



**Son of a Gun**

by Joe Lanier

The Duplin County school administration is sending, or has sent, to the Duplin County towns a resolution, and asking the towns to pass this resolution. The resolution says the Duplin County Board of County Commissioners is not putting enough Duplin County tax money into the current expense item of the where I saw this resolution presented was Wallace. It was presented by Board Member Charles Blanchard.

It was seconded by Board member David Jordan. Charles Blanchard is assistant principal at Wallace Elementary School; Jordan is assistant principal at Wallace-Rose Hill. The resolution passed unanimously. The next place I saw the resolution come up was at Rose Hill. There are no school teachers on the Rose Hill town board. . . It did not pass. . . The Rose Hill Board said they didn't think it was their place to tell the county commissioners where to spend the county tax money, as it was not the county commissioners place to tell them where to spend the town tax money. . . However, they worried that some folks might think they were anti-education. . . The next place the resolution showed up was at Magnolia. There are no school teachers on the Magnolia town board. . . It did not pass. . . The Magnolia Town Board said the resolution was too evasive; it did not pin things down or mention a specific amount. . . They, too, worried they would be looked on by some as being against education. . . Next, the resolution came up at the Warsaw Town Board. It did not pass at the Warsaw Town Board either. . . There is a school employee on the Town Board as this person who made the resolution not to pass the resolution. He said it is not something the Town Board should get into as a Town Board. He continued, however, "I do think we individually should contact our commissioner, Bill Costin, and voice our opinions. It does not mean the Town Board is against education; it simply means we think it is something town boards should not get into. It is an individual thing. . . I personally think the three towns that did not pass the resolution did the right thing. . . And, it took a lot of gumption to do it. It is important to note that none of the towns said the schools didn't need more money; they simply said the resolution is not something they should pass as a town body. . . I have been attending the Board meetings of these towns for a long time, and I have seen no one on any of these boards act anti-education. I think they were just using good sense. . .

The brick depot at Magnolia is about to bite the dust. The fellow that is to tear it down has moved a crane to the site. He has already ripped up the floor, and it won't be long before he cranks up the swinging crane and begins to tear down the walls. This piece of history will be gone. It won't be too much longer before the railroad company abandons the rail line beyond Wallace. And, I would assume the rail itself would be removed shortly thereafter. Another piece of history gone. . . I was talking to C.C. MacMillian of Teachey and he was telling me that when the railroad first began, it was a day's journey from Wilmington to Teachey by railway. The tracks were logs with strips of metal nailed to the logs. The train ran very slowly. . . Mrs. Teachey, a past relative of C.C.'s, ran a boarding house at the end of the line, at Teachey. There was a turn-table at Teachey on which the train was turned around to go back to Wilmington. The railroad began as a line from Wilmington to Raleigh, but the folks in Raleigh didn't come up with their share of the money in time, so the line stopped in Teachey. Later on the folks in Weldon came up with some money, and the line continued on and took a turn and went to Weldon. When the "T" rail came into being and was installed on the Wilmington to Weldon line, the trains traveled at a breath-taking speed of 24 miles an hour. The trains went lickety-split, billowing black smoke and cinders. . .

I heard a joke. . . Seems this group of bird-hunters were out in the fields looking for some birds to shoot for supper when they noticed birds flying over a ditch in the field and just falling out of the air. They watched that go on several times and decided they would take a look. When they got to the ditch, they saw an ugly man making an even uglier face. . . "What are you doing?" they asked. "I am uglying down these birds," he said. . . "When they fly over, I just make an ugly face and the shock kills them. . . I used to bring my wife," the ugly fellow continued, "but she tore the birds up too bad." . . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

**Bible School**

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