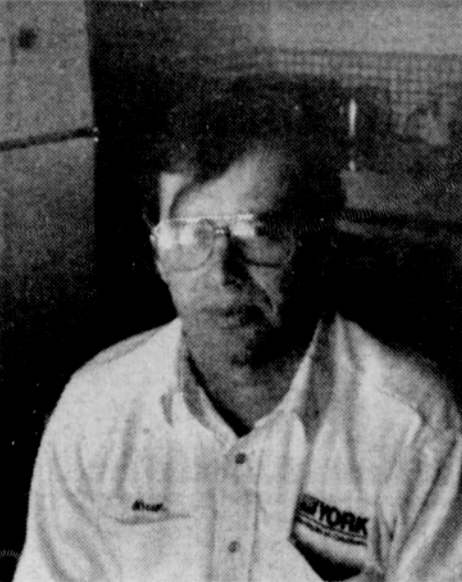


Business Notes

Natural gas installations bringing new businesses to Vernonia

The din and dust of gravel trucks, back hoes, compactors, pavers and assorted other construction equipment has nearly obscured the reality that Northwest Natural Gas has installed and pressurized their four-inch gas main through Vernonia. In its wake, new businesses have emerged, with sales and installation of gas furnaces, hot water heaters, stoves and clothes dryers.



Dave Hildebrand

Moving into the former Cookshack restaurant at 410 Bridge Street is Mid West Heating. Owner Dave Hildebrand, who is expanding his Hillsboro business here, has been active in heating for twelve years and has owned Mid West for the past eight years.

Hildebrand specializes in furnace installation as well as appliances and is equipping the Bridge Street building with a sheet metal shop where he will fabricate duct work for his own installations and provide ducts for do-it-

yourselfers, too.

In addition, he expects to develop a service and repair shop for all heating equipment and large appliances. Hildebrand says he hopes to make this business venture a permanent facility and, perhaps, move to Vernonia with his family.

Moving into the Flower Shop, another vacant restaurant building, on Madison Ave. next to the Four Square Church, is D & H Contracting from Portland. Occupying the front of the building is a display room featuring Rheem heating equipment. A building at the rear will house a sheet metal shop.

Owner John Hasler will install all gas appliances in residential, commercial or mobile homes and can provide equipment that meets code for all applications, including gas-fired infrared heating sys-

tems for shops, large buildings and warehouses. Working with Hasler in sales and service is Sam Morrison.



Bob Hobson

Bob Hobson, owner of Affordable Furnace Co. in Beaverton will go in the record book for completing the first conversion of a Vernonia residence, from electric to all gas heating and appliances, for Tim and Lynn

Williamson on Heather Lane.

Hobson has eighteen years of experience in the field and has had his own business four years. He provides sales, service and installation of all gas appliances as well as air conditioning and service. AFCO does not have a local address at the present time.

Wilcox & Flegel of Longview, Wash., have sold and serviced Rheem and Thermo Pride oil heating systems in

the Vernonia area for many years and have now added sales and service of gas-fired furnaces for consumers wishing to convert from electricity to a less costly energy source.

Jack Sweeney, who is Wilcox and Flegel's bulk plant manager in Vernonia, will not be involved with this service. Interested persons may reach Wilcox & Flegel's Longview heating sales and service department via their toll free number, 1-800-438-9656.

CATV planning additional channels

Vernonia C.A.T.V., Inc. is in the process of upgrading the cable television system in preparation for some added channels in 1992. Television reception should become increasingly sharper on all channels, according to a company spokesperson, easing the inconvenience of having the system down for periods of time as work continues throughout January and, possibly, February.

The first additional channel scheduled is Fox Broadcasting, by March 1. Fox Broadcasting is televised by Channel 49 in Portland; however, it cannot be received with any clarity in Vernonia, so reception will be via satellite.

A survey of Vernonia cable customers indicates that Country Music Television is the first choice for the next additional channel. After that, there is a close race between CNN (Cable News Network)

and The Family Channel. Channels will be added in approximately four-month intervals, with a goal of six additional channels.

The additional channels will require the use of converter boxes by customers with televisions that are not cable ready. A small deposit will be charged for the use of a converter box and will be refunded when the box is returned in good repair.

Plat accepted, 24 home development needs dry weather

The plat for the Roseview Heights residential development was accepted and recorded by Columbia County this month. Wet winter conditions have delayed completion of roads inside the development, but interest from potential buyers is high and sales are expected to be brisk as weather conditions change, according to Stewart King of Skyline Realty.

A model home will be delivered to the site early this spring to mark the beginning of on-site sales. Private showings are now available by contacting King at 429-2909 or 646-3855.

OLCC lets contract to Video Express, relocation planned

Bill and Janice Fisher have been appointed by the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to operate the state liquor store in Vernonia beginning the first of March.

Negotiations with Wallace and Rose Dettmers to lease the Bridge Street Hardware building are in the final stages, Bill Fisher said, which would leave the liquor store in its present location.

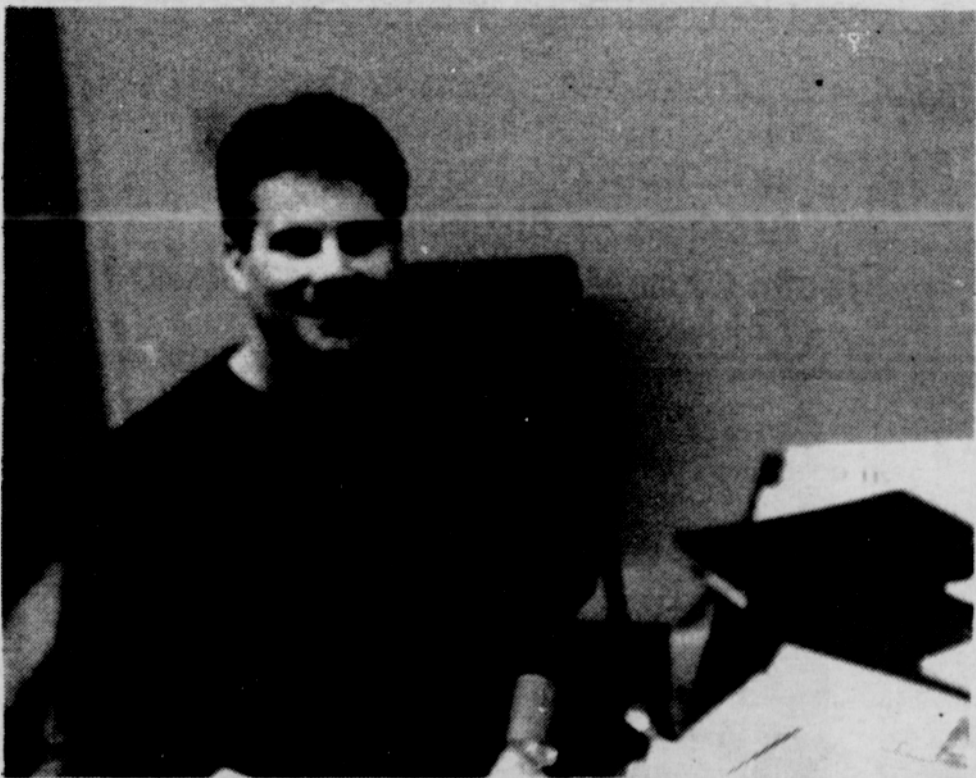
The Fishers plan to move Vernonia Video Express, their present business, to the new location and are exploring various avenues for providing a hardware line to restock Bridge Street Hardware.

Bill Fisher plans to continue as a contract mail carrier with the U.S. Postal service and will subcontract some of those duties.



John Hasler and Sam Morrison at their store.

Natural gas installation: From page 1



Mark Forker

vice. All of them offer free estimates and consultation concerning the most appropriate and cost-effective applications

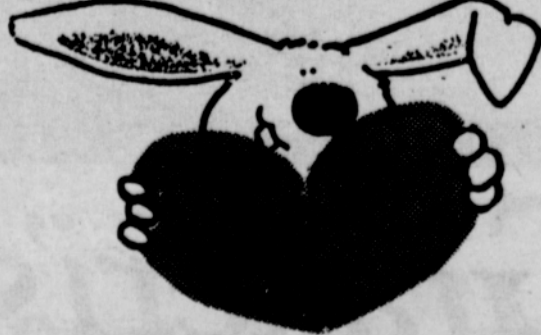
A weatherization program is also offered through N.N.G., including a free energy audit. Weatherization is available with 6.5 percent financing or a 25 percent rebate. Rental property owners may obtain a 28.85 percent tax credit with this program.

Financing for residential electric-to-gas conversion

may be arranged on a five or ten year plan with no down payment required. The interest rate for five years or less is 9.5 percent; up to ten years, the interest rate is 10.5 percent. Northwest Natural Gas also provides free inspection and diagnostic service calls.

One of the advantages of natural gas, Forker notes, is a reduced heating cost. The following chart provides a heating cost comparison for Vernonia.

NATURAL GAS-ELECTRICITY HEATING COST COMPARISON FOR VERNONIA			
ENERGY	EQUIPMENT EFFICIENCY	ESTIMATED ANNUAL HEATING USE	ANNUAL COST
Electricity	100% Efficiency	20,949 KWH at 5¢ per KWH	\$1,047
Natural Gas	70% Efficiency	1,021 Therms at 57.058¢ per Therm	\$ 583
Natural Gas	81% Efficiency	883 Therms at 57.058¢ per Therm	\$ 504
Natural Gas	95% Efficiency	753 Therms at 57.058¢ per Therm	\$ 430



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