

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

You know... sometimes when I look back in my younger days, I wonder how I ever made it. I graduated from high school at Magnolia, and after graduating had very little idea of what I was going to do. . . . During the summer after graduation, I was mowing the grass for the church in Rose Hill. . . . It must have been two hundred in the shade, and the church lawn covered half a block. I was supposed to be working for a furniture company. . . . at least he was paying me to. . . . but this was his church, and every week he would tell me to go mow that lawn. . . . And I didn't even attend that church, but that was back when workers did what they were told or they lost their job. . . . Anyway, I was mowing this lawn. . . . My clothes were wringing wet with perspiration (sweat) and I was thinking. . . . Son-of-a-gun, I sure don't want to do this all my life, when up drove a fellow. . . . Paul Miller. He got out of his airconditioned car all dressed in a suit, a shiny white shirt, and tie, and comes over to me and says he is the Registrar for Miller Motte Business College. . . . And wouldn't I like to take a course in accounting. . . . where I could dress in a suit and tie and work in an air-conditioned building? . . . Well, this fellow had come to the right place. . . . to talk with the right fellow. . . . at the right time. His words were like angel voices, so I says, Mr. Miller, there is one shade tree on this

block right over there on that corner. . . . Let's go over and sit under it and talk this over. . . . But Paul says, "Why, Mr. Lanier, let's talk in my car. It's probably cooler." . . . Impressed. . . . Was I ever impressed. . . . First time in my life I had been called Mr. . . . and the only kind of air-conditioned vehicle I had ever been in was a Greyhound bus. . . . I jumped into the car and told him I would like to attend Miller Motte. . . . (And wondered if I could make as much as \$100 a week after graduating. . . . He said I surely could. . . . No question about it. . . . In those days, \$100 a week was a lot of money. That was almost as much as a doctor made. . . . I told him I would need some kind of a part-time job 'cause I couldn't afford to pay all that money and then live in Wilmington, too. He said he would look around and thought he could get me a part-time job and a place to stay that wouldn't cost anything. . . . Son-of-a-gun. . . . I finally got myself a winner, I thought. He said to come on down to Miller Motte and look things over. . . . I told him Yes, Sir, soon as I get my paycheck Saturday, I'll get a Greyhound bus ticket and be right on down. . . . And I did. . . . I went to the barbershop and got me a haircut. . . . that was back when you really got a haircut, too. . . . the barbers almost shaved your head along the sides and left the hair about two inches long on top. . . . I was all tanned up to where my hair

had grown. . . . Then there was a white streak about three inches wide on top of the top of my head. . . . With light on my best clothes, at my best summer clothes. . . . I had one of those Hawaiian flowered shirts. . . . and a pair of khaki heavily starched pants. . . . With the shirt-tail of that shirt hanging in the breeze, was one more sharp-looking country boy. . . . That shirt was yellow with red flowers blossoming all over it. . . . If I weren't pure country, it didn't exist. . . . But I thought I looked sharp enough. . . . Well, I got to Wilmington and walked to the Miller Motte Building where I met Paul's father. . . . Mr. Miller, sure enough. . . . He turned on his Ipana smile top and welcomed me. . . . And showing me all those business machines. . . . Son-of-a-Gun. . . . Woowee, what kind of a place is this. . . . Old Paul comes in and says, Joe, I think I got just the place for you to work and stay. . . . You will get paid to live there. . . . I was so excited I had to control myself to keep from jumping up and clicking my heels together. . . . Ooowee. . . . Come on and let's go and see this fellow, I am sure he will like you. . . . We went to a funeral home. . . . Cobles Funeral Home. . . . Paul says, Joe, you won't mind living in a funeral home, will you? . . . I says, By myself? You want me to spend the night here by myself. . . . in this funeral home. . . . Nobody here but me and dead people. . . . all by myself? . . . Well, Mr. Coble came out and interrupted us, or somewhere, somehow I would have left that Paul Miller standing right there. . . . Mr. Coble looked over kinda with a doubting. . . . I didn't think anything was wrong with me, but thinking about it now, I really don't know how he ever came to the conclusion to hire me. . . . But he did. . . . Now a Funeral Home is a conservative place where everyone wears suits and ties. . . . Here I was dressed in this outlandish outfit. . . . His wife came out to look me over, too. She told him maybe he should wait awhile before deciding whether or not to hire someone. . . . But he said, Joe, you will like it here. . . . You and Bill Register will hit it off right away. . . . You and he will be living upstairs. . . . He has been with me for a number of years. . . . I am sure you will like him. . . . Well, I don't mind telling you I wasn't sure I would like staying in a funeral home. . . . I looked at his lawn and it looked like two passes with a lawnmower would mow it all. . . . I remembered how big that church lawn was. . . . And I saw those Cadillac cars. . . . Maybe he will let me drive one. . . . I decided to give it a try. . . . I was wearing those clothes better than I was wearing, but he got fooled. I had one suit. . . . It was at one time blue, but had faded to a kind of purple. . . . And it was double-breasted. . . . maybe ten years out of style. . . . Well, I went on inside and met Bill Register. . . . And he gave me a doubting look too, but showed me upstairs where I would be bunking. . . . And everything seemed all right. . . . In fact, it was a fine place. . . . One of the best-looking bedrooms I had ever been in. . . . Well, I got all my mess put away and asked Bill where the bathroom was and he said, through that door and turn left. . . . Well, I went into a room and turned left and there was the bathroom, and it too was a fine looking place. . . . But low and behold, when I started out of the bathroom with the light on, I saw in the room I had just gone through, a dead man laying on a table. . . . Son-of-a-gun. . . . I nearly had a heart attack. . . . I didn't see anything when I went thru it, but that return trip was something else. Bill told me when I got back to the bedroom, all pale-looking, that the room I went thru was the embalming room. . . . Well, I lay on my bed in my clothes. . . . Bill asked me if I wasn't going to put on my pajamas and go to bed. . . . I wasn't even sure I was going to stay, but in my whole life I had never had a pair of pajamas. . . . I told him I didn't have any pajamas and he said, well, when you take your bath I will let you use a pair of mine tonight, and you can buy some tomorrow. . . . Well, I wasn't sure I was going to take a bath. . . . Not if it meant going back in there with that dead man. . . . I mean, what is one night without a bath. . . . Back on the farm I had gone two or three nights and didn't wash anything but my feet and face. . . . But when in Rome. . . . I braved it out. . . . If Bill wasn't frightened, then why should I be. . . . But, friends, I will never forget that first day and night in Wilmington. . . . Son of a Gun. . . .

KENANSVILLE JAYCEE AWARD WINNERS - (L to R) Dennis Kirby, Faith in God Award; Eddie Hobbs, Jaycee of the Year; and Doc Brinson, Outstanding Five Young Men.

KENANSVILLE JAYCEE AWARD WINNERS - (L to R) Dan Newkirk, Spoke of the Year; Doug Judge, Past Presidents Award; and Woody Brinson, Spark Plug of the Year Award.

CARD BENEFIT
On April 30th, a card benefit will be held by the Kenansville Jaycees to raise funds for the Duplin County Heart Fund. Everyone is invited to attend. The fun will start at 7:30 p.m. at James Sprunt Institute.

FLEA MARKET
The East Duplin Band Boosters are sponsoring a Flea Market to be held Saturday, April 30th from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the new National Guard Armory.

Nearest Neighbors in Beaulville live next door to this unusually well-kept three bedroom Brick Home located on East Standard Street. Rick Sommerlin, 298-8371. etc

To Mom and her
Mom's favorite gifts are here!

DAY MAY 5TH

GEORGE W. TEACHEY
WALLACE - Sgt. George Washington Teachey, 66, U.S. Army, retired, of Washington, D.C., died Saturday.

LOTTE O. BERGER
ALBERTSON - Mrs. Lottie Outlaw Berger, 83, died Saturday. Funeral, Tyndal Funeral Home chapel, Mount Olive. Burial, Outlaw Bridge Church cemetery.

MRS. ADA ELLSWORTH WALLACE MCGOWEN
WALLACE - Mrs. Ada Ellsworth Wallace McGowen, 94, died early Thursday morning at Pender Memorial. Funeral, Wallace Presbyterian Church. Burial, Rockfish Cemetery.

HATTIE BRICE, 63, Rose Hill.

FRANCES B. W. BOWDEN
TEACHEY - Mrs. Frances Brower Wells Bowden, 76, died Saturday. Funeral, Tuesday, Teachey Presbyterian Church. Burial, Rockfish Cemetery, Wallace.

B. F. MAREADY
WALLACE - Bryant Frank Maready, 68, died Tuesday. Graveside service Wednesday, Maready family cemetery.

TECIA J. WOOD
ROSE HILL - Mrs. Tecia Jones Wood, 80, of Route 1, Rose Hill, died Monday. Funeral 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Evergreen Baptist Church. Burial, Jones family cemetery, Harrells.

MRS. BEATRICE ISABELLE MIDDLETON MOORE
KENANSVILLE - Mrs. Beatrice Isabelle Middleton Moore died Thursday after a lengthy illness. Funeral, Monday, Kenansville First Baptist Church; Burial, Middleton Cemetery.

FARM BUREAU DIVIDEND
The North Carolina Farm Bureau Mutual Insurance Company paid twenty percent dividends for the eleventh consecutive year to its policyholders throughout the state. This amounted to \$60,686 this year for Duplin policyholders. These dividends are paid in all fire lines which include homeowners, farmowners, short term and tobacco floater policies. Approximately 2,000 policyholders in Duplin were effected. The amount paid in dividends amounts to twenty percent of the premiums paid into the company by the policyholder during the preceding calendar year.

Bloodmobile To Be In Duplin
The Bloodmobile will be in Beaulville on May 10th from 12 to 6 p.m. at the National Guard Armory and on May 11th in Rose Hill from 10-4 at the Fire House. John Simmons in Beaulville and Rev. John White of Rose Hill are hoping for a record turnout from their fellow citizens.

Suit Filed
(Continued from Front)
Saunders on top of him. Walton then fired, fatally wounding Saunders.
According to Col. Jones and Major Lance, also of the N.C. Highway Patrol, there were only two shots fired - one from Wards revolver and one from Walton's revolver. The body of Saunders had two gunshot wounds - one in the head and one in the chest. One bullet was found in the headwound. Apparently the first shot fired entered Saunders' chest, came out and struck Cooper Walton in the ankle.
A grand jury ruled the death justifiable homicide.
The lawsuit claims the patrolmen shot Saunders after twice hitting him in the head with a flashlight without provocation and that Saunders had no weapon.

Guilford
(Continued from Front)
community level with the (eas. disruption to his work, family and social life. Early diagnosis is the key to restored health and continued productivity on the job.
Commenting on the endorsement of the program, Cluster of Guilford East said, "I recommend this program to both the supervisors, as an early warning system of detecting the problem employee or troubled employee, and the employers as a helping hand to restore their efficiency."

DUPLIN TIMES-PROGRESS SENTINEL
Published Weekly by DUPLIN PUBLISHING CO., INC.
The Progress, Publisher
P. O. Box 66
Kenansville, N. C. 28542
Second Class Postage Paid at Kenansville, N. C. 28542
SUBSCRIPTION PRICES
Weekly Copy 11 Cents
In Advance, 3 Months \$3.00
6 Months \$5.50
1 Year \$10.00

JSI TRUSTEE SWORN IN - James F. Sprickland, right, Chairman, JSI Board of Trustees, congratulates Charles Woodrow Albertson on his appointment as member of the Board of Trustees of James Sprunt Institute. Albertson, better known as "Charlie" was sworn in by John Anderson Johnson, Clerk of Court, Monday, April 18. Albertson, appointed by the Duplin County Board of Education, fills the vacancy created by the death of Leroy Simmons. Charlie is employed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and is an accomplished musician and entertainer, well-known for his charitable work and contributions to civic affairs. He and his wife, Grace, live in Beaulville.

Letter To The Editor
April 25, 1977
Dear Editor,
I see by last week's paper that the representative of Jesse Helms will visit the county for two hours soon. An election must be coming up I've never known a republican politician who wanted to see the people, except when it was time to trick the public out of their vote.
Senator Morgan is in Duplin county often, the last time being on November 2, 1976. One of Morgan's assistants is in the county about once a month. I personally appreciate you running the story, because the unusual is always news.
Yours truly,
Doug Clark

TOYOTA: IT'S JUST COMMON SENSE
Clinton Toyota, Inc.
213 SOUTH EAST BOULEVARD CLINTON.

Funeral Home
Jan of a Gun
Warsaw
if...
you are at a loss for
That Perfect
Mother's Day Gift
stop by and let us
make suggestions
for that Special Person
select from several price ranges
Monday - Saturday
10 o'clock 'til 5:30 o'clock
 Hwy 117 North

NOTICE!
April 12, 1977
Dear Member of Duplin Mutual Burial Association:
In settling the estate of E. C. Edgerton, Sr., a disposition of Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home in Warsaw, N. C., has been made, and this funeral home will no longer operate as in the past. This sale in no way voids your membership in the Duplin Mutual Burial Association.
There are two possible courses for you. You may transfer your membership to an association of your choice without a change in rate providing the association agrees to accept you. With your transfer a pro rate portion of the reserve or surplus fund from Duplin Mutual Burial Association would also be transferred.
Or you may prefer to leave your membership with Duplin Mutual Burial Association which from now on will have headquarters at Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home in Burgaw, N. C. 28425, and your payments would be mailed there. Those eligible for payments at the time of death would receive full benefits, payable either to surviving relatives or the indicated funeral director.
In case you wish a transfer of membership, you must notify me within (30) thirty days from date of this letter and state the association to which you wish to transfer. If you do not wish to transfer, no reply is needed.
You may notify me c/o Quinn-McGowen Funeral Home P.O. Box 182 Burgaw, N. C. 28425. I appreciate your co-operation in the past and hope I may be able to be helpful to you in the future.
Yours truly
Charlotte H. Edgerton, Secretary-Treasurer
Duplin Mutual Burial Association

ALL AREA MEMBERS OF THE DUPLIN MUTUAL BURIAL ASSOCIATION WHO HAVE RECEIVED A COPY OF THE ABOVE, IF THERE ARE ANY QUESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS AT ALL, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO CALL JAMES PADGETT AT EDGERTON FUNERAL HOME IN WALLACE AND BEULAVILLE.
EDGERTON FUNERAL HOME
JAMES PADGETT
OWNER & OPERATOR
401 West Main St.
Wallace, N. C. 28466
Phone 285-3307
Highway 111 North
Beaulville, N. C. 28518
Phone 298-4114