



SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

Happy Thanksgiving. I hope you and yours have a big day Thursday and pause to think and be thankful.

A while back, Donna and I were in a nearby city and heard on the radio (a country music station as we listen to no other) that a country star female singer would be at a local Nashville-type place the following week. We allowed as how we would like to see the red-haired singer. We thought on it for several days and called the place to make reservations by way of our Southern Bank MasterCard. We were told there was no need for reservations. "You all come on down, but do so early as it will be a first-come, first-served, and the first ones there will get the better seats". The lady on the phone said it would be her guess that if we came about an hour ahead of time we would get a good seat. Show time was 8 p.m. So, we drove to the city at 2 p.m. and bought our tickets early; they were \$4 cheaper by doing so. This Nashville-type place was a large saloon. I asked the girl behind the bar if I should make some type of a reservation on a seat or something. "No, sir, pardner," she said. "Ain't no reservations, but I suggest you be about an hour before showtime if you want a seat." I paid my \$16 and left. We did some shopping, ate supper and returned about 7 p.m. When we got inside, the tables were jammed together and on each table was a name like Smith, Jones, Jennings and so on. What are these, I asked one of the barmaids. "These tables are reserved," she said. "I was told there would be no reservations," I said. "I don't know," says she. "I just work here." We finally found a table in the back that had no reservation name on it. I ordered a beer and Donna a mixed drink, a pinya collata or something like that. The beer was \$1.50 and the mixed drink, \$5. The place filled up and the beer and drinks flowed. Pretty soon you could not hear yourself think. The cigarette smoke clung to the ceiling like a fog. If you were sitting down you were all right, but if you stood up you could not see for the smoke. Folks walking around were leaning over sideways to see under the cloud of smoke. Some of them had to walk two at a time, one leaning one way and the other leaning the other way to hold each other up. The table next to ours was being served "talking drinks." Each of the six at the table was talking loud to talk above the others, and that one was talking loud to talk above the other one. I was enjoying just looking at the goings-on. Then, the star of the country music show appeared. The ceilings were about seven-foot from the floor. She sang loud and the band played louder. The noise bounced all around the room. You could recognize the tune but you couldn't hear the words. The table next to ours kept on drinking that talking-booze and never even looked toward the stage — they were too busy talking. I don't think they even knew someone was singing behind them and they had one of the reserved tables, too. We were straining our ears to hear the lady sing, straining our eyes to see through the smoke, and straining our nerves trying not to ask those at the table next to ours to shut up. "Maybe the beer is bothering me. Let's order a Coke," I told Donna. "Sure," she said. Anything wet. "Two Cokes," I told one of the barmaids walking by. We waited. No Coke. "I will go to the bar and get it," I told Donna. The Cokes were \$1.75 each — 25 cents more than beer. The air conditioner was straining so hard it blew all the lights out. Now we were in a dark bar filled with mostly drunks and high-priced Cokes. The singer on stage was rushed outside to her bus. After a bit the lights came back on and she came back in a fresh outfit. The other one had changed from a light color to a dark color from perspiration. The singer did all she could and it was a good show under the circumstances. When it was all over, we were ready to go. Once outside, we found that people had parked everywhere and we were blocked in. There is a way out, Donna said, if you can move back and forth and get out here. I don't think so, I said. Sure you can. So in the Pacer I went, turning this way. back up. turn that way. drive forward. turn and turn and turn. Suddenly it got hard to turn. Out to look. The power steering hose busted and the fluid leaked out. "You see what you made me do," I said to Donna. We decided to go back to the front of the saloon where the singer's bus was parked, and people were getting autographs. As we were standing there, this woman in her late 40s came out and soon there was her husband, or at least I suppose it was her husband. Their conversation was something like this. He. What in the h--- are you doing out here with Roger. She. I haven't seen Roger. He. Don't lie to me. She. You told me to go buy a tee-shirt and carry it to the car, and I did. I ain't seen no Roger. He. I am going to have to beat you both up if you don't stop that. She. Oh, shut up. You are drunk. You don't see no Roger, do you? Back inside they went. I saw a car move that had been in front of us, so we left. Let me tell you one thing. It is not easy to find power-steering fluid at midnight. I was sure I would not go to that place again. But, it has been awhile, and one of my favorite stars is to appear there soon. I might weaken. I wrote this to remind me what it was like — but still. You never know. I might go again. Son-of-a-Gun.

Extension Home Economics

Get Rid of Fabric Wrinkles
If you are not careful, you can heat-set wrinkles in your synthetic fabrics. This can happen during the washer's spin cycle if the wash water is too hot. But don't get discouraged too soon. Sometimes it is possible to get those wrinkles out. Wet the garments and rinse them in water with one tablespoon of fabric softener. Tumble dry with other clothes for at least 10 minutes but never more than 20. Overdrying wastes energy and can be hard on the fabric. As soon as the clothes are dry, hang them up. If the wrinkles still remain, you can try a warm or hot water wash, but take the clothes out before the spin cycle. Then tumble dry again. If neither of these methods work, try pressing. But be careful. The iron must be set at the appropriate setting. If it is too hot, it will stick and melt the fabric. And there is no way to fix a melted synthetic fabric. About the only option is to sew an applique over the melted area.

Coupon Costs
You may use coupons to cut a few cents off your grocery bill, but do these cents-off coupons really save money for consumers, as a group? Probably not. A research study done at Purdue University discovered almost 400 coupons per person were distributed in 1980. And only four or five percent of these coupons were redeemed. The redeemed coupons were worth about

\$850 million.

But it cost almost \$1.3 billion to get the coupons to the shoppers and these costs had to be passed on to the consumers in the form of higher prices.

It adds up to this. Since you have to help pay the costs for cents-off coupons, you may as well take advantage of them, especially when they offer savings on those items that you would buy anyway.

Laundry Temperatures
You can wash your family's dirty

clothes in hot, warm or cold water. But it will be the hot water that will give you the cleanest results.

When I say hot water, I mean water at 140 degrees — water that is hot enough to kill bacteria. Now there are many people who have their water heaters set at 120, and that water temperature is suitable for removing average soil from garments.

The hotter water is needed for most white articles and for garments

that are heavily soiled. You can probably get by with a warm water temperature for permanent press, delicate items and garments that are lightly-soiled.

You can use cold water for laundering washable woolsens. And cold water helps keep bright or dark colors from fading, but make sure that cold water temperature doesn't fall below 60 degrees. Detergents are eneffctive when the water temperature drops below 60.

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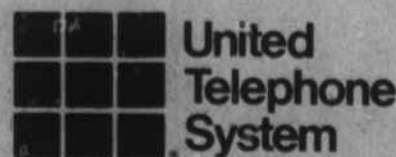
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GIVE THANKS IN CHURCH THIS THANKSGIVING

A Thanksgiving Day service will be held at 9 a.m. at the Warsaw United Methodist Church. Two offerings will be taken up. One is non-perishable food to be distributed by the Social Services in Duplin County. The other is a monetary offering for hunger victims.

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CLOSED WED., NOV 21 & THURS., NOV. 22

TO PREPARE FOR SALE

DON'T MISS OUT

Hours Friday, 7:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M.

Saturday, 9:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M.

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