

SON of A gun Joé Lanier

It seems there is one store in town that always has plenty of customers — the local ABC store. When times are good, you take a drink to celebrate and when times are are good, you take a drink to celebrate and when times are bad, you take a drink because you are depressed and can't celebrate. . However, plenty of customers and good sales apparently do not always mean profits — least ways sufficient profits. The Kenansville ABC store had sales of \$283,796.06. However, the store was only able to pay its stockholders, the town of Kenansville, \$3,850. Duplin County gets 45 percent of the profits, so the county was paid \$3,150. A total of \$7,000 was paid out to the county and town. This is not a good profit for the town of paid 53,150. A total of \$7,000 was paid out to the county and town. This is not a good profit for the town of Kenanşville, \$3,850 on sales of \$283,796.06. . A brief run-through on the operation. On the sales of \$283,796.06, the liquor cost \$171,813.64. The State pulled \$52,440.18 right off the top for its and towns on that leaves a gross profit for the store of \$61.057.97. Salaries, lights here and towns of the store of \$61.057.97. Salaries, lights, heat, and store operations took another \$42,316.67. The net income listed in the audit amounted to \$18,449.03; however, only \$7,000 was distributed to the town and county. Quite frankly, I would think that if the store could not pay the town at least \$10,000 a year, the town should seriously consider closing it. The store has an inventory and cash on hand in the amount of \$65,000 and the property, building and fixtures would be valued at enough to make a total investment of \$100,000. A return of \$3,850 on an investment of \$100,000 is a poor return. The ABC store owns itself. The town does not. However, if the store were to go out of business, the town would take over the property. If the town were to invest the portion of money owed it, the money in inventory and the bank, there is little doubt that the town would come out in as good shape as it does now — and it would have a building for a new town hall. . .If it were to stop operation right now, the town would get the building and land and \$42,571.27 in cash — which deesn't seem like a bad deal. The county's portion of the split would amount to \$34,831.04. At the present time, the town and county split of the profits is 45 percent to the county and 55 percent to the town. In this instance, it seems the county is profiteering itself right out of business. With the new DWI law in effect, it is predicted the sales of alcoholic beverages will decline. . . So, with sales declining, the state, county, and employees taking their share from the already dim profits, the justification of an ABC store in Kenansville may be short-lived. . .Less than \$4,000 on an investment of \$100,000 is not justifiable. Even the federal government doesn't loan money that cheaply. \*\*\*\*\*

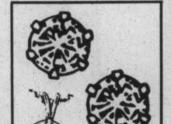
Speaking of the new DWI (Driving While Impaired) law. volunteers are going to have to be careful where they volunteer. . . They might be mistaken for the community work crew of those convicted of DWI. I can just hear it now. . . "Did you see so-and-so at the park with that hoe working around the shrubbery. . . I didn't know she drank" .... "One of those DWI workers, she is.". . Son-of-a-Gun .

## **U.D.C. MEETS**

The John Ivey Thomas chapter of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, met with Mrs. Ida Miller on Sept. 26 with eight members and three visitors present. Mrs. Miller, president, called the meeting to order. Mrs. Lou Kennedy was in charge of the ritual followed by the Lord's Prayer. Mrs. Miller led the pledge to the U.S.

flag and salutes to the N.C. and Confederate flags. Following the roll call, the minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Copies of the Confederate

Following the business session, refreshments were served by the hostess and included chicken salad, carrot strips, apple rings, potato chips, crackers, pound cake, tea or coffee.



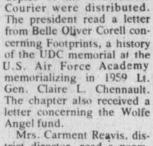
Ladies

DIAMOND

EARRINGS

PENDANT





trict director, read a poem, "The Greatest Gift" after which she stated the aims of UDC and gave helpful sug-guestions for the next district meeting which will be held in Beulaville in the spring. The assistant district director, Mrs. N.C. Magnusen, also attended the meeting. The program on General John Bell Hood was given by Mrs. Irene Carroll.



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