



# SON OF A GUN

by Joe Lanier

I have been listening to folks talk about the election — how this is going to work and how that will not — how we will do this and how they will do that — how we are better off and how we are ruined. . . This talk was all about our new governor, Jim Martin. . . After listening to some folks mouth off, I had to stop and think. . . Who is this Jim Martin? Is he some fellow that has been forced on the folks of North Carolina? . . . That answer came up quickly. No. More people voted for him than they did for his opponent. . . Jim Martin is our governor for the next four years. . . And, I stress OUR. North Carolinians were not pleased with all that was going on in the Democratic Party and they chose to make a change. We have a Republican Governor and a Democratic Representative and Senator. . . I think North Carolina people are in hopes the two parties will work together for the betterment of North Carolina. . . That if they try and play politics for the next four years, some will not be there come next election time. . . For the time being, Jim Martin is the governor-elect of North Carolina. . . And, I would hope everyone would work together — that the Democrats and the Republicans do their thing party-wise at election time, but in between times they all work for a better North Carolina. . . There were a lot of hate votes this past election, and I think most were cast in the Democratic party. I sure wouldn't like to see that hate margin grow larger. . . But, if things don't work in Raleigh, it probably will. People in New York and Texas were not allowed to vote in North Carolina; thus they did not elect our governor. North Carolina people did, so let's get on with the job. . .

I have to pay the increase in taxes, I won't have it. . . I will have to borrow it and thus I will end up worse off as I will have to pay interest on what I borrowed to pay what I should have paid each trip to the store. . . The other two taxes — the inventory and manufacturers tax — are a little different. Studies indicate additional industry would locate here if they were eliminated. . . So, maybe I can handle that. . . The increased revenue perhaps offsets the loss. . .

Have you noticed the price of gasoline on the borders of Duplin County? . . . How do they do it? . . . How can they sell it for 10 to 15 cents a gallon less than Duplin County gas stations can? . . . Even some companies that are in Duplin County are selling gasoline cheaper in other areas. . . I, of course, have my own personal answer to that. I do not buy from those companies. . . in or out of Duplin. . . Sometime back I was trying to think of some way to get shoppers in to Duplin County and I thought gasoline would be the answer. . . If some way we could cut the price of gasoline 10 to 15 cents a gallon, then people would come to shop in Duplin. . . I never told anyone of my idea, but it appears someone else had the same idea — but in other counties. . .

One of the representatives of Bump, N.C. (he is actually an outsider but during this past election, he got in some way or another). . . Anyway, he has come up with a new idea for the Bump, N.C. sign. . . You remember Bump, N.C., don't you? It is the place that had the bump in the road at C.M. Outlaw's store. . . The bump that caused the state roads man from Jacksonville discomfort in his new expensive foreign car when some folks say he sped across the bump. . . After he got bumped by the bump, he had the state roads crew remove the bump. . . After the bump was gone, the crew took down the signs saying there was a bump. . . Even though the bump is gone, the place is still there. . . There is a sign, crude and homemade, not a professional sign, nailed to a light pole indicating "Bump, N.C. . . Nut Sanctuary." The new fellow says the sign should be like the no-smoking sign. . . A drawing of a bump with a circle around it and a line through it. . . Sounds like a winner to me. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

We are hearing a lot about taxes. . . How some are to be cut and how none are to be raised. . . I suppose we all know the consumer pays all taxes. . . A tax can be taken off of one thing and added to another, but in the end, the consumer pays it all. . . Now, being a consumer, I disagree with our Governor-elect Jim Martin and his proposal to cut the tax on some food and medicine. . . I think the tax should stay there. . . I can afford to pay a little along, better than a lot at the end of the year. . . If I am allowed to have more of my income to spend, that is what I will do — spend it — and then at the first of the year when

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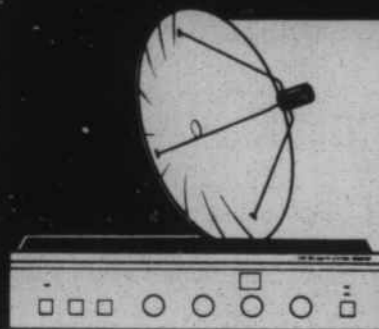
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