

The Times

Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

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Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

This is going to be Dog Story Week. . . Several tales. . . Some amusing, and some unusual. . .

Walter Gresham of Beulaville was telling me about a cotton gin his granddad, John Gresham, had. The gin was three stories high. On the first story was raw cotton, on the second was the gin, and the third story housed the ginned cotton. A farmer who had a dog that followed him everywhere brought his cotton to be ginned. No matter where the farmer went, the dog was right at his heels. . . Well, the farmer walked to the third floor and the dog followed. . . Once on the third floor, some workers saw the dog and shooed him, and the dog turned and ran out that third story door. Mr. Gresham said he hit the ground a-running. . . "You would have thought the fall would have killed that dog, but it never hurt him. . . It may not have hurt him, but I bet he stopped and looked before he ran out another door. . .

When a fire siren sounds, most dogs find it displeasing. It seems no matter what, there is always a dog who reacts to the siren. . . Coombs dog, Lonesome, is that exception. . . When the fire alarm sounds in Warsaw, Lonesome takes off running right down the middle of the road to the Fire House. . . When the first fireman shows up at the station, there sits Lonesome, tongue hanging out, smiling. . . When all the fire trucks leave, Lonesome will lay in the doorway waiting their return. . . It may be he has figured that the best place to keep from getting run over by those red trucks with lights flashing and sirens blasting is at the place of their origin. . .

Kenansville's old yellow dog, Hot Dog, at a very young age had an operation to keep him from being romantic. . . However, a while back, Hot Dog began to act romantically towards a cute little Kenansville dog, Hot Dog's adopted owner, Vance Gavin, blamed the change in Hot Dog on the new dog food he had purchased. He wrote the company telling them of the changes Hot Dog had

gone through since eating their brand of dog food. Well, a case of dog food and a letter from the company president was returned. The letter stated that the company president, a man in his late 60's, after reading the letter about Hot Dog, had started eating the dog food himself. . .

This past summer, my attention was called to a large black dog in Kenansville. I never did find out who owned him, but at noon every day the dog would trot by Carolina Radiator Service with a dinner tray in his mouth. . . He would never allow anyone too close to him. . . So picture attempts never did turn out satisfactory. . . I never found out if the dog was taking the tray to someone, or if he ate the contents himself. . .

Betty Bennett's dog, Fred, is a German Shepherd. Back during the summer, Fred was at the peculiar age between puppy and adult. He still wanted to be a puppy in his mind, but his body didn't cooperate. In any case, this summer he decided it would be fun to chase a cat. . .

Then the cat ran up a ladder propped on the porch. . . Fred was enjoying the chase so well, he, with a bit of trouble, went up the ladder. . . But the cat jumped to a tree limb, and this left Fred in a situation he would rather not have been in — on the porch roof. . . He ran around looking unsuccessfully for a way down. . . Too high to jump, and no way to walk down the ladder. . . Of course, most of the people who saw Fred on the roof asked him what he was doing up there. . . He barked a couple of times, but I never did hear him answer why he was up there, though I sure would have enjoyed it if he had. . . He was finally rescued by a human. . .

But, speaking of asking dogs questions, Donna is always patting some cute little dog on the head and saying, "You are a pretty little dog. . . What's your name? . . . Huh, what's your name? . . . Just one time I would like to hear one of those dogs answer her. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Christmas Time At Liberty Hall

For the first time since it opened its doors to the public in 1968, Liberty Hall was opened for night viewing this past Sunday night with no admission charged. Over 1,000 people visited "Christmas at Liberty Hall" Sunday from 5-7 p.m.

The house was lighted with candles, and Rich Boyd, General Manager of THE LIBERTY CART, who decorated the house, used native greenery throughout the house.

Liberty Hall lends itself to the uniqueness of the Christmas decorations created for it, and they compliment each other. Everywhere fresh evergreens, pine roping, colorful fruit, cones and berries are used to enhance the house and its furnishings. The decorations create an effect of elegant simplicity, charm, and an atmosphere that was evident in the Holiday season in early America.

Christmas in the 1800's was celebrated as a season, not as a single day. Although the family records and inventories of the Kenan family do not mention specific Christmas decorations, it seems reasonable to assume that many of the English and Irish customs of the time were observed here. These included the cutting and use of cedar, pine, magnolia, holly, and mistletoe, which were so plentiful in this area.

Fresh fruits were used in

wreaths and in table arrangements. They not only added a bounty of color, they provided dessert after the feast and the guests were encouraged to eat the decorations. The pineapple, a favorite fruit used in Christmas decorations in early America, was the traditional symbol of hospitality beginning in the eighteenth century, and it remains so today. The pineapple was also used to create the apple cone, a popular decoration used in many of the rooms.

Other decorating customs of the 1800's during Christmas time include tucking sprigs of holly behind pictures on the wall, garlands of pine roping around outside doorways, columns, or railings; greenery and berries tied to sconces; and lavish use of candles in pewter, brass, or silver candleholders.

Christmas is a time of love, and the decorations created for Liberty Hall, then and now, reflect that love.

Liberty Hall had been in the Kenan family continuously for 165 years when it was given to the Board of Education and the Board of County Commissioners of Duplin County.

Like so many other gracious old homes, Liberty Hall had fallen into disrepair and its colorful life and history seemed to be coming to an end.

Because of a strong sentimental attachment to the home,

and a love of the rich history of Duplin County, the younger generation, under the guidance of Thomas S. Kenan, III decided to restore Liberty Hall.

Thomas S. Kenan, III worked on the project for three years, guiding the restoration so that Liberty Hall would be a fitting memorial to the early Kenans who came to Duplin County from Ireland and took a great part in the history of Colonial America.

O.P. Johnson, a resident of Kenansville and Superintendent of Duplin County Schools, initiated the spark and interest that rekindled the restoration. The Liberty Hall Restoration Commission provided advice and local involvement to the project. Robert Herring and his construction company did the actual restoration work, and William Boney of Wilmington served as architectural consultant. The interior was created by noted interior designer, John E. Winters of New York, aided by Mrs. Zelina Brunschwig and Mrs. Murray Douglas, of the internationally known fabric house of Brunschwig and Fitz. Numerous Duplin County citizens assisted in the restoration.

Mrs. Dan K. Moore, former first lady of North Carolina, formally dedicated Liberty Hall on May 11, 1968.



Winter Dining Room Table

ND Student-Built House Ready For Auction

A student-built house at North Duplin High School was declared surplus property at the Duplin County Board of Education Tuesday night and will be offered for sale at auction.

The recently-completed 1,232 square foot house was planned by the drafting class. The carpentry class built the house, and the home economics classes

chose the colors and decorations. James Sprunt Institute electricity class students did the electrical work and the plumbing work was done by contract.

Carpentry classes of North Duplin, East Duplin, and Wallace-Rose Hill high schools have built several houses in recent years as the climax of

their classwork. The Wallace-Rose Hill carpentry class will complete a house in about six months, program supervisor Lloyd Stevens, an assistant principal, said. He said it usually takes a class about two years to build a house.

The funds to launch the house building projects were initially provided by the Board of Commissioners. Since the initial \$20,000 funding, sales of the completed houses have provided funds to continue the project.

A fund of more than \$40,000 has been built up, Stevens said. He said the present North Duplin house cost about \$20,000 to build. It has three bedrooms, one and one-half baths, R-13 wall and R-19 attic insulation, a heat pump, and meets Federal Housing Administration and Veterans Administration requirements.

Social Services To Play Santa

The Duplin County Department of Social Services is now in the process of making plans for Santa to make his visit to the homes of its foster children. The lists of our children are long and varied. We have children ranging from infancy to 18 years, and all of them are looking forward to Santa's coming. We do not want them to be disappointed, and for this reason we are seeking your help. If you are interested in helping with this worthy cause, please contact the Department of Social Services at 296-1457 or send checks made payable to the Duplin County Department of Social Services. Millie I. Brown, Director



Stairway In The Hall

Santa Claus Coming To Kenansville

The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce has been in touch with the North Pole, and Santa Claus is coming to Kenansville on December 23 to greet all the boys and girls, both young and old. He is expected to arrive at 10 a.m. and will be on the Kenansville Fire Truck. He will be in town all day, and will have a bag full of goodies to distribute.

Santa plans to visit, in addition to downtown Kenansville, Whaley's Rest Home, Guardian Care Nursing Home, and Duplin General Hospital while he is in Kenansville. The Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to come to Kenansville on Saturday, December 23rd, to give Santa a warm welcome.

Christmas Appreciation Party

The Nutrition and Life Enrichment Services to the Aged will have its annual Christmas and Volunteers' Appreciation parties at the Island Creek and Faison sites from 11:15 a.m. until 1 p.m. on the following days: Faison and Warsaw at Faison, December 19th.; and Island Creek and Kenansville at Island Creek, December 20.

All senior citizens are invited to attend, according to Walter L. Brown, Director of NALESA Program of Duplin County.

The Music Of Christmas

The Pink Hill Presbyterian Church would like to invite and welcome everyone to an "Old Fashion" Christmas cantata entitled "The Music of Christmas" by Ira B. Wilson. The date is Sunday night, December 17th at 7:30 at the Pink Hill Presbyterian Church. John H. Watlington is the choir director, Pam McLaurin, the pianist, and Rev. Bruce Ford is the pastor. A nursery will be provided.

Open House

Waccamaw Bank in Kenansville will hold open house Friday, December 22 from 3-6 p.m. The public is invited.

JK's Vann Signs Scholarship From East Carolina University

Norwood Van, 6'1" 200 lb. quarterback-halfback at James Kenan High School, signed a

full scholarship on Monday to play football next fall at East Carolina University.

Pat Dye, head football coach at East Carolina, along with assistants Wayne Hall and Neil

Callaway, were at Vann's home in Magnolia for the signing.

As a junior at James Kenan, Vann was named Honorable Mention All-Conference for the Tigers. He also played varsity basketball and held the school track record of 44'1 1/2" in the triple jump, which made him an all-conference performer.

Vann was named All-Conference in football this past season as a senior, with the following statistics: Rushes (131 for 844 yds. - 7 TD's - 6.44 Avg.); Punt Returns (18 - 246 yds. - 1 TD); Kickoff Returns (8 - 202 yds - 1 TD); and Defense (49 tackles - 58 assists).

Norwood was also highly recruited by Wake Forest, State, and Duke.

JK's Head Football Coach Billy Byrd made the following comment about Vann and his signing: "I wish Norwood the best of luck at East Carolina, and feel sure he will represent our school and community well. He's a fine athlete and gentleman and I think he will be an asset to East Carolina's football program."

Vann is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Norwood "Jake" Vann of Magnolia.



JK'S FOOTBALL SCHOLARSHIP - (L. R.) "Jake" Vann, JK's Coach Billy Byrd, Norwood (center) and Mrs. "Jake" Vann are shown during the signing of a full football scholarship Monday in Magnolia to play football at East Carolina University next fall.