs. Mary Ziegler Clarke, have one son, James Clarke, II, who is a commercial insurance underwriter in Charlottesville, Virginia.

City Schools

(Continued from Front) that the county schools have been hiring these extra teachers for several years now to supplement the regular faculty and staff of about 970 classroom teachers and other education professionals.

Ms. Gardner said a declining birth rate and high mortgages for new houses in the county have both contributed to the slight decline of the overall student population over the past three years. About 16,000 students are expected to attend county schools this fall.

For the first time since 1970, the city schools are increasing school lunch prices. Free breakfast and lunch in kindergarten through the eighth grade ends this year, because of reduction in federal money.

This year, kindergarten through fifth grade students will pay 55¢ for a full-price lunch, and 30¢ for a reduced price lunch. In the same grades, a full-price breakfast will cost 30¢, and the reduced price breakfast will cost 15¢. Some students will still get free meals, but none will be automatic.

Students qualify for reduced price meals based upon their family's income. The schools will get new federal guidelines for qualifying for reduced price meals, but the final decisions won't be clear until the end of September.

In grades six through eight, a full price breakfast will cost 40¢, and reduced price breakfasts will cost 20¢, while full price lunches will go for 65¢ and reduced price lunches for 40¢.

In the ninth through twelfth grades, students will pay 75¢ for a full price lunch, and 40¢ for a reduced price lunch.

Under the new guidelines implemented by the Reagan administration, city school officials must conduct an audit to prove that at least three per cent of the students cleared for free meals are indeed eligible. In the county, school officials have decided to take a "wait and see" posture before making any significant changes in their breakfast and lunch programs.

Meanwhile, in the county, school officials are making changes in its junior high attendance areas, primarily to relieve overcrowded conditions at Carrington Junior High School.

Students in the western section of the county, from the city limits to the Orange County line have been transferred from Carrington to Chewing Junior High School.

Students in the Geer Street to Cheek Road area have been transferred to Neal Junior High School, from Chewing Junior High School. About 25 students from the Hamlin Road area, who attended Holt Elementary School last year have been transferred to Glenn Elementary School.

The county's pre-school program located at Holt and Merrick-Moore elementary schools last year has now been transferred to Lakeview Elementary School on Dearborn Drive.

Some 65 children ranging from infancy through four years old will attend the pre-school center. Lakeview is no longer a kindergarten center, and five-year-olds from the Holt, Hillandale and Merrick-Moore areas who would have normally attended there will now attend kindergarten in their respective school areas.

Additionally, Lakeview will house administrative offices for the county's community education programs.

What is believed to be the first African natural hairstyle on national television was worn by Gladys Tyson on CBS Camera Three in 1969.

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11:00 A.M. Morning Worship

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