

Business Notes

Stevens' expand service to include lateral boring

It has taken twenty years of gestation to give birth to a new Vernonia partnership appropriately named Utilex - Utilities Excavation.

It isn't a new business, nor exactly a new partnership, for D.R. "Dee" Stevens and his son, Lance, have sorted out their previously shared activities, sold some and discarded others to focus on one activity...constructing trenches.

With the acquisition of a Model 7510 Ditchwitch vibratory plow, cable layer and backhoe, the new firm has moved into the top ten in the state of Oregon, where trenching capability is concerned.

The 75 HP Deutsch Diesel has 4-wheel steering, electronic directional plow-blade control, and the ability to work effectively in almost any terrain. It will plow to a

depth of 36 inches at a rate exceeding the rate of most competitors.

Accompanying this capability is a Ditchwitch horizontal boring unit, used to drill electric, gas or water conduit under road or railway beds. Generating 80,000 pounds of hydraulic pressure per square inch, it pushes joined segments of steel rod through the required distance, up to 300 feet. Once the steel rod has reached its target, bell shaped cups are attached to the rod end to be pulled back, enlarging the bore; a process that is repeated until the desired diameter is achieved. The horizontal boring unit can pull conduit or pipe ranging from 2" to 12" diameter.

Also on board at Utilex is an R-65 Ditchwitch with a Ford 4 cylinder diesel that



Dee, left, and Lance Stevens use their 7510 Ditchwitch horizontal boring unit to install conduit under Stoney Point Road for a new residence.

performs the same functions as the 7510, but on a smaller scale. It has a chain digger attachment (similar to a chain saw) in addition to the vibratory plow.

Finally there is a 25+4 Case articulating trencher with a backhoe, used primarily for water lines or telephone drops in domestic service.

With the various pieces of equipment, Utilex is prepared and able to service any installation need throughout the northwest, from domestic to industrial.

The senior partner forcefully reiterates, when asked, "No! No! We do not dig ditches, we construct trenches!"

Special day set aside for fishing without a license will coincide with lake re-stocking

A day of legal fishing without a license, on June 9, has been declared by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife, according to Don Webb, president of the Nehalem Chapter of the Izaak

Walton League.

The "Free Fish Day" will be especially exciting for local anglers, Webb said, because Fish and Wildlife will coordinate restocking of Vernonia Lake with the free day.

Riley's adds mechanical service



Howard Patten will provide automotive service at Riley's

The automotive shop at Joe and Judy Riley's Unocal "76" station has been reopened after a year's closure.

Managing the shop will be Howard Patten, a mechanic with many years of experi-

ence in the automotive field and related industries.

The shop will be open 5 days a week, from Wednesday through Sunday, providing the community with an on-duty mechanic on week-ends.

Vernonia Sentry's second golf benefit gets underway

The Vernonia Sentry/Dornbecher Celebrity Golf Tournament is ready to tee off June 3 with a day of golfing fun at Vernonia Golf Course, said Sentry co-owners Gordon Smith and Chuck Hendryx.

Celebrities who will be playing with corporate teams include radio and television personalities Bob Miller, Scott Linn, Kathy Smith, Wayne Falogowski, Doug Lamear and Matt Zaffino; Oregonian Sports Editor Jeff Wohler; Walker Cup winner Bruce Cudd, NBA referee Terri Durham and several other sports figures including Portland State University's Pokey Allen; Jim Anderson and Dee Andros of Oregon State University; Bob Gaillard and Keith Brown of Lewis & Clark; former Trailblazers Greg Smith, Bob Gross and Maurice Lucas; New Orleans Saints offensive tackle Stan Brock.

"We raised \$8,000 for Dornbecher Childrens Hospital last year in our first try, Smith said, and we're trying to raise that to \$10,000 this time."

Corporate teams who have signed up for this year include Thriftway Stores, Sentry Stores, Food Connection Stores, Food Warehouse Stores, AG Stores, Western Family Brands, Fewell & Assoc., Olmsted & Assoc., Lorillard, Gerber Advertising, Georgia Pacific Corp., Franz Bread, Oregon Food Industry, Lynden Farms, Pepsi-Cola Bottling, Tyler Refrigeration and Curl's Hi-Tech Transportation.

An auction on June 2 will precede the tournament as players bid for autographed Blazer basketballs, an autographed Fuzzy Zoeller Spalding Pro golf bag, a private tour for 10 through the Will Vinton Studio, and many, many more items.

CORRECTION

Isabel Anderegg was incorrectly identified as treasurer of the Mt. Heart Rebekah Lodge No. 243 in a picture caption in last month's INDEPENDENT. Anderegg is Noble Grand and Arlie Emmons is treasurer. We regret the error.



Bob Ragsdale in his Coast Range Bicycle store.

Linear park development lends support to economic expansion

Though the posture of Vernonia's business community toward the linear park has been skewed to the negative, there are now signs of a more positive impact as actual work begins on the trail.

While still embryonic, Coast Range Bicycles has moved to the vacant store front formerly occupied by Sears, and a freshly painted sign serves as the harbinger of things to come.

The new store is building a stock of bicycles featuring the popular Yokota mountain bikes, Diamond Back, Columbia and Redline BMX.

A good supply of used bi-

cycles is also available for economy minded customers.

Accessories include helmets. Tires, tubes and other parts are in stock and repair service is offered.

Coast Range owner Bob Ragsdale is also developing a library of assorted cycling books, manuals and video tapes.

In a similar line, Ralph Sturdevant now offers bicycle repair services at his Rose Avenue shop.

There are other, though not yet visible, economic stirrings as work on the linear park begins. More on that at a later time.