



Joé Lanier

## SON of 4 gun

There seems to be a conspiracy against us here in southeastern North Carolina in moving good in and out of the area. Governor Jim Hunt is using the money needed to complete the super highway, I-40, to buy votes in another part of North Carolina, thus slowing the completion. Now the railroad is making a study to see about closing down the rail service to this area. The industries and businesses are having a tough enough time. People wanting to work and earn a decent living are having a very tough time. The unemployment rate in this area is about tops in the state, and yet things like I-40 are being slowed to a snail's pace. There is one very important service industry needs, and that is a way to move goods to and from plants economically and fast. The Governor knows this, but it appears he is putting his ambitions ahead the peoples' needs in southeastern North Carolina.

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I have told you about the bird that follows Donna around in the yard. When she does her yardwork, there is a red-breasted robin that follows her around, pulls her shoestrings, and follows her, walking, not flying. I think this is the same bird that tried to help her paint last year. But, speaking of birds, my mom has a parakeet that does things I have never seen a bird do before. He plays on the floor. The birdcage is too confining. He has a little red toy car he plays with and he has three plastic drinking cups (used to be called a Dixie Cup). He rolls them around, sets them up, lays them down, gets them to rolling and gets in front of them and acts like the cup is chasing him — he runs and screams as the cup rolls along. He has three "little people" or whatever they are called. They are little egg-shaped wooden things painted to appear like people. He gets these three rocking and wobbling. It reminds me of some of the performers on the old Ed Sullivan Show spinning plates on sticks and trying to keep all three spinning at the same time. I thought all parakeets did was to chirp or sing, pick at himself in a mirror, eat bird feed and dirty the paper in his cage. But, not Mama's bird. That little rascal goes at it from dawn till dusk.

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During the past few years, millions of dollars have come into Duplin County to the towns and to the county coffers as well. This money is called Federal Revenue Sharing. It is tax money collected by the Federal Government and sent back to the counties and municipalities. Before these local governments can spend this money, they must hold public hearings to ask the people who paid the money into the Federal Treasury how they would like to have it spent. No one ever shows up to make suggestions on what the money should be spent for. This "iffie" money was first sent to the local governments for making capital improvements only. In Duplin County these funds were used to build schools. In local towns it was used to improve buildings and add vehicles and equipment. It was the expressed purpose, not to be used on things local tax monies were normally used for. This has changed in regulations and practice. Today this iffie (it may be renewed or it may not) money is tied directly to the budget, and the tax rate in the towns and the county. The towns and county have expanded under these funds. If for some reason the Federal Revenue Sharing Act is not renewed (and it is in Congress now for that very decision). And, can you believe it, every town and county is asking for this extra tax to be continued. Of all the people in the know, these local politicians know there is no free lunch. And yet, there they are, screaming. Don't cut the tax rate. Don't cut that Revenue Sharing money. Son-of-a-Gun.

## VFW Post 1034 Installs New Officers

Officers for 1983-84 were installed in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Kenansville Post 1034 this week. Installed were Wade Price as Post Commander, Julian Sanderson as Senior Vice-Commander, Innis Tadlock as Junior Vice-Commander, Norman Benson as Quarter-

master, Earl Hardy as Post Adjutant, John Hamilton as Judge, Robert Benson as Chaplain, George Parker as Surgeon. Trustees for a three year term, George Brock and 2-year term, Earl Hardy, and one-year, Hubert Summerlin.

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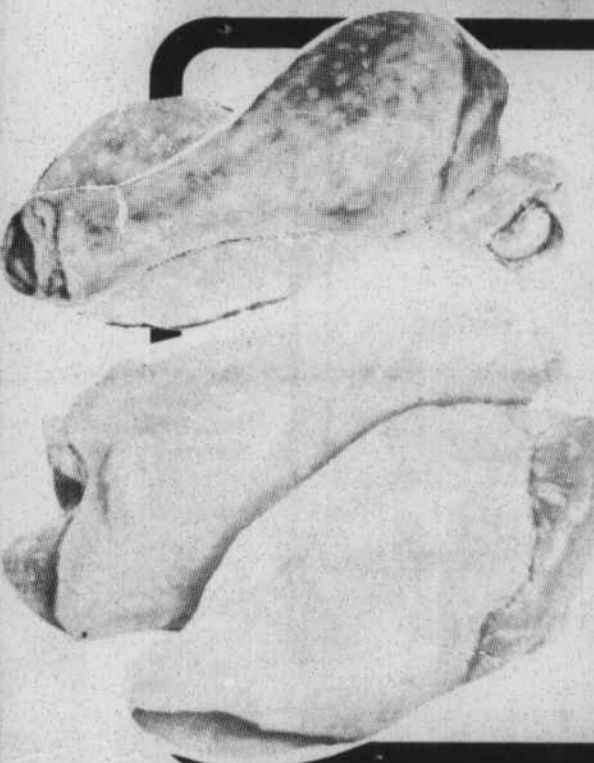
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