



Son Of A Gun

by Joe Lanier

Franchises for cable television in Duplin County for some reason have become very desirable. A short time back, no one was interested — now everyone is. A short time ago, Arlie Rich of the Oswald Group Newspapers wrote an article in which she asked when a cable TV company would be interested in Duplin County. The answer was not never, but it was whatever was next to never. Then, about the first of the year, three cable companies were called and asked to give Duplin a bid. The answer... "Sorry, not interested." This was after Clear-Tel Cable TV Co. had asked Warsaw, as well as Wallace, for a franchise. In an effort to find out what someone would offer, these other cable companies were contacted. The were near-by companies serving North Carolina towns, but their answer was "Not interested." Since Clear-Tel TV has obtained a franchise in Warsaw, Compas Cable Co. of Erie, Pa., Satellite Entertainment Cable Co. of Rose Hill, and now Univision Cable Systems of Onslow County are wanting a franchise. No one is offering the same package — similar, yes, but not alike. Two of the offerings are tier packaging, meaning you get practically nothing for a small sum and a meager more for a little more. Kinda like the circus con-game of put up one more quarter and you win. The offerings on taxes for the towns and county have been from three percent of the revenue to five percent. Whatever the tax may be, it will be reflected in the base cost to the consumer, just as the tax on the equipment will be passed on to the consumer. This is the way of all business — the consumer pays the bill.

The town and county commissioners seem to be acting like the kid in the candy store. Not knowing just which candy is the best although having a choice of flavor... but waiting a little longer because someone may be coming with a better candy. Meanwhile, the citizens wanting something, cannot get it because the line is not moving. The town of Wallace is a prime example. Clear-Tel made an offer. Shortly afterwards, another company said wait a little for me to make an offer. The commissioners waited. Then another company came along, made up a pretty book, and said wait a little so I can make an offer. Then it was decided to pass an ordinance about cable TV, and wait a little longer. Now they have three offerings and no one knows which is best. As they were presented, they can't be compared equally.

The latest fly in the soup is an offering to the county commissioners to permit or ask for bids on district franchises. Of the five commissioners seated on the board, only one lives in a highly populated area. Franchise by district means the populated areas would subsidize the cost of the low-populated areas. What could happen is in the Warsaw area. Clear-Tel has the franchise for the town. The commissioners could grant a franchise to someone else for the district, thus causing both franchises to be less valuable. Chances are, a deal would have to be made between the two companies holding the franchises — one buy the other out. Who pays? The consumer, of course. Who caused the consumer to pay more? In reality, if the commissioners were to grant a district franchise, the town to get any kind of service would just about have to grant the same company a town franchise. Thus, the highly populated towns would no longer be the choice targets. The districts would be the prime money-maker.

However the district would go, the town must follow. The county commissioners often wonder out loud why the towns don't join right in with their plans. And often the school board wonders why the county commissioners don't join in on their plans. And the towns wonder what the commissioners have against us. The main thing wrong with all three groups, I believe, is that they are mostly concerned only with what they can do for themselves. No one wants to help the other for fear it would somehow lessen their power. Oh well, there are municipal elections this fall, and county elections next spring.

Many of the western movies were about ranchers fighting over water-holes. A group of citizens wanting quality water in the Albertson area made a move in that direction, only to have it stifled by those supposed to be helping. Let's hope a moral obligation is not the downfall of a watering hole.

Would you believe people are working in a condemned building and other folks are wanting permanent offices put in the condemned building? Do you suppose someone lied about the condition of the old Kenansville school building? Is it as safe as the new Kenansville school building? One thing is for sure — it has a better roof on it — the old one, that is. The new one leaks like a sieve. Do you suppose they condemned the wrong building?

Let's end on a good note. The commissioners seem to be set on holding the tax rate at its present 70 cents on the hundred. It seems they are finally going to do something right, in my opinion. Son-of-a-Gun.



Cubs 10 - Dodgers 0
On Tuesday afternoon, May 12, the Cubs got their fourth shut-out in a row defeating the Dodgers 10-0 behind Cam Pridgen's third straight no-hitter of the year. Pridgen struck out 14 allowing three walks. The Dodger pitching, however, limited the normally consistent Cub hitting to just two. Bron Thompson got a single in three trips and Pridgen a single in four trips, to lead the Cubs. Pridgen was the winning pitcher and Darnell Wallace got credit for the loss.

Mets 11 - Yankees 3
On Wednesday afternoon, May 13, the Mets jumped on the Yankees by a score of 11-3. The Mets picked up eight hits, with Don Johnson leading the way going three for three with a double and Michael Carlton got two hits in four trips, George Jackson going one for two. Dean Hardison and Mickey Hill also collected hits and Michael Carlton and George Jackson each pitched three innings.

The Yankees picked up five hits. Leading hitter was Rodney Taylor going three for three. Their other hits were collected by Shane Crenshaw and Chris Swanda. Michael Carlton got credit for the win and Taylor was credited with the loss.

Braves 15 - Dodgers 0
On Thursday afternoon, May 14, the Braves blasted the Dodgers 15-0, in an all-around performance offensively and defensively. Brave pitchers Derick Barden and Jeff Turner

pitched a no-hit game. Barden pitched the first three innings, allowing no hits, and was relieved by Turner, who also allowed no hits. Meanwhile, the Braves picked up seven hits. Leading the attack was Michael Blackburn going two for two; James Melvin three for four, and the remaining hits were collected by Jeff Turner and Johnny Haney — Haney going one for two and Turner one for three. Barden got credit for the win and the loss was credited to Patrick Boyette.

Cubs 13 - Yankees 12
On Friday afternoon, May 15, the hungry Yankees almost undid the Cubs. The Cubs were leading 13 to 3 after five innings, when the Yanks staged a furious rally in the top of the sixth, scoring nine runs. The score was Cubs 13 and Yankees 12, with Yankee runners at second and third. The last Yankee was struck out to retire the side.

The Yankees have played exceptionally well in several games of late, and may be one of the more improved teams in the league.

The Cubs regained their hitting touch, however, in collecting 10 hits. They were again led in the hitting department by Cam Pridgen getting two hits in three trips, and Bron Thompson, getting two for three. One of Pridgen's hits was a double. The remaining Cub hits were collected by Walter Miller, Brian Williams, Joseph Williams, Wendy Murphy, Reginald Melvin and Kenneth Cline. Melvin got a triple and Murphy and J.

Williams doubles. J. Williams got credit for the win, pitching five innings, and being relieved by B. Williams, who was later relieved by B. Thompson. Rodney Taylor got credit for the loss, being relieved by Shane Crenshaw, who was relieved by Sherwood Philpaw.

The Yankees collected four hits. Leading the way was Crenshaw, getting two hits in three trips, one a double, driving in two runs in the sixth inning rally. The other Yankee hits were collected by James Best and Jake Yount.

Braves 9 - Mets 8
On Saturday afternoon, May 16, the most exciting and perhaps the best-played game of the year was held at Taylor Field. The Braves squeezed out a hard-earned 9-8 victory over the Mets. Both teams played fine all-around ball. Pitching seemed to dominate the game as the Braves collected only four hits, three of which came in the first inning. Derrick Barden led the hitting for the Braves, getting a double and a single in two trips. Charles Harrell got a double and the remaining hit was collected by Jeff Turner, who singled to right field in the first inning.

The Mets also had four hits. George Jackson led the attack getting two for two; Don Johnson got a double in

two trips, and Robert Holland a single in two trips. The Mets led throughout the game until the bottom of the fifth, when the Braves picked up two unearned runs to tie the score. In the top of the sixth, Brave pitcher Jeff Turner struck out the top of the batting order. Then in the bottom of the sixth, George Jackson, after striking out two, walked James Melvin. While Derrick Barden was at bat, Melvin stole second on a ball which got out into the outfield, and Melvin turned third and came home for the winning run. Turner got credit for the win, coming in after three innings and holding the Mets to no hits. Jackson got credit for the loss even though he struck out five in the three innings he pitched. The who are also a greatly improved team, took a hard loss.

With a little luck, the Cubs and Braves are still leading after three full weeks of play. The Cubs were quite fortunate in edging the improving Yanks, and the Braves were fortunate in edging the improving Mets.

The standings are as follows:

	W	L
Cubs	6	0
Braves	5	1
Mets	2	4
Dodgers	2	4
Yankees	0	6

Commencement at James Kenan High

Commencement exercises for the class of 1981 will be held Friday, June 5 at 8 p.m. at Kenan Memorial Auditorium. Faye O. Williams, Margaret C. Scott and Grace Q. Carlton, directors of the graduation activities at James Kenan, say they regret they do not have the space to seat everyone who would like to attend. Therefore only announcements about graduation are being mailed by the seniors. No invitations are being issued to the general public.

Each senior has been allotted eight seating cards to be distributed among his or her relatives and friends. Admission will be by card only and the cards and names will be checked at the door.

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4-H ACTIVITY DAY
The 1981 Duplin County 4-H Activity Day will be held Saturday, May 23 at E.E. Smith School in Kenansville. According to Ray Rhinehart, assistant extension agent for 4-H, events will begin at 9 a.m. with 4-H'ers competing in over 30 demonstration categories, including forestry, breads, fruit and vegetable use and archery. The program will also include a talent show where members will be vying to see who will move on to district competition in June.

Everyone is invited to come see some very informative and entertaining demonstrations.

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