



Vol. III No. 15



Thursday, April 13, 1978



15¢

Vernonia News Weekly

Vernonia, Or 97064

"I just went for a walk!"

Searchers find boy safe and-well despite rugged terrain

Wednesday, April 5 was a typical spring day in Oregon. Rain, chilly breezes, hail and spots of sunshine. It was the day that Mrs. Art Laubach of Mist Route, went to call her son, Arty, 4½, in for lunch only to discover him missing.

As all mothers do, she called first then began to search. And continued to search for over an hour in the relatively isolated area where thick forest land borders most homes.

"I looked every where I could think of," Mrs. Laubach said, "and when I couldn't find him, I called Art home."

By 3 p.m. when Art Laubach arrived at the Dick Bacon home, there was still no sign of the small boy. Laubach asked Bacon if he had seen Arty. "No," he was told. After Laubach told Bacon how long and far his wife and he had searched without success, Bacon called the Columbia County Sheriff's office and while they waited for the deputies to arrive, began to

organize a search party to look for Arty.

"The response was tremendous," Bacon said. "I just called where I knew the men willing to help might be and within 30 minutes a whole crowd had arrived."

As the searchers converged on the scene the situation seemed ominous. Just across the road, Highway 47, lay the Nehalem River, the attractive menace that parents of small boys dread; behind the home, a steep hill covered with thick brush and trees.

By now the deputies from the sheriff's department had arrived on the scene, received a description of the boy—red hair, wearing a sweater, light pants and boots. They sent out a call and joined in the search.

Several four-wheel drives were brought into play, Bacon sending them up the hill to look for signs of the boy. Others beat the brush and hunted along the river.

The one hopeful fact the

(continued to page 5)



Above: Arty Laubach with his mother Mrs. Art Laubach. Below: This is the rugged terrain where search for missing boy took place.

Jerry Sanders back home with new guide dog

Back home with Kodak, a handsome yellow Labrador retriever, is local resident Jerome (Jerry) Sanders. As a previous guide dog user, Sanders was allowed to go home from Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc., San Rafael, California, with his new canine partner after two weeks training instead of the four required of a first-time guide dog trainee. His former guide, Baron, who was injured by a hit-and-run driver, has been retired to become the family pet.

Sanders operates a radio answering service out of his home for the Associated Oregon Loggers. His wife Cindy has been managing the service during his absence. An ardent CBER with the handle "Six Legs," Sanders is anxious for fellow enthusiasts to meet Kodak.

The Frog Valley Breakers and Hillsboro Radio Association held a dance March 4 at the Sunset Hall in Banks with all proceeds going to Guide Dogs to help underwrite Sanders' training expenses. Along with his round-trip airline ticket, Sanders was presented a check for \$974 by the clubs before leaving for California.

"It gave me a tremendous kick to hand it over to Benny Larsen, the executive director," said Sanders.

Father of three, ages 7, 4, and 2, Sanders said it is hard for the two younger children to accept the fact that a guide dog is not a pet. But he said, when his former dog, Baron's harness was put on "the kids knew the dog was working and couldn't be distracted."

The four-week training course at Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. is designed to show the blind person how to work together with his guide dog as a well-coordinated team. Each dog receives six months of schooling when approximately 15 months old and is tested during heavy traffic by a licensed instructor under blindfold before being considered ready to serve a blind master. The dogs are individually selected for each

class member after the first three days of observation by the training staff in order to insure the best possible match in size and temperament for a well-balanced team.

Guide Dogs for the Blind, Inc. provides both the valuable animal and the in-residence training free of charge to the blind. The non-profit school, now in its 36th year of service, is supported by private contributions.

Time nears for annual stage play

Rehearsals are well underway as actors and actresses frantically "talk to themselves" as they study their lines, can can girls struggled to kick just a bit harder; props are made and scenes painted. It will soon be time for the Melodrama.

But when the curtain goes up on *Only An Orphan Girl* May 5 it will all be worth it. The audience will cheer the hero, sigh over the innocent heroine and loudly boo the villain; and in the end they will all live happily ever after.

Tickets go on sale at the Vernonia Variety April 17 with reserved seats priced at \$2.50 and general admission, \$1.75. There will be three performances, Friday and Saturday, May 5-6 with doors opening at 6 p.m. to give folks a change to browse around the "added attractions" of such places as the General Store and Sweet Shoppe. Performances begin at 8 p.m.

Sunday there will be a matinee performance at 2 p.m. with doors opening at noon.

For an old-fashioned thrill, do go to the Melodrama.

