

# The NEW BERN

# MIRROR

PUBLISHED WEEKLY  
IN THE HEART OF  
NEW BERN NORTH  
Carolina  
Regional Library  
400 Johnson St.  
New Bern, NC 28560



VOLUME 12

NEW BERN, N. C., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1969

NUMBER 31

It happened 16 years ago, and no one can say that David Rawls didn't give the home folks something to remember him by before he left New Bern for the West Coast and his second hitch in Korea.

In fact, a visitor from Mars could hardly have generated more excitement on a peaceful Sunday afternoon than did the 19-year old paratrooper when he landed kerplunk in the front yard of the Wallace Holton residence on Rhem Avenue.

Rawls missed power lines along the busy throughfare by inches, and came to rest just three feet from a parked automobile. Before home owners in the neighborhood could catch their breath he was spirited away by the apprehensive owner of the borrowed chute, who sped to town from Simmons-Knott Airport.

The daring young man, a private who had seen service with the 82nd Airborne Division and the Air Rangers, was in New Bern on a delayed furlough before reporting to Camp Stone-man in California. Before departure he wanted to impress his 16-year old sweetheart.

"She thought I was kidding," said Rawls, "when I told her I was going over to the airport, borrow a chute, and make a jump over her house on the Trent Pines Road. I managed to get the chute, and hired a pilot I didn't even know to take me up in his cub plane."

Then, as the impulsive service man described it, the best of plans went wrong. "The wind velocity was eight miles an hour when we took off, but a couple of seconds after I balled out at 3,000 feet I realized the wind was blowing southwestward at a rate of 20 or 25 miles an hour."

What was his original intention? "I wanted to land on the golf course at the New Bern Country Club, but the wind carried me into town. As I neared the ground I was hoping to land in a drive way between two houses. Instead I fell in the front yard of one of the houses. I didn't get hurt except for a sprained knee that isn't bothering me."

When asked if the experience frightened him, Rawls shrugged it off. "I'd like to do it all over again," he confessed. "I get more excitement out of jumping than anything I know of. Once when I was at Fort Campbell down in Kentucky, I was doing some jumping on my own and landed on a hospital."

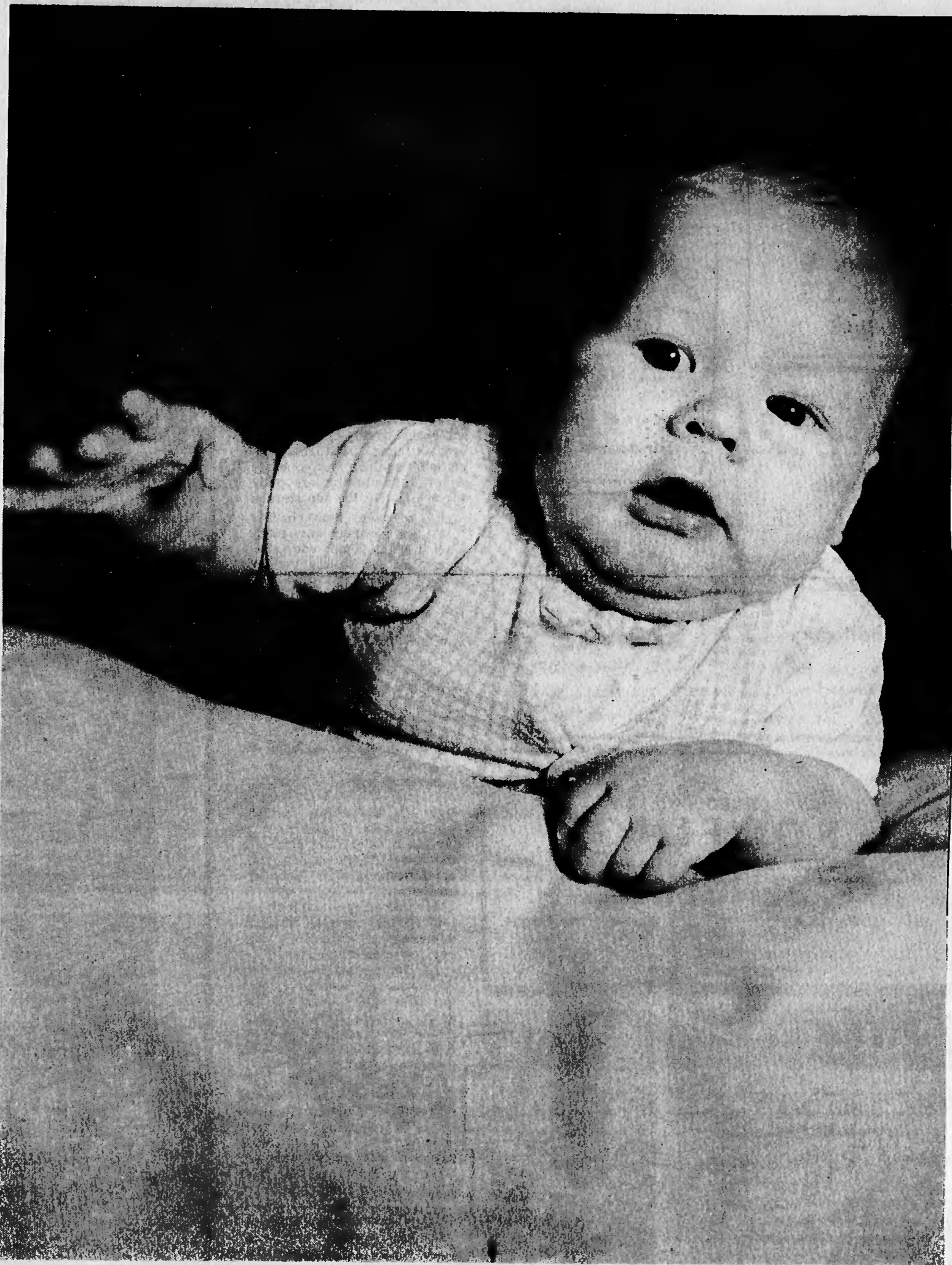
The youthful paratrooper said following his surprise jump here that his military record had him credited with about 80 jumps, including two combat ball outs in Korea. His jumps for pleasure while off duty, he told us, had upped the figure to 139.

His sweetheart was sufficiently impressed, but certainly no more than flabbergasted New Bernians who aren't accustomed to seeing a parachute descend on one of the town's heavily populated residential sections.

\*\*\*\*\*

Yesterday was when you could get the wrong telephone number, and still strike up a

(Continued on page 8)



**FUTURE TACKLE** — Andy Underseth, four month old son of Janice and William O. Underseth of 1018 Karen Drive tips the scales at better than 18 pounds. Already he has the build of a Washington Redskin or a Los Angeles Ram, and is growing bigger by the minute. Keep him filled, which isn't easy, and he is a happy and well behaved youngster who goes to bed

promptly and sleeps soundly. Andy eats anything served him with the exception of orange juice. He prefers water, and plenty of it. The stork hasn't visited the Underseths very often. Eight years ago he delivered Annette, and no little girl could be prouder of a baby brother. — Photo by Eunice Wray.