



Joë Lanier

**SON of A gun**

Sometimes the side benefits of one's job is nearly as costly as the salary. In Warsaw, for example, a town employee whose duties are at the new wastewater treatment plant is assigned a pickup to drive home. He lives out of town — almost as far as C.M. Outlaw's store. It takes, I would guess, about a gallon of gasoline to get that truck from Warsaw to his home. So, five working days means ten gallons of gas to take this truck from Warsaw to the employee's out-of-town home. However, he also goes home for lunch, so that is another 10 gallons of gasoline. . . The water bills in Warsaw were just increased. . . Well, technically the sewer bills were increased, which is a sneaky way to increase the water bills. . . I mean, if you have no water, you have no sewer. As best I remember, the minimum bills went up around \$3 per customer. Now, assigning cost to areas that cost, the wastewater plant is to be self-supporting, meaning it must pay for itself. . . So, each working day it takes the new added increase in sewer rates of two residents of Warsaw just to supply the gasoline for this pickup truck for its two trips to the out-of-town home of this town employee. . . In a year's time, that is about the equivalent of 500 water customers. . . On top of that, the town just paid \$2,500 for a used pickup for this employee to drive home. . . If the value of this added benefit were to be tacked onto the employee's salary, it would amount to about \$2,000 a year. . . So, it would be to the town's benefit to give this employee a \$1,500 salary increase and let him supply his transportation to and from work like the other town employees. . . The Warsaw Town Board is famous for its liberal allowance of the use of town vehicles. . . The town clerk has the use of a town-owned auto, not so much to drive home and to work, as he lives within the city limits — but he is also allowed to drive it to Wilmington to the golf course each Wednesday afternoon when the town offices are closed and wherever else he so desires. . . Of course it also burns town gasoline. No other town in Duplin County is so liberal. When gasoline was 38 cents a gallon, it was not such a big thing, and when autos cost \$3,000 then, they now cost \$10,000, it was not such a big thing. And when the insurance rates were about a third of what they are now, it was not such a big thing. . . But today, conservatively figuring, it costs a minimum of \$2,000 to furnish such a vehicle. . . How many city blocks of property tax does it take to supply this side benefit. . .

**I had a Phone Call** . . . Many times folks call with a suggestion or a complaint about first one thing or another, and I have been storing them away for future stories. . . My "future story file" is overflowing. . . So, I am going to try another way. I will pick one or more of these phone calls and pass them on to the readers of Son-of-a-Gun each week. . . We will see how this works using only the present calls. . . Last week a lady called saying she thought the utility bills for Duplin County schools could be cut if the lights inside James Kenan High School were cut out during the summer months in the day time and at night during school. . . Many times she said she would go by at night and no one would be around but the lights were on. . .

The public hearing on the half-cent sales tax proposal is to be Tuesday night, August 23 at 8 p.m. at the Courthouse. The county commissioners are setting this time to hear from the Duplin County residents. . . A "yes" or a "no" on the increasing of sales taxes in Duplin by one-half-cent on the dollar. Some of the commissioners say they favor reducing the property taxes if this half-cent passes. According to the latest figures, Duplin County would receive about \$590,000 in added taxes if the proposal were to be adopted. . . \$135,000 would be split among the towns in the county and the rest split between the county government and the schools. . . Be sure to attend and let your voice be heard — for or against. . .

Governor Jim Hunt doesn't know as much about the 100 counties in North Carolina as he would like folks to believe. At Monday's meeting with his advisors at the Duplin County Club, he made a remark saying Duplin County had the most incorporated towns of any county in North Carolina. . . He is wrong. . . Right off the bat, I know Duplin has 10 towns, and Brunswick County has 13, and it wouldn't surprise me to find there were many other counties with more than 10. . . But, to a Duplin County crowd it sounded good. . . By the way, the Governor is not quite so hard to see as he once was. . . Election time is nearing. . . You used to go see him, but now he comes to see you. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

**FACTS & FIGURES**

At last count, the Department of Commerce estimates there are almost 15 million business concerns in the United States. Many of these are small businesses. In fact, about one out of every four American workers is employed by a small business.



Small businessmen as well as professionals such as doctors and lawyers are finding they can count on big assistance from equipment such as copiers and computers. To help them choose the right machine, Xerox has opened stores where businessmen and professionals can test and compare a full line of office equipment. . .

**DOVE HUNTERS**

12 gauge shotgun shells: 3/4-1 1/8 oz. and 7/8 or 8 shot specially priced at only \$4.99 per box. Quantities are limited. Also have camouflage clothing such as suits, coveralls, vests, bib overalls, T-shirts, plus brown duck hunting clothes with or without nylon facing. In addition, we offer dog collars with free engraved nameplates, medicines, leashes, boots, Nite Lites, Wheat Lites, Sunburst Lites, and repair on all lites we sell. Many other items are available for the hunter and if not stocked we can order for you! Will have a special on all shotguns and rifles at only 5% above dealer cost from August 14, 1983 through August 26, 1983. All guns are ordered for you and delivery is usually from 1 to 3 days. Come see us at GOSHEN KENNELS AND SUPPLY CO., located only 8 miles North of Kenansville off of Hwy. 11. Locally owned and operated by Frank and Donna Norris. Ph. 296-1981

**STATE INSPECTED**  
To Cut, Grind & Wrap Meats

**STORE HOURS**  
8 TILL 7  
6 DAYS A WEEK

**Limestone**

**JONES**  
FOOD STORES  
BEULAVILLE

**Village**

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITY



**ROUND STEAK**  
**\$1.58** LB.

- 3 LBS. OR MORE
- GROUND ROUND \$1.69 LB.
- BONELESS ROUND \$1.79 LB.
- CUBE BONELESS ROUND \$1.89 LB.
- BOTTOM ROUND \$1.99 LB.
- TOP ROUND \$2.09 LB.



CURTIS BACON 12 OZ. \$1.19



CURTIS WHOLE HOG SAUSAGE LB. \$1.39



CURTIS BOLOGNA LB. \$1.39

CURTIS LITE DOGS 12 OZ. 66¢

CURTIS BEEFMASTER FRANKS LB. \$1.59



**OLD HICKORY BARBEQUE**

**\$1.89** LB.



**FRYER LEGS**

**77¢** LB.



LOG CABIN COUNTRY KITCHEN

**SYRUP**  
24 OZ.

**99¢**



QUAKER QUICK

**GRITS**  
LB. BOX

**39¢**



KRAFT SINGLE WRAP CHEESE  
12 OZ.

**\$1.39**



RED POTATOES  
5 LB BAG

**99¢**

WESTERN PLUMS 49¢ LB.  
SMALL CUCUMBERS 2/39¢  
WHITE SEEDLESS GRAPES 55¢ LB.

SOUTHERN BISCUIT FLOUR  
5 LB. BAG

**88¢**



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