



**Son of a Gun**

by Joe Lanier

If you were one of those who followed the young baseball players to the Dixie Youth tournament in Rose Hill, then you already know what I am about to say, or can attest to it. I have been to many baseball fields, but I can't recall one as neat, as attractive, and as orderly as the one in Rose Hill. The field, which is also used for football and other sports, is named in honor of Jimmy Jerome, a local lad who obtained greatness in football. He was outstanding at Wallace-Rose Hill High School, at college, and also played in the major league. He was killed in an auto accident in California. During his high school and college days, he spent his summers in Rose Hill involved in the summer recreation program, which was mostly baseball. The ball park displayed more colors than just a green outfield, sandy infield, and clay pitcher's mound. When I first drove up to the park, I saw the flags waving in a gentle breeze. Next, as I walked toward the bleachers, the flowers, yellow and red, along the green wood entrance, and the youngsters dressed out in their uniforms, added to the colors, but even before anyone came to the park at 8 a.m. in the morning, it showed the work and care the people involved had in it. I don't know who all were involved, but I do know they should be proud, for their work paid off — the park was, and is, outstanding. No one who attended the tournament could go away feeling anyway but good about Rose Hill, if they lost in the game or won.

The Duplin County Board of Commissioners just recently supposedly reorganized the tax offices. There is no doubt in my mind the two offices can work more efficiently combined, using the personnel where they are needed, when they are needed. . . . When tax-listing is going on, very little tax-paying is going on. . . and vice-versa. . . . So, people could be moved to where they are needed, no matter what part they normally work in — tax collection or listing. However, they are allowing too many offices to exist. Duplin County does not need more supervisory personnel to sit back in an office. What is needed is those supervising to be out on the floor, involved in the working process. . . . So-called "wheels" are usually out of touch and overpaid, and create more problems than the work-force can straighten out. . . . In my opinion, the tax office would be better if one of those cubby-holes, called an office, was turned into a filing room and filed with filing cabinets. Duplin County would benefit. . . . Just how ridiculous can this re-organization thing get. Let me tell you. There is one less person in this office combination, yet at Monday's meeting of the county commissioners, a new desk was approved to be bought for this office, which now has fewer people than it had a week ago. . . . As I understand it — and I realize it doesn't make sense — but, as I understand it, one person is going to work at two desks. . . . That of course means two chairs, two typewriters, two calculators and all the other things needed at a desk. . . . This is for one person. . . . As I said, it doesn't make sense, but five commissioners gave their approval. It is going to be interesting a year from now to see the results of this change. . . . I wonder if they are going to stack those desks on top of one another. . . . Hey, no worry. . . . It's only tax money. . . . Son-of-a-Gun. . . .

**BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT**  
Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Riddick of Durham announce the birth of their daughter, Sheena Monique, on July 8, 1985 at Durham General Hospital. The maternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Miller of Route 1, Magnolia and Mrs. and Mrs. Theodore Riddick of Plainfield, N.J. Paternal grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Thomas J. Southerland of Route 1, Magnolia and Mrs. Armitie Miller of Warsaw.

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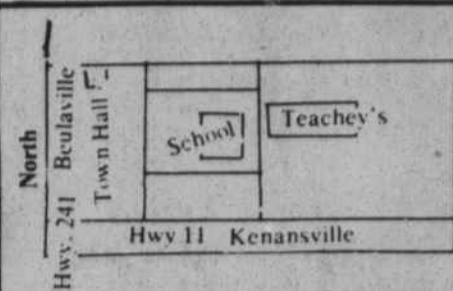
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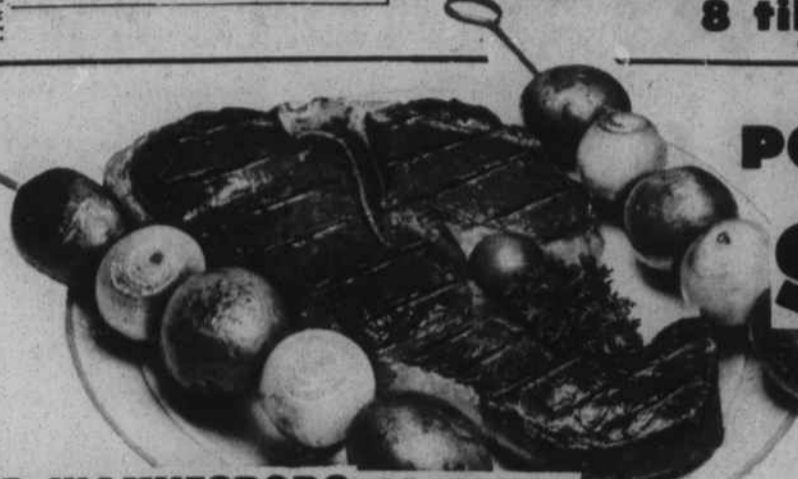
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