

Between the Bookends

By Charlene Bechen
Banks Library Volunteer

In celebration of the sesquicentennial of the Oregon Trail, the Banks Library will host a special Oregon Trail display beginning February 26. Compiled by the Washington County Historical Society, this travelling exhibit profiles some of the pioneers who traversed the Oregon Trail and then settled in Washington County. It will feature photos, maps and information about these brave and hearty people.

Quilting will soon begin on the Friends of the Library "Shady Evergreen" Quilt. The quilt top has been completed and is now on display at the library entrance. All quilters and would-be quilters are encouraged to help out on this worthwhile project. The completed quilt will be raffled off next August at the Banks Barbeque. Raffle tickets are now on sale at the library for \$1.00 each, or 6 for \$5.00. Please call Jami Masson at 681-9453 or the library at 324-1382 for further information.

SWATCO Sanitary Service and the Friends of the Library have reached an agreement to continue the Second Saturday Community Recycling Project through fiscal year 1994/95. This venture not only helps the environment, but also raises funds to buy new books and supplies for the Banks Library. The drop-off site is the SWATCO service yard at 15945 NW Sellers Road, about one block south of the Sunset Highway. Hours are 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on the second Saturday of each month. The

next recycling day will be February 12. Magazines are now accepted for recycling in addition to glass, aluminum, steel (tin) cans, brown paper bags, newspaper, corrugated cardboard (if received before 2PM), motor oil in screw top containers, high density polyethylene (milk, juice, water containers) and all other types of #2 HDPE plastics. Volunteers are always welcome. Call Donna McCall at 324-3404 if you are interested in helping.

The newest book on our shelves is *Creeping Jenny*, the ninth in the Celia Grant Mystery series penned by John Sherwood. Celia, a renowned horticulturist, is in need of a temporary gardener to help tend her rare plants at the Ashcroft Nurseries. Jenny Watson, though quite shy, seems capable, but Celia is suspicious of her. Why doesn't she have an address? Celia's concerns grow as she overhears Jenny in a heated discussion with two mysterious men. Soon after, Jenny vanishes. In following the trail to Jenny, Celia uncovers a terrorist plot to attack one of London's most cherished traditions, the Chelsea Flower Show. Mystery buffs and gardeners alike are sure to enjoy this tale.

Library Hours: Wednesday and Saturday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Thursday 1 - 7 p.m., Friday, 1 - 5 p.m. Banks Library is located in Oak Village Shopping Center, 669 S. Main Street. Phone: 324-1382.

More Letters

and every person who helped with donated time, money and gifts, contributed in their own way to the joy expressed by these children.

Thank You Very Much,
Joseph E. Thornton
Vernonia Volunteer Fire
Dept. and EMS Company
Toy and Joy Program

Continue support for Vernonia Cares

To the Editor:

I would like to say thank you to the people of Vernonia who have so generously supported Vernonia Cares, Inc.

I went there as a volunteer in March 1985 but, due to health problems, I will no longer be able to continue volunteering.

I thank you for your support through the years and hope you will continue to support the ones who are carrying on.

God Bless you all.
Mildred Elton
Vernonia

Camp Wilkerson is not donated land

To The Editor:

In your recent report on Carcus Creek Park, you made reference to how the acquisition of Wilkerson and Carcus Creek were different. This is incorrect. They were both acquired through tax foreclosure—Wilkerson was not donated. A common myth has often been repeated over the years that County Judge Wilkerson donated this land to the county for a youth camp. This property was acquired July 23, 1940 for delinquent taxes; it was a part of the old Clark and Wilson holdings.

The park was named for Judge Wilkerson, who was instrumental in designating this property as a park dedicated to youth.

Three adjoining property owners to Carcus Creek have indicated their willingness to give access for forestry management and one of the three (Rosebud Trust just south of Carcus Creek) is agreeable to public access if Carcus Creek is left a park. When the old county court sold the adjoining lands, they reserved county roads and CCC trails for the public's use.

Landlocked is a buzz word that has been used in the past as an excuse to sell county owned property.

There is no such thing as a landlocked property. Eminent domain powers are always available to the county, but unnecessary since we have the cooperation of adjoining property owners and county owned roads in this area. Rubert Enterprise Road is owned by the county and comes within one half mile of Carcus Creek Park.

So, what is the problem? The Parks budget is out of control, up from \$357,454 in 1990-91 to almost a million dollars in 1993-94, plus the budget committee allowing budget officer Bruce Hugo to strip O&C funds from this department. For many, many years some of the O&C [funds] have been allocated to Parks. Add to that an increase in the number of parks in the last few years from seven to fourteen.

Best wishes for a better new year.

Marion Sahagian
Scappoose
Former Columbia County
Commissioner &
Budget Officer

An Open Letter To Our Community

To The Editor:

We wish to join with Vernonia Cares, Vernonia Pre-school, Toy and Joy and the EMT Scholarship Fund to thank you for making the first annual Christmas Charity Benefit at our studio a success.

Because of your spirit of community and generosity, each of the above named volunteer groups received donations to assist them in continuing their good works, which help make Vernonia the wonderful place it is to live. We all depend more heavily on the volunteer services of our neighbors than we often realize and it is a pleasure to participate in aiding their fund raising efforts.

It was also wonderful to see so many of our friends, old and new, and share the holiday season in a festive way. Many community members met others for the first time, which we hope will lead to long-lasting friendships.

Again, thank you, for joining us..... See you again next December. Happy New Year!!!

Christopher and Ruth
Burkett
Vernonia

Letters to the Editor

Community makes event joyous

To The Editor:

This year's "Toy and Joy" program was a huge success. The joy of Christmas was brought to the needy children of our town through the hard work and generous donations of the entire community. Many, many children (with your help) were visited by Santa, receiving gifts and exchanging hugs.

Thank you!: To Sentry

Market for the Giving Tree; to Ruth and Chris Burkett for their Charity Benefit; to Darrell and Judy Gwin for their annual "Toy and Joy" Party; to Vernonia Cares for coordinating support; to Nehalem Valley Speed and Beauty Car Club for sponsorship; and to The INDEPENDENT for so much coverage and support in advertising.

Thank You! To my two "Santas", Roger Lawhead and Ronnie Lunsford, who helped make delivering more personable; to my committee

members, Tim Bamburg, Cyndy Hayes and Kevin Roberts, who helped with the overwhelming workload; and to all of Santa's helpers—Kala Cota, Dede Webb, Janet Parker, Tara Bamburg, Glenda DeLemos, Barbara Ervin, Shari Williams, Kathy Denckla and Carla Strand—who spent literally hours with last minute chores, sorting, shopping and wrapping.

Another special thank you to all of the individuals, families and businesses for their many contributions of money and gifts. There are too many to list, but you know who you are. Without these donations, the joy would not have been felt. The sharing of good will that the people of this community brought to the children will always be remembered, especially by them.

My deepest thanks to Janet Parker, and my fiancé, Dona Hauner. Janet was there every step of the way, and spent countless hours in support of this program. And Dona, for allowing me to take the time from our busy lives. She truly was an angel.

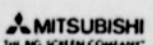
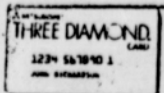
Although the Fire Department chauffeured Santa to deliver the gifts, we are not the ones responsible for his participation, you are—each

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