



Joe Lanier

SON of a gun

"We don't have enough money to do it with," was the sentiment at the past county commissioners board meeting. So they put it off until December. They, in fact, have reneged on a motion to have a study made by the Institute of Government on county employee salaries and jobs. The motion came to be earlier this year when questionable hirings were previously told couldn't take place unless the job was advertised. Beginning salaries were also a thing of wonderment. . . Employee unrest was evident at the courthouse. A promise to do something about it was made — a promise to do as the study suggested, no matter whom it hurt or helped. . . However, as the time to do such a study came to be, it was called off. . . Frankly, in my opinion, it was a very poor excuse when the commissioners say they do not have enough money to carry out the study. . . To me, this means they recognize the fact county employees are underpaid. . . There is a great deal to be said about having a job. . . There are many in Duplin who do not have jobs. . . But, it is extremely frustrating to have a job, to work day after day, doing a good job, and still not be able to make ends meet as everything goes up in price but your salary. . . That good job becomes a sloppy job. . . That appreciation becomes resentment. . . You can fire and hire, and fire and hire, and still you end up with the same thing. . . That resentment goes deeper and deeper as the workers see the salaries made by those so-called "key personnel" are on-target while theirs is way below. . . If you are wondering how some of these inadequacies came to be — I believe some folks were hired and promoted due to their abilities — and others due to their politics. . . After all, the study may have eliminated some of the "key people."

I met a man a few years ago who had accomplished the impossible. . . Well, almost. . . I had forgotten the fact until I saw him recently on TV. He is a Black man in his 50s, I guess. He plays the blues and is darned good, too. . . He sings and strums a blues guitar. . . If you don't pay attention, this man's talents will hide his ailment. . . When he was eight years old, he had a driving desire to play the guitar. It, at the time, seemed more important to him than breathing. . . With the help of his parents, he was able to buy a \$2 flat box guitar. Even though it was as plain as the Carolina dirt his Pa tended for a living, it looked to this young boy as wonderful as a \$1,000 Gibson of today. When he was not in school or working, this young lad practiced on the stringed instrument, his fingers picking out chords and notes, sliding up and down the neck of the guitar. The youngster began to be pretty good at picking the guitar. . . Then, suddenly, the dreaded paralyzing disease polio struck the youngster as it had many others. His hand was left with the fingers frozen to his hand. He was unable to move those fingers. . . His desire to play the guitar did not stop with the seemingly fact that he could no longer cord the stringed instrument. However, his desire to play overcame the crippled hand. . . Using one of his Mom's case knives (a metal steak knife), he wedged the blade of the knife between his paralyzed fingers and thumb. Using the blunt end, the handle, he touched it to the strings. . . It worked, in a fashion, but it was not until he restrung the guitar upside down, that he was able to really play the instrument. He has no million sellers, but he does make a good living at his trade — blues singing. This man had many strikes against him, but he overcame them by helping himself. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Community Development Grant Application To Benefit South Beulaville

After no town citizens attended the public hearing for a Housing and Urban Development community development grant application April 18 at the Beulaville town hall, the town commissioners voted to target an area of South Beulaville and submit the application.

The targeted area extends from Turner Road to the Beulaville city limits along Highway 41. Woody Brinson of the engineering firm McDavid and Associates said. According to Brinson, the application is for a \$800,000 project which includes \$50,000 from the town of Beulaville for street paving. In the targeted area, the community development grant proposes housing rehabilitation, demolition of seven houses, paving an estimated 19 blocks of streets, looping dead-end water lines and up-grading the sewage lift station located on the south side of Beulaville. The grant requires 80 percent of the citizens in the targeted area to be in the low to moderate income bracket. Brinson pointed out.

Included with the projects in the target area are local options which require 50 percent of the benefiting neighborhood be in the low to moderate income level.

Brinson said. Local options to the community development grant include street improvements, drainage improvements and the development of a municipal park.

"The consensus of the first public hearing seemed to go with the same application we turned in to HUD in 1982, but was turned down," Brinson said. "However, we have changed one part to require owner contribution to the renovation of rental or private property when and if the owner is financially able." The 1982 Beulaville application for community development funds was not granted. According to Brinson, the applications for community development funds are ranked by HUD through a point system. The contribution of \$50,000 from the town of Beulaville to the proposed community development project will increase the town's point rating, Brinson pointed out.

Commissioner S.A. Blizard made the motion to submit the revised community development grant application to HUD and contribute \$50,000 to the proposed project. The board unanimously approved the motion. Deadline to submit the application is May 2.



Most lizards can break off their tails at the halfway point. A new tail grows again after several months.

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Pink Hill Rescue Squad
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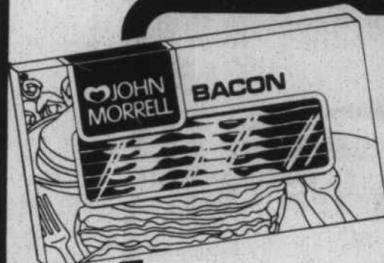
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY



ROUND STEAK

\$1.58 LB.

- 3 LBS. OR MORE GROUND ROUND \$1.69 LB.
- BONELESS ROUND STEAK \$1.79 LB.
- CUBED ROUND STEAK \$1.89 LB.
- BOTTOM ROUND \$2.19 LB.
- TOP ROUND \$2.29 LB.



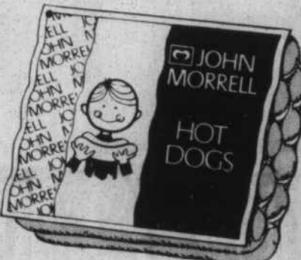
JOHN MORRELL BACON 12 OZ. \$1.19



JOHN MORRELL FRANKS 12 OZ. 99¢

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MUELLER'S ELBOW MACARONI LB. BOX

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CABBAGE 13¢ LB.

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