



SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

"In School Suspension." This is a term or program that began in some Duplin County schools a few years back with the help of money from CBA. CBA stands for Community Based Alternative. . . Jim Flowers has been heading up this project. Well, I am not sure if heading up the project is correct. He is the one who appeared before the county commissioners when the first request was made for the program and he continues to appear when changes or other schools are to be added. So, let's blame it on Jim. He is the chairman or president or honcho or whatever of the Juvenile Task Force. — another one of those names like CBA that means little to most people. . . This "in school suspension" that arose from money pumped into this CBA and Juvenile Task Force programs is, in my opinion, one of the better things to happen in Duplin schools in many a year. What it means, in case you might not know, is that when a youngster has broken some school rule, he or she is not told to go home, but is given a new assignment to a class of troubled youth, where studies are kept up and the students progress along with the others. But, they are not allowed the privileges of the other students. Previously when this student made a rule break, he or she was sent home — which usually meant to roam the streets or other places and usually the student ended up in more trouble. . . It was questionable as to who was being punished — the student, the school or society. The youngster of course did not know he or she was losing more than just a few days of school. They were falling behind in school work, which, in most cases, they were already behind in. Telling them they should shape up didn't seem to do much good. After all, if they understood, they would not be in the trouble they were in. To go one step further, what this means is that someone has decided to be responsible. To take this young rebel, young trouble-maker, this person, and expose them to all the education available. . . Not to shun this person from what is needed, but make it available. . . If exposed, some may rub off even though they seem to reject it all. . . I agree with the theory that you can lead a horse to water but not make him drink. . . But, when he gets thirsty, he knows where the water is, You have exposed him to it. . . The first project began at Warsaw Junior High School. Now there are five programs in the schools of Duplin — one each in Wallace-Rose Hill High, Charity Middle School, East Duplin, James Kenan, and the original one at Warsaw Junior High. . . Jim has not done this alone, so to all who have had a part in this, what I think is a good program, congratulations. You have made a difference. What is still needed is someone to be responsible all the way down the line in education. If little Annie doesn't learn what she should, then it should be traced to this teacher, this supervisor, this principal, this administrator. And these folks should be held responsible. . . But, better yet, they should be responsible beforehand so little Annie does know what she should. "It's not my job" was a line for a comic, definitely not one for a professional educator. . .

The county commissioners made it back from their trip to Washington, all safe and sound. They left on Saturday, March 17th and got back Tuesday, March 20th. They spent \$1,252. To be sure, this is part of the tax increase they made us pay this past year. Those on the trip were Allen Nethercutt, Calvin Turner, D.J. Fussell, Dovie Penney and Russell Tucker. They rented a van for the trip and about two hours out of Kenansville, decided it was time for the first food break. They stopped at Parkers in Wilson. At least they spent \$16 of the \$1,252 in North Carolina. By the way, the cost may be cut by \$100 as Commissioner Penney shared her room with a female commissioner from some other county. She is to send \$100 for her part of the room payment. All in all, I guess we are luck the trip cost only \$1,252. You know, of course, there are no limits spelled out on how much can be spent on a trip. They could pass out \$100 tips or buy things with this money not concerning the trip, such as poker chips, etc. . .

If you live in rural Duplin and are debating the purchase of one of those earth stations, or whatever you may call it — one of those round dishes that pick up TV signals from a satellite. . . If the reason you have been holding off is in hopes of cable TV may come by your house — well, if you do not live on a direct route from one town to another, and that route is needed by the cable company — or unless you live on the border of a town with a heavily populated out-lying area, I suggest you go ahead and buy yourself a satellite receiving dish if you want the type of things that come off the satellite. . . From the figures I am hearing, you can forget about the cable coming your way if you live in the country. . . Of course, I really thought this all the time, but even the commissioners are seeing the light now. . . By the way, there are three systems in Duplin County. Univision owns one in the Faison area and there is another system in other parts of Duplin, and Beasley owns one in Warsaw. . . So, Univision has two systems and Beasley has one in Duplin County. There will be more cable installed in Duplin, but only in highly populated areas with good connecting routes. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Focus On Family

In 1966, Garland and Fannie Brock moved from Norfolk, Va., back to their home near Hallsville. Here they started their family and a farrow-to-finish swine operation. The children are Ronald, 12, Russell, 17, and Becky, 20. Becky is now married to Gene Foster and lives on the farm.

The swine farm consists of a 20-sow herd, an 18-stall sunporch farrowing house, gestation barn, shed nursery and a 300-hog-capacity topping house. The excess pigs are topped out on the ground. The Brock family also grows approximately 100 acres of corn which supplies about 60 percent of their corn needs.

What is unique about this farm family is that Mr. and Mrs. Brock are both visually impaired. Garland and Fannie's eyes are 20/200. They can see well enough to get around or to tell if the hogs are large enough to sell, or if a feeder needs feed. However, they cannot recognize people until they get very close or speak. When Garland is breeding sows, he can tell if he is using the York or large white boar for they are in separate pens, but he cannot record the sow identification number until Russell comes home and reads the ear tags. Fannie keeps the

financial records.

The Brock family is one family that works together. Russell and Ronald have chores to do when they get home from school. They process the pigs after they are born, help keep production records and adjust the feeders. They also have some wonderful neighbors that help out from time to time. Garland expressed his feelings about their handicap coming back from Kingston after winning the NADA Swine Production award. He stated just about everyone can find something to do if they would just try.

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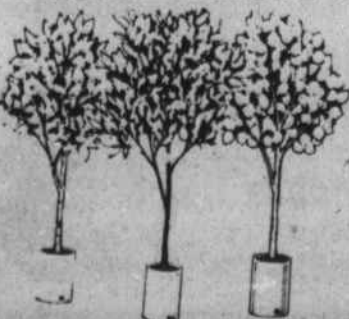
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