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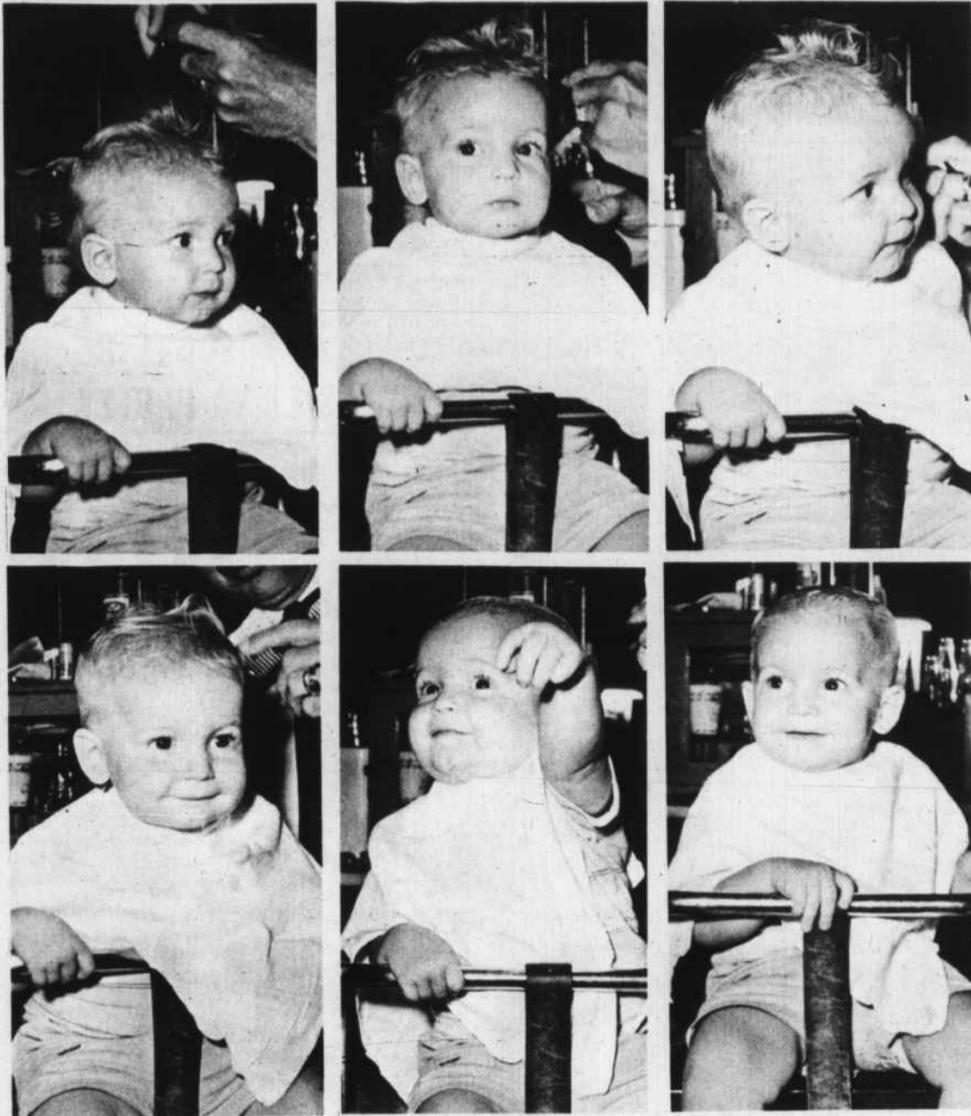
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Ten Cents

Louisburg, N. C., Tuesday, July 23, 1968

(Six Pages Today)

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First Visit To The Barber

On a dull day, a photographer's delight is some youngster being subjected to his very first barber-shop experience. Almost always the youngster will cry, wiggle, cry some more, jump out of the chair, threaten the barber and in general make a real photogenic spectacle of himself. Not so, however, last week with little Bradley Hagwood, age 15 months. The charming youngster enjoyed every minute of it including the flashing photographic bulbs. Not only did he

fail to cry, he smiled throughout. Somewhat curious as to just what City Barber Shop barber Odell Arnold was doing behind his head, Brad turned a few times, but other than this, he was a barber's (and parents') delight, much to the disappointment of an ever-eager photographer. The charmer is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hagwood, formerly of Franklin County and now residing in Morristown, Tenn. Staff photos by Clint Fuller.

The Old Lamplighter---Of Long, Long Ago

By Clint Fuller
Times Managing Editor

Any evening at twilight, one can watch the street lights in Louisburg blink, come on . . . occasionally go off again . . . and finally brighten and stay. As the sun pushes the darkness away in early morning, the same *modus operandi* can be witnessed.

Present day street lights are controlled by a type of electronic eye which turns the lights on and off without anyone having to look after it. This has not always been so.

One of Louisburg's most notable characters was once the tender of the lights. History records no first name . . . but Mr. Sullivan or old man Sullivan . . . as he was known was truly the old lamplighter made famous by the song.

Sullivan came upon the local scene one bright summer day in 1868. From whence he came, history does not record nor indeed, did any seem to know at the time. He just "staggered" in as recorded by Rev. E. H. Davis in his *Historical Sketches of Franklin*

County. With him was an old Army mule, branded on his hip with the letters "U. S. A."

With this relic of the Civil War, Sullivan also brought a wagon. How or where he obtained the rig is another of history's mysteries. His first occupation was hauling wood to supply the town and the College, both of which depended entirely upon wood for heat and cooking.

Conditions changed. The mule died. And Sullivan looked for another occupation. He became the town's lamplighter. He held the post for twenty years with some manner of distinction. Strangers coming to town soon heard of or saw the old man at his chosen task. He could be seen regularly walking the street with small ladder under his arm and a can of oil in his hand.

"By reason of his faithful attention" to this task, he continued as lamplighter "unopposed" until his death.

Rev. Davis relates in his book that "many a belated merchant or lawyer who had tarried longer than he thought at the office or store, and many a young man or boy who had done the same thing at his best girl's home for quite a different reason, had occasion as he straggled home on a dark night to be deeply grateful for that little light at each corner that owed its maintenance to this obscure man."

Sullivan worked his lights regardless of the weather. Taking his cue, perhaps from the mail slogan, he faithfully made his rounds.

The *Franklin Times* of August 24, 1888, relates the death of the old lamplighter.

The old man had, for years, believed that a "snake" was inside him and told the story repeatedly to all who would listen. He made arrangements with Dr. J. E. Malone for an autopsy to be performed after his death to remove the snake. True to the agreement, a post mortem was performed with many local folks believing that a snake would, indeed, be found. The

Times reports, however, that the "only poisons found were about an ounce of spirits of turpentine and about a half gill of whiskey."

Sullivan had some "going-away letters in his pockets in which he requested that the snake be given to a local druggist, named Furman. One small piece of paper held the notation: "Got him at last. Snake." And another said: "O, ye Gods what have I done that you would so sorely afflict me from cradle to grave. Your will be done. Not mine. Jesus Christ have mercy on me. O, how I have suffered."

The *Times* stated that Sullivan came from Pennsylvania and was 55 years old at the time of his death and further stated: "He was a very odd character, troubled no one and attended to his own business. His place as lamplighter will be hard to fill."

And as *The Times* went to press around 4 p.m. on that August day in 1888, old man Sullivan was buried with honors in the local cemetery.

His greatest distinction in life had been brightening the nights of his neighbors. Now he was dead. Dead at his own hands, having hanged himself to get rid of the "snake inside him".

So tonight each of us might stand and watch the street lights as they blink, come on . . . occasionally go off again . . . and finally brighten. And, as we do, we might pause to wonder if indeed some electronic device is triggering them or if, maybe somehow . . . they are being triggered by a "snake" from the old lamplighter . . . of long, long ago.

Weather

Partly cloudy and warm today. Partly cloudy and warm Wednesday with a chance of afternoon thunder-showers. Low today, near 67; high, near 90.

Council Raises Pay Of Town Employees

The Louisburg Town Council, after failing to agree on pay raises in two previous meetings, came to a meeting of minds here Friday night and gave all but two town employees raises. Heading the list was an increase to \$100, from the present \$85 per week pay for police officers. Councilman Grover C.

Harris made this motion and Councilman George T. Bunn seconded.

The Harris motion also called for upping the Chief to \$115 and the assistant Chief to \$105. All members voted in favor except Mayor V. A. Peoples who abstained while waiting to see what action the Council intended to take on what the Mayor termed the \$47 per week people."

From this point in the special meeting, raises came in rapid succession. Councilwoman Mrs. Breattie O'Neal moved that the two full-time firemen be upped to \$100 per week and that the Franklin County Commissioners be asked to raise the fulltime county-paid fireman to the same rate. Harris seconded this motion and all but Peoples voted for it.

Then Harris moved that the Town Clerk be given a raise of \$17.50 per week bringing the salary for that position to \$100 per week. Bunn seconded this motion which passed and made one of his own calling for an increase for the assistant town clerk. This motion, seconded by Harris also carried with Mayor Peoples still abstaining.

Bunn then moved that raises of \$5 per week be granted to each member of the Street Department; each member of the Sanitation Department and each member of the Sewer Department. The department heads were all included in this motion. Harris seconded and all voted in favor except Peoples who stated he favored the "\$47 per week people" getting more than a \$5 increase.

Mrs. O'Neal presented a motion to up by \$5 per week, the salaries of Harold Foster, Electrical Superintendent; Bobby R. Gilliam and John Davis, employees of the department. Harris seconded the motion and it passed. At this point Mayor Peoples changed from abstaining to voting "aye", and recommending that the

"\$47 per week people" be given more than a \$5 increase.

Councilman Bunn got back into the act by moving that the Fire Chief's salary be raised from the present \$30 per month to \$50. Harris seconded this motion and all voted in favor.

At this point Councilman Jonah Taylor moved that all employees not included in raises already granted, be upped ten percent. Councilman H. D. Jeffreys seconded the motion. Peoples, Taylor and Jeffreys voted for the motion and O'Neal, Harris, Bunn and Councilman W. J. Shearin voted against.

Then Jeffreys moved, seconded by Taylor that Town Administrator E. S. Ford, Utilities Supervisor George Dennis, Power plant manager G. O. Kennedy and Tax Collector Lee Johnson be granted a ten percent raise. The motion carried with Harris and Bunn voting against the motion. Harris stated he was not necessarily opposed to the raises but that he opposed any percentage raises.

When the smoke cleared, it was apparently found that two town employees had been left out. On motion by Mrs. O'Neal, seconded by Harris, it was agreed that increases for James Hall and Thurman Johnson would be considered after discussing the matter with the head of the electrical department.

Unexplained in Friday's actions, was an order issued by the Council that all department heads, including the assistant Chief of Police, are to appear before the Council in its meeting scheduled for August 9.

The total raises are expected to cost around \$17,000. Town Administrator E. S. Ford said the town had a surplus of \$50,984.12 over expenditures in last year's budget and that no increase in taxes is due. Mayor Peoples said

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Negro Youth First Drowning Victim Of Year

A 14-year-old Negro youth became the first drowning victim in the county late Monday afternoon when he lost his life in a private farm pond. Clarence Perry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lee Perry of Rt. 1, Louisburg was wading with a cousin in a pond owned by Don Joyner around 6:30 p.m. Monday afternoon when he fell into water over his head and drowned.

The Louisburg Rescue Service recovered the body after about a 15-minute search. Bobby Blount, 15-year-old cousin of the victim said the two were wading in the small pond and that Perry went under a couple of times. When he failed to come up, Blount ran for help.

The accident occurred just off N. C. 39, five miles south of Louisburg. Access to the pond was just off State Rural Road No. 1606.

This is the first drowning this year, but the county suffered four water deaths last year. Two occurred in June, one in July and one in August. In 1966 there were no drownings in the county and in 1965 there was only one, which was believed a suicide. Two Negroes drowned in August of 1964 and two small boys were rescued. These were the only water deaths that year.

There were five drownings across the state this past weekend.



Rescuers Bryant Best and Tommy Collie

Rescue Service Recovers Body Of Drowning Victim

Scholarship Established

Reverend J. L. Smith, who served as pastor in the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church for 38 years, has recently established a scholarship at Louisburg College in memory of his wife and son.

To be known as the Augusta Robinson and Fred A. Smith Memorial Scholarship, the income from this fund will be used to provide a scholarship for a deserving student who plans to enter full-time Christian service. The amount of the fund is \$4,000.

"I want to leave something to help young people throughout the years ahead," Mr. Smith commented. He is a resident of the Methodist Retirement Home in Durham.

Mrs. Smith passed away several years ago and Fred, former Superintendent of Schools in Wake County, lost his life in an automobile accident several months ago.