

## The Attention Getter

(This was written in memory of Mrs. D, Don Dawkins' mother.)

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The attention getter is what she called it. Used for extreme cases of hearing deficits, obstinacy, or just plain stupidity.

When used effectively, typically applied with great rigor to the back of a head, it was sure to galvanize her point in the recipient's memory for life. In fact, its application would become so storied that all impressionable young folks are said to have learned such lessons through verbal osmosis—application not needed.

It was also said that the stories of the application of the attention getter were so graphic that the very threat of its use generally brought about acute listening skills, martial obedience and higher IQs, instantaneously.

One rap of Mrs. D's old wooden spoon on that old cast-iron skillet sent shivers coursing through even the stoutest young boy. Some said even men.