



Joe Lanier

**SON of A  
GUN**

The Duplin County Board of County Commissioners just simply bumbuzzles me. Several years ago I compared one of their meetings to the old "Amos and Andy Show." But they have matured with time. They now remind me of the Roadrunner and Coyote cartoon show. No matter how many times the Coyote gets zonked due to his not understanding what he is trying to do, he does it again — and again not understanding, and again he gets zonked. . . . The county commissioners were informed of the problems at Duplin General Hospital about two years ago. . . . They listened with open ears, fretted, frowned and forgot or ignored. The situation of two years ago has gotten worse. The folks at Duplin General say they need a million dollars for a fresh start. The county does not have a million dollars to pass out to whomever says they want it. . . . To promise the hospital a million dollars would mean a tax increase. The commissioners are farmers, businessmen and businesswomen. None are hospital experts. . . . Yet, they are ready to take a self-serving corporation's word for what is good for Duplin General Hospital — a corporation whose intent is profit — not what is best for Duplin County's citizens, taxpayers and the helpless. . . . It would seem to me the logical thing to do would be to ask an outside consulting firm to make a study on Duplin General Hospital and make recommendations and projections. It would cost money to have such a study made, but "nary one" of the commissioners have such knowledge, nor will they know if they are getting a good deal from the hospital corporation. . . . But, like the Coyote, if the reasoning is logical, they seem to want to try another way.

Duplin County is one of the better, practically debt-free counties in North Carolina. Its county buildings, school buildings, municipal buildings and other assets have been paid for by people who worked hard and deserve a bit of a break. Many of these people are 65 or older and are on Medicare health care. If a private corporation were to lease Duplin General Hospital and not recognize and accept Medicare patients (of which Duplin County has a bunch), then the reason for having a hospital in Duplin County just dropped to zero, as far as I am concerned. . . . If the people who paid for this hospital were not able to use it or reap the benefits they thought they were entitled to — that would be a very bad thing — like making decisions with knowledge is a very bad thing. . . . Let me be sure and clear any misunderstanding one may derive from these words. . . . No decision has been made publicly to do anything to Duplin General Hospital yet but let it operate as is. . . . These decisions are to be made between now and budget-time in June. It just seems to me they could come to better decisions if they knew something about what they were doing. . . .

It makes me feel good to know a "local yokel" made it big. A Magnolia boy has a center-fold picture in the April issue of McCall's. Reggie Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fennel Smith of Magnolia, is the design photographer. It is entitled "Get Hooked on Shoes." Reggie lives in New York now and works with some of the large departments stores, such as Bloomingdales. . . . But his roots are in Duplin County. . . . Son-of-a-Gun. . . .

**19th Hole**  
PRO. I. B. DUFFER

Pro Rick Green reports 80 players showed up and played in the Superball held at Duplin CC last Sunday afternoon. "It was a beautiful afternoon and everyone came out with all the early spring color and I think had a good time," Green stated. "We are very fortunate to be able to play the 18 holes with all the rain lately."

Duplin Pro Rick Green announces winners in the Sunday Superball including the overall winning team of Sonny Kitchin, Connie Carlton, Gerald Yount, Jean Martin and Noble Martin, with a score of eight under 64. The team of Frank Huffman, Roy Barwick, Kendall Lee, J.P. Johnson and Jerry Potter took second with a 65, followed by three teams one stroke back. Ed Rector's team of John McGuire, James Fields, Marlyn McGuire and Robert Fields came in third; Lloyd Parker's team of Ruth Parker, Elwood Revelle, Mark Vinson and Bob Brumleve were fourth; and Bill Potter, and team of Betty Potter, Mark Rector, Arthur Benton and Helen Benton were winners in fifth place. "We congratulate all those who placed in Duplin's first Superball of the season and especially the winners," the 19th Hole committee said.

Other Duplin CC news includes the first annual Seniors Invitational Golf Tournament scheduled for Tuesday, March 29th. If you are over 50, you are invited to play. Pick up an application at any local pro shop and send it to Pro Rick Green now. You can call 296-0919 for any additional information. Green says about 40 players have already signed

Some of the notable quotes over the long rainy season are included in the 19th Hole column this week.

Harry Carlton, RCC - "Be sure to have your weight definitely on the left foot and don't shift during the shot."

Glenn Lanier, LCC - "One very simple tip will definitely improve your timing and that is pause briefly at the top of your backswing."

Charlie Thomas, LaCC - "To become a standout putter, the main things to remember are to keep the head dead still and make the putter blade go accurately toward the hole."

Harold Mathis, DCC - "Cultivate a smooth wobble for, as the Spider's saying goes, 'As ye wobble, so shall ye swing.'"

Kenansville's talented barber, Dean Teachey, says this is his year on the links. "None of my gang, not even the boss, is going to whip me." Word has just reached the 19th Hole that Dennis Kirby, the spoiler in Dean's gang, beat the untouchable seven ways last week.

Pro Rick Green reports one of the best functions at Duplin is the Family Steak Fry held about every six weeks through the golf year. The recent steak outing, hosted by Jay and Laura Jones, Dennis and Anna Graham, Randy and Nancy Edens and Jack and Jean Stephens was one of the best in several years. "This committee did an outstanding job hosting the function," Green said. Take it from Pro I.B. Duffer, you really did miss a good one.

Fore.



Many historians believe that the Christmas celebration had its origins in ancient Greek and Roman festivities to mark the midwinter change of seasons.

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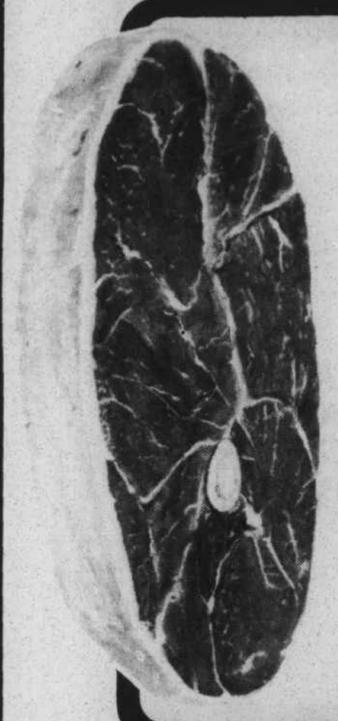
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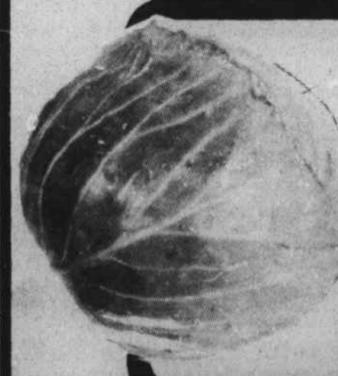
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