

Sword's Wall

As the rains began to seriously fall in Vernonia this past month, and residents starting getting that anxious feeling as the Nehalem and Rock Creek began to rise, one local Vernonian didn't have too much to worry about.



Bill Sword has built a four-foot high concrete wall around his property in Vernonia.

Long time Vernonia resident Bill Sword took precautions after the December Flood of 2007. Extra precautions. What some people might consider extraordinary precautions. He built a wall around his home and workshop. A wall three feet higher than the high water mark from 2007. A cement wall that would hopefully protect his property against future high water

events. If you're from Vernonia, you know or have heard of Bill Sword. His family roots go way back-- they were one of the original pioneering families here. Sword owns the property across the river from Anderson Park campground and has his own private bridge to get to and from his homestead. He also has timber on his property that he occasionally logs. And every year Vernonians are reminded that Bill Sword is still around, as local hunters take target practice on his shooting range and the boom of firearms roars across town.

If you want to know anything about the history of Vernonia, Sword will definitely have some information to help fill in any story you might have heard. He has old photos, maps, and details and he's not shy about sharing his knowledge.

According to Sword, Vernonia has experienced at least five high water events when the Sword Homestead had at least a foot of water covering it; in 1894, 1922, 1933, 1996, and 2007.

After the flood of 1996, when his house had about a foot of water inside, Sword built a dirt berm around the house to help protect it. Unfortunately, he built it about six inches lower than was needed in 2007, and Sword ended up with about two and a half feet of water in his home during our most recent high water event.



After the 1996 flood Bill Sword built a dirt berm around his house and shop to keep flood waters out. You can see that initial berm here, and the new higher wall Sword added when waters came over the berm in 2007.

After 2007, Sword decided to take it a step further and hired a contractor to build a four-foot concrete wall that completely surrounds his house and shop. Sword paid about \$21,000 to have the wall constructed.

That wall now stands as Bill Sword's protection against another flood. And makes for good conversation around Vernonia.



The Sword Family was one of the original families in Vernonia.



The view of the Sword property from across the Nehalem River.

Pay your utility and cellular bills here!

We now stock batteries

agalis

COMPUTER & INTERNET SERVICES

- Computer Servicing
- Upgrades & Repairs
- Office Supplies
- Media Transfers
- Ink and Toner Refills
- New & Used Computers in stock
- Cell Phone Service & Accessories
- Color Copies & Printing Available
- Internet Services
- Notary Services

503.429.TECH 866 Bridge Street, Vernonia

ABSOLUTE MARBLE & GRANITE

QUALITY FABRICATION & INSTALLATION

MARBLE GRANITE TRAVERTINE

FREE ESTIMATES CCB# 159794

Kitchen Countertops
Fireplace & Furniture
Tubs & Vanities

Phone (503) 429.2617
Fax (503) 429.0941
ABSOLUTE@AGALIS.NET

www.absolutemarbleandgraniteinc.net

NAPA Get the Good Stuff during our HOLIDAY Sale

9⁵⁵ 9-Pc. Combination Wrench Sets (SAE) BK #1910 (Metric) BK #1911

9⁵⁵ 42-Pc. 1/4" & 3/8" Dr. Socket Set (SAE & Metric) BK #91709

29⁹⁹ 7-Pc. GearWrench Ratcheting Combination Wrench Set (SAE) #9317 (Metric) #9417

249⁹⁹ NAPA Professional Heavy-Duty Service Cart

Visit us at www.NAPAonline.com

NAPA AUTO PARTS

VERNONIA AUTO PARTS
292 Bridge Street, Vernonia
503-429-2311
M-F 8am-6pm, SAT 8am-5pm