

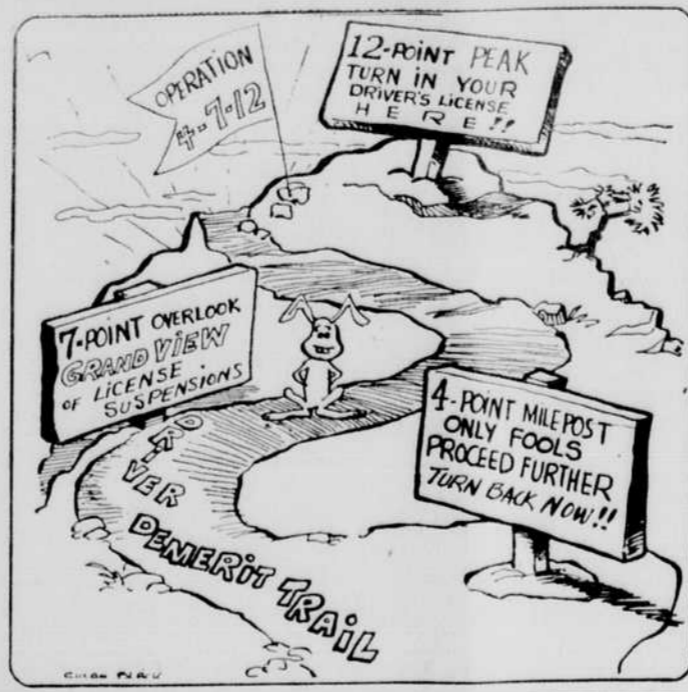
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**Mountain Musings**

by Gene Byrd

With The P. T. A. The Owen High School P. T. A. held a recent meeting that was pretty Terribly Attended. While there were not too many people present, a very fine program was presented. I was very much impressed with the devotion given by the Rev. Charles Smith, a member of the Owen faculty. Mr. Smith is probably one of the most effective speakers in the Valley and is a master of elocution. He presented some thoughts from the Scriptures that had never occurred to me before. A gentleman from the Health Department presented a very interesting summary of results of a recent health survey conducted among the ninth grade physical education students and the would be basketball players of the various high schools of the

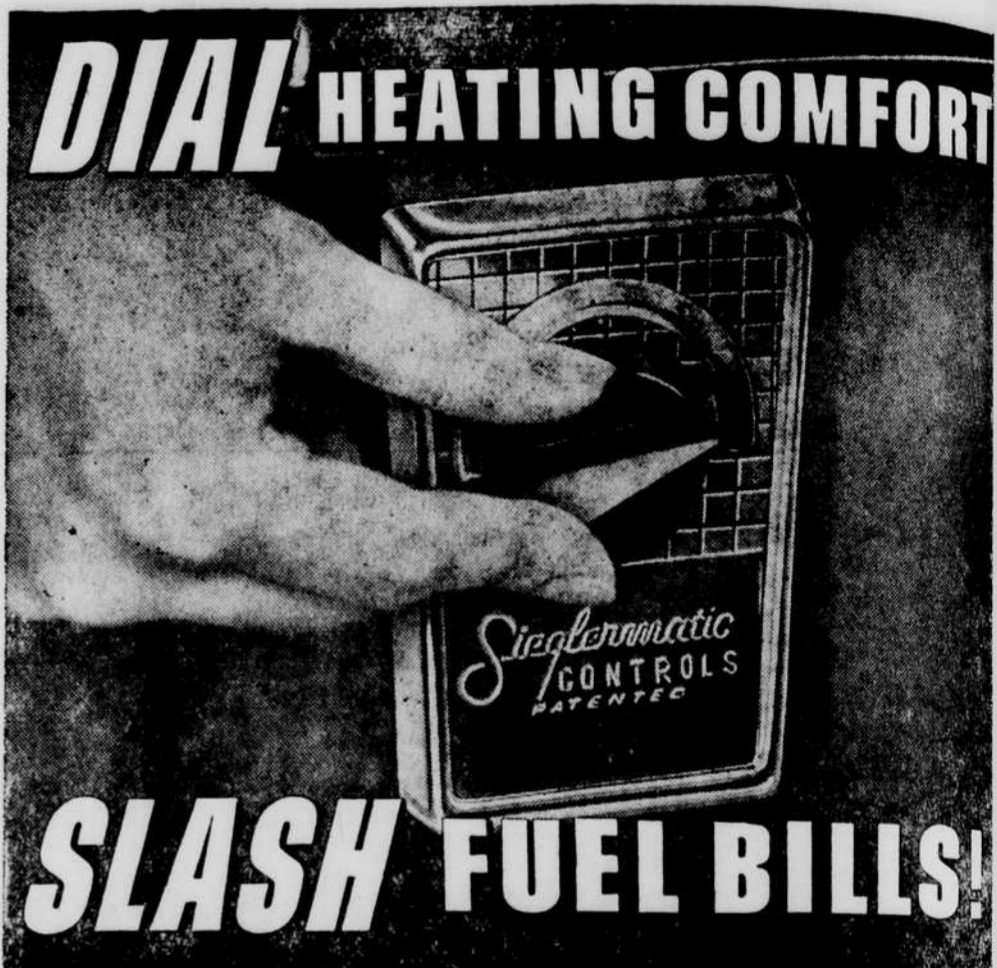
County. We are pleased to note the fine rating attained by Owen from the comparative standpoint, but there were points of deficiency that might occasion some alarm. It would appear that dental and nutrition problems were the chief points of weakness. One interesting fact that was brought out was that this area has more dentists per capita than any other section in the United States. Whether this was a tribute to our fine climate and living conditions or the necessity occasioned by our poor teeth was not made clear. I was impressed by the efficient organization of our P. T. A. Everything went off most smoothly; the organization merited our support. Too Bad, fellows! After P. T. A., Woodfin Rhodes, Gary Carson and I went down to Shuford Field to see how our undefeated JV's were making out with the invading JV's from Brevard High School. We happened in on a pretty dismal fourth quarter for the home team. Brevard punched over two touchdowns in the last three minutes of play to defeat our War Pioneers. Coach Art Ditt was suffering from some of his good boys having been promoted to the Varsity. We were sorry to see the bid for an undefeated season spoiled, but we must heap praise upon this bunch of lads and their fine coach for a very successful and interesting season. Baptist Preacher In A Black "Cat" Hat: If any of my friends have noted a striking change in my appearance the past week, explanations are in order. I misplaced my faithful old hat last week (found it today at church where I had left it), and my balding pate started suffering with the onrushing cold waves that came around the house and found a cap that had been purchased for my son. Robert has refused to wear this cap, and a quick look in the mirror convinced me that it didn't do anything for his old man either. While my wearing of this hat may not make me famous, as Odin's beret and Jack's Bermuda shorts did for their respective owners, I have been subject to some uncomplimentary stares. Eager Weaver: I never cease to marvel at the loyalty commanded by our various Scout Workers. My daughter, Jackie, is now a Brownie, and Mrs. Bill Brown has been promoted to that exact position formerly occupied only by Jodie Brown and Mrs. W. W. White. Presently she is making innumerable pot holders on a little frame and making the Scout salute between potholders. I doubt if we realize the debt we owe to the various leaders who so unselfishly devote so much time to our youngsters. You Left Too Soon, Fred My Wife went by Reed's Motel to invite Fred Schmeiz to "break brown bread" with us only to be informed that dependent over the bad weather that seriously hindered his plans, this good man had again pulled up stakes and headed North. This was poor treatment from the climate that Fred says has no equal anywhere in the world that he has been privileged to visit. Ironically enough, the weather has been more to his liking the past few days. Hi There, Teen-agers! This jaunty salutation may be the title for another book for the youth of our land from the ready pen of our own Dr. Frank Howard Richardson. The good doctor has won no little fame in the field of youth problems, and his reading audience look

forward to any effort on his part. A young lady who was visiting our home awhile back paid Dr. Richardson a great compliment. Dr. Richardson had attended her when she was a little tyke and she had much to say about his kindly, understanding nature. Since her father is no longer living, she said that if her brother were unable to be present to give her away when she was married that Dr. Richardson would be her next choice. (Now, Dr. Richardson, if you don't read this column, you'll miss your compliment, and it will be good enough for you. If you do read the Muser's Mess, you owe me a "last go trade.") A Friend of the Family: Last Friday, I answered a knock at my classroom door. There stood my good and esteemed friend, the Rev. Blackwelder, pastor of the Tabernacle Methodist Church. He informed me of the death of Mrs. J. A. Brooks, told me of the details of the impending funeral and then said, "The family requests that you as a friend of the family assist me in the service." Mingled emotions assailed me. Grief for the loss of my friend and the humble pleasure that my former playmates, and former students would grant me the great privilege of assisting in their mother's funeral blended in sweet sentiment. Mrs. J. A. Brooks lived a lovely life of service and she had a lovely funeral. The fresh young voices of the choir, the never ending comfort of the Scriptures, the well chosen words of Brother Blackwelder, the grieving familiar faces, the poignancy of deep sorrow, the dawning of fresh hope, and suddenly deep peace combined into unforgettable moments at old Tabernacle. A dedicated, faithful husband, four charming daughters, and four worthy sons survive this good woman, and I feel so honored to be accounted a "friend of the family."

NOV. 18—Lois Payne, Lennie Mundy, Gertrude Solesbee, Mrs. C. B. Nicholson, Joyce Sparks, Clarence Davis, Mary Bangarner, Mary Taylor, J. Worth Burgess, Robin Cole, H. B. Robinson. NOV. 19—Mrs. Gussie Patterson, Mrs. Paul Harris, Mary Ann Innes, W. L. Wheelon, Brenda Harwood, Dwight Lee Hall, Nancy Brookshire, Roy W. Alexander, Lewis Curry, Jr., Mrs. H. L. Buchanan, Doris Rose, Mike Wyly.

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