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Low income families with their energy costs:

1. Add to your WOEC payment.
2. Provide firewood—standing or down.
3. Buy our cordwood.

Contact Senior Citizens Center for info. 429-3912.

WEST OREGON ELECTRIC CO-OP



George Smith

George Smith retires as WOEC manager

George Smith was a student in Vernonia High School, Class of '40, when the first rural electrification program was organized in Oregon. The Nehalem Valley Electric Co-op was formed in Jewell in 1937, a bit of trivia that would shape Smith's destiny in later years.

He graduated from high school, enlisted in the Coast Guard, winding up in the U.S. Navy in the South Pacific and, following his discharge, took a job in a Long Beach, California fish processing plant.

By the time he returned to Vernonia, in 1948, rural electrification had come to Vernonia in the form of West Oregon Electric Co-op, organized in 1945. The fledgling utility had absorbed the Nehalem Valley Co-op

and bought out Oregon Gas and Electric, which had provided Vernonia with power generated at a dam on Rock Creek above Keasey, since 1924.

For a number of years, George followed construction, working with various contractors, including Ostrander and Peter Kiewitt, where he worked as a welder and master mechanic in the construction of the Scoggins Creek Dam and tunnel, near Gaston.

In 1959 he won a seat on WOEC's board of directors, serving for 15 years. Then, in 1974, he was made general manager, a position he held for 13 years, until his retirement this April.

Smith speaks with pride as he relates the problems facing the utility in the early days and as it evolved into a first-rate, modern, efficient co-operative — replacing all of the old systems with new poles, extending the lines 100's of miles including the installation of underground service a total of 90 miles in hard-to-reach, high maintenance terrain. While there is a prideful expression in his eyes and voice as he recounts those years, there is also an innate humility as he says, "I am an unpretentious man; WOEC's success is assured when you have as good a staff as we do. Everyone knows his job and does it well."

"I believe Marty Baughman will be an excellent general manager. He has a good background and experience and, I think, our philosophies are not far apart."

The Smiths have no definite plans for the future, but says George, "After fifty years in Vernonia — we're not leaving."

50th reunion planned by Class of '37

The Vernonia High School class of 1937 is planning a fiftieth reunion and needs information on two of its graduates. Anyone knowing how to reach Clare Jarvis or Doris Rae Estey is asked to call or write to either of the following: Beulah Reed Makin, 13369 Keasey Rd, Vernonia, Oregon 97064, phone 429-7235, or Ralph Condit, 645 NW 166th Drive, Beaverton, Oregon 97006, phone 645-0415.

CREDIT UNIONS FOR KIDS

THE saying goes that helping others gives you a good feeling deep inside. This spring, one lucky credit union member will be feeling great inside and out on a vacation cruise to the sunny Caribbean. How? CREDIT UNIONS FOR KIDS!

For 1987, 43 Oregon credit unions will give their members a chance to help Oregon kids receive the very best medical care at Doernbecher Children's Hospital — and they can enter to win an expenses-paid cruise vacation to the Caribbean.

Last year, six Oregon credit unions joined to help raise \$1,693 for the Children's Miracle Network Telethon — a special fund-raising event that benefits Oregon's Doernbecher Children's Hospital. This year's goal is \$10,000. All monies raised by the telethon benefit Doernbecher Children's Hospital, a part of the Oregon Health Sciences University.

Every year, The Children's Hospital cares for 20,000 children from all over Oregon and from seven surrounding states. And supporting The Children's Hospital means helping nearly all child health care agencies with just one donation.

To help the young patients at The Children's Hospital — and to get your chance to win the cruise vacation — simply make your tax-deductible donation of \$10 or more with the form below to your credit union by June 8, 1987.

And don't forget to watch the Children's Miracle Network Telethon on KGW-TV, Channel 8, on May 30 and 31, 1987.

YES, I want to join other concerned credit union members in supporting the vital work of Doernbecher Children's Hospital by making a tax-deductible contribution.

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY/STATE/ZIP _____
NAME OF CREDIT UNION _____

- ☐ Enclosed is my check/share draft in the amount of \$_____, payable to Doernbecher Children's Hospital.
☐ I authorize a one-time withdrawal from my credit union () SHARE / SAVING () SHARE DRAFT / CHECKING in the amount of \$_____.

Member Signature _____

Please mail this form, along with your contribution, to your credit union by June 8, 1987.

- ☐ Please check here if you would like to be entered in the drawing but do not wish to make a contribution at this time.

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