

A COLUMN OF COMMENT

By E. M. DEWEESE

"I wholly disapprove of what you say but will defend to the death your right to say it."

—VOLTAIRE

"Honesty and competency require no shield of secrecy."

—WOODROW WILSON

STEADILY TOUGHER

POLICY TOWARD JAPAN

THERE ARE SIGNS that early criticism of General MacArthur's "soft policy" toward the Japanese were premature. Several times the general has cracked down hard enough for the vanquished Nipponese to learn that the Americans can and will get plenty tough on provocation. MacArthur's procedure seems to grow stern gradually, but steadily. The Japanese are going to realize that they were whipped, very thoroughly. By the time the top war lords and the lesser fry guilty of prison camp atrocities get what is coming to them, the lesson will be obvious.

The big problem will be educating those truculent orientals to the fact that they were wrong in starting the war, wrong in the way they conducted it, and must of necessity get into new habits of thinking if they are to be permitted self government. Inculcating a sense of moral consciousness into people to whom such values mean nothing, is a herculean task. If it can be accomplished, it is likely that no less than a generation will be required. General Wainwright may have had something like this in mind, in addition to military security, when he suggested occupation for twenty years.

NEW ORDINANCES ARE WORTHWHILE

TWO ORDINANCES passed by Hugo's City Council Tuesday night may be of more effect than appears from casual reading.

One, banning public drinking of intoxicants, makes possible prosecution and punishment of those who go to a "honky tonk" or cafe with bottle on hip and proceed to become intoxicated in degrees varying slight to complete.

Efforts to punish for possession of liquor persons with only a small quantity of intoxicant have come to grief on appeal. Yet public drinking is the cause of most disturbance. Much drunken driving originates with a pint in a "honky tonk."

It is generally admitted that public drinking of intoxicants is against public policy and that since it does not prohibit possession, but merely regulates, the ordinance would stand up, even in event of repeal of the state's constitutional prohibition, which many observers predict within two or three years.

The other ordinance enacted Tuesday night attacks a very present danger in every community which has not eliminated cross connections in plumbing installations. Under certain conditions these connections, banned by the new ordinance, permit waste water or sewage to be siphoned into water pipes. This very thing has happened at a number of places in the United States, including Oklahoma City, resulting in deaths and serious illnesses. Enactment of this ordinance was long overdue. The City should receive wholehearted co-operation in making the requirements effective.

MURDER AND MAIMING ON THE HIGHWAYS

THE TOLL of injuries and death from automobile accidents in the United States is going up. It was considered certain that highway crashes would multiply with the end of rationing. Already there is evidence of the accuracy of the prediction. With new cars not yet available, tires still short, but with gasoline rationing at an end, automobile accidents are on the increase.

There is absolutely no sense in the terrific cost to this nation of automobile accidents. Most accidents would not happen if one of the participants had been careful. If only those guilty of recklessness were killed or injured there would be less room for alarm. But the biggest per cent of those killed or injured are not themselves responsible. They suffer the consequences of someone else being a heedless fool. The most careful driver is continually in danger from some other driver's folly.

About the only adequate remedy is for legal agencies to get tough

(Continued on Page 2)

SEEK WITNESS ACCOUNTS OF METEOR PATH

Texas Astronomers Study Trail of Fireball

Witnesses to the passage of a meteor over Southeast Oklahoma about dusk last Monday, and its explosion near Atoka, are asked by the Texas Observers, a group of amateur astronomers, to communicate their observations to the body at their mail address, 1010 Morningside Drive, Ft. Worth 3, Texas.

Oscar E. Monnig, requesting the information, stated that they are especially anxious to know the direction in which the meteor was traveling when last seen and whether a smoke trail was observed in its wake.

Evidently written prior to publication of the finding of a fragment of the meteor near Atoka, Mr. Monnig's letter pointed out that observations from Oklahoma will enable the astronomers to determine more precisely the terminal point of the fireball and will give some indication of whether it dropped any meteorites.

The astronomers at Ft. Worth reported seeing the fireball near sunset Monday in the sky northeast of Ft. Worth. Their observations and reports indicated to them that the twilight meteor might have ended over a region northwest of Hugo about 50 miles.

A fragment of a meteor, which was observed by many Choctaw county residents about dusk Monday as it flashed through the sky, Tuesday was recovered by Frank Morris, who saw it fall on his farm three miles northwest of Atoka. The fragment weighed about 20 pounds.

Morris was returning home from a hunting trip on his farm when he saw the fragment fall, burying itself deep in the ground. He marked the spot and returned the next day to dig the ground for several feet before recovering the fragment.

The meteor was observed over a wide territory in Southeast Oklahoma as it hurled through the air. It was believed by many to be a burning airplane, a belief that was strengthened when it exploded in mid-air with a loud noise, which was heard for many miles. Highway patrolmen and peace officers throughout this section were alerted to be on the lookout for a plane.

Morris described the meteor as first being like a huge ball of fire, which trailed a flare for a few seconds, giving it the appearance of having a tail. The light then disappeared but a trail of smoke did not disappear for several minutes after the phenomenon ceased. The explosion rattled windows for several miles, it was said. Up to Wednesday Morris' fragment was the only one reported found.

Goodland Wac Has Promotion

Pfc. Lorene M. Lumpkins, of Goodland route, Hugo, who now is a baker at Camp Beale, Calif., has been promoted to T/5.

Corporal Lumpkins joined the Women's Army Corps in September, 1943, was training at Ft. Oglethorpe, Ore., and sent to an advanced bakers' course to Ft. Lewis, Wash. She has been assigned previously to the Presidio, Monterey, Calif.

A native of Grant, Corporal Lumpkins attended school at Olney, Tex., and Southeastern State College at Durant, Okla. After teaching at Hugo, she took a course at the Chicago School of Aircraft Instruments and subsequently worked at Tinker Field, Oklahoma City before entering the service.

Hugo Dentists Study in Chicago

Dr. G. W. Anderson and Dr. John Wyche are spending this week in Chicago, where they are taking the Harry J. Bosworth dentures course. They were accompanied by Mrs. Anderson and Mrs. Wyche. Before returning they will visit Mrs. Wyche's parents near Chicago.

Knights Templar Go to Muskogee

W. H. King, Grand Sword Bearer of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar, John Meridith and Carl Hansen went to Muskogee Friday morning to attend the annual meeting of the Grand Commandery, which was postponed from last April to September.

Feature Payne as the Tallest Radio Dispatcher

Ted Payne, 26-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Payne, of Hugo, Monday was featured in the Daily Oklahoman's Briefs and Brighteners department. A picture of Payne, now Highway Patrol radio dispatcher stationed at McAlester, accompanied the article. It shows Payne standing with arms outstretched, indicating measurements that give a 78-inch reach. He is six feet, four inches in height, with a 48-inch trouser length. He has a 32-inch waist measurement.

Under the picture the article reads:

"Here he is—the tallest highway patrol radio dispatcher in captivity. At least, that's the boast of the State Highway Patrol regarding Ted Payne, 26, of Hugo, who does dispatching at the McAlester district headquarters . . . The manufacturing company which made his uniform says Payne's pants are the longest they ever have made. The dispatcher served six years, ten months in the army and was with the old 45th Division. He played football, basketball and was on track and boxing teams while attending Oklahoma City university.

Pvt. Billingslea Is Recuperating

Convalescent training at the Keesler Field AAF Regional Station hospital is hastening the recovery and adding to the military knowledge of Pvt. Joe R. Billingslea, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe R. Billingslea, Hugo, as he convalesces after a recent injury.

The Army Air Forces convalescent training program is helping him to return to normal duties and training in better condition and with a minimum of delay. Combining new ideas in medicine and education, the program includes special physical exercises to restore his body to peak condition, while military training films, lectures and demonstrations on various military subjects, group discussions of current events, craft shop work, and games relieves hospital boredom and increases his military knowledge.

Seek C. of C. Nominations

Nominations of 25 members of the Chamber of Commerce for places on the board of directors is sought by the organization, which this week mailed members a roster for their convenience in the election.

Nomination ballots should be returned to the Chamber of Commerce by Wednesday, September 26. There will be a mass meeting at the American Legion Hut at 7:30 o'clock p.m. the following day.

From the 25 nominees, 11 will be elected to the board. From the new board the officers will be elected.

S. Sgt. Bearden Returns to U. S.

S. Sgt. Oscar P. Bearden Jr., former Hugo resident and a son of Mrs. Bill Miller, of Ft. Towson and Bernalilla, N. M., has arrived in the United States and now is with his wife in El Paso, according to a telegram to his mother. They shortly will visit Mr. and Mrs. Miller in Bernalilla, where they have been employed by Jimmy Nolan for the last several months. The Millers will return to Ft. Towson this fall.

Hugo Residents' Grandson Freed

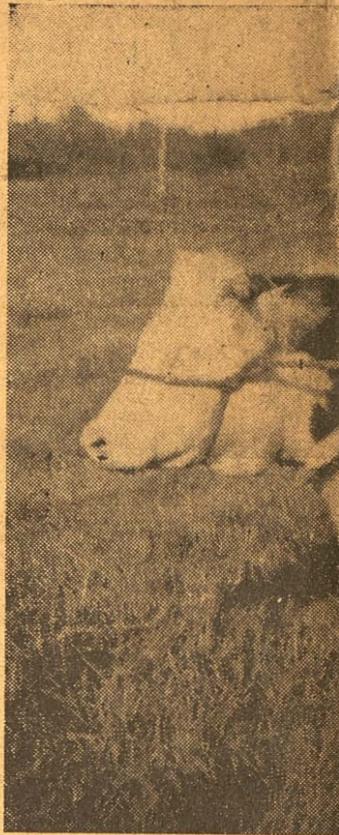
Pvt. Russell Gill, 22, native of Hugo and a grandson of Mrs. W. R. Combes and Mr. and Mrs. O. Gill, was liberated from a Japanese war prisoner camp September 9, according to a message to his family.

Private Gill was stationed at Clark field, Manila, with an Air Corps ground crew when he was taken prisoner in 1942 when Bataan fell.

Mrs. Ode Bentle's Brother Drowns

Theodore Harvey, 38, a brother of Mrs. Ode Bentle, was drowned near Monticello, Ark., recently, the sister has learned. No details were learned except that the accident occurred while he was on a hunting-fishing trip. Funeral services were in Monticello. Mr. Harvey is survived by his wife and one child, who live in Monticello, and had been employed in Camden, Ark.

Young D



Ht. R. P. Ht. Royal Rupert's 46th and her owner, ten-year-old Jimmie Dickson, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Dickson, will be in the Southeast

POWER RATES ARE REDUCED

Is Second Reduction in Last Few Months

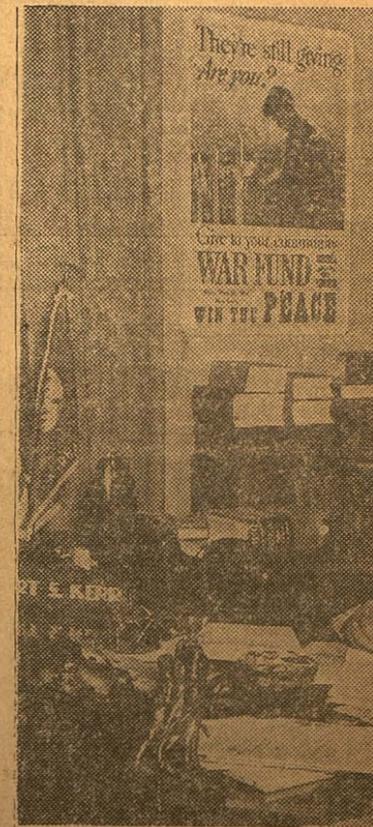
Hugo's second electric power rate reduction in 13 months will mean an annual saving of approximately \$1,115 to local consumers, according to W. B. Harris, district manager. Added to a reduction made in August, 1944, it will mean a total saving of \$5,933 to local residential and commercial power users.

Both reductions were voluntary and are in line, Harris said, with the company's long-standing policy of reducing rates as costs are reduced and as conditions warrant.

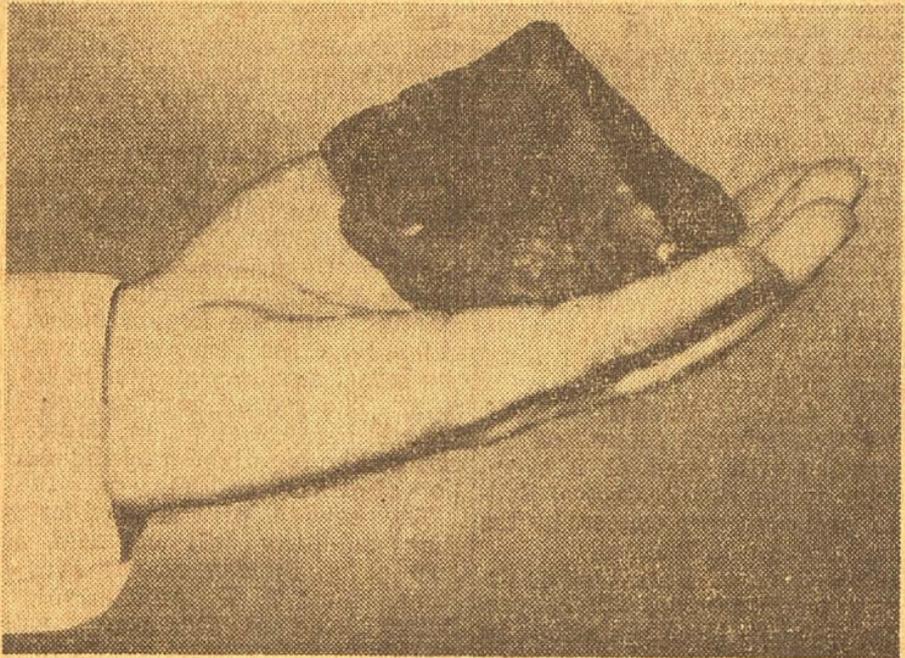
The last reduction is effective on meter reading dates on or about September 15.

At the same time he announced that Idabel, which recently voted the company a franchise, will benefit \$3,995 by the revised rate. Since Idabel was not covered by a franchise at the time the rate reduction was made in August, 1944, it did not receive a reduction at that time. Therefore, the September, 1945, reduction merely brings Idabel up to date.

GOVERNOR CONFIDENCE CHEST DRIVE WILL



Confidence that the residents of Choctaw county, under the leadership of R. C. Newton, county chairman, and O. R. Salmon, of Durant, district chairman, will do their part and more in the final nationwide War Chest drive, set for the month of October, was expressed this week by Governor Robert S. Kerr, who declared that he believes



METEORITE CRATER—Frank Marsh, Atoka, Okla., farmer, examines (top photo) the crater of one of two meteorites found near there last week. The black object in the hole is the missile from the sky, but not in the position it landed. Another meteorite struck a quarter of a mile away, within 20 paces of Marsh. A closeup of one, brought to Fort Worth by Oscar E. Monnig, astronomer, is shown at bottom.

FLASH, THEN 3 LOUD BLASTS

Monnig Follows Trail Of Meteor to Landing

Oscar E. Monnig, Fort Worth astronomer, had returned here Saturday from Atoka, Okla., with a one-pound, two-ounce chunk of blackened stone, fragment of a large meteor which burst near there Monday night after it had left a bright trail across North Texas and Southern Oklahoma.

Two fragments were found. The other, weighing approximately 1½ pounds, was broken in two by a farmer, who kept part of it as a souvenir and gave the other part to the Atoka High School.

The farmer, Frank Marsh, who lives three miles north of Atoka,

was almost struck by the 1½-pound meteorite. He told Monnig he was returning home about 7:30 p. m. from a squirrel hunt when he saw a flash, then a streak of dust in the sky, and heard three heavy explosions, followed by "a bunch of crackling and popping sounds" and then a loud rumble.

He watched the phenomenon until the "smoke" dissolved, then walked on. Shortly he heard another roaring sound, and something hit marshy ground about 20 steps ahead of him, geysering mud and water into the air. Marsh's first impression was that it was a bomb of some sort, and waited for the blast. It didn't come, but he marked the place with a stick and left it alone. Next day he notified Chief of Police Arthur Johnson of Atoka, and an FBI agent, Clarence Hurt, at McAlester was telephoned.

Hurt and Lt. C. T. Raley of the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, taking with them a prison trusty to dig, went to the site Tuesday morning. Marsh had suspected his bomb might be a meteorite, and the digging unearthed it. The crater was described as measuring about 18 by 18 inches.

Marsh, showing his fragment to Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Holden, owners of the land, was told by Mrs. Holden she had found one like it in a small crater in a pea patch about a quarter of a mile from the first missile. They recovered it, and Monnig returned with it.

Between the two finds is the Holden house. Miss Hattie Holden, a daughter, had heard the explosions, then a noise like rain on the roof. Monnig, figuring that was a shower of small particles from the fragmented meteor, climbed about on the Holden roof, but found nothing.

He expects other fragments, however, will be found. He was accompanied to Atoka by Blakeley H. Saunders, 3611 Winston Rd., another amateur astronomer.

The fireball was seen widely. James T. Bills, 1819 College, saw it from a point about five miles south of Marble Falls, some 300 miles from Atoka. It was also seen from Fort Worth, Sulphur Springs and Tulsa. The meteor may have weighed tons when it entered the earth's atmosphere from its ageless whirls in space.

Atomic Bomb... (partially cut off)