



SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

It was not easy being a county commissioner in Duplin County Monday, February 6, 1984. The commissioners are by nature a political being. Many (or maybe "most" would be a better word). . . Most of their decisions are made with politics in mind. . . Thus, Monday was a bad meeting. The nurses at the Health Department want their salaries increased to be compatible, competitive or comparative to others. Like all Duplin County workers, their salaries are lingering behind. . . And please notice that I said "workers," Department heads are not included in that statement. . . The commissioners have been approached by other county employee groups wanting compensation for their above-and-beyond the regular day-to-day work activity — which the commissioners turned down. They also turned down the nurses' request on a vote of three to two, though all indicated they felt the need to increase the salaries. It was just not the proper time. They wanted to wait until the study on all county positions, which is underway now, be completed and make salary adjustments at budget time. . . So, what do you do? Raise a few salaries knowing all salaries are out of kilter and knowing that everyone whose salary is not increased will be upset? . . . My answer would have been to raise all workers 5 percent now and another 5 percent at budget time, and adjust the steps so they would be equal to this 10 percent. . . The department heads' salaries would be adjusted individually. Some of those may not receive an increase at all.

Another problem facing the commissioners Monday was the request for additional funds by Duplin General Hospital. . . On this problem, I have no answer. . . I must admit I probably would have had an answer a month or so ago. The hospital asked the commissioners to loan them \$75,000 to be paid back with money coming in the future from Medicare. By law, the hospital cannot borrow from a bank or such. . . The hospital also asked the commissioners to give \$195,000 during the county's budget year ending June 30, 1984. The county normally gives \$75,000. This is a request for an additional \$120,000. It was pointed out by the chairman of the board that the contract signed by the hospital with the county states the hospital will be responsible for the upkeep for the hospital building. It was asked if the \$80,000 the commissioners plan to spend to repair the roof was included in the \$120,000 additional monies asked for. . . The answer was "No" so actually the increase requested would amount to \$200,000 if the roof repair were added in. The commissioners did not approve either request. . . They did not make the loan or the increase in budget funds. . . Here is one of the frustrations faced by the county commissioners. . . They have no power to control how the hospital trustees spend money earned by the hospital or tax monies given by the commissioners. The same is true in regards to the school board. It was evident to me the commissioners were not happy with the salary increase of \$3,000 and \$1,000 bonus of the hospital administrator. They also questioned why he needed \$350 a month travel money. . . Also, suppose the hospital can't pay back the \$75,000 tax dollars they borrow? No need to repossess the hospital as Duplin's tax-payers already own it. . . So, what to do? The commissioners have answered the problem for now, but I doubt if it stays answered. . . It is not easy to help when you think you are being abused.

I don't know how much you know about outdoor toilets, or how much you want to know, but when I was a youngster, it was the modern way to go if you lived in the country. . . These little two-holer buildings were built so they could be moved. When one hole was full, you could move the building to another hole you dug, filling up the remainder of the hole you left with the dirt from the hole you were digging. . . Some of the dug holes were kept from caving in with boards driven into the ground, but when you covered up the hole, you pulled up the boards. . . It may be that I need to back up for some of you. The making of an outdoor toilet was a hole you dug in the ground. Then you set a little building over the hole in the ground. The building usually had from one to two seats with holes in the seats. I don't think I ever saw a three-seater. But, we lived near a large family and those folks used up a ground dug toilet-hole about every year to a year and a half. So, they dug another hole, covered up the old one, and moved the little building. This is all fine and good excepting in real wet weather. If you were on their farm and you felt yourself beginning to sink in the ground, it was frightening. You just didn't know what you might sink into. . . It could be the good Mother Earth, and then again. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Unicorn variety show delights Warsaw Chamber Of Commerce

The James Kenan Unicorn Drama Society, under the direction of Mrs. Jo Jones, entertained the Warsaw Chamber of Commerce Monday night at The Country Squire. . . The entertainment ranged from musical selections by Lynwood Carlton, Lauri Swain, Carlton Smith, Anderson Brewer and Warachell Faison to dances performed by Allyson Stroud, Leatrice Martin and Renee McCoy. . . There was even a comical act by a family of mice who are Mitchell Kernstine, Emily Farris, LeAnn House, Suzanne Riddick and Charlena Stroud. . . The Unicorn president set the scene for the Chamber of Commerce members by asking them to imagine that they were back at James Kenan in Room 10. Unicorn members gave an awakening view of the two generations in their lively perfor-

mance. . . The high point came when the outgoing and incoming Chamber presidents, Jean Stevens and John Johnson, were presented with an amusing representation of themselves as teenagers. Kay Crowder, popping bubble gum and sporting a J.K. uniform bounced in as "Mean Jean," the supergood basketball player. Chuck Anderson appeared as "Hippie Johnson," complete with peace signs, long hair and disreputable clothes. The audience cheered this teasing as the Unicorns sang "The Way You Were" to the two presidents. . . Also appearing were Valerie McIver, Patricia Frederick, Shaula Hardin, Daria Brock, Rita Lanier, Chuck Moore, Henri Siders and Kelly Blanchard. Cindy Faust designed the set.
Emily Farris, Reporter

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Duplin Times

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CHICKEN OF THE SEA TUNA 6 1/2 OZ. 69¢

GLEN PARK JACK MACKEREL 2/\$1

SHAWNEE FLOUR 5 LB. BAG 79¢

DUKES CORN OIL 32 OZ. \$1.39

FINE FARE SALT 26 OZ. 3/69¢

SENECA APPLE JUICE 48 OZ. 99¢

BLUE BONNET MARGARINE 59¢ LB.

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