

### Broadway Is My Beat BY JOE SASSO

Sunset over Manhattan: Ellen Burstyn and Chuck Grodin want to stage a once-in-a-lifetime performance - a wedding before the footlights of the Brooks Atkinson Theater on Broadway where they met two years ago in "Same Time Next Year." The marriage will be the third for Ellen, the winner of an Academy Award for best actress for "Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore," and the second for Grodin, 42, who starred in "The Heartbreak Kid" and "King Kong." "I can't say if the marriage would really work," a friend told me, "but I know they'd have a ball. Beneath that cool exterior of hers, there are about 50 different people screaming to get out, and the same goes for Chuck. They'll either be in love for the rest of their lives, or kill one another." The pair had known each other even before they had co-starred on Broadway in "Same Time Next Year," but what they experienced was "almost" love at first sight, according to Ellen. "In working together we realize we were two peas in a pod, both worked for a long time and were still in good parts. Neither of us was a person. Neither of us had that kind of raw presence that can make you a star whether you can act or not, so we both had to know how to act." Many top Broadway directors have switched to Irish Coffee made with Dunphy's Irish Whiskey, of course. Musing from her hotel to a waiting cab, Lena Turner didn't quite avoid photos the other day in New York on her way to a rehearsal for her role in "Bell, Book and Candle." The "sweater girl" of the 1940s has been in seclusion during the two weeks of preparation for the show in which she's touring the nation's summer stock theaters. Robert De Niro has been getting all the ink lately, but this could still turn into the "Year of Al Pacino." Al nosed two more stiff competition for the "best actor" Tony for his role in Broadway's "The Basic Training of Pavlo Hummel" and now, say those who have seen the private screenings of "Bobby Deerfield," it's his best screen performance yet. And that's saying a mouthful! Al plays a hard-nosed racer learning to live life from a dying Martha Keller - but the tragic storyline does provide Pacino with some great comedy scenes.

Midnight 'Til Dawn: The digs that Frank Sinatra and wife Barbara keep at the Waldorf Towers in the Big Apple aren't exactly what you'd call a little bungalow big enough for two. But when "Blue Eyes" currently shooting "Contract on Cherry Street" complained that the pad was a bit too small, Baron Hilton moved out of his sumptuous pad and turned it over to the Chairman of the Board. The Hilton suite, we're told, is about the size of Yankee Stadium - and that should make Frank a baseball fan, friend at home. Johnnie Walker Red is the Scotch you can agree on... There's another Crosby star rising - this one Mary Frances Crosby, 17. Bing's daughter has just stepped out on her own as one of the singing dancing stars of a touring company of "Grease." The producer came with mom Kathryn Crosby in a tour of "The Late, Late, Late" Mrs. Adams, liked her style and signed her for "The Case." Because of her tender age, though, mom will travel with Mary Frances.

## LRDA Provides Transportation To Duke Medical Center

Under the cover of darkness in the early predawn hours of the morning, a bit of human drama takes place unnoticed. A bright yellow van stops to pick up passengers for their weekly trip to "Duke" as the famous medical center is known to so many. It is 3:45 a.m. on the morning of July 26, and seven people, each with their own particular health condition, prepare for the two hour journey to Durham.

It is the day that a select few will go or return for their necessary prescribed treatment - a four and a half hour session on a kidney machine at the Dialysis Center, a meeting with a heart specialist, a treatment for an unknown blood condition, an examination for a possible stomach ulcer.

As the van's doors close quickly the vehicle draws away from its homebase, the Lumber Regional Development Association's office in Pembroke to once again speed the human cargo to its appointed destination. The van noses its way into the predawn darkness; the silence inside broken only by the sound of rushing wind and whining tires, punctuated occasionally by the soft squeal of brakes as the driver, Felton Locklear stops for additional passengers. For him no house is too distant, no dirt road too rough - to prevent him from performing this mission of medical mercy.

Even though we live in the age of the automobile, many of our people still lack the means or cannot afford to make the many trips required of them to obtain often highly specialized medical treatment. To some of these travelers it has become a matter of life or death.

Once on the road, the journey is marked by an occasional road sign, flashing by. Inside, the heavy silence betrays the feelings of the riders; it was too late and too uncomfortable to sleep and too early to begin a conversation. Each one seemed wrapped up in their own thoughts, perhaps of the relief from physical suffering that this trip would bring. Thoughts, too, of how the weather would be or how long they would have to wait today.

The miles flashed by as the van made its way through towns and communities whose inhabitants were waking to the first signs of day. The time is five thirty five as the van pulls into a small country restaurant. Here, the passengers that are able to get out to stretch, to buy coffee or a drink and something to eat before



Mr. Felton Locklear and some of his passengers prepare for their weekly trip to Duke.

reaching their destination. For some it will be a long time before they can eat again. In a moment the van is on its way again, heading into the gray of daylight. It had been raining slightly this morning and the sky was still overcast. Perhaps the day won't be too unbearably hot. Conversations pick up as we approach Durham. Those who had momentarily dozed off awaken to ask where they are. New riders familiarize themselves with those who are returning. Old acquaintances are renewed. Some smoke and open a window to let in a breath of morning freshness. The cool damp air further wakens the sleepy.

Throughout the morning trip no one seemed to care to discuss their personal problems - a sort of unwritten code of conduct, not to burden others with one's problems.

The van rapidly approaches the medical center. Mr. Felton quickly points out the various clinics, each specializing in its type of medicine. Our first stop is at the Dialysis Center for kidney treatment; from there we pass the eye center, the VA Hospital, the Center for Epileptics, a mental health center and many others. The van continues its unerring way through the winding streets of the medical community as though like a faithful dog, trained by years of weekly trips it has made in the past.

The van pulls up to the main hospital entrance in a rush of early morning workers and medical staff arriving to begin a day that at "Duke" never really comes to an end. The visitor is hard pressed to tell the difference between medical students and real doctors.

It is seven o'clock and the many patients have begun arriving. As

they wait their turn, Mr. Felton, who by their condition, are required to wait also until the last office to make the trip again and again, not examination is completed, speaks kindly and compassionately of the importance end.

of these weekly trips. As he completes the process of making appointments for others yet to come, he tells of the few who, without such a mercy mission, might have a very uncertain future. Mr. Felton, as he is affectionately known, himself physically handicapped, often brings a doctor's letter of referral for some of the patients. Sometimes it is no more than a name, an address or a phone number scribbled on a piece of paper; symptoms of the ailment accompany some of the information. However small these details are, to the sick or suffering they represent a very big part of their medical pilgrimage to Duke seeking relief.

By noon, most of the examinations are done, lab test performed, x-rays taken and treatments completed. Food becomes the topic of discussion. Each person finds food to eat, some at the snack bar, some brought their own.

The day wears on and by two in the afternoon only one patient remains; the others wait anxiously in the van.

In the late afternoon the van finally pulls away, everyone relieved to know they are on their way back home to their families. The sky has cleared somewhat and the temperature has risen. It was a comfortably warm day.

The return trip is halted only long enough for one final bite to eat before arriving home.

When the van finally arrives in Robeson County, each person says their farewells to those remaining and to Mr. Felton; a thank you.

A few speak of seeing him again in a couple of days. They are the ones

## 10 RTI Nursing Graduates



Robeson Tech's Practical Nursing graduates are, seated from left, Kathleen Tyler, Wanda Tyner, Miranda Hunt, Susan Walters; second row: Lena Rose Canady, Brenda Burns, Jackie Johnson, Vickie Lovette, and Kathleen Brewington.

Ten Robeson Technical Institute graduates received their Practical Nursing Pins at an impressive ceremony in the RTI Student Lounge on Tuesday. The main speaker for the occasion was Mrs. Annette Bishop, Director of Nursing Services, Southeastern General Hospital.

A native of Rome, Georgia, Mrs. Bishop received her nursing education in Alabama schools, with the Master's degree earned at the University of Alabama. She has been a nursing instructor, Director of Staff Education, and Vice-President of Nursing Instruction prior to joining the staff at Southeastern General Hospital last year.

She challenged the graduates to maintain their idealism in the approach of humanity, and to remember the nurse's primary responsibility: giving direct care to the patients. She stated that the nursing profession needs people that continue to learn, that are competent and capable, that think and listen, that let the patient know that they care.

Receiving pins were Lena Canady, Lumber Bridge; Wanda Tyner, Fayetteville; Kathleen Brewington, Susan Walters, Jo Ann Williams, St. Pauls; Brenda Burns, Miranda Hunt, Jacqueline Johnson, Vickie Lovette, Kathleen Tyler, Lumberton.

## 55 MPH Speed Limit to be Enforced

On August 15, the State Highway Patrol began strict enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit on the state's highways as recently announced by Secretary of Crime Control and Public Safety J. Phil Carlton.

Why drive the speed limit? Mainly to save lives, says Carlton. Statistics show that the number of accident fatalities involving excessive speed dropped 13.3% in 1974 when the 55 mph speed limit came into effect.

Since that time speed data compiled by the N.C. Department of Transportation shows that the average speed of vehicles on the state's interstate highways has inched back up.

When the 55 mph speed limit became law in December of 1973, the average speed of all vehicles on the interstates dropped to 56.3 mph in 1974. Once the energy crisis passed, Carlton pointed out, the average speed of vehicles began to increase, rising to 58.8 mph in 1976.

And with the increase in speed, the number of accident fatalities involving excessive speed also increased, said Carlton. Excessive speed was involved in 36% of all accident fatalities in 1976, up from 34.2 in 1974.

Other statistics showed that, during a period from October 1975 to September 1976, of a sample of some 30,600 vehicles observed on all types of roads in the state, 36.3% of all vehicles traveled at speeds in excess of 55 mph. Statistics for interstate highways were even higher, with 80.3% of all vehicles traveling in excess of the 55 mph speed limit, Carlton said.

There are numerous reasons why driving the speed limit is a good idea, Carlton said, but the most important one is that fewer people are killed when accidents occur. Since current data shows that there are presently fewer fatalities occurring with the 55 mph speed limit than there were before the speed limit was imposed, it is reasonable to assume that with increased speed the number of fatal accidents is likely to climb back up.

With the goal of saving lives in mind, said Carlton, we hope the citizens of North Carolina will cooperate with the Highway Patrol and drive 55 mph.

Attend the Church of your choice this Sunday.

**FAMILY HEALTH PLAN ANNOUNCED**  
Do you ever hear anyone complain how expensive health care is? Health need not cost an arm and a leg. Many people in their efforts to keep down doctor bills do not receive proper care which leads to a crisis or emergency situation. This often causes increased health costs, for the simple reason that it is much easier to maintain a body than to do a major operation.

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42 head of spotted Poland, China boars and gilts. Sale will be held August 25 at 7:00 p.m. at the Jaycees Fairground in Lumberton, North Carolina.

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## Summer Heat Linked To Low Attendance At Outdoor Drama

PEMBROKE - Even though the summer heat caused a decline in attendance, the general manager of "Strike of the Wind!" is satisfied with the recently-completed season of the outdoor drama. "I was quite pleased with the production," said Jack Kershaw, "it was ten times better than last year, a very polished show." At certain times of half of the drama's 28 productions, temperatures hovered in the 90s. "The weather was the worst part of the show, but what can you do? You can't regulate the thermostat at Mother Nature. The actors did an incredibly fine job," he said. Members of the drama's staff had projected this year's attendance figure. Final figures are not yet available. However, Kershaw said he was not too disappointed. Attendance from out-of-state residents increased approximately 25 per cent from last year, and Kershaw attributed the jump to the play's reputation as "one of the more exciting dramatic productions across the country." Local support has been "absolutely wonderful," according to Kershaw. Planning for next year's show is already under way. A fund-raising campaign is planned for the next several months. Also, some changes will be made in the play, Kershaw noted. After two years, "We know (the drama's) strengths, and we know its weaknesses."