

Horyna leaves school district

"Like most people who go into education," Dick Horyna said, "I was influenced by role models." His role models were two teacher/coaches at Ontario High School who stimulated his interest in education and made him decide he'd like to become a teacher, too.

He did, indeed, become a teacher, then a vice-principal and principal, and is now leaving the Vernonia School District after completing three years as superintendent.

Becoming superintendent was a goal, said the 43 year old Horyna, and he's glad he did it, but he has decided he isn't the right person for the job. "I've found it fun here in terms of challenges, he explained, "a good learning experience.

"There are a lot of little things I thought happened automatically, that I've since found need attention; a lot of little details behind the scenes. I hate paper shuffling, though, and I think I'm not the right personality for the job. I tend to take things

personally when they're just part of the job."

The most interesting position so far in his career, Horyna said, was in Umatilla, where he spent three years as vice-principal in charge of athletics and student activities, supervised other teachers, and taught a freshman class in career education.

In Vernonia, he is pleased about several changes that have occurred during his tenure: One change is that the faculty is starting to look at the district's curriculum, from kindergarten through 12th grade, in order to learn what is being taught at each level. Last year, he said, social studies teachers from all levels sat and talked together, working to develop a unified curriculum for K-12. This year, he said, the talks will be in language arts.

Another change is greater student exposure to activities and ideas outside the regular classroom. "When I came here," Horyna said, "I read a question that asked why our kids weren't participating in



Dick Horyna

the Creativity Fair, and I didn't know why. Now they're participating in the Creativity Fair, a writing festival, Quiz Bowl, hosting the Special Olympics, and being involved in several enrichment programs."

Horyna is also pleased by changes in accounting procedures that he feels make the district more fiscally responsible. Though not a change, he is also pleased that the district has been able to stay within its tax base while managing major expenditures for building repairs and improvements.

There are two changes he would like to see happen in order to improve education. One is stable financing on a state-wide basis, with some

method of eliminating the economic inequities of the current financial system.

The second change is needed locally, he said, citing a lack of parent involvement in Vernonia. "Parents never come to school board meetings unless there's an issue they want to espouse," he explained, "and then we have to ask them their names because we don't see them often enough to know who they are. We really need parent attendance at school board meetings."

Horyna's made no decision about what's next in his life. "Right now," he said, "I'm just looking forward to sleeping in on July 1st. My future is indefinite."

Danielson takes school post

Ed Danielson, a twenty year veteran of education, will be the next Superintendent of Schools for Vernonia School District 47J. Now completing four years as superintendent at Prospect, Danielson has taught and worked in various administrative capacities in Springfield, La Pine, Yoncalla, Applegate and southern California schools.

Born in Portland, the son of a Swedish immigrant who worked in lumber mills, Danielson grew up in Corning, California, graduated from Corning High School and Northwest Christian College in Eugene. He attended San Jose (Calif.) Bible College, where he met his wife, Karen; he also earned a Masters of Education at the University of Oregon.

The Danielsons have one daughter, Chris, who will graduate this month from Crater High School in Central Point.

Asked why he accepted the Vernonia position, Danielson said there were two primary reasons: One was the lack of pressure from outgoing Superintendent Dick Horyna, and the local school board. "They gave me lots of time to look at the district and ask questions," Danielson said, "and I felt good about that."

The second reason, he ex-



Ed Danielson

plained, was the "positive attitude" of the staff members

VHS hosts quiz and finishes in third spot

The Northwest League Quiz Bowl was held this year at Vernonia High School on May 4. Placing first, second and third were Knappa High School, Neah-Kah-Nie, and Vernonia, respectively.

The VHS Quiz Bowl team was composed of Tony Dettmers, Steve Jones, Ed Dotter, Cindy Webb, Tim Sexton and Joe Reinisch.

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he met; an attitude he feels is shared by the school board.

"The teacher is the key to the classroom," Danielson said, adding that he felt his role was to help establish needs and priorities while balancing the budget.

Outdoor activities provide Danielson's recreation, with fishing, hunting, golf and wood cutting at the top of his list as good ways to relax and refresh himself.

Danielson sounds genuinely enthusiastic when he says he's looking forward to his work in the Vernonia School District.

Oblack leaves 47J position

Claudia Oblack, Vernonia school board member, Position No. 1, has resigned effective June 30, 1987, because of increased commitments in other areas.

Expressing regret at leaving the board she's served on for many years, Oblack said she no longer has adequate time for school district responsibilities because of her increased work schedule. Oblack teaches first aid courses throughout northwest Oregon for EMEDS, a McMinneville company.

The school board will make a one year appointment to Position No. 1 at its regular meeting on June 11. The appointment will be effective as of July 1, 1987, and will end June 30, 1988. The one year remaining on the term will then be filled by election.

All interested candidates are invited to submit a letter stating their qualifications and requesting the appointment. Letters must be in the District Office no later than 4 p.m. on June 11th.

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