



SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

I hope that for you this is the greatest Christmas in terms of good feelings that you have had so far, and that these good feelings will continue to grow throughout 1986.

from the vines on Thanksgiving, courtesy of Cecil and Tootsie Atkinson. Well, Harold Guy called me to tell me he was eating watermelon on Dec. 16th. Mr. Guy said he got the watermelon from Earl Rouse back in July. He carried it home, put it under

a pine tree on some pine straw, and every week or so he would go by and turn it over. His plans were to eat it for Thanksgiving; however, he didn't. All the watermelon was not good. The heart of the melon was

solid and the portion holding seeds had frozen and was not good. Guy said he ate the heart of the melon, however.

It was a sight to behold. . . Well, let me kinda set up the scene. Claude Hepler is around retirement age, and is small. Jimmy Smith is in his 30s and large. Smith is a policeman. The two went into a store in Wallace to get this trash can for Hepler. After they were in the store about 10 minutes or so, a crowd began to gather near the rear of the store. . . A fellow in the crowd said, "That big policeman is trying to take that trash can away from that little old man." Well, what had happened, was that the trash cans had been stacked inside one another and were stuck together. Thus, Hepler and Smith were trying to separate them as Hepler had decided the one he wanted was in the stack that was stuck. . . Well, they pulled, banged it on the floor, pulled again, twisted, yanked, talked in a foreign tongue over it, but it still stayed stuck. . . Most people would have said the heck with it, but not Hepler. He

wanted that trash can and the harder he worked, the more determined he was to have it. Finally he said to Jimmy, "Why are we doing this?" "Because you want this darned trash can," said Jimmy. . . "No. . . No. . . Wait," said Claude. . . "Put it in this shopping cart." So up to the cash register they went with the three plastic trash cans. Hepler told the cash register person he wanted only one of the trash cans. The cash register person said, "OK. Just take the one out that you want." . . "No," said Claude, "you separate them." . . Well, this person did separate them after awhile. One of the three ended up damaged, but Claude got the trash can he wanted. . . So, we know he and Jimmy will have a Merry Christmas. . . Satisfaction is one of those great feelings I was referring to earlier. . . It took about four people to win over this plastic trash can, but win they did. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Lifeline Connected In Three Duplin County Homes

Lifeline systems have been installed in three Duplin homes during the past few weeks, said Duplin Emergency Services Director Hiram Brinson.

The Lifeline system is operated by Duplin General Hospital and the project is a joint effort of Duplin General Hospital, Duplin County Home Health Care, Duplin Emergency Services, the Duplin Health Department, Services to the Aged, Duplin Medical Society Auxiliary and the Duplin General Hospital Foundation.

Lifeline, a personal emergency response system operated by Duplin General Hospital, can be the essential service which will allow many elderly or disabled persons living alone to remain safely in their homes.

Lifeline uses the subscriber's telephone line to make a call of the emergency to the hospital. The subscriber has a portable help button which he is instructed to keep with him at all times. The system has a range of 200 feet from the subscriber's phone, allowing for a fair range of mobility. In case of a medical emergency, arrangements will be made to have the subscriber transported to the hospital. Even if the subscriber became unconscious, Lifeline would place the call for help through the automatic timing device.

Brinson said two systems have been installed in Kenansville and one in Warsaw. Additional systems are available through Duplin Home Health Care in Kenansville. The systems are installed by Duplin Emergency Services. The cost of installation is \$40 and subscribers pay a \$20 monthly rental fee.

County Emergency Numbers

In addition to the Lifeline system operated by Duplin General Hospital, Brinson emphasized the use of the new emergency telephone numbers by all county citizens. The new emergency telephone numbers went into use November 4 at the Duplin Emergency Services and County Sheriff's Department.

From Kenansville, Wallace and Faison, emergency calls will be made to 911.

The emergency service number for Beulaville, Warsaw and Rose Hill is 296-1911.

Stickers with telephone emergency numbers for each town are available at the Duplin Emergency Services Department in Kenansville. According to Brinson, local volunteer and county emergency services personnel will be distributing the 911 stickers to each household in the near future.

Old Ushers In New Warsaw Mayor

Outgoing Mayor Sam Godwin administered the oath of office to incoming Mayor Ben Eason last week in his town board's first meeting in Warsaw since the November election.

Also sworn into new four-year terms were W.E. Foster and John Weatherly III, who were re-elected without opposition.

The board suggested that Duplin County use \$58,000 in clean water bond money to pay for sewer and water lines from the Warsaw town limits to James Kenan High School.

Oaths Taken For Board In Magnolia

Three new Magnolia Town Board members took their oaths of office last week.

Among them was Sherwood Ezzell, who, in addition to being a new town commissioner, is chief of police. Also sworn in as commissioners were Millard Williams and Clarence Whaley.

The board elected Commissioner Melvin Pope mayor pro tem. Mayor Ruth Quinn appointed Pope streets and drainage commissioner; Clarence Whaley, police, fire and rescue commissioner; Ezzell, water and sewer commissioner; Williams, recreation and old depot commissioner, and Rudolph Becton, grants, real estate and library commissioner.

The depot has been demolished but rubble remains on the site. No use has been determined for the site.

An opinion issued by the state attorney general's office says Ezzell may hold the commissioners' and chief's jobs simultaneously.

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