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Dunn Has No Juvenile Delinquency. Reason? Boys' Baseball League

By BILL SHARPE
Dunn — Juvenile delinquency doesn't live here any more. Dunn's youngsters are too absorbed in the joyful pursuits of the Knee Pants Baseball league to hell around aimlessly, and they scarcely even have time to plague their elders. And besides, they are under rigid contract to be little gentlemen.

However, when Herbert B. Taylor, local insurance man, organized the town's thriving kid baseball league 27 years ago, juvenile delinquency had not been invented. Taylor, a grandfather, and former mayor of the town, didn't set out consciously to curb mischief. He started the league simply because this farm market town in the cotton belt of North Carolina (population 5,256) had no recreational facilities whatever for children, and

also because of nostalgia for the game he had to give up because of injury.

There are a lot of kid baseball leagues, including the American Legion system (which Dunn follows) was inspired by the Knee Panters), but probably none of them has dared imitate Taylor's Spartan Knee Panters. Candidates—ages 8 to 14—must sign a regular "big league" contract for each season. This is a formidable document which, among other things, obligates the player to be at home not later than 10 o'clock at night, attend Sunday school regularly, refrain from bullying smaller boys, respect property, etc. And, just in case Taylor's recollections of youthful folly have been blind spots in them, there is a clause pledging the player "to be a gentleman and strive to

uphold the dignity of the Knee Pants League."

The only thing more astonishing than the high optimism of this contract is the fact that it generally is fulfilled and enforced. Taylor misses few opportunities to remind the boys that if they play in his league they must play fair ball with the community, too. They must memorize the contract, and Taylor is not reluctant, while correcting the stance of a batter, to ask him to respect Section 3 of his contract. This piece of paper also must be taken home and endorsed by the kid's parents, who certify they will help the kids live up to it.

It might be supposed that the summertime monitor for 60 lively kids would be considered a dreadful burden by the juvenile population. This is not true. Knee Panters seem to regard their president as a combination of a very inauspicious patron and friend, and a pretty tough cook. It doesn't take new players long to realize that while the town's "little big league" is a lot of fun, their sponsor also finds out a lot of

Noted Garden In East N. C. Is Now Open

Airlie Plantation, with one of the most beautiful azalea and camellia gardens in the South, at last is open to the public. The 150-acre estate near Wilmington may be seen each Saturday, Sunday and Monday from 1 p. m. until 6 p. m. through June 30, 1948, according to attorneys for Mrs. John Russell Pope, the owner. A small admission fee will be charged.

Once the property of the Wright family (for whom Wrightsville Beach was named) the tract was acquired toward the close of the last century by the late Pembroke Jones. Desiring a "little shack where we can slip away and be by ourselves," Jones and his wife built a modest two-room abode which they named "Airlie," after the Scotch home of the Jones ancestors.

As increasing numbers of guests discovered the delights of "Airlie," the "shack" was expanded to welcome them. The 33 apartments now include a spacious ball room and a banquet hall in which as many as 80 guests have been seated at one table.

Among its treasured decorations is a carved newel post and rail of English oak on the stairway which was once in Sir Walter Raleigh's home. The gates at the entrance to the estate came from France and stood at Vaucluse Garden in Newport.

Across the road at Pembroke Park, the Lodge, which Jones built to entertain his friends, is considered one of the two most outstanding examples of European design in America. The plan was of an Italian villa overlooking the waters of Wrightsville Sound, and that classical note was followed by its designer, John Russell Pope, architect whose most notable work is the Jefferson Memorial in Washington. He married the daughter of Pembroke Jones' wife, Mrs. Henry Walters.

All furnishings in the Lodge were once treasures of Tuscan palaces. The walls at the end apartments are divided into panels by Ionic columns. The central hall shows a high vaulted ceiling.

The garden, famous for its unplanned and natural beauty, features primarily magnolias, camellias, japonicas, and azaleas. A mile-long driveway winds from the gate to the house lined with native trees. Rustic bridges across the large lake and numerous inlets add to the quaintness of the setting.

What is going on in Dunn's joydom. Violation of that contract means suspension, and this is a severe penalty when play is going strong in mid-summer.

It is humiliating, too. The window of Mack Wood's barber shop on Main Street is the official bulletin board of the league, and here are posted box scores, league standings, batting averages, and other intelligence. Also posted without mercy are the suspensions. Inasmuch as the information is read not only by the kids, but also by a good percentage of the adult population, the bulletin board is the equivalent of the town stocks for contract-breakers.

One of the boys was caught raiding a neighbor's cherry tree and promptly was suspended from play. The next day, Taylor received the following note: "I feel that I have had the worst punishment that you could have given me. I hope you will reconsider and let me play again. I am sorry about the cherries. I do not even like cherries when they are ripe, and I cannot understand why I wanted to steal green ones. Before you make up your mind to remove me for the rest of the season I ask that you consider the case of George Washington, who cut down the whole tree."

The league is divided into four teams, and the boys practice every day, play three times a week. Each team has a volunteer coach, a "graduate" Knee Pantser himself. Players are traded during the season to equalize strength. At the end of the summer there is an all-star game, and Dunn fills the park for this one. The ministerial association sponsors the game (the only one for which admission is charged) and proceeds go to the community recreation program, which stems directly from the pioneer Knee Pants League. Part of this money is used to support the League, but before that Taylor did most of the financing out of his pocket, and the mothers made the uniforms.

Taylor's Knee Panters have come a long way in 27 years. The idea caught on, but it took patience, tact and time.

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- SHARP DAISY CHEESE . . . 53c
- Fancy Long Grain RICE, 3 lbs. . . 59c
- Libbys Fancy Green No. 2 Can BEANS . . . 27c
- Comstock Pin No. 2 Can APPLES . . . 19c
- Dixie Home 3 tall or 6 small MILK . . . 35c
- Dukes Pint Jar Mayonnaise . . . 43c
- Bama Pure 16 Oz. Jar GRAPE JAM . . . 23c
- Duff's Hot ROLL MIX . . . 27c
- Gold Cup POUND COFFEE . . . 43c
- Rose Royal 25 lb. Bag P or SR FLOUR, . . . 1.94
- Jim Dandy 2 Pounds GRITS . . . 21c
- Armour Star 3 Pounds LARD . . . 99c
- Stokelys Honey No. 2 Can POD PEAS . . . 21c
- Picsweet No. 303 Can PEAS . . . 19c
- Niblets 12 Oz. Can CORN . . . 17c
- Georgia 7 Ounces Pimientos . . . 19c
- Libbys Whole No. 2 Can BEETS . . . 16c
- French's 6 Ounces MUSTARD . . . 9c

- MAKE THIS STORE HEADQUARTERS FOR EXTRACT AND SPICES.
- OCEAN SPRAY 16 OZ. CAN CRANBERRY SAUCE . . . 21c
 - STOKELY'S NO. 1 CAN FRUIT COCKTAIL . . . 41c
 - GEORGIA MISS PURE STRAWBERRY PRESERVES . . . 41c
 - GREEN BEAUTY SWEET 22 OUNCES MIXED PICKLES . . . 30c
 - SYLVAN NO. 1 CAN KODATO FIGS . . . 19c



- DRESSED & DRAWN POUND Frying Chickens . . . 55c
- DRESSED & DRAWN POUND Stewing Hens . . . 49c
- DRESSED & DRAWN POUND Hen Turkeys . . . 59c
- PURITAN POUND Pork Sausage . . . 53c

APRICOT PORK STEAKS
Here pork shoulder steaks are baked in an apricot sauce subtly flavored with spices and lemon juice. To make the sauce: Wash 2 cups dried apricots, cover with boiling water and let soak for 1 hour. Add a few grains salt and simmer until tender. Add 1/4 cup sugar, 2 teaspoons lemon juice, 1/4 teaspoon ground cloves, and cook 10 minutes longer. Flour 3 pork steaks and brown in a little hot fat. Sprinkle with salt. Pour apricot sauce over steaks, cover pan and simmer 35 minutes, or until tender. (Or bake at 350 F.) Add a little more water during cooking. Serve with apricot sauce (as is, or pressed through a sieve to make a smooth sauce.)

GENUINE LONG ISLAND DUCKLINGS lb. 39c

- POUND SHORT SHANK Smoked Picnics . . . 47c
- SEAFOOD
- POUND Halibut Steaks . . . 49c
- FILLETS OF POUND WHITING . . . 29c
- FILLETS OF POUND MACKEREL . . . 39c
- RED SALMON POUND STEAKS . . . 49c
- FILLETS OF POUND RED PERCH . . . 39c

FRUITS - VEGETABLES

- Calif. Red Emperor 3 Pounds U.S. No. 1 White 10 Pounds Grapes . . . 29c Potatoes . . . 42c
- FARM FRESH TURNIP OR 2 POUNDS MUSTARD GREENS . . . 15c
- York Imperial 5 Pounds Florida 8 lb. Mesh Bag APPLES . . . 49c ORANGES . . . 37c
- Fresh Honduras Pound Carolina Sweet COCOANUTS . . . 9c POTATOES . . . 29c
- Calif. Snowball 2 Pounds Green 2 Bunches Cauliflower . . . 35c ONIONS . . . 19c
- CANADIAN RUTABAGAS . . . 3 lbs. 13c

- Quaker Reg. 7 kg. DATES . . . 17c
- Mothers Pound COCOA . . . 23c
- KRE MEL . . . 7c
- Argo Glass 8 1/2 Ounces STARCH . . . 7c
- Oscar Meyer 12 Oz. Can VEINERS . . . 51c
- Georgia Gold No. 2 Can FIELD PEAS . . . 17c
- Libbys 7 1/2 Oz. Can YEAL LOAF . . . 25c
- Plowboy No. 5 Can SYRUP . . . 51c

- White (P. or S.R.) 10 lb. Bag LACE FLOUR . . . 95c
- Torsch Green & White No. 2 LIMA BEANS . . . 21c
- Van Camps Red No. 2 Can Kidney Beans . . . 14c
- Rosedale Bartlett No. 2 1/2 Can PEARS . . . 41c
- Stokelys Fruit No. 1 Can COCKTAIL . . . 41c
- Diamond Large Box MATCHES . . . 6c
- Whittemore Shoe Polish . . . 15c
- Pink No. 1 Tall Can SALMON . . . 47c

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