

# The Foothills View

"We See It Your Way"

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## The Circle Is Unbroken

## EPA Tests Town Water



Over 200 townspeople joined in circles like the happy dancers at right at the Boiling Springs street dance last Friday night. Fiddler David Lipscomb (above) kept their feet moving fast, along with other members of the band, "Our Grass Is Blue."

The dancers are, beginning at right and moving clockwise, Mrs. Janie Clary; Blane Whisnant; an unidentified woman; and Mike Howington.



"Tests made so far on the water in Boiling Springs have not shown any signs of harmful chemicals or bacteria," Max Hamrick, town councilman, said in a meeting last night of the town board.

In the last two years, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has tested the town's central well, located off Highway 150, after several complaints were heard by residents that the water had a petroleum odor and taste.

The well has been tested by EPA specialists several times for all known chemicals and bacteria that could be harmful to humans.

"The initial tests have not identified the cause," Hamrick said. "Beyond that, the EPA just doesn't have the answer."

In the last week, eight town residents have complained about an increasing petroleum odor and taste, although there are no signs of an unusual coloration in the water.

Mrs. Kay Patterson, Flint Hill Church Road, expressed concern last night

to the board that some solution should soon be found since her water problem has worsened in the last two weeks.

"It has gotten to the place that we have to hold our breath to swallow any water," Mrs. Patterson said. "I'm really getting concerned about drinking it."

Board members confirmed that a second sample has been taken for the university lab at UNC-Chapel Hill.

In other business, the board heard several requests by Boiling Springs residents who owned swimming pools, that they not be charged sewage fees for the water usage needed for the pools.

Currently, the sewage fee is based on the amount of water used, but residents say water used in the pools does not drain into the sewage lines.

Board members agreed that there was no way to estimate how much water from the pools, if any, ran into the sewage lines, so they would stick to the original policy

## The Rule Breakers

(Editor's note: this is the first of a series to run this summer on "The Rule Breakers," successful individuals from the Boiling Springs area who have achieved their success by unconventional methods.)

Unconventional could be the middle name of 46-year old Earl Owensby. Nine years ago, at an age when most men are settling into their jobs, Owensby began a new career as a movie producer, director, and actor. The low-budget, high-action pictures of the EO Corporation have made Owensby money, and made people talk about Owensby.

Owensby talked with the View last Monday, the day of a court hearing on the custody of his children; he and his wife recently separated.

Three hours after this interview, Owensby sat in a Cleveland County courtroom and heard the judge read a deposition awarding custody of his sons to his wife.)

BY KAY STAMEY  
VIEW STAFF

**View:** Mr. Owensby, describe your childhood and what you remember most significantly about your family.

**Owensby:** Well, I was born in the mountains of North Carolina. I was adopted at 11 months and grew up in the little mountain town of Cliffside. We were poor, very poor. I worked in a theater in Cliffside for six years pushing brooms, selling candy, or running the projector. I thought I was doing good making \$5 a week.

**View:** Was your family close?

**Owensby:** Oh, yes. We loved each other very much. We were close in our own ways, I guess. I never doubted that my parents loved me and they knew I loved them.

**View:** You said your family showed love in their own ways. Was there much affection?

**Owensby:** From my mother there was a

*"I never wanted to be an actor. I'm Earl Owensby, a businessman and father."*

— Earl Owensby

great deal of affection. I guess she made up for my father.

**View:** Was your father not affectionate?

**Owensby:** No. He never could show affection. He worked hard every day in the mill. Maybe he just didn't have time or maybe he didn't know how. Still he was a good man and I respect him.

**View:** Now what is most important in your life?

**Owensby:** My two sons. I would just as soon see the EO Corporation float down the stream than give up my children.

**View:** Do you think you will get custody?

**Owensby:** I really don't know. In the long run, I think I could offer them a stable, Christian life, and they would be brought up in the right atmosphere. But, if the judge decides against it, I'll just accept it.

**Owensby:** Will EO Corporation be affected adversely by the settlement?

**Owensby:** No. We will continue to make movies. In fact, we're in the process of filming a 3-D picture, "Last Plane Out."

**View:** Where do you get the ideas for your movies?

**Owensby:** Oh, they come from every source. We have people come in with the rights to books, and people from all over the film industry with new scripts and

ideas. They're not hard to find.

**View:** Will you be starring in these latest movies?

**Owensby:** No, I'll just produce. I never wanted to be an actor, anyway. I'm Earl Owensby, a businessman and father.

**View:** Are 3-D movies that big money makers, or are they just a passing fad?

**Owensby:** We hope they will go over big. As far as their being successful in the Shelby area, we really don't know. Besides, we're not catering only to Shelby fans. We're making movies for the world.

**View:** What do your sons think of Earl Owensby, the film producer?

**Owensby:** To them I'd just daddy. They think I'm like every other daddy who goes off to work, gets paid, and plays with the kids.

**View:** What is the most important quality you would pass on to your sons, Elvis and Rhett?

**Owensby:** If I had to pass on one quality it

would be my strong faith in God and my appreciation of the church life and religious training. That's the greatest thing a parent can do for a child, to give him a solid training in the church.

**View:** What kind of image do you think you have in this area and outside this area?

**Owensby:** Well, I hope I have a clean, shrewd businessman-like image inside this area. Outside Shelby, in the film industry, I'm just like every other businessman, searching for the right ingredients to make a good picture.

**View:** While you have undergone a crisis, has the church been a comfort to you?

**Owensby:** My faith has certainly helped me through. I'm a stable individual, and I have just learned to separate my personal problems from my work. You know, things go wrong in every marriage. Sometimes two people just drift apart. It's sad, but it happens.

**View:** Earl, thank you.

