

Town Topics

Edith K. Benedict

ANOTHER WATER DOG

"I think I have an alligator in my creek", said an excited voice over the phone. "Wouldn't you like to come up and take a picture?"

The voice belonged to Mrs. Fred Cline who did indeed have a strange looking animal in her back yard - but not an alligator. We had thought maybe the one which was lost some time ago might



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have wandered up the creek, but no, this was one of the large salamanders, or water dogs, which are found in fresh water streams. He was every bit of 18 inches long and had a good bit of wiggle left in him for he tried to double back on his length and bite the hand which held him up for this picture. He had rather large, vicious teeth and a big mouth which, between the two of them, could have made a good sized bite. The only flaw to that statement is that they are supposedly harmless, more apt to flee than to fight, except in this case he was cornered, which should even make a difference in the behavior of humans!

Many with whom I've talked since that day have had experience with the mud puppy, water dog, or large salamander. As boys often spend time wading creeks, they are acquainted with most creatures with which they might come in contact. It is said that these water dogs are extremely difficult to kill. Perhaps they have tough skulls but their bodies are soft, almost like jelly. Regardless of this, Mrs. Cline wanted only one thing and that was to have that monster removed from the creek in

which she liked to wade.

LITTLE SLOW

Another matter of interest we picked up while at the Cline's was that their son, Fred, has been home from the service for several weeks. It hasn't been very long since we received a news release from the Navy stating that he was in the Mediterranean on cruise. Apparently, somewhere along the line, the information that Fred had been flown home to be hospitalized for a lame knee had not yet reached the public relations division. In all innocence we published the news that he was half way across the world when in reality he was already home.

GREAT OAKS . . .

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Hoffman in their home in Last Resort last week were Judge and Mrs. Charles H. Miller. Judge Miller is head of the Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Tennessee. Years ago Charles Miller was one of a group of Hi-Y boys from Salisbury whose club was sponsored by the local YMCA under the direction of Mr. Hoffman. In reviewing the group the two men found that five of them had attained positions of prominence in the state: Dean Brandis, dean of the law school at UNC; H. Harold McCurdy, psychology dept., UNC; Dr. Elmer Brown, biology dept., Davidson; Dr. Frank H. Brown, physician, Greensboro, and W. C. Archie, head of the dept. of higher education of North Carolina.

One of the fondest reminiscences from those early days was of the night the boys crowded into the Hoffman car to travel to Charlotte and see the world famous Pavlova. It seems that the parents were none too sure that this was an event that would mean much to the young men, however, after many years, it still remains as one of the highlights of that time in their lives.

Many tributes have been paid to Uncle Mike over the years. His influence while working at Camp Sequoyah and prior to that time the many lives touched by him and influence for the better would fill a good sized volume. I chance a rebuke from him by repeating something which I think extremely interesting and very complimentary to his character. Frank Graham, then president of the University of North Carolina, said, "Boys from Salisbury bear the mark of two people, one (an English teacher whose name I do not remember), the other, Mike Hoffman".

A man of many talents, he is musician, botanist, source of Indian lore, teacher, composer, and many other things . . . not the least among them: being the "potter molding the clay".

GOURDVILLE, U. S. A.

Little gourds, fig gourds, medium sized gourds! All of them are on the vines at the E. F. Baker home on the Old Toll road for the pastor takes delight in amazing visitors with the size and number of gourds he expects to harvest this fall. There are the ornamental white, green and yellow, striped and the huge bright green ones that look like a large prehistoric club used by cave men.

Owen--Lites

By Grover Farr

Once again the week at Owen has whizzed by us. We reflect. We rejoice over Friday night's victory. We rest from a busy week. We prepare for another busy week. As I write this, I can hear someone saying, "What is he? A nut or something? I haven't had a busy week." Owen isn't such a busy place. When I hear my fellow students say that Owen is dull or that it isn't bubbling over with things to do—and unfortunately, I do hear students say this occasionally—I immediately jump upon my soap box and begin to preach.

Owen is a dull place only if you wish to make it so. Our school offers a wealth of clubs and activities to students who wish to participate. Have you investigated all the possibilities for you at Owen? I cannot emphasize the importance of belonging to a club. In addition to helping yourself and getting to know your classmates better, you have that satisfaction of "belonging".

ANNUAL STAFF ANNOUNCED

The Annual Staff was announced Wednesday. The staff is as follows:

Co-editors: Emily Ann Crain and Janice Wheelon; Assistant Editor, Ginger Wallin; Business Managers, Jim Frazier and Wanda Burch; Feature Editors, Brenda Williams and Ann Stubbs; Club Editors, Becky Alled and Barbara Boone; Sports Editors, Leigh Brittain and Ted Pipton; Typist, Wayne Greene; Art Editor, Mary Benedict.

The Annual Staff is competitive. Congratulations to all who made it!

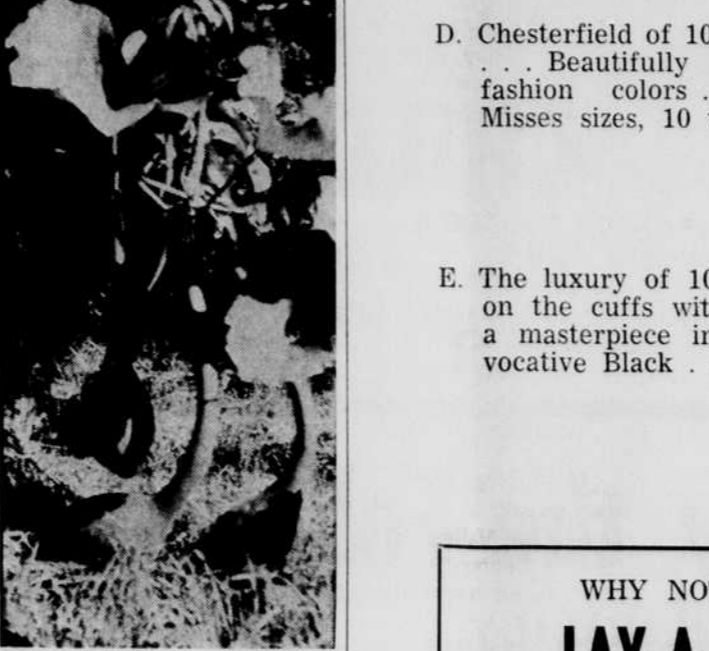
I shall announce—and with great pleasure, I might add—that Owen's last year's newspaper, the **Owen Highlights**, will be entered in competition in the Editor's Roundtable at Western Carolina this year. Naturally, we hope that the paper will get a high rating.

WARREN WILSON
Tuesday evening, September 22, Warren Wilson College held its first tutoring session. We began with a brief talk by Dr. Arthur M. Banerman, president of Warren Wilson.

We were then assigned to our tutors. Our tutors seem to have really been hand-picked this year. I am enrolled in French II and my tutor is Daniel Shunga, a native of the Congo who attended a Belgian school and who has been speaking French since he was seven years old. He told us of the importance of using the language that we are studying. As I sat and listened to his wonderful French accent, I asked myself, "What Owen student can afford to miss the opportunity of studying with someone who can give him such special attention?"

The vines are many, but one in particular has grown over the one-time chicken coop, climbed and wound around the peach tree for a length of 40-50 feet and on one end of the vine alone we counted 19 gourds varying in size from 6-8 pounds. They are so heavy one wonders how the weight could be supported by the vine at all without breaking.

Around the attractive mountainside yard were gourds of other years with flowers hanging from them. They may also be used for bird houses although the best use of all has become a thing of the past—that of dipping good cold spring water in a hallowed out gourd. No chlorine to spoil the taste there.



Out of the three pictures made of the gourds this morning this shows two that have been allowed to rest on the ground as they grew, thus curving the necks slightly. Mr. Baker had tried to grow one in a jug, but this didn't agree with the gourd; it simply didn't grow at all. His prize specimen is the one with the curled handle.

I saved the last sentence of this column for that which I know every student wishes to say: CONGRATULATIONS, WARHORSES!

OMAHA CRUSADE FINES IN WORLD

They came quickly, hurrying almost, when Billy Graham asked them to "make sure your name is in the Book of Life." It was his last appeal of the greater Omaha Council Bluffs Crusade and as they came it was evident that many of them were gripped with a sense of urgency, moreso than at any other meeting.

The ten-days meeting at Ak-Sar-Ben Stadium was within a few minutes of becoming history and Mr. Graham had preached on "The Climax of History: The Second Coming of Christ."

"Some of you don't want Christ to come and upset your little empire," the evangelist said. "You have your own love affair and you don't want Christ to come and put an end to that."

"The Bible says that before the end evil will intensify, lawlessness will increase, race will be pitted against race, and the world will be living in morality. Don't let anybody fool you—we are in trouble, serious trouble."

In response to his invitation, 1970 inquirers came for counseling. This made a total of 10,724 for the crusade. On Saturday night, which was youth night, another overflow crowd of 21,800 packed the stadium to hear the evangelist speak on "The Moral Problems of Youth."

Total attendance for the Omaha-Council Bluffs Crusade was 183,170. Mr. Graham told his audience on Saturday night that the reception in Omaha "has been one of the finest we have had anywhere in the world."

Mr. Graham and the team open a major crusade in Boston on Friday, Sept. 18.

Man is not the creature of circumstances. Circumstances are the creatures of man. —Benjamin Disraeli

24, in the Club Room of the Asheville Federal Savings and Loan were: North-South, Mrs. Fred Perley and Mrs. Marian Castevens; 2nd., Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Brady; 3rd., Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hill. East-West, Mrs. Sam Young and W. C. Field; 2nd., Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Jones; 3rd, Miss Beth Livingstone and Mrs. Don Livingstone.

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