

## The Old Lamplighter

One of the many roles taken by Edwin Eveleth becoming an integral part of the Town of Gilmanton was that of the town lamplighter, many years ago when the unpaved streets were lighted by kerosene lamps.

In most places throughout the country the lamplighter is a figure of a long past era, the subject of sentimental song and story.

But until a few days ago or until the sudden death of Ed Eveleth Thursday due to a highway accident Gilmanton still had its old lamplighter, very much part of the town, and at age 93, very alert to the modern day way of life there.

At age 86, seven years ago, Ed was a color part of a group of Gilmantonians who traveled New York City to be guests of honor at the premiere showing of the film, "Peyton Place," based on the town of Gilmanton by the late Grace Metalious.

Ed was born in the town in September of 1887 and had lived there all of his life. Gilmanton was his town, and he was of the town.

One of the greatest tributes paid to Ed by the community was the turnout of most of the residents to a celebration of his 90th birthday at the Corner School auditorium in October of 1962. Ed was at the head of a grand march at that time to greet his friends, much in the same way he had headed parades through the town on festive occasions in previous decades.

Only the day before his death, Ed was invited by the Gilmanton Corner School to have his dinner there. This was the same school he had attended when it was the old Gilmanton Academy.

Ed was many things to the town and his common sense mind established him as a "walking encyclopedia" when it came to questions of historical or other interest.

At the time of his death, this newspaper sought some of the details concerning the man. One woman said she would offer as much information as she could but added quite candidly, "Usually when we want to know anything about the town like this, we always ask Ed."

Gilmanton will sadly miss its Old Lamplighter now of long, long ago.