

Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

A few years back when the chicken was for Sunday eating only, most housewives had the unpleasant chore of defeathering the bird. . . a job that would take even the swiftest around fifteen minutes. . . There was a young black man in Arkansas, Tom Beasley, who could pluck all the feathers off six chickens before you could pour the drink out of a small coke bottle to the ground. . . Tom Beasley lives in Duplin County now. . . He is retired, in his early 70's, and lives between Warsaw and Magnolia. . . He was telling me how he learned the trick from Dallas Hooks in Arkansas, and it took him to the Worlds Fair in Chicago. . . many foreign countries, and led him to a job that lasted 32 years. . . that of valet to Superior Court Judge Felix Frankfurter. . . Tom's best record on plucking chickens was 20 in a minute. He tried several times to better this record, and still feels he could have, though he never did. . . Twenty chickens in a minute staggers the imagination. . . It is a feat hard to believe, and almost as hard to see. . . Tom tells of the time his mother wanted him to show his extra-ordinary chicken plucking abilities when he was on a visit back to his home. Tom had learned away from home, and his mother had not seen it. . . So, all was made ready. . . Tom was to do his thing at church to help raise money for the building fund. . . Tom's mom saw that all was ready. . . the water, the chickens, and all. . . She told Tom to go ahead and start and she would go over and sit down to watch. . . Trouble was, when she got set down, Tom was finished. . . There is a secret to Tom's chicken-plucking. The chicken must not bleed before being defeathered. . . The chicken's neck is broken, but the skin is not. . . Once in the water, the

feathers just roll off. . . "You got to do it while hot. . . When a foul gets hot, they fluff their feathers." This is what happens in the bloodless defeathering system Tom Beasley uses. . . To a chicken farmer in the early 1930's, Tom Beasley was a walking chicken plucking factory. . . A large chicken farm back then probably would only have around 3,000 chickens a week to sell, and for Tom Beasley, this was less than three hour's work. . . Tom said he plucked or plucked chickens on a contract basis. . . One cent each. . . Thus when jobs were hard to find in the Depression, Tom Beasley was making the unheard of \$10 an hour, plucking chickens at one cent apiece. . . Tom said he would charge 5 cents to pluck a duck, for they were a little more difficult. . . He won all sorts of chicken-plucking contests. . . at the Chicago Worlds Fair. . . Just like John Henry, the steel driving man, Tom took on a machine in a contest. . . He beat the darn thing, too. . . By the time the machine got ready to work, Tom Beasley was finished. . . Tom met and befriended many important people while he roamed the world demonstrating and when he tired of chicken plucking, one of these friends suggested he go to Washington, and arranged the job as personal valet to Superior Court Judge Felix Frankfurter, a job that was expected to last only a few weeks. . . But the job did, in fact, last until the Judge's death 32 years later. . . It was Tom Beasley's job to post the mail, carry the judicial decisions to the printers, and to do the Judge's bidding. . . The relationship over the years went far beyond the employer-employee relationship. . . The last words the Judge said before passing on were, "I have only one regret, Tom, and that is I can't take you with me."



The public is invited to the services and to hear this year's speaker, Weddie W. Huffman, Huffman is internationally

Election Board To Meet

According to Claude L. Hepler, Chairman of the Duplin County Board of Elections, "In compliance with G.S. 163-230 (2) beginning September 8, 1978, the County Board of Elections will meet and consider applications for absentee voting in the November 7, 1978 General Election on each Tuesday and Friday at 10 a.m. in the office of the election board." The above meetings are to be considered "public meetings," he added.

Damage To Lines By Hunters

Now that the hunting season is underway, Carolina Telephone has issued a plea for "careful shooting" by hunters near telephone equipment. Street Richardson, district commercial manager for Carolina Telephone, pointed out there have been several instances of gunfire damage to telephone equipment.



OFFICIALS CHECK - Jim Mills, right, FmHA City Supervisor, presents check for \$3,600 to Kenansville Mayor Douglas Judge, middle, for payment to the town's sewage treatment plant. The money is a grant made by the Farmers Home Administration. Woody Brinson, left, Kenansville Town Administrator, looks on as the check was presented.

JSI Graduation Set For Sunday

The sixteenth annual graduation exercises for James Sprunt Institute will be held on Sunday, September 17 at 6 p.m. in the William Rand Kenan, Jr. Amphitheatre in Kenansville. Over 190 graduates will receive degrees, diplomas, and certificates in general education, technical, vocational, and adult diploma programs offered on campus. This is the largest number of graduates in the school's history.

known for his experience in business and work in the areas of management and human relations. From 1962-75, he was Director of Industrial Relations, Burlington Industries. From 1950-62, he served in various

managerial positions with the firm. From 1946-47, he was coach for Greensboro Senior High School, and from 1943-46, Lietenant, U.S. Navy, University of Notre Dame Midshipmen's School; World War II

service in European and Pacific Theatres. Huffman is a Duke University graduate, with an A.B. degree and graduate studies; member of Duke Rose Bowl Football Team 1941, wrestling captain and Southern

Conference wrestling champion. In addition to coming up through the ranks with Burlington Industries from plant personnel manager to director of industrial relations, he has spoken to more than 1,000 public audiences on his experiences and knowledge of business, teaching, and human relations. His travel through May, 1978, includes 86,000 miles with trips to the Near

East, Europe, and most of the United States. He is currently serving National Spinning as a consultant through Weddie Huffman Enterprises. Following the graduation exercises, the public is cordially invited to attend a reception on the grounds of the amphitheatre. In the event of inclement weather, the graduation and reception will be held in the Kenan Memorial Auditorium.

Three Tie For First Place In Football Contest

In the first week of the Football Contest, three entries tied for first place, with two guessing the total points scored "on the money" creating still another tie for first place. Mark Vinson of Kenansville and David West of Route 1, Kenansville, both guessed 36 points to edge out Doug Smith of Magnolia to break the three-way tie. All three missed two games out of 15 in the

contest. All entries in the contest missed the Notre Dame vs. Missouri game. Eight entries missed three games: Kitten Sutton, Carol Grady, Dalton Rouse, Suzannah Bennett, Todd Price, Chuck Helton, William Craft, and Clegg Grady. The contest is sponsored each week by Smith Brothers Gas Company, Magnolia; Beulaville Gas Company, Beulaville; West

Auto Parts Company of Warsaw, Kenansville and Beulaville; Brown's Cabinets and Millwork of Rose Hill; Service Oil Company of Warsaw; Kenansville Drug Store of Kenansville; Warsaw Motor Company of Warsaw, Duke's of Warsaw; New Duplin Warehouse of Wallace; and Walter P. West Insurance and Real Estate, Inc. of Warsaw.



FIRE DESTROYS TRAILER AT JAMES KENAN - According to Elbert Boone, janitor at James Kenan High School, an early morning fire gutted a mobile unit at the school some time before 7:30 a.m. on Monday, September 11th. Boone stated

that when he arrived at JK, he saw smoke in the back of the school. Upon investigation, smoke was coming from the trailer, and soon, before firemen arrived, the trailer was engulfed in flames.

Town Board Votes To Fine Construction Co.

The Warsaw Town Board Monday voted to charge the M.E. Perry Construction Company of Goldsboro \$25,000 for not completing the municipal complex on time. Perry contracted to finish the work by April 4, 1978, or face liquidation damages. Warsaw accepted the building on August 16th, 134 days late. The Board voted to drop 34 days, requiring Perry to pay \$250 per day for the late 190 days. The Board voted to hold

back \$31,000 due Perry now. In other business, the Board agreed unofficially to give the cinderblock building vacated by the police department to the library. The library has been housed in one room in the old bank building. The Board will meet with the Library Board to discuss the proposal. Town Board members said they would be against the proposal if it would mean the Library would need much financial aid from the town.

Youth Gets 25-30 Years On Second Degree Conviction

Superior Court Judge James Strickland of Jacksonville Tuesday sentenced a 16-year-old Magnolia youth to 25-30 years in prison for the shotgun slaying of Tyrone Huffin, 11, of rural Magnolia on July 5. Maurice W. Hooks, of rural Magnolia, who was charged with first-degree murder, pled guilty on a second-degree murder charge.

Testimony was given by SBI Agent Paul Bateman and Sheriff's Deputy E.G. Baker. Hooks did not take the stand. The two officials testified that Huffin was shot after the two youths argued over a walkie-talkie that belonged to the victim. Hooks will be eligible for parole in 20 years.

Groundbreaking For Industrial Site

Groundbreaking for the erection of a basic structural industrial building will take place in Wallace Thursday, September 14 at four o'clock. The groundbreaking will take place on a 20-acre site south of Wallace on Highway 117. Admiral William M. A. Green, Executive Director of the

N.C. Ports Authority, will make the principal address. Tommy Baker of Wallace, member of the N.C. House of Representatives, will act as master of ceremonies. The public is invited to attend.

Merger Of Duplin And Sampson Mental Health Programs Discussed

D.J. Fussell, Chairman of the Duplin Area Mental Health Board, invited the Sampson County Commissioners for a joint meeting with Duplin County Commissioners to discuss the feasibility of a joint Duplin-Sampson Area Mental Health and Mental Retardation program in order to comply with the federal regulations of a catchment area. Fussell expressed his appreciation to the commissioners of both counties for getting together to discuss the merger of their mental health and mental retardation programs as a cooperative endeavor. He emphasized that this merger is "not a political ball," and that they should have a positive approach and optimistic outlook for providing mental health, mental retardation and alcoholism services for the residents of Duplin-Sampson Counties. He also said, "We should forget the county boundaries and work together with a strong commitment to serve our people." Arliss Albertson, Chairman of the Duplin Board, remarked that the Duplin Commissioners have a strong commitment for improving the mental health services. He expressed his appreciation to his colleagues in

developing a viable mental health program in Duplin County. "The merger should strengthen our programs by providing community-based alternatives for the mentally ill, mentally retarded, and the alcoholic," he said. R. Patterson Webb, of the State Division of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Service,

outlined the procedure for the merger. As a first step, he said, the Duplin-Sampson Area Board should be appointed. It was agreed to have a 16-member board, with 8 from each county. The group also discussed the composition of the area board, as required by the area statutes. The Duplin and Sampson

County Commissioners will meet again next month to finalize the Area Board and proceed to make plans for a merged program. Also attending were: Duplin Commissioners E. E. Kelly and William J. Costin; Sampson Commissioners, Thomas E. Turlington, Chairman, and L. Shelton Warren, J. Homer

Butler, Joseph M. Butler, and Fletcher Pearson; Dale P. Johnson, Sampson County Attorney; Paul G. Butler, Jr., Sampson County Manager; Phil McCall, Sampson Mental Health Director; J.K. Horne, Jr., South Central Regional Director; George Adams, Eastern Regional Director; and Dr. E. J. Raman, Area Director, Duplin County Mental Health Center.

Nutrition And Life Enrichment Program Celebrates Third Anniversary

September marks the third anniversary of the Duplin County Nutrition Program for the Elderly which began in September, 1975. The goal of this Title VII Nutrition Program is to provide older Americans, particularly those with low incomes, with daily, low cost, nutritionally sound and satisfying meals. Individuals 60 years old and older are eligible to participate in the program; however, priority is given to those who cannot afford to eat adequately, who lack the skills and

knowledge to select and prepare well-balanced meals, who have limited mobility to either shop or cook for themselves, and those whose feelings of loneliness and rejection rob them of the incentive to cook for themselves. The Nutrition Project is currently operating four sites which provide one hot meal a day, five days a week for approximately 180 people daily. In addition to meals, the program also provides other supportive services through coordination with existing county agencies and

organizations. These services include nutrition education, information and referral, health and welfare counseling, and recreation. Programs of twenty to forty minutes in length are presented daily before the meal that will improve and enrich the lives of the elderly. Besides

promoting better health among the older segment of the population through improved nutrition, this program is aimed at reducing the isolation of old age, offering older Americans the opportunity to live their remaining years in dignity.

Boy Scout Fund Drive - Warsaw-Kenansville Rotary, stated the Rotary Club will be helping with the drive, and asked for support in their efforts.