

Joe Lanier



SON of a gun

I met Lori Mitchell on a bright, sunny Sunday in front of her home as she and a couple of other youngsters were playing. As I talked briefly to her, I was immediately aware of the exuberance of this young girl. Her smile stretched her face to its limits. Her eyes sparkled and her joy of living just seemed to overflow. She beamed with the excitement of being alive and was ready to take in all the wonders of life, and was excited about it. She was up late and early to rise, ready for each day, eager for it and hated to see the day end. She had more energy than the day was able to handle. . . If you have seen an artesian well before someone got there and installed a pipe for the water to flow through — when the water was just bubbling from the ground into a pool with water clean and clear as glass, cool and refreshing — just bubbling up from the ground in an ever abundant supply — innocent of what lay above the ground but just bubbling forth — this kinda reminded me of Lori Mitchell — innocent, exciting, taking life with all its responsibilities and enjoying it.

Then one day, one afternoon a few weeks back, as Lori was playing on a tree swing, perhaps she was twisting the swing's chain and twirling around. . . no one really knows just what happened — but Lori became entangled in the chain. Inside her home her mother was cooking supper and her dad was taking a shower. Mom called to her sister, "Look outside and see what Lori is doing." The sister called back excitedly, "Look how Lori is in that swing." Mom went to the back door and looked. . . She screamed and nearly collapsed. . . Dad grabbed a pair of pants and still dripping wet from the shower ran to see what was happening. Outside he could see the swing entangled around Lori's neck. She hung limp with her arms dangling beside her body. As he rushed to her, her lips were turning blue. He quickly and gently lifted what he first thought to be the lifeless body of his daughter, Lori. The rescue squad was immediately called and squad members began CPR on Lori as the ambulance went screaming to Duplin General Hospital. Signs of life were showing up as the emergency room people took over. A sigh of relief went out from the family and rescue squad members. . . "She is still alive. She is holding on," was sounded. That relief was short-lived. . . Lori has been in a coma since that swing accident March 11. She has not seen a day come forth as much as she loves the daylight. She lays there not knowing her Mom and Dad are there hoping and praying that perhaps some of the life from their bodies will somehow flow over to help their daughter. The oxygen and blood to Lori's brain were cut off for a short while by that chain. Lori's fate is not yet known to mankind, or if she will continue to exist in a coma, or if that precious joy of living she had will leap forward, or if she is one of those selected to brighten Heaven. Lori's parents, Larry and Sue Mitchell, pray and wait.

The Kenansville Jaycettes are sponsoring a benefit for Lori Mitchell Friday, April 22, from 3:30 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. and on Saturday, April 23 from 10 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. in the Jackson's IGA parking lot in Kenansville. They will be selling hot dogs and baked goods to try and raise some money to help with the medical expenses, etc. When you pass that \$20 bill across the counter for that hot dog, say "Keep the change for Lori." You don't have to buy anything, but please do stop by and leave some money. If those dates are bad for you, then here are a couple of numbers to call to make arrangements for a donation — Chris Bass at 296-1867 and Phyllis Worsley at 296-0329.



A New Look at Son-of-a-Gun at the Womanless Wedding held in Warsaw.

HELP WANTED

The Pink Hill Rescue Squad respectfully requests your assistance by sending your donation toward the purchase of a MUCH NEEDED Ambulance to be used for your EMERGENCY NEEDS

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** Cannot be used with Olan Mills Club Plans or other advertising offers.

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Kenansville, N.C.

Monday, April 25
Hrs: 3 P.M. til 8 P.M.

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LB.



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WAFERS
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29¢
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CARTON TOMATOES 49¢ PK.

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