

Progress Sentinel

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

Profit is what keeps business going, and there is no doubt or argument that one must make a profit to stay in business. Nor is there any doubt nearly all items now purchased have price increases, some justifiable and some not. However, somewhere along the line, I am not sure just where, but prices move from a reasonable profit to rip off, and one of the items that keeps popping up in the news, I classify as a rip off, is coffee, and in more than one way. A pound of coffee in most stores is selling under \$4 and it was not too long ago it was selling for under a dollar a pound. That is quite a jump in price. Yes, sir, that is quite a jump from under a dollar to nearly four dollars a pound in the supermarket.

But that is not nearly as bad as in some restaurants. Some are getting 50 cents a cup for coffee. Back when coffee was selling for under a dollar a pound, restaurants were getting 10 cents a cup for coffee. In both incidents, it seems restaurant owners figure they must get their cost back for a pound of coffee in the first 8 cups. According to the directions, a pound of coffee in one of the new type drip makers will make from 100 to 125 cups of coffee. At 50 cents a cup, the \$4 a pound coffee returns \$50 plus dollars.

A \$4.00 is that a reasonable profit or a rip off? Think about it. The profit on a pound of coffee is, in some restaurants, paying the day's labor bill. The profit on one pound of coffee will pay minimum wages for three employees on an 8-hour shift, pay for the coffee, and the owner will still have a few dollars left.

Did you ever buy something you thought you just had to have, and then after you bought it couldn't find a use for it? Well, when I was about 10 years old, one summer I spotted in Frank Steed's dad's store an army surplus gas mask. For reasons I still don't know, I thought I just had to have it. So, I saved up my money until I had \$4, which was a great deal of money back then, and bought this gas mask. Now that I had it,

what could I do with it? Well, Dwight Lanier, Harvey Carter and I could play war. . . and I could wear the mask. . . Have you ever tried to wear a gas mask and yell "Bang, Bang"? Well, Dwight and Harvey couldn't hear me, so they didn't know when they were shot. . .

Also, running on hot summer days and breathing in a gas mask will cause the eye pieces to fog up and you will fall over a tobacco truck you are pretending is a jeep. . . Or you may fall in a ditch. . . Also, the head of a ten-year-old is not as large as a grown man's, thus the gas mask will not fit properly. . . Therefore as you run and are breathing hard, the air is not traveling through the mask as it should. It escapes around your head and the rubber of the mask is trying to stick to your sweaty face and makes a sound like you are sitting on a poo poo cushion. . . It didn't take but one afternoon for me to find out I had no use whatsoever for this mask I had worked in tobacco for a month to buy. I tried to get my mom to wear it while she was spraying DDT but she wouldn't. I finally traded it for two ten-cent comic books and a big little book with flip pages. . .

A tale has been told on my Dad also about buying something that wasn't quite what he thought it was when he was a young man. . . Granddad came to Warsaw from over at Dobson Chapel on a mule and cart to sell a dab of tobacco when he was a boy. . . While in Warsaw, Dad spotted what he thought was the largest orange he had ever seen and wanted Granddad to buy it, but Granddad said no. . . And as most youngsters, boys and girls, do, he began to cry, wanting that big old orange. . . Granddad kept telling him it wasn't an orange and he wouldn't like it. . . But who believes their Dad at that age when it comes to something like a great big orange. . . Finally, Granddad gave in and bought that big orange. . . That turned out to be the first grapefruit Dad ever tried to eat. . . Sure enough, Granddad was right. . . He didn't like it. . . Son-of-a-gun . . .

Improper Installation Probable Cause Of Blast

Improper installation of a newly installed liquid gas tank has been cited as the probable cause of an explosion that destroyed the Marilyn Benson home north of Kenansville May 14th.

According to N. David Smith, LP-gas Engineer of the Consumer Standards Division of the N.C. Department of Agriculture, the State's investigation revealed that on May 13th, a 123 gallon gas tank was replaced with a 250 gallon container, and that workers did not install a low-pressure regulator. Smith said the "installation only had a high pressure regulator, which probably resulted in the control

of a small room heater in the Benson house malfunctioning, releasing gas into the house."

"The gas vapor ignited, and sometime early on May 14th, the house was destroyed," Smith added.

The home was destroyed on May 14th. Mrs. Benson and her two children were not at home at the time, however. The family

lost all their belongings in the explosion and fire that followed. Hiram Brinson, Duplin County Civil Defense Coordinator, estimated the loss at \$15,000.

Worsley Oil Company of Kenansville was the gas supplier, according to the investigation held on May 17th by Smith's office.

Art Council Elects Officers

The 2nd annual membership meeting of the Duplin County Arts Council met Monday in the auditorium of the Hoffer Building at James Sprunt Institute in Kenansville to elect the following Board of Directors for the 1977-78 fiscal year: Edriel Ausley, President; Alta Kornegay, Vice President; Russell Tucker, Treasurer; Irvin Graham, Past President; Charlie Albertson, Laura Beckwith, Evelyn Buckley, William Costin, Sr., Anne Craft, William J. Igou, Horace Ward and Charles H. Yelverton. The office of Secretary will again be filled by Regina Whaley, Executive Director of the Council.

Rescue Seminar

Duplin County Rescue Association will hold a seminar May 29th at the Landfill showing how to remove a wreck victim from an automobile.

Rescuers will demonstrate the use of "Jaws of Life", "Porta-Power Jack", and a "Come-Along". Anyone with an old auto they would like to donate to be used in the demonstration is asked to call Hiram Brinson. The public is invited.



PRESENTS CHECK - Doc Brinson, Kenansville Jaycee President is shown presenting a \$100 check to James Kenan Athletic Director Vance Alphin on Monday night as Coach Bill Byrd looks on. According to Alphin, the check will be used to finish paying for the weight machine at James Kenan.

Reeves Honored By Sears

Employees and management of Comfy Reeves Brothers Consumer Products Group were honored Tuesday by Sears, Roebuck and Co. The Kenansville firm makes furniture throws for Sears.

Byron Zimmerman of Chicago, Sears national buyer, presented a Sears "Symbol of Excellence" plaque during a ceremony held in Kenansville. The plaque was accepted by Sy Haber, President of Consumer

Products Group of Reeves Brothers on behalf of the entire plant personnel.

The award was one of 573 Sears is presenting this year to suppliers judged most outstanding among its 12,000 merchandising sources. Comfy also received the award in 1974 and in 1976.

"This award is based primarily on the excellence of merchandise produced by Reeves Brothers for Sears during the past year," Zimmerman said.

"It also recognizes the general excellence of Reeves Brothers performance in such matters as shipping goods on schedule, and initiative in developing new and improved merchandise," he added. "This award is our salute to those suppliers who have, through their excellence, made significant contributions to Sears reputation for quality merchandise. It also recognizes each employee for his contribution to the superior performance of the plant."

Zimmerman said Reeves Brothers Comfy Division was selected for the Sears "Symbol of Excellence" by a committee representing the company's retail stores, catalog plants, national service department, quality control personnel and merchandise development and testing laboratory. The committee screened nominations from Sears 50 national buying departments.

Mobile Office

Congressman Charlie Whitley has announced that a new mobile Third Congressional District office will make scheduled stops in Pender and Duplin Counties May 24, 25 and 26.

The mobile office will be available at the following places on Thursday, May 26th: Beaufort, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.; at the Post Office; Chinquapin, 11:15 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.; Post Office; Rose Hill, 1 - 2:30 p.m.; Post Office; and in Magnolia, 2:45 - 4:45 p.m., at the Post Office.

The unit will be operated and staffed on these particular visits by Lewis Renn, Whitley's Administrative Assistant.



JK'S BROADIE HONORED - (L to R) Jim Wilson, Visitation Chairman Jaycee Boys Home Game 1977, is shown presenting Stanley Broadie with a plaque honoring him as a Boys Home Game participant as his Coach Vance Alphin and Kenansville Jaycee President Doc Brinson look

on. Broadie, a standout end at James Kenan High School, will be playing in the 15th Jaycee Boys Home Game in Greenville July 23rd, 7:30 p.m. at Ficklan Stadium. The Kenansville Jaycees treated Broadie with a steak cookout.

Rose Hill-Magnolia School Wins Beautification Award

A first-place award to the Rose Hill-Magnolia Elementary School for school beautification was presented in Raleigh by Phil Ford of the UNC basketball team on behalf of the Department of Public Instruction, health, safety and physical education division.

Also sponsoring the program was Keep North Carolina Beautiful, Inc., a citizens' organization dedicated to the improvement of the environment.

The school won first place in District Two. There were 241 schools entered in the entire program across the state.

Norman Leaf, director of the state agency, said the program was more than a fix-up, clean-up project. "It helps young people understand local, national and world problems

relating to resources on which human life depends. It proves that given the support of the community, students are willing to accept the responsibility of improving their environment."

Improvement of school buildings and grounds, building bookcases, planting azaleas and building nature trails were among the projects in the program.

The school was represented

by 23 students, 4 teachers and a group of parents. Charles Siemenda, principal, acted as spokesman for the group.

Students, assisted by the parents, built picnic tables, bird feeders, made draperies for some school rooms, and centerpiece for tables in the cafeteria. They also produced a bi-weekly newsletter which went to the parents.

JK's Broadie Headed For State Meet

James Kenan's Stanley Broadie placed 3rd in the 180 yard low hurdles at the High School Regional Track Meet

held last Friday in Greenville. The third place finish qualified Broadie for the State meet to be held in Cary on Friday, May 27th.

Rivenbark To Direct Duplin's Summer Drama

THE LIBERTY CART, Duplin County's outdoor drama, will have a new director this season, Tony Rivenbark, a well-known North Carolina actor and director. Rivenbark, a native of New York City and now claims Wilmington as his home. He graduated from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington with a BA in History and Drama, and did his graduate work in theatre at Chapel Hill. Rivenbark is proficient as an actor, director and theatre technician and has worked professionally in these areas for a number of years.

In the past ten years, Rivenbark has acted in over 60 university, summer stock and community theatre productions. He appeared in the New York production of "Holy Ghosts", a play about Pentecostal snake handlers. He also worked with Charles Pierce and Tony Award winner Tommy Tune.

He has been a member of the SRO Summer Stock Theatre Company for the past ten seasons as an actor and director. In Wilmington, he is most remembered for his characterization of Peter Pan in the SRO production of "Peter Pan" and the Emcee in "Cabaret", a role he also performed at Duke University.

As a director, he has staged comedies, dramas and musicals, including "Tenderloin", "Uncle Harry", "Arsenic and Old Lace", "Box and Cox", "Celebration", "TLC Curious Savage" and his own adaptation of "The Drunkard". Earlier this year he wrote and directed "Fast Guns at the Fandango", a melodrama for children, presented by the Thalian Association.

Rivenbark is no stranger to outdoor drama. In Chapel Hill he played the lead in Aristophanes' "The Birds", a Carolina Playmakers' production in the Forest Theatre. He is the past technical director for the Sunday in the Park series at Greenfield Gardens in Wilmington. Last year he was a member of the "Liberty Cart" company and played several roles, including William Houston and Colonel McLeod.

Aside from theatre, Rivenbark is a passionate historian. As a youth he was state historian of the N.C. division of the Children of the Confederacy and a charter member of the Duplin County Historical Society. His specialty is Victorian theatre history. For a number of years he has been working on original research for a publication on the James Adams Floating Theatre. This North Carolina showboat operated on the Atlantic coast in the early years of this century.

As a Duplin County native with an interest in history and background in theatre, the directorship of THE LIBERTY

CART: A Duplin Story is like a dream come true for him as well as many others in the county.

The tryout dates are as follows, and will be held at the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Amphitheater: Sunday, May 29 from 2 until 5, and from 8 until 10; Monday, May 29th from 2 until 5 and from 8 until 10; and on Tuesday, May 31st from 8 until 10.

THE LIBERTY CART: A Duplin Story, will begin this year at 8:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 7th. It will be performed the last four nights of each week. The exact dates are July 7, 8, 9, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17, 21, 22, 23, 24, 28, 29, 30 and 31. The tickets will cost \$5 for Section I (front and center) and \$3.50 for all other sections; the price for children under 12 is \$1.75. There is a group rate discount: 20-40 persons, less 10%, 41 or more, less 20%. Also group tours are planned. For further information, write P. O. Box 470, c/o THE LIBERTY CART: A Duplin Story, Kenansville, NC 28349, or call 296-0721.

Sheriff's Report

Robert Kelly of Route 2, Faison, reported someone stole a 38 caliber pistol from the dash pocket of his vehicle. The pistol was valued at \$80, according to Glen Jernigan, the investigating officer.

A. C. Cartwright of Calypso reported a tape player and two speakers were stolen from his 1963 Oldsmobile. Billy Daniels investigated.

Denny Benson, of Route 2,

Kenansville, reported a .22 automatic pistol was stolen from his truck.

TWENTY FOUR PIGS IN LITTER

Cornelius Southerland of Route 1, Magnolia, reported that he had a 24-pig litter born this week to one of his sows.

That may not be a world record, but surely is a lot of piggies to go to market.



HANDWRITING ON THE WALL . . . NO TREE - The carving made D. J. Bloodworth, 12, 2, 1929, Rt. 2, Willard, N.C. The tree, a birch, was spotted by Dill Smith, a logger from Kenansville, who is logging just off Highway 111 near Kornegay. According to local residents in 1929, Atlas Lumber Company was logging in the area, hauling the logs out by train. The bed for the truck are still recognizable. D. J. Bloodworth, Sr., who lives at

Willard, states his father, D. J. Bloodworth, Sr. was indeed a logger. He would leave home on Monday and return on Friday. D. J. Jr. was born in 1929, and lives today about 100 yards from his father's house. Over the past 48 years, the tree has grown on the creek bank and probably the only reason it hasn't been cut for timber is that birch is not a very saleable wood.