



Son of a Gun

by Joe Lanier

It looks to me like the Duplin County taxpayer is going to be in trouble shortly with the county commissioners doing the figuring. . . At their last meeting, they cut out the value of tobacco poundage from the tax values to help the farmer. . . It might be noted that three of them are farmers. . . This amounts to some over \$162,000 to be added to the other tax values. . . If it takes a dollar to run city hall, it takes a dollar. And, to get that dollar, other tax sources must be increased if one is decreased. . . That is not an opinion — that is a fact. . . The appraiser said tobacco definitely adds value to the land, and as an appraiser, if it adds value, then he must add it. . . Due to the uncertainty of the market, he advised it be re-examined each year. He stated he could not cut it from the values. The county commissioners must cut it if it is to be cut. Only six other counties of North Carolina's 100 do not tax the value of tobacco poundage. Some are being sued for not doing so. Next time the commissioners meet, they may vote to eliminate all carports from homes with carports, or perhaps screened-in porches. As they are cutting the values of the only thing they can tax (Counties can tax only property values), they are also adding to the expense of running the county. . . After all the cutting and moving and messing going on in the tax office, they have actually ended up with more people than they had before. . . So, to begin with the efficiency of combining the two offices has turned into inefficiency — at taxpayer expense. . . Also, the finance office just keeps on adding bodies. . . I am beginning to think like the study in Chicago — that said computers are not saving money, but adding jobs. . . That the work could actually be done cheaper by hand labor with less people. . . Some more of the fancy figuring by the commissioners, at their last meeting they cut the appraisers total values by five percent. . . Mind you, this is before the tax rate is set on this value. . . That is like a shoe store saying they are going to have a 50 percent-off sale before they set the prices. . . The normal price of the shoes would be \$20, so in order to get the normal price and have a 50 percent off sale, they just upped the price to \$40. . . Same will be true for the tax. . . They could cut the values by 90 percent and still tax the remaining five percent for the amount to run the county. . . Watch this tax-rate-setting next year. If most values are up by 80 percent or more, should not the present tax rate be cut by 80 percent? . . . If you own property in Duplin County, I suggest you become better friends with your county commissioner. It's your money they are spending. . . And, I guarantee that if they collect more money, they will spend it. . . Who knows on what — but spend it they will. . . It's kinda like the secret meetings. . . They just have to close out the public so they can "save us money." . . Don't you know that if they were saving us money or doing things the county taxpayers like, they would be doing it out in the open and not behind closed doors so some back-patting could be going on. . . Folks that believe the county is being improved behind closed doors during a secret session, also believe in the tooth fairy. . . Speaking about closed secret sessions. . . Commissioner Dovie Penney almost came out wearing a halo at the last meeting of the county commissioners. . . She voted against going into secret session, got her pocketbook and almost left the room to let the other commissioners meet in secret. . . She got as far as the door — then changed her mind and went back into the secret meeting. . . I wish I could say it was because she didn't approve of secret meetings, but I must be honest and say what I think, and that is she voted the way she did because no one seconded her motion to create a grievance committee for the employees. . . Son-of-a-Gun. . .

Duplin All-Stars Win Carolina Championship

The Duplin County Dixie Boys baseball team defeated Montgomery County Sunday in Fayetteville to become the only undefeated team in the North Carolina League.

Dixie Baseball, a national organization for youth baseball teams, has three towns in its franchise in Duplin County for Dixie Boys, age 13 to 14 years old, Rose Hill, Kenansville and Mount Olive.

The youngsters were in Bessemer City for the North Carolina tournament, where they won each game and ended up in a play-off in Fayetteville Sunday.

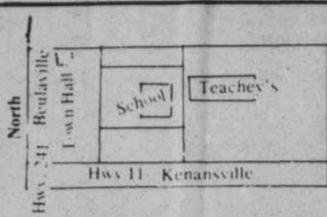
They will be leaving for St. Bernard Parrish, Louisiana, for the national tournament Thursday. Their first game in the national tournament will be at 9 p.m. Saturday, and they will be playing Mississippi.

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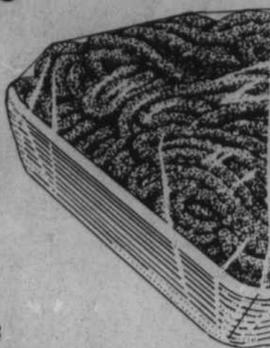
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WE STILL HAVE WHOLE PIGS

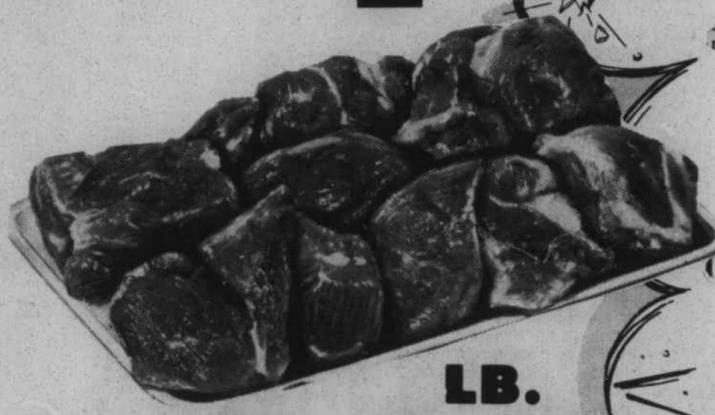
GROUND CHUCK \$1.59 LB.



BONELESS CHUCK ROAST \$1.29 LB.

BARBECUE BEEF RIBS LB. 95¢

BONELESS STEW BEEF

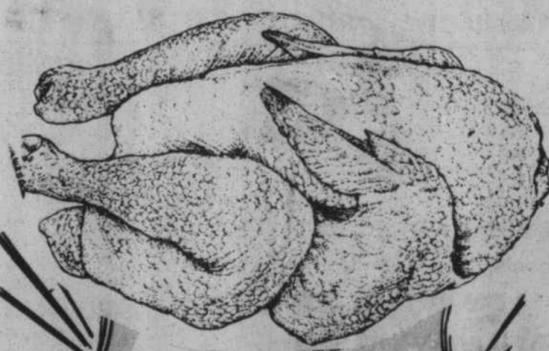


FROSTY MORN BACON 1-LB. \$1.35



\$1.89

FROSTY MORN FRANKS 12 OZ. PKG. 79¢



WHOLE FRYERS LB.

HOOP CHEESE LB. \$1.79



BONELESS POT ROAST \$1.19 LB.

49¢



FRESH LIAN NECKBONES 29¢ LB.