



Straight from the Shoulder — Right from the Heart of Duplin

PROGRESS SENTINEL

VOL. XXXIII NO. 52

KENANSVILLE, NC 28349 DECEMBER 28, 1978

8 PAGES THIS WEEK

10 CENTS PLUS TAX

Son Of A Gun

By Joe Lanier

In just a few days we will have worked our way through a very exciting year — 1978 — and will have started on the new year — 1979. At the present time it appears it, too, will be an exciting as well as a revealing year. Now, though, it is time to say a bit about Son-of-a-Gun.

The column is, at times, a breeze to write, and at other times is very difficult. Seldom is it difficult because of lack of news or the lack of an amusing story. The difficulty lies in the fact that when I advise you, the reader, or confirm what you had thought for a long time in regard to some slip-shod, wasteful, or self-serving project that uses your and my tax money unwisely, the innocent are in there with the guilty, and I cannot pull the innocent out of a situation. . . Thus it sometimes sounds like everyone in Kenansville is a lazy leech, interested only in serving themselves at the expense of the tax-payers. . . This is incorrect. . . Duplin County has some very conscientious workers. . . Some serve beyond the call of duty. . . To those few brave people who do their jobs while others goof off, I do see you. . . So do others. . . And thanks to you, the County government does not consume itself in one great big individual self-serving gulp. . . This goes for all the tax-supported groups, county government, schools, hospital, etc.

Along these lines of the innocent being in a situation, . . or someone having a different opinion. . . Write me. I will gladly publish your rebuttal. . . All you have to do is ask. . . Thank you for those phone calls, letters, and words of encouragement. . . and even those not so encouraging. . . Thank you for the stories you have told me. . . and also for those you have told me where to get. . . Let me reconfirm the fact that a source who does not want to be revealed, will not be. . . Last but not least. . . Thanks to those who help me pay the bills. . . Ike Riddick of The Duplin Times. . . Moe Mosley of Radio Station WTRQ. . . and Les Gruber of the Wilmington Star News. . . Thanks, also, for not censoring my news or comments. . .

The night before Christmas I was at 5-year-old David Braswell's home. As his mom, Chris, reminded him of bedtime, he began to gather up all the Christmas gifts that had been opened and put them in a closet — especially the toys. Like most youngsters when they are sure what they are doing is correct, it is very hard to stop. . . So an explanation was asked for. . . Why are you putting the toys in a closet? . . . "I don't want Santa to think he has already been here when he comes in." . . .

Warranties and guarantees are about as good as the paper they are written on. . . My TV tore up a month after the warranty went dead. . . My car battery went dead two years before the warranty was up. . . And I got about as much out of one as I did the other. . . I expected nothing from the TV warranty, and got nothing from the battery warranty. . . The TV has been in the shop for about 6 months, and I have been watching on three different loaners and on one I bought. . . Not all at one time, mind you. . . Only one at a time. . . The warranty on the battery was explained this way. . . You got a special deal on the battery, thus the warranty has to be figured on the retail price. . . And that subtracted from the price you paid. . . And when we do that, this \$50 battery you bought that lasted 3 years shows a rebate of \$1.15 for the unused two years. . . My TV is laying in the middle of the repair shop on its side. . . You can get more out of this battery at the junkyard that the warranty, I was told. I offered to sell the repair man my TV if he didn't think he could fix it. . . The going rate for old batteries, I was told, was \$4. . . The junkman gave me \$2.25. . . The TV repairman said he was going to fix my TV for sure this week. . . The junkman said if I had a hundred batteries he would give me a better price. . . Son-of-a-gun. . .



DUPLIN SCHOOL BOARD HEARS ABOUT UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE LAWS - Representatives of the N.C. Employment Security Commission were members of a panel which spoke to the Board of Education Tuesday. The panel included Dick Casteen and Dennis Kirby from the Kenansville office, Billy McNeil, Area Unemployment Insurance Tax Auditor, and Joe Casey, Area Claims Adjudication Supervisor. The Board of Education has recently become

liable under the Unemployment Insurance law. A brief presentation by the panel was followed by a question and answer session. Topics discussed included: formulating a budgeting system to pay UII, and eligibility requirements of unemployed school employees. Pictured (L to R) L.S. Guy, Assistant Superintendent; McNeil; Casteen; Kirby; Casey; and Board member Jimmy Strickland.

Kenansville Jaycees To Head Up Phone Center In Duplin

Bill Newberry, United Cerebral Palsy Telethon Chairman in Wilmington, announced that Doc Brinson, a resident of Kenansville, has accepted the chairmanship of the Duplin Phone Center. The Kenansville Jaycees, along with a host of other volunteers, will work on December 30 and 31 taking pledges from residents of Duplin County for UCP.

Newberry announced that the "Holiday Star Telethon" will be seen over WWAY-TV, Channel 3, and will feature Grace Beasley and Art Brannon, local Co-Hosts, a number of local celebrities, and also a number of talented performers from the area. The Telethon can also be seen on WRAL-TV, Channel 5. The Duplin phone number will not be given in Raleigh, and it is 296-1571.

Dennis James, a Telethon favorite, and Paul Anka will co-host from New York, and John Ritter, star of Three's Wood. National stars expected to

appear include Suzanne Sommers and Joyce Dewn Ritter's co-stars in Three's Company, Gabe Kaplan and John Travolta of Welcome Back Kotter, Donnie and Marie Osmond, Cher, Bob Hope, and Kate Jackson of Charlie's Angels.

Pledges from this Telethon will support the programs of

United Cerebral Palsy of North Carolina. These services include four Developmental Centers, a Home Service Program, a Life Enrichment Center for Adults, and Adult Social Clubs.

The Telethon will be asking for support from all residents of the Channel 3 and Channel 5 viewing areas.

Todd Price Named Alternate To Annapolis

Congressman Charles O. Whitley announced Wednesday that he has named Todd Duncan Price an alternate nominee to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md.

Price is the son of Dr. and Mrs. Carl Price of Warsaw, and will graduate from James Kenan High in the spring of 1979. While at James Kenan, he has maintained a high academic average along with participation

in all phases of high school activities, including the National Honor Society, Beta Club, as well as football, baseball, and tennis. He is very active in his church and has served on the church council. Young Price is an accomplished musician, having won many awards, among them the gold Paderewski Medal. He has also attained the rank of Eagle Scout with the Boy Scouts of America.

License Plates Go On Sale Jan. 2

The Division of Motor Vehicles of the N.C. Department of Transportation reminded motorists last week that validation stickers and plates for 1979 will go on sale throughout the state on January 2nd.

Renewal cards necessary for obtaining a 1979 sticker or plate were mailed December 18 and should be received by December 29. Anyone not receiving a renewal card should notify the Division of Motor Vehicles in Raleigh by mail at 1100 New Bern Avenue, or by telephone at (919) 733-3025.

Elbert L. Peters, Jr., Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, said, "It will take from ten days to two weeks to obtain a card and new plates or stickers must be displayed by midnight, February 15."

Newcomers to North Carolina, or those buying a car for the first time, should make application for a license plate at the nearest local agency.

With the exception of some special classifications, 1979

automobile licenses will be renewed with a validation sticker to be affixed to the upper right-hand corner of the current plate, over the 1978 sticker. Care should be taken to place the sticker exactly as instructed to prevent accidental removal.

An annual license plate will continue to be issued for all other classifications, including trucks.

Any newly acquired vehicle will be issued a plate and sticker unless a plate is to be transferred.

"There are 111 license agencies across the state," said Director of Registration Gonzale Rivers. "We hope citizens will take advantage of these offices and buy their licenses early."

Rivers said the division is launching a new communications program this year to encourage vehicle owners to purchase the license plates or stickers before the end of the renewal period. Carrying the slogan, "Get Yours Early,"

posters, counter cards, and public service announcements will convey this message.

"We feel this program will aid in the reduction of waiting time and provide better efficiency at our offices," said Rivers.

Licenses can be purchased in Duplin County from Gladys P. Sikes, Contractor, at Rockfish Plaza in Wallace. (919) 285-5926

The office will be open 9-5 Mon., Tues., Thurs., and Fri., and from 9-12 on Wednesday and Saturday.

NOTICE

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners have changed the time of their meetings. Starting January 2, 1979, the Board will meet at 9 a.m. on the first and third Mondays of each month in the Agricultural Building except on holidays when the meeting is held on Tuesday.



SANTA CLAUSES - Pictured above are Grady Mercer and Ella Rose Thigpen shown presenting a check in the amount of \$250 to Millie Brown, Director, Department of Social Services, for the annual Christmas Fund for Foster Children. It is

donations of Duplin citizens such as Mr. Mercer and Mrs. Thigpen that enables Santa to make his annual visit to the sixty foster children in the custody of the agency.

Looking Back: In The News 1978

1-5-78 - The filing period for Democratic and Republican primary elections to be held in May opened Tuesday. Most Duplin County officials up for re-election will seek another term of office.

Tuesday morning, Doug Clark, by filing for the office of State Representative, became the first person in Duplin to sign up for the May primary.

1-12-78 - **ASHEVILLE** - William G. Sullivan of Duplin County received the "President's Award" of the North Carolina Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

1-19-78 - Douglas Judge, mayor of Kenansville, was presented the Jaycees Distinguished Service Award by former recipient Doc Brinson on Monday night highlighting the Kenansville Jaycees 1978 Awards Banquet.

1-19-78 - Duplin County's first fatality in the new year occurred Monday night at 9:50 on Highway 41, 1.1 mile west of Wallace.

2-3-78 - Dwight Smith, a twelve-year Jaycee member, a past president, a past Area Director, Regional Director, and past State Vice President, was

named recipient of the Warsaw Distinguished Service Award for 1978.

2-2-78 - The Kenansville Area Chamber of Commerce held their first annual meeting and installation ceremony on Friday, January 27th.

2-9-78 - Kenansville has officially become a Crime Watch Town. Crime Watch signs have been erected leading into Kenansville on all sides.

2-16-78 - Congressman Charlie Whitley announced during a press conference held in Kenansville that a grant in the amount of \$33,953.50 has been awarded for the Kenansville Municipal Park from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

2-23-78 - Duplin continued in 1977 to lead North Carolina counties in gross farm income with a total of \$157,162,135, according to Extension Chairman Vernon H. Reynolds Monday.

2-3-78 - Carl D. Pate, known as "Danny," son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl D. Pate, Sr. of Beaufort, will begin his medical studies at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine at Chapel Hill this August as a freshman.

2-9-78 - George Combs, a poultry farmer from the Cedar Fork Community, and Ed

Monk, a 79-year-old retired farmer from the Stanford Community, were honored as outstanding citizens during Duplin County's Annual 4-H Leaders Banquet.

3-23-78 - This month is the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Kenansville Volunteer Fire Department.

4-6-78 - James Kenan defeated Clinton High School in high school tennis action Tuesday. The match was a first in the history of the JK netters.

4-20-78 - Richard Boyd of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, has been named general manager of THE LIBERTY CART, A Duplin Story for the 1978 season.

4-27-78 - As expected, the state Board of Transportation has approved the routing of Interstate 40 from Raleigh to 1-95, just north of Benson. However, the Board's next move came as a surprise to many persons at Friday's three-hour meeting in Tarboro.

In the surprise move, the Board voted to route the remaining link from Benson along N.C. 50 to Suttontown and on to Faison, where it will join U.S. 117 to Wilmington.

5-4-78 - The 1978-79 budget requests for all county departments totaled \$12,018,355 in the initial presentation to the Board of Commissioners Monday.

5-4-78 - Douglas A. Clark of Kenansville scored an apparent upset over incumbent State Representative T.J. Baker of Wallace for the seat representing the Tenth District.

Incumbent Democrat Russell Brock came in fourth in a field of six candidates for two seats on the Board of Education. Patricia Broadrick led all the candidates.

Riddick E. Wilkins took 2,533 votes to 2,526 for incumbent James F. Strickland, which could result in a run-off. Other candidates were: Gerald Bell, incumbent Russell Brock, and Jack Williams.

In the Second District County Commissioner race, Calvin C. Turner, Sr. polled 565 votes in an upset over incumbent Emmett Kelly. Randall Albertson took 206, Lewis Miller, 179, and Dennis Smith took 80 votes.

Allen D. Neithercutt took 778 votes to 612 for incumbent Arliss Albertson and 370 for Orzo Thigpen, Sr. in the race for Third District Commissioner.

S. Franklin Williams was the winner for the County Commissioner's seat from the Fourth District over incumbent Edward Hoffer. Williams had 994 votes to 768 for Hoffer.

5-11-78 - Russell Bogie, President of the Beaufort Development Commission,

announced the recruitment of Dr. David Stefanik, who will be locating a practice in Beaufort.

5-18-78 - Vernon H. Reynolds, Agricultural Extension Chairman, announced Monday he will retire effective June 30.

5-18-78 - Mrs. Winnie Wells, County Attorney, submitted her resignation as County Attorney effective May 30.

5-18-78 - Elizabeth H. Grant of Kenansville has been appointed as the new manager for the N.C. Employment Security Commission Area Offices which include Mount Olive, Clinton, Kenansville, and the mobile office in Faison.

5-25-78 - Mrs. Winifred T. Wells, a North Carolina attorney, and Dr. Henry Ponder, a South Carolina college president, were elected to the Board of Directors of J.P. Stevens and Co., Inc.

5-25-78 - The Kenansville Jaycees won eight awards at the Jaycee Convention in Raleigh this past weekend. The awards at the convention were sponsored by The Quinn Company of Warsaw.

6-1-78 - Duplin County's four high schools will graduate a total of 554 seniors this Friday night during their graduation exercises.

6-6-78 - The Duplin County Board of Commissioners

systems during fiscal year 1978.

11-2-78 - Several hundred visitors observed the dedication of the Dixon S. Hall Vocational/Technical Building during ceremonies on James Sprunt Institute's campus.

11-9-78 - The Warsaw Veterans' Day Committee will honor Dr. and Mrs. Edwin Patterson Ewers at the 57th annual Veterans' Day Celebration Saturday.

11-9-78 - Carl Baysden of Beaufort was honored as Duplin County Conservation Farmer-of-the-Year at a dinner held in the Cedar Fork Community Building.

12-7-78 - In the final action Monday of the previous Duplin Board of Commissioners, the Board accepted the resignation of James T. Risher, Duplin Industrial Development Director, effective December 31st.

12-14-78 - 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.

12-21-78 - The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, through its Commission on Elementary Schools, has awarded accreditation to all Duplin County schools.