

Senior Stars: Vernonia and the Oregon State Police *continued from page 8*

the service in 1942 and was assigned to a combat engineer unit. He was in the first wave to hit Omaha Beach during D-Day and was decorated for heroism for helping a fallen soldier. During the war he received two Purple Hearts and in 1946 he joined the Oregon State Police. He worked his way through the ranks and retired in 1980 as a Major, in charge of the Southern Oregon District out of Medford. Major Heenan passed away in October 2010. His wife Valda, also from Vernonia, passed away, leaving a son John who still lives in Medford.

Gerald "Jerry" Hays, the son of Frank and Bobbie Hays, moved to Vernonia when he was eight, along with his sister Penny (Smejkal) and his brother Pete.

Frank was a contract logger for Crown Zellerback and Bobbie worked in the main Oregon-American office until it closed. Jerry graduated from Vernonia High School in 1965 and attended OIT in Klamath Falls. He enlisted in the USMC in 1967, married Sherry (Sutton), also from Vernonia, in 1967, and was sent to Vietnam where he was decorated for his actions. Upon discharge from the service in 1971 he was appointed a recruit in the OSP by Superintendent Holly Holcomb and assigned to the patrol division. During the next twenty-six years Hays, wife Sherry and their two children moved a number of times for promotion opportunities. Hays retired in 1997 as the Eastern Oregon District Patrol Division Lieutenant. LT. Hays is believed to

be the only State Police Officer to have a criminal case taken to the United States Supreme Court. The ruling was upheld by the Supreme Court in favor of the State of Oregon and Lt. Hays. Their son Jason is currently a Detective Sgt. with the La Grande Police Department.

Claud Shaw was living in Milwaukie when he was hired by the OSP in July 1949. He was assigned to the Fish and Wildlife Division and worked the Vernonia area. The family, which included six children, stayed in Vernonia until July 1957 when Claud left the State Police. He moved to Ontario where he went to work for the Oregon Department of Agriculture, specializing in livestock investigations until he retired. Most of the family has left the Vernonia area except for John, Maryann and their family.

Russell "Rusty" Redmond, the son of Harvey and Nora Redmond was raised in Vernonia with his older brother Harvey, Jr. Harvey, Sr. worked for Jim Davies in the auto business then became foreman of the GTE shop. Rusty graduated from Vernonia in 1965 and shortly thereafter joined the USMC for four years where he spent time in Mexico providing security for the US embassy. In 1970 he married Christine (King), also from Vernonia. In 1971 he joined the Oregon State Police, assigned to the Patrol Division. In 1973 he left the State Police and went to work for the Washington County Sheriff's Department. He spent the next twenty-four

years working investigations, including the famous "Green River Murders," until he retired. Rusty and Christine (a successful artist) live in the Forest Grove area. They have a son that still resides in Oregon.

Jim "Diamond Jim" Davies joined the OSP in July of 1942 and was assigned to the Patrol Division. He left OSP in September 1943 to join the U.S. Navy during the height of World War II. Jim eventually returned to Vernonia where he operated an auto dealership and repair shop for a number of years before retiring.

Jerry had these final words to add about life and a career in law enforcement: "The profession is extremely hard on family life, especially if the spouse worked; even more so today. Law enforcement requires twenty-four hour service, seven days a week, with extra duty on holidays. Then throw in moving and those disruptions to the family. Things are getting better as agencies recognize family needs and make allowances. The careers of spouses are having a bigger impact on employee transfers and promotions. It appears the needs are greater and also the challenges."

Thank you to Jerry Hays for taking time to share these memories of the numerous Vernonians who have served their state and communities with the Oregon State Police.

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Vernonia's Voice is published twice each month on the 1st and 3rd Thursday.
Our next issue will be July 4.

VERNONIA ALUMNI

Vernonia's new K-12 school is now open and is quite impressive, however the athletic fields and facilities are not yet complete. As Vernonia Alumni, we need to step up to the plate and help finish the job. We ask you to join your fellow Alumni by contributing to this important cause.

A "SPORTS INITIATIVE" fund through the Vernonia Education Foundation (VEF) has been established. At the October 19 Homecoming football game a check was presented to the VEF for \$3500 which we have collected so far. Please join us and show your support for the students and staff of the Vernonia School District and the entire Vernonia community.

You may send your tax deductible donation to:
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