

Bates continued
about.

I think we are lacking in our technical courses, the shop area, very lacking, and I think more time and energy should be spent in that area. Some of the children need the technical training that aren't college material.

Do you think we need to expand in any academic areas, with programs such as debate or other activities?

Yes, we need to go back to them, we did have them, when I graduated we had speech teams, junior plays, senior plays, drama clubs, they have no activities in the school now. We had a journalism club a photography club, FFA, FTA.

That activity is good for them it gives the kids something to do and is teaching them something, they need that activity, it makes the kids hate to get out of school. The night we graduated we all cried. These kids now can't wait to get out of school, they hate that school, and that is sad, that breaks my heart.

Do you think the reason we don't have these programs now is because of economics or other...

Interests!

Do you think we can accomplish some

of these things without going beyond the present inflation rate in our budget?

Yes, like I said before it's 'interests'. I don't know why but everybody seems to have gotten so far away from the interest of the kids, but it seems like they have. In a small town the kids are very important, and that's why we have all chosen to live in a small town, is that we hope our children are able to get a good education.

Do you have any ideas as to what the School Board will do to get parent involvement?

I wonder if we do get organizations back such as Sally is doing with the Junior Class play now. This might get the parents back out, because we just used to have everybody out. There was something going on at the school everynight, the parents were out the kids were out. And I think the school board needs to be interested in what is going on inside the school, not just the buildings, lawns or shrubs. They need to be checking not just taking the administrators word but checking.

I know it can't be done overnight, it's going to take a little hard work.

Edible berries

Blueberries can do double duty in the home landscape as producers of edible berries and as ornamental shrubs.

"Blueberries have attractive flowers in the spring and then finish the season with a spectacular display of autumn foliage," says Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension agent.

Blueberries will do well in nearly any part of the yard where a four to five foot ornamental shrub is desired. They are similar in growth habit and culture to rhododendrons and azaleas. They are shallow rooted, prefer an acid soil condition and cannot withstand drought conditions.

Blueberries do best when mulched to control weeds and conserve water. Three or four blueberry plants usually produce enough for most families.

Young plants usually need several years of growth to reach productive age and size.

Plants should be set at least four feet apart to give room for normal growth and allow air circulation for disease prevention. Set them at the same depth as grown in the nursery.

Before planting, apply one pint of a 10-10-10 fertilizer per 100 square feet of area to be planted. To ensure adequate drainage, plant them in a mixture of about one-third peat moss and two-thirds soil. Mulch the plants with two inches of ground bark or sawdust, and gradually increase the mulch depth to six inches over a period of years.

Bud Atkins continued from front

No, I don't think so I think we have had some pretty successful people go through our schools. I could name two who have made state office.

Who's that?

Holly Holcomb, who was head of State Police and Lee Rodgers brother, can't remember his name, who was head of the State Forestry for years.

Do you think the school is up to par with what it was when these guys went through?

Well, I think we were pretty well on the basic form of education in those days, they new how to read and write.

Do you think we have lost some of that?

I think we have, yes, but I think we are getting it back in the last couple of years.

Do you think there is room for improvement of personel on the School Board?

I don't know of any handicap that we have on the present board, but I think it is important that we have good people on the School Board. I don't think we should have a self interest group, we should have good solid citizens that are looking for the welfare of the whole school system.

In regards to that, I find the City Council, the Planning Commission and the School Boards, people who have a self interest when they run for some of these positions. I've always been against that.

Do you have any particular problem you see in the school?

I think we are getting on the right track, but I think our money is going to get tighter each year and we are going to have to prioritize our programs, make sure that our basics are there first then the extracurricular comes later.

Do you think, with inflation, we will have to cut back on some things?

We might, I don't know, I wouldn't be qualified at this point to say. One thing, I don't know if it's in line with this question, I bet there is not one person in twenty that can read a budget, not the school the city or any. I think that would be one of the biggest projects, to present a budget so a person can understand it. I don't know if you personally have problems reading a budget, but take the city budget, can you decipher all the...

With a little help.

There are confussing little contingencys hidden in this place and that.

You would like to see the budget presented in a way that it would be informative to the people?

Yes, I'm not accusing anyone of doing it. I know we never tried to manipulate it in my 14 years with the city, but it is confusing.

If the issue of zoning the District comes up will you be in favor of that?

I wouldn't be adverse to that. I think people should be equally represented. I

think we could just about control the lives of the people in Mist, the people in Vernonia could now, if it weren't for the gentelmans agreement.

Do you feel the academic programs in the school are up to par, do we have enough such activities?

I'm not really informed enough. I would have to wait until I got to the meetings and go through it. It would be easy to be against everything unless you knew the details. I can see some of our kids come out of here who go a long way, maybe we could make it easier for some of the others, but we have had some pretty successful people come through our system.

I would like to get the basics in the grade school.

What about the sports program?

We might have to put our sports on a priority, with this inflation if it continues. I would hate to say I'm against football or basketball, but we might have to curtail some of the travel, not only this school but all of the schools, with the gas rationing problem we might have to face.

Do you think there is more room for change in the sports program such as intermurals ect.?

I would like to see more kids participate in sports. You see its a pretty limited number of kids who can participate in football or basketball. It just takes the very best and it leaves a lot of kids with nothing. But this gas rationing might be a blessing in disguise, we might be able to have more teams made up. (intermural)

Do you have any other area of interest with the schools?

We have let our grade school do in the past, (facility) but I don't know how they have come along with that recently. We just let the grade school go for a long time, they were bound they were going to build a new school. Structurally I think this school is pretty sound, it just needs maintenance.

You would be interested in seeing what we can do with what money we have, approach?

Yes, we should make sure what we want before we delve into something that might be clear out of our reach, because we have a near no growth situation for one thing. And with the gas rationing that may stabilize us even more yet.

There is one comment about the livability of Vernonia. There is a sign on the back of a truck, the truck is still in this town. The business man who moved into town years ago, never seen anything printed about it, put the sign on the back of his truck. It says, 'it is a privilege and a pleasure to live in Vernonia.' I've always felt that way and I think a lot of people do.

Spring Gardening

by Charles Bubl
County Extension agent

Freeze damage

Blame the brown leaves and droopy condition of many ground covers on the icy winter weather, says Chip Bubl, Columbia County Extension agent.

Chances are most of them will revive this spring or summer so don't be in a hurry to remove them.

Some careful pruning of the bushy types of ground cover will stimulate spring growth and hasten recovery. St John's-wort, also known as Aaron's beard, can be mowed with a lawn mower, provided the blade is raised as high as it will go.

English ivy doesn't need any pruning, but an application of nitrogen fertilizer will stimulate spring growth. Wait until summer to pick out the dead leaves, advises Bubl.

Kinnikinnick, or bearberry, may experience some dieback. It does not need pruning. Brown, dead spots on leaves may be an indication of leaf spot. An application of a common garden fungicide, such as a copper spray, may improve the ground cover's look. Then fertilize with nitrogen.

Bloodmobile in St. Helens

The Red Cross bloodmobile will be in St. Helens at the First United Methodist Church, 560 Columbia Blvd. Next Wed. March 28. Donor hours are 3-7 pm. You can sign up at the Sew Simple shop in Vernonia now through the weekend.

Fire Dept. Secretary needed

CETA is accepting applications for Sec. for the Vernonia Fire Dept. Applicants must apply at Unemployment Office in St. Helens within the next four days (by this weedend the 23rd).

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Seafood program to be given

Did you know there are 240 species of fish and shellfish on the market today? Because of this wide variety, you can usually find good buys of fresh, frozen and canned fish all year round.

"For Columbia County residents, seafood can be an even greater bargain," says Doris Moore, Columbia County Extension Agent. "It's readily available and easily accessible from the Columbia River, so you can catch your own."

Whether you buy your fish or catch your own, there are certain tips that you should know about selection, cost, storage, preparation and the nutritive

value of seafood.

These topics and more will be presented at an Extension program, "Food from the Sea" on Thursday, March 29, 1979 at 10 a.m. and a repeat at 7 p.m. The program will be held at the Extension Service Conference room, Courthouse, St. Helens.

Vi Shepard, home economist for the Oregon Otter Trawl Commission, will also demonstrate the proper techniques of filleting a fish.

The program is free but pre-registration is required. Participation is limited to 40. To register, call 397-3462.

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