

**Son-Of-A-Gun**  
by Joe Lanier

Roger Vernon Miller will have his case reviewed by the parole commission this week, according to parole officials. Miller was first considered by the commission last January. He was denied parole at that time. Ten years ago, Roger Vernon Miller was found guilty in Duplin County of murder and kidnapping. He was sentenced to life on the kidnapping charge, and to death on the murder charge.

On an afternoon in March, 1969, when Jacqueline Stone and her two younger sisters were leaving the Clement Street School in Wallace for home, a man in a car stopped and told 13-year-old Jackie that her mother had been injured in an auto accident and had been taken to the hospital. He said he had been sent by her father to take her to the hospital. The younger girls were to go home and someone was there to take care of them. When the younger girls got home, their mother was sitting and sewing. . . They told her what had happened. . . Jackie's dad, Leon Stone, a Wallace radio station employee, and the police were notified. Later in the day, the car and man, which turned out to be Roger Vernon Miller, were seen in downtown Wallace. . . But no Jackie. . . It was about three days later when Jackie's lifeless body was found in Stocking Head Creek near Dobson's Chapel.

At the trial, testimony given by Sheriff T. E. Revelle as to a statement made by Miller. . . Jackie was kicking, yelling and trying to get away. . . Miller took a grease rag he had under the front seat of the car, put it around her neck and twisted it until she got quiet. . . When he drove over Stocking Head Creek bridge, he threw her over the railing into the creek, where she was found by the Highway Patrol several days later.

He was found guilty and sentenced. . . The U.S. Supreme Court struck down the death penalty in Georgia in 1971. North Carolina's law was similar, and in 1973, the legislature amended it to comply with the Supreme Court decision. . . Also, death penalty convictions before 1973 were sent back to superior court judges for re-sentencing. Miller's conviction was changed to two life sentences. . . However, it was not stated they were to be consecutive. . . Therefore, he came away with what was the same as one life term. . . and parole eligibility was within ten years. . . Now, however, one must serve 20 years before being eligible for parole after being sentenced to life in prison. . . Jackie Stone would have been 23 in February. . . Her father, Leon Stone, says he does not believe that the jury that sentenced Miller would want him turned loose on society after only 10 years. . . They were polled individually, and each juror stood and said guilty. . .

I agree with Mr. Stone. . . In fact, I suppose I am old-fashioned, but I don't think anyone who takes a life should be allowed out of prison ever. . . They have chosen not to live by the rules and have broken one that cannot be mended.

Speaking of court — I overheard it said the other week in divorce court, the couple can't live together, so they separated. . . Now they both are wanting revenge. . . The children in the case are more adult than the adults. . .

Commissioner Allen Nethercutt stated he received a call from a lady the other day and she said, I want you to know I am not against people who drink beer, wine and whiskey. . . I do think, however, that it should be an on-premises thing. . . And I think they should throw the damned bottles on the floor and break them right there where they are drinking. . . The lady had run over some bottles on her property and ruined a \$100 tractor tire. . . The bottles were put there by off-premises drinkers. . .

It took 24 years, but I finally got it right. . . Monday, I was hurrying to get dressed and go. . . I had my shirt, socks and asked Donna to get my pants from the other room. . . When she came back into the room, I had my shirt on, along with my socks. . . My undercloths also. . . Well, it is about time, she says. . . What are you talking about, I asked. . . You are putting your clothes on the right way for the first time since we have been married, she continued. . . You have finally put your socks on before you put your pants on. . . All this time and I never knew it made any difference. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

**Ode To Commissioners**

O'tell me sirs, what does it take  
A good county commissioner to make?  
A will of iron, a bit of gall  
Then you say, that's not all  
Fuss Him, cuss him, abuse him,  
And still, he's glad to serve them.  
Elected because he's our friend,  
Ah! But that was way back when  
What we need is a man, close to the soil  
If he comes to the meeting dirty, we're sore as a boil.  
So, give us a man who knows the business world  
And he'll put the county in a

fiscal swirl  
An accountant is really what we need,  
He understands the tax figures that make us bleed  
Oh year, a politician, he's in the know  
Why do we need him? We've got JOE (Son-of-a-gun.)  
O.K., put all the fun and jests aside,  
We've schools, hospitals, health, law — nothin' to hide.  
After all is said, what it takes is money  
And from where we are taxed, that ain't funny.  
SO GIVE US A MAN WHO CAN SAY WE CAN'T  
AND TO HELL WITH A FEDERAL GRANT!!!

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