

SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

Guess who was in Las Vegas last week. For your second guess, guess whose money they went on. To answer the first guess first, seen among the gambling halls were: Carl Pate of Beulaville, Jimmy Strickland of Warsaw, Riddick Wilkins of Warsaw, L.S. Guy of Faison, and Bob Tart of Wallace. . For the second answer, they went on Duplin County tax money — a portion of that tax money allocated to the Duplin County public schools. . At this writing, I don't know how much money they did spend, as they were not back yet. . Have you noticed how these convention trips that are set up for "learning purposes" are always in some exotic place, such as Las Vegas. . They are not set up in learning places, but show places. You know why. If

They are not set up in learning places, but show places. You know why. If they were set in learning places, no one would go — even on tax money. While we are talking about trips, the Duplin County commissioners are scheduled to take off next month for Washington, D.C. on a "learning trip.".

... I just can't forget their learning trip to Hershey, Pennsylvania. . . The convention was going on in Baltimore, but they rented a van and went off to see chocolate made, leaving the convention going full swing. . . I mean, folks were "learning" left and right, but Duplin's crowd was sight-seeing. Let's face it. These trips are mini-vacations at taxpayer expense. And, those paying for those trips know it. . Speaking of paying, I think these trips should be on a 50-50 basis, meaning that only half of the trip would be from tax funds; the other part would have to be from the pockets of those taking the trip. . And, the out-of-the-pocket part would have to be paid before going. Half of the trip there and back, half of the motel, and half of the meals. The registration fee could be paid in full by public monies. . .The national organization of Board of Education members are aware of the unfair use of tax monies on these trips and have even put out a propaganda kit to try to justify or explain it to local news media. . But it is like the travel expense given the hospital administrator. You can give excuses, but they don't change the facts. . You know, I thought the school system would be ahead a little money-wise after the drug money they got following court last week. They have enough to purchase that other "needed" school bus. . . However, I suppose they needed a trip to Las Vegas worse. They picked up some over \$22,500 from the court. . .

A couple of things about Duplin General Hospital, just to try to set the record straight. . . Duplin County, I think, needs Duplin General Hospital; anyone can see that, but not at any cost. Duplin General Hospital must also understand it needs Duplin County. It was insensitive, and it remains insensitive, to increase the administrator's salary and cut the hours of the hospital workers. . . Folks who are sick go to hospitals where they are treated good by caring personnel. The workers and nursing staff create this atmosphere. I have read reports and letters, heard speeches and lectures, and, as of yet, part of the reason behind Duplin General's patient decline has not been discussed or acted on, according to information given me by workers, nurses, doctors and patients. . . I do not say these things as a politician wanting to be elected. I do not say these things as a trustee trying to justify an act. Nor do I say these things as an employee trying to justify a salary. I say it as someone interested in Duplin County and the people of Duplin County, period, and as a believer that everyone should furnish their own way to and from work, or stay home. I personally can see no reason whatsoever to furnish a vehicle or \$350 a month to the hospital administrator for travel. . .

I met a lady in Pink Hill last week who says her husband is a smoke-a-holic. He will wake up in the middle of the night just to smoke a cigarette. One night shortly after they were married (on their honeymoon, I believe), she awoke from a contented sleep to find the bed on fire. . .from a cigarette. . .Don't let your mind wander. . .She says it might shorten his life, but he won't notice. He will be smoking a cigarette. . .Son-of-a-Gun. . . .

BLOODMOBILE TO VISIT WARSAW

The Red Cross Bloodmobile willbe in Warsaw at the Warsaw Fire Station on March 12 from 12 p.m. until 6 p.m.

The support of the entire community is requested and needed to make this effort successful. As no Bloodmobile is currently planned for Kenansville, all persons from the Kenansville area are welcome to visit the Warsaw site.

Almost anyone in good health between the ages of 17 and 66 can be a blood donor. The blood you give may save the life of a child, baby or

Did you know that every 17 seconds someone needs blood. Your single donation of whole blood may help four to six different people. Less than 5% of the population gives 100% of the blood.

If you would like to work during the visit, and could provide some refreshments, or have any questions, call Bill Costin Jr. at 592-7483 or any Warsaw Jaycee.

Share Life - Give Blood!

GIDDENSVILLE FOX HUNT

The annual Giddensville Fox Hunt will be held on Saturday. March 10. Breakfast and lunch will be served at the fire department. Lunch will consist of barbecued chicken or pork and will cost \$3.50 per plate.

Piney Grove Fire Department is located in the Giddensville community on RPR 1725, approximately

tour miles south of Faison between Hwy. #50 and Hwy. #403.

Fox hunters and those who just like good food are invited to attend. include an auction beginning at 1 p.m., will benefit the fire department. Breakfast will be served from 5 a.m. until 9 a.m. and lunch from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

TRAINING ASSISTANCE

Local employers are now being offered the opportunity to take advantage of a private sector initiafive training program administered by the N.C. Department of Labor. pre-apprenticeship division.

The program is designed for both the small and large employers who are hiring new employees and are willing to train through a structured training program in a skilled or semiskilled trade.

This very flexible training program assists both the employer and employee. The employer receives a monetary incentive while the employee acquires meaningful employment with training. The length of training will vary depending on the skill, and the employer is entitled to be reimbursed 50 percent of the employee's starting wage. The program is designed so that the employer has no extensive forms to fill out and maintain. All such information is kept by the Department of Labor personnel.

Recruitment of trainees may be done by employers or be referred by the Department of Labor. However, the Department has no authority to hire, and the employer has full right to refuse anyone who may be referred. Each trainee must be certified to be eligible by one of the pre-apprenticeship division field representatives prior to being hired.

In order for prospective trainees to qualify for the program, they must be economically disadvantaged.

For more information, do not hesitate to call or write Stan Rube or Jimmy Kornegay, pre-apprentice representatives, North Carolina Department of Labor, P.O. Box 1259. 719 New Bridge Street, Federal Building, Room 103, Jacksonville, NC 28541-1259. The telephone num-ber is 455-5199. One of the repre-sentatives will be happy to come by your company to discuss the program with you.

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NEW '84 JEEP	Was 9,568	Sale \$8,747
NEW'84 JEEP	11,392	9,990
NEW '84 LAREDO CHEHOKEE	12,233	11,121
NEW '84 AMC ENCORE	8,770	8,150
NEW '84 AMC ALLIANCE	8,823	7,890
WILKINS	(F)	Pontiac
OF WARSAW	, /!	GMC TRUCKS

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RICE 3 LB. BAG 77¢ 7 OZ. BOX

BUGLES SNACKS

MRS. PAULS FISH STICKS \$1.59 12 OZ.

FARM FRESH SINGLE WRAP CHEESE

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> RINSO DETERGENT 99° GT. SIZE

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