

## Letters To The Editor

This is in response to a letter to the Editor which recently appeared in the Duplin Times regarding "Emergency Room Radiologists fees."

The radiologist who practices at Duplin General Hospital is required by hospital rules and regulations to interpret all radiographic examination performed at the hospital. Some of the reasons for such a requirement are as follows:

1. The laws, regulations, and procedures applying to the licensing of hospitals in North Carolina require: a.) that the x-ray department be under the supervision of a full-time radiologist or consulting radiologist or a physician experienced in radiology, b.) that a written report on each x-ray film taken be made a part of the patient's medical record, c.) that radiology reports be signed by the physician responsible for the procedure.

2. Having a radiologist interpret all radiographic examinations enhances the overall quality of patient care and provides a quality control mechanism.

3. The Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals, in its Accreditation Manual for Hospitals (1982 edition) states on Page 160, "A radiologist shall ordinarily provide an authenticated report for all examinations to enhance consistency and correctness in interpretations and reports of radiologic findings", and on Page 33, "A timely review of x-rays shall be conducted and the official interpretation shall be available to the private practitioner and to the practitioner providing emergency care. There shall be a mechanism for notifying and recalling those patients who require additional radiologic studies or those for whom a more definitive radiologic interpretation has been made."

Our radiologist is extremely well-trained and is certified by the American Board of Radiology in diagnostic radiology. Such certification is granted only to those radiologists who have fulfilled the requirements of the Board and have passed the certifying examination.

On Thursday, April 22, 1982, Duplin General was surveyed by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. Having a well-functioning radiology department under the direction of a qualified radiologist is a requirement of the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Hospitals. We, at Duplin General, are extremely proud of the fact that the hospital is accredited, and one of our goals is to maintain such accreditation. Another goal is to make available needed medical services, which are deemed appropriate for a community hospital such as ours, for the people in and around Duplin County.

The radiology department at Duplin General has made much progress since the present radiologist joined the staff approximately ten years ago. Soon after his arrival, a department of nuclear medicine was established when most hospitals of our size did not have such. Over the years, mammography, ultrasonography, and other refined studies have been added. He is the first and only full-time Board certified radiologist to practice in Duplin County. Previously, we had itinerant radiologists coming two or three afternoons a week.

It is quite evident that the radiologist cannot be in the hospital 24 hours a day. After

the regular work hours, our radiologist or a trained radiologist he employs is on call most of the time. When he is contacted for emergency consultation or examination he never fails to respond immediately. More often, however, during the late evening and night hours, the emergency room physicians obtain x-rays on many patients. Sometimes they call upon staff physicians to aid them in interpretations and sometimes they do not. When the radiologist arrives in the morning, he renders timely interpretations on all x-rays which have been taken while he was not in the hospital. Sometimes the disease or the fracture does not yield itself clearly to a physician. The manifestations of the disease can be so subtle that it takes a very experienced radiologist to detect and that is the reason that diagnostic radiology is a recognized specialty essential for the delivery of quality health care. When this is the situation, he calls the patient to return to the hospital for additional views to determine whether or not there is a fracture or other injury. In the clear-cut, rather simple fracture, which in some cases has been reduced and cast before the radiologist sees the films, there is still a need for his interpretation, for such constitutes a second opinion, both regarding the existence of a fracture and adequacy of reduction. It is customary and appropriate for a radiologist to submit a bill to patients for the interpretation of radiographic examinations. The time of interpretation may occur during the initial examination or after the initial examination and treatment of the patient.

In May 1982, an obstetrician/gynecologist will begin practicing in Duplin County. In September 1982, a pediatrician is scheduled to begin practicing in our county. A Board certified general surgeon has indicated an active interest in establishing a practice in Duplin County this summer. In addition, another obstetrician/gynecologist and a primary care physician plan to begin their practices here in mid-summer. In order to recruit physicians to Duplin County, a well-functioning radiology department under the direction of a qualified radiologist is absolutely essential.

Our radiologist and his practice of diagnostic radiology has the full support of the Board of Trustees and administration of Duplin General Hospital.

H.M. Price, Chairman  
Board of Trustees  
R.E. Harrell  
Administrator

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the cast and crew of "The Star-Spangled Girl" I would like to thank the Duplin County Arts Council and the faculty and staff of East Duplin High School for allowing us to perform our show at the fine facility in Beulaville. The courtesy and attitude displayed by the students in the audience is to be commended and is evidence of the preparation and maturity of the students of East Duplin High School.

Too often high school students only receive attending to negative behavior, and I think it is appropriate that parents and teachers of students who attended

"Star-Spangled Girl" be aware of the fact that they have students of whom they can be proud.

A special thanks to Mary Gardner and the Duplin County Arts Council, for providing us the opportunity to perform for such a re-

sponsive and enthusiastic audience. It made the actors' jobs much easier and made the entire experience at East Duplin High School a distinct pleasure for our cast and crew.

Best wishes for continued success with the Arts programs in Duplin County, and

I look forward to the summer and to returning to THE LIBERTY CART and to the friendly folks of Duplin County.

Sincerely,  
Kerry Maher  
Visiting Artist  
Rockingham community College



**FREE DIET SEMINAR** - Roger Buffalo, president of Diet Connection of Wilmington, will present a free diet seminar on May 11 at 7:30 p.m. in Powell Hall at Warsaw Baptist Church. Roger lost 190 pounds in five months on the Diet Connection program and has kept it off. He is the author of "Pounds Gone Forever" to be published and released sometime this year. The Diet

Connection program is a proven safe and effective program using only 100% natural ingredients. Make plans to attend this informative free diet seminar and meet Roger to learn how to be successful in becoming the person you really want to be through a sensible program of weight reduction. It will be an evening you will not want to miss.

## Rabies In Skunks

Three cases of skunk rabies have recently been diagnosed in Watauga County in North Carolina, according to Dr. John I. Freeman, head of the veterinary public health branch in Raleigh.

This is the first evidence of rabies virus in the native skunk population in North Carolina in 40 years. Dr. Freeman stated that it is his feeling that the current cases in our state are an extension of the epidemic of skunk rabies in eastern Tennessee. Several counties in east Tennessee, bordering North Carolina, have been experiencing an epidemic of skunk rabies for several years, and it has now extended over into our state.

The mountains and western piedmont are the normal range of both the spotted and striped skunk in North Carolina. While

skunks may be found in other parts of the state, the population numbers are generally small. During the next several years, we may see skunk rabies spread over a large area of western North



## Foster-Brock United In Marriage

In a candlelight double-ring ceremony on Saturday, April 24th, at six o'clock, Beckv Louise Brock and Troy Gene Foster were united in marriage at Dobson Chapel Baptist Church of Magnolia.

The parents of the bride are Mr. and Mrs. Garland Brock of Beulaville. Parents of the groom are Mr. and Mrs. Joe Shirley Foster of Beulaville.

The Rev. David Gordon of Earl and Rev. Randy Wellman of Magnolia officiated.

The couple spoke their vows before an altar setting centered with a spring arrangement of glads, snaps, mums, carnations and daisies. On either side of this center focal point stood two fifteen-light spiral candelabras holding long white lighted tapers. Two flowing green palms completed the simple but elegant setting. After lighting the Unity candle, Mr. and Mrs. Foster knelt on the profile satin-covered prayer bench while the "Wedding Prayer" was sung.

A program of nuptial music was presented by Mrs. Janet Register, organist, and Mrs. Gail Grady, vocalist. Mrs. Grady sang "Twelfth of Never," "Each for the Other," "Seems I've Always Loved You" and the "Wedding Prayer."

Given in marriage by her parents, the bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. She chose a gown of tullest chiffon with a Queen Anne neckline, full bishop sleeves and an empire bodice. The flowing skirt and chapel-length train had sunburst pleating and a ruffle of knife pleats on the hemline. The entire gown was enhanced with Chantilly lace and pearl beading. The matching veil was a two-tiered fingertip-length manilla with a Camelot cap edged with matching lace and beading. She carried an old-fashioned Victorian-style nosegay of silk spring colored flowers tied with multicolored lace brocade ribbon.

Rita Quinn was maid of honor. She wore a pastel pink floor-length gown and carried a petite fresh nosegay of carnations, daisies and gypsophila accented with pink satin streamers.

The groom chose as his best man his father. The ushers were Russell Brock and Ronald Brock, brothers of the bride, and Joe Foster, brother of the groom.

The mother of the bride wore a pastel yellow street-length dress of polyester crepe trimmed with matching lace and designed with bell sleeves.

The mother of the groom wore a pastel blue dress of polyester silk.

Each mother wore a corsage of a solid white Georgiana orchid graced with a white lace bow.

The wedding was directed by Mrs. Elna Grey Bostic. Lisa Harrell and Teresa Thigpen presided at the register and distributed programs.

After a wedding trip to the mountains, the couple is residing at Route 1, Beulaville.

### Reception

Immediately following the ceremony, guests were entertained at a reception in the fellowship hall of the church. They were greeted by Mr. and Mrs. Julian D. Smith. The reception table was covered with a pale pink cloth covered with a white lace tablecloth. A silver candelabrum filled with mums, carnations, daisies and three candles served as the centerpiece.

One end of the table held the four-tiered wedding cake while the other end was graced with a silver punch-bowl filled with pink punch. Magdalene Massengill and Sara Smith, cousins of the bride, served the cake. Jackie Penny, sister of the groom, and Bonita Foster, sister-in-law of the groom, served punch. Other refreshments consisted of mints, nuts, sausage balls, cheese wafers and chicken salad on crackers. Good-bys were said by Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Cavenaugh.

### Showers and Parties

Following the rehearsal, the parents of the groom entertained the wedding party and friends with refreshments in the fellowship hall of Dobson Chapel Baptist Church.

On April 17, a miscellaneous shower was held at the home of Mrs. Magdalene Foster, mother of the groom.

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