



Joë Lanier

SON of a gun

One of the more memorable and outstanding events of each summer is the opening night of THE LIBERTY CART outdoor drama. This one special night folks from all over Duplin County and other fine areas come together for a night of socializing. Tables are set up under the towering pines beside the amphitheatre in the cool of the afternoon or evening, and that southern perfected dish of barbecue pork is served each patron. Of course the meeting of friends, acquaintances, neighbors and other folks' neighbors and friends begins before the meal and lasts until the drama begins, then picks up again during intermission and even after the actors have spoken their last words at the drama closing. It is one of those times you can get together and it not be a funeral, but a happy and exciting event. It is like a family gathering or a non-denominational church picnic — an old timey get together. It is one of those nights the politicians get together and don't politic even. If you want to be a part of this opening night festival, it takes a special ticket. You can get yours by calling Jim Johnson, general manager, at 296-0721, or by writing THE LIBERTY CART at P.O. Box 470, Kenansville, NC 28349. The drama, even if you have seen it a dozen times, will still be exciting and entertaining. You might consider the membership program to help keep this historic drama alive. It is a plus for this area. It draws attention to the area. Favorable attention. It helps people in the area who want to feel that excitement of being in a play or drama. Those who want to, take part in the drama. Those who want to, take part in producing it. As the old saying goes; there is more to life than bread. There is more to Duplin County than poultry,

swine and tobacco. Duplin County is, in my opinion, one of the finer places in the United States to live. That is exactly why I live here. It offers the quietness and cleanliness of country life, yet there are things like THE LIBERTY CART drama here also. And, this Duplin County asset needs your financial support to continue to survive. I hope you look on it favorably and support it financially. *****

It seems the folks in Washington and Raleigh are so busy playing politics and using I-40 as one of their playing cards, the folks in southeastern North Carolina may suffer. The latest word is that funds have been cut off. A portion was funded earlier and work continues on that section. However, if new money from federal or state sources does not show up soon, I-40 will end up like the Florida Canal — bridges and no water. In North Carolina it will be bridges and no road. We can't make those folks do as we wish, but we do vote, you know. That is how they got there, and that is how we can get them out. as well.

Folks have been trying to

get Senator Jesse Helms to endorse the I-40 route from Wilmington to Benson. Since its beginning, however, they have been unsuccessful. The Reagan administration has shut down the program doing the funding to the project while Jesse stood back and did nothing. It appears that Jesse has all the roads he needs in his home area and could care less if we get out to prosper or not. The same is true for Governor James Hunt. While he and Jesse play politics, we in southeastern North Carolina stand around with our tongues hanging out wishing for a road to market. Hey, you two, come on down. Help us for a change. . . .

Donna's bird got mad and left. I told you a couple of weeks ago about the bird following her around while she was mowing the lawn. Well, she has taken on a much larger task. She has decided to paint the house. Has it all painted but the back side and little of the front, too. That woman is making me look more like Snuffy Smith every day. But, back to the bird. Apparently the bird had lost all its fear of Donna. It would even run along beside her as she took out the garbage. I think she fed it bread crumbs though. Anyway, as she was painting the house, the bird got curious about what she was doing. She was painting with a roller. Well, the bird walked over to the roller pan and jumped into the paint. I guess he thought it was water and began to flutter or waller around in it. Fortunately, it was a water base paint. We caught him, carefully washed him off and let

him go. . . And go, he did. Haven't seen him since. Donna said he was going to help her paint by getting paint on his wings and fly to those hard-to-get-to places and paint them for her. We wouldn't let him do it and he got mad and left, says she. Who knows, she may be right. With Donna most anything is possible. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . . .

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