



**Joé Lanier**  
**SON of A gun**

There were some interesting figures put before the county commissioners Monday in the request by Duplin Sheriff T. E. Revelle and Register of Deeds Christine Williams, who requested their salaries be placed on the county pay plan. These figures show how well Duplin taxpayers pay their county employees — the department heads, that is — in comparison to other counties. . . Remember, there are 100 counties in North Carolina. . . So. . . No county or group of counties paid a local health administrator IV more than the \$40,176 paid by Duplin. . . Two counties paid their sanitary landfill supervisors more than the \$20,223 paid by Duplin. These were Mecklenburg and Cumberland. Seven counties paid their local health administrator II more than the \$23,337 Duplin paid. Eight counties paid their finance officer more than the \$28,205 paid by Duplin. Eleven counties paid their emergency services director more than the \$18,444 paid by Duplin. So many counties have combined their tax supervisor and tax collector offices that a comparison is not practical, since Duplin has not done this. (In Duplin, the tax collector is paid \$19,700 and the tax supervisor, \$18,844). Twenty-five counties paid their Register of Deeds more than the \$21,222 Duplin paid. Thirty counties paid their sheriff more than the \$23,337 paid by Duplin. Duplin's agricultural agent is paid \$30,247 and the school superintendent \$35,927. No comparisons were listed. . . So, it would seem Duplin County is one of the highest-paying counties in the 100 in North Carolina. The request from the sheriff and register of deeds asked that the register of deeds salary range be from a low of \$20,623 to a high of \$27,297. . . And, the sheriff from a low of \$22,633 to a high of \$29,953. Both the sheriff and the register of deeds have 30 years of service with Duplin County. By law, only the county commissioners can set the salaries of the two, as they are both elected offices. . . The commissioners made no decision about the request, except to put it off. . . The big question seems to be, can, or does seniority count in an elected office. . . According to the law, unless it is so advertised 14 days before the filing period, the next person elected to an office will receive the same pay as the outgoing person, with longevity and experience having no bearing. . . The answer is a political one, and it will be handled politically. . . whichever way the votes lean. . .

When you think the world is all bad, a Veterans Day parade will change your mind. . . There was the sad clown — the fellow with his clothes all torn, his umbrella ragged, his shoes showing holes, his hat in need of repair, and a sad face with ears, even. . . When he came by, I saw children who had just fought for a piece of candy thrown out by one of the passing floats, give the sad clown the candy. . . I even heard one say. . . Hey, it's not your fault. . . That kid was about 30 or so. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

**Woman Charged With Murder**

Shirley Mae Graham, 35, of 330 West Bay Street in Warsaw, was arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing death of Dan Powell, 42, also of 330 West Bay Street.

Warsaw Police Officer Gary Cook stated the pair, Graham and Powell, though not married, were living together at the Bay Street address. Cook went on to say that an argument began Saturday afternoon. Ms. Graham got a long-bladed pocket knife and stabbed Powell 10 times. She then called the rescue Squad. When the rescue unit arrived, Powell was dead in the bed.

Graham is being held in the Duplin County Jail under the charge of murder.

**JAMES KENAN CLASS OF '72 TO HOLD CLASS REUNION**

The James Kenan graduating Class of 1972 will hold a reunion at The Country Squire at Kenansville, at 7:30 p.m., Saturday night, Nov. 20.

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