

MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY
THE HEART OF
NORTH CAROLINA
Regional Library
400 Johnson St.
New Bern, NC 28560

Through
THE
Looking
Glass

VOLUME 12

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, AUGUST 15, 1969

NUMBER 2

It's high time one of those so-called experts on child psychology told distraught New Bern parents what to do about Junior's first barber shop haircut. No juvenile upheaval is ever more violent.

Though the storm is temporary, it leaves Mom or Dad (usually the former) emotionally bankrupt. What it does to the poor barber is too horrible to dwell upon.

Look into the clipper wielder's anguished eyes, and you'll realize he suffers more than anyone else. However, from the sound of things you would think the kid, not his parents and the barber, is being subjected to unbearable pain.

Actually, the screams don't stem from real or imaginary hurts. The child is a victim of genuine fear, liberally sprinkled with a seasoning of temperament. And fear in itself is often more agonizing than reality.

There is the strong possibility, of course, that a lot of little boys who are carted to a local tonsorial parlor for shearing are more spoiled than scared. Quite a few are actually terrified on the first trip, but having escaped with ears intact, the fears should diminish with subsequent visits.

Even so, it is a matter of record that numerous kids keep right on acting up. Parents, aware of this unhappy fact, think of all kinds of excuses to wish the grim expedition of each other. So much so that Junior increasingly takes on the appearance of a neglected poodle.

Ask any New Bern barber, and he'll tell you that a child invariably behaves better if Mom isn't present for the ordeal. For one thing, the average mother is quick to give advice on how her offspring's cranium should be attended to, and most of the advice is impractical and inadvisable.

If a barber is a good barber, and most of the ones in our town are, he'll do all right by Junior. If he isn't, giving advice isn't going to improve the situation to any measurable extent.

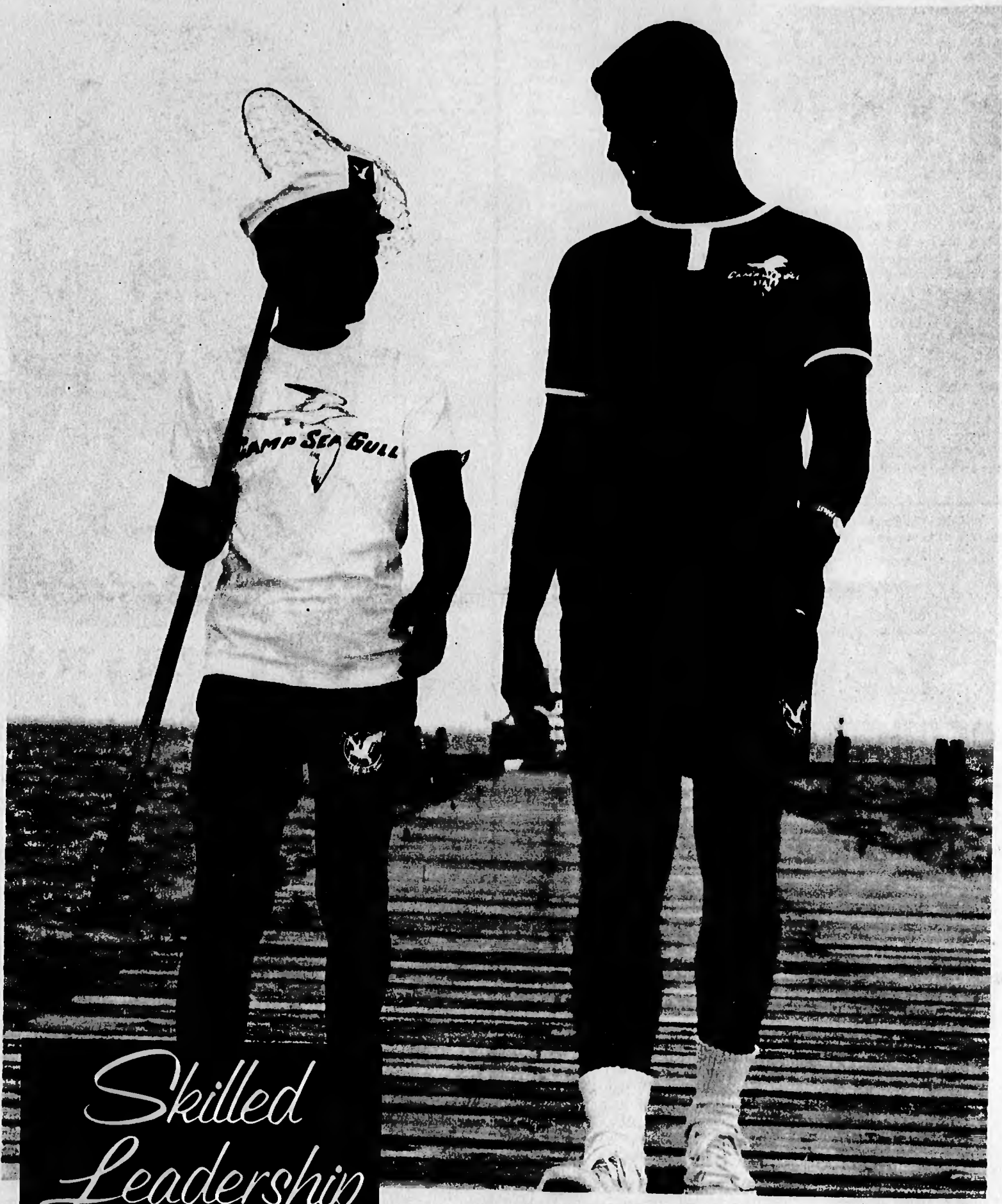
Besides, proud mothers are apt to sympathize with their dear little darlings, and sympathy at such a time as this is the wrong kind of medicine. The kind of therapy one might suggest would be a well applied spanking, but punishing a child publicly is a questionable policy.

The barber, in his secret heart, could find deep satisfaction in taking care of both ends of the squirming little screamer, but he isn't going to volunteer his services. Few parents would react favorably to such an offer. We simply aren't built that way.

Of course, barbers have kids of their own, and these kids cut up over cut offs just like the son of a butcher, a baker, or a candlestick maker. In fact, the greatest commotion in a barber shop this town ever saw occurred when a certain barber sheared his own child for the first time.

Yes, we need a psychologist to solve the problem, but first it might be a good idea to see how the psychologist gets along himself when he heads for

(Continued on page 8)



*Skilled
Leadership*

With Competent Leadership a Good Camp can be One of the Most Powerful and Necessary Influences in a Boy's Life

No camp is any stronger than the ability of its leaders to inspire boys and to make camp a meaningful and purposeful experience. Sea Gull considers that a camp's operating efficiency is consistent with the quality of its leadership, and for this reason has painstakingly developed a staff that is expert in all phases of a well-rounded camping program with particular emphasis on seamanship. Sea Gull wants its campers to have a great time, but most of all it hopes to serve its campers by strengthening them and helping them to take their places among the leaders of tomorrow.