

Readers Lend Their Voices...

To the Editor,

The Good Ol' Days, Toby Finzel's monthly column in the Voice, always gets my attention. Imagining the town, the timber, and the people one hundred years ago is a bad habit, but fun.

The September 15, 2021 issue with the reprint about fires in Vernonia recalled another more recent burn across the Green Bridge in 1977. Up in my attic I found a photograph that uniquely documented that fire. The picture is of Alice Randall in her Alice's Timbernock jacket standing in the still smoldering ruins of her bar and restaurant with a camera dangling from her wrist. The back side of the photo is

postmarked Park City, Montana, April 26, 1977.

The photographer was Nancy Melvin, now of Chicago, but who lived here briefly with her husband, the muralist Tom Melvin. It arrived imprecisely addressed to John and Cory, "corner of Rose Ave and Ralph's gas", Vernonia, OR 97064. It's a homemade postcard telling about working on the railroad after they went there looking for jobs and money.

There are still some people around who knew that watering hole in the photo better than I. Perhaps Tony Hyde or Rick Hobart could tell you more about the jukebox, the fireplace, or the restaurant. Gary Everett told me he was playing pool in ankle deep water at Alice's the morning of the first flood. "Wait a minute. It burned in '77. The first flood was in '96, wasn't it?"

"No, I mean the first flood."

Was he thinking of Noah and the animals?

Gary goes back a lot further than I do. Undoubtedly there were floods before '96 I guess. Vernonia



history didn't start when I got here. I think previously it housed a bowling alley.

I still remember the one time I was in there: Alice herself was tending bar and I stepped up and made my request. She looked me over and said, "I'm gonna have to see some ID." Since I was 22 or 23 this wasn't unusual, and even though I didn't have my driver's license with me, I had a United States Passport, which I offered. "I don't

know what this is and I'm not serving you," was Alice's response.

Now don't get the idea I torched the place off, but

I never did go back to that bar. And maybe I was a bit gleeful using the new name, "Alice's Cindernook."

I might have gone to the restaurant though, because Harry Emmons' wife Arlie cooked there. By then I knew Harry from the cedar mill behind my house where he made shakes and shingles with Ed Miller and Jimmy Whitaker. They would go to Alice's between shifts at the cedar mill for a waffle and an egg.

Alice rebuilt it, but it burned again. This time it was a kitchen fire, I think. Maybe Arlie left the deep fryer on. The building survived that fire but Alice's ownership ended. I've heard she collected another insurance payout. It's hard to escape a ring of fire. Today, that building is called the Chinese Place.

The good ol' days also have changed. I used to like referring to the "good ol' days" as the times before the wife and kids came along, but the wheels of time have been turning and now I think of marriage and kids as being "The Good Ol' Days."

Cory Colburn
Keasey, OR

Vernonia Weather September 2021

DATE	HIGH	LOW	PRECIP
1	73	35	0
2	81	36	0
3	80	36	0
4	82	40	0
5	79	49	0
6	78	40	0
7	89	42	0
8	83	46	0
9	82	47	T
10	67	44	T
11	76	54	T
12	70	37	0
13	70	37	0
14	80	37	0
15	67	31	0
16	72	31	0
17	69	48	.95
18	65	49	1.25
19	66	45	.07
20	68	41	T
21	83	41	T
22	65	48	.10
23	70	42	T
24	85	42	0
25	79	43	0
26	70	49	.15
27	61	45	.32
28	60	40	.38
29	60	40	.16
30	59	43	.15

Ave/Tot 73.0 41.9 3.53

Weather data is collected at the U.S. Weather station at the Vernonia Water Plant



Mayor Rick Hobart
Invites you to a

TOWN HALL MEETING

ATTENTION ALL KIDS:
PLEASE BRING YOUR PARENTS!

Saturday, October 23rd, 2021
10:00am-12:00 noon
Spencer Park Picnic Shelter
377 Bridge Street
Vernonia, OR 97064

Join Mayor Rick Hobart to talk about taking pride in our parks. Looking for ideas and input from citizens about how to reduce vandalism and keep our parks safe for all.

Raffle Drawing-Everyone bring \$1
Coffee and donuts provided.

Upper Nehalem Watershed Council

Monthly Board Meeting/
Committee Transition
Business Meeting
Thursday, Oct 28
5:30-7:30 pm
Vernonia Grange
Masks and social distance required
Zoom optional
For more details visit
www.unwc.nehalem.org
or call (503) 396-2046

HOW TO SEND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Vernonia's Voice welcomes and requests your thoughts, opinions and ideas. Please include your name, address and phone number, limit your letters to 300 words or less. Vernonia's Voice reserves the right to edit, omit, respond or ask for a response to letters submitted. We will print letters space permitting. Deadline is the 1st and 3rd Monday of each month. Email: scott@vernonias-voice.com or mail to: Letters, PO Box 55, Vernonia, OR 97064.

FREE Household Hazardous Waste Collection - Saturday, October 23, 8:00 am - 2:00 pm, at the Columbia County Transfer Station, 1601 Railroad Ave., St. Helens. Call Kathy at (503) 397-7259 for information

Columbia Humane Society

Purr-fect Pals



James is a fun-loving 6 month old guy that is looking for his new forever home. We feel he would be best suited to be placed with his brother Jim, as he is a little shy when you first meet him. Given a chance to settle in he will be a wonderful companion.

If you are interested in meeting him please email adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application.

Featured Dog



Taco is a very sweet and very loving girl that will make a great addition to the right family. She is currently living in a foster home as she has found shelter life to be too stressful. She is probably 2-3 years old and weighs about 60 lbs. She really loves to be with her people so having people who work from home, or who won't leave her for long periods of time will be best. In a low key home she is very low key, loves to just hang out and sleep or watch life pass her by on the deck. The occasional walk is ok but not always mandatory. She is working on being potty trained, and will indicate to you she needs to go by getting really excited. She is not a huge fan of the rain. She loves to chew on her bones and play with her toys. She would like a male dog friend her size that likes to play. She has a tendency to get overly excited and doesn't know her size so a home with kids over 12 and no kitties would be best. She does find food on the counter to be pretty interesting and can't resist the urge to try to get it. If you

are interested in meeting Taco please send an email to adoption@columbiahumane.org in order to obtain an application. Once we have an approved application on file we will then schedule a time for you to come and meet her. Please note that we prefer all communications concerning adoptions to be made via email, as we spend the majority of our days with the dogs and cats that are in our care. This allows us to be able to answer emails in the evenings.