

Community

The Way It Was

Compiled by Robb Wilson

Seventy years ago this week, the first logs were milled and the Oregon-American Lumber Company started its operations. Following are excerpts from The Vernonia Eagle, July of 1924:

PORTLAND FINANCIAL GIANTS AND OREGON TIMBER AND MILL MEN ARE INSPECTING BIG MILL AND HOLDINGS OF OREGON AMERICAN CO. IN VERNONIA — TODAY IS BIG DAY FOR VERNONIA!

A NEW INDUSTRIAL CENTER FOR OREGON VERNONIA, 50 MILES FROM PORTLAND

The new town that is forty years old lies in the heart of the Big Timber.

THE BIG MILL; The Oregon-American Co. Mill expects to begin sawing July 15, the boilers will be fired for the first time July 1. For some two years, work has been progressing every day on the large plant. From many acres of trees and brush this mill has risen. The company has 60 neat and up-to-date residences built for homes for a few of the employees. It is the intention to soon build 40 more houses on "Spencer Hill". About 300 men will be employed at the start up and will gradually increase. The 40 acre pond is now full of logs as well as all the track room in the yards. The big mill is one of the show places of Oregon that is a big industrial asset to the state.

BIG MILL TO START SAWING ABOUT JULY 15TH

Vernonia has largest electrical driven saw mill in the U.S. The Oregon American Lumber Company has their large new mill about ready to start actual

sawing. The big mill property covers 200 hundred acres joining Vernonia. The hum of the saws cutting at a rate of 600,000 feet per day will soon be heard. It is expected that the first log will be stabbed about the tenth of July. That day, the day of the first sawing, will go down in history. It will be the biggest day in the history of the Nehalem Valley. It will be the day that many people have anxiously waited for these many long years. A new era is dawning. A new industrial era. A new city; all Vernonia is glad; all the state of Oregon is benefited.

LUMBER COMPANY HOST AT VERNONIA

Portlanders See First Logs Cut at \$3,500,000 Plant.

Machinery is Marvel—Mill Operated Almost Entirely by Electric Power Generated by Using Water as Fuel.

Massive logs seemed but splinters under the handling of man made machinery

MOST PERFECT SAW MILL IN AMERICA STARTS OPERATION IN VERNONIA

Not a Hitch, Every Machine Perfect, She Runs!

Vernonia is known and is in print all over the United States today. Every Lumberman's Journal and Daily papers of every state carried items of the opening of the big, all steel, concrete, beltless, electrified sawmill.

O-A LUMBER CO. GOING FULL FORCE

Will Keep Pond Full of Logs as a Reserve in Case Camps Are Forced to Close Down

VERNONIA MILL NOW RUNNING

Plant expected to turn out 600,000 feet of lumber in two eight hour shifts. About 400 men

will be required for a single shift and the second shift will be employed as soon as market conditions justify, says E.E. Hayes, superintendent of the plant.

I am sure this was a festive and historic day in town and I would love to have been there. If you were there at that time and remember the event, please contact me; I want to talk with you about it. I can be reached at the Museum, 429-3713.

Pacific will host Concours d'Elegance

Over 300 antique, classic, sport and collector automobiles will be on display on the Pacific University campus in Forest Grove during the 22nd annual Concours d'Elegance on Sunday July 24th.

The classic celebration is sponsored by the Forest Grove Rotary Club. Advance tickets are available at G.I. Joe's Ticket Master.

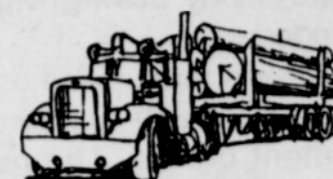
O-A picnic and reunion scheduled

All former employees of the Oregon-American, later Longbell Lumber Co., are invited to the second annual Reunion Picnic held Sunday, July 17, at noon in Anderson Park, Vernonia.

Nearly 150 people attended last year's potluck picnic and more are expected this year. There will be door prizes, exhibits and photographs of the mill operation.

Come on out and enjoy a day of fun with old friends and acquaintances.

For more information call the Columbia County Historical Society Museum in the old mill office, 429-3713.



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Church Directory

CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS

Bob E. Holbrook, Branch President
1350 E. Knott Street
Vernonia, 429-7151

Sacrament Meeting, Sunday 10 a.m.
Sunday School & Primary 11:20 a.m.

Relief Society, Priesthood and Young Women, Sunday 12:10 p.m.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Michael Jackson, Pastor
662 Jefferson
Vernonia, 429-6353

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Service 6:30 p.m.

Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.

ST. AUGUSTINE (CANTERBURY) EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Rev. Robert Grafe, Vicar
700 Adams Ave.

Vernonia 429-1860

Sunday Services, 10:00 a.m.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

Chris Brush, Pastor
850 Madison Avenue
Vernonia, 429-1103

Sunday Services
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday Meeting
Evening Bible Study, 6:45 p.m.

GRACE REFORMED BAPTIST CHURCH

D.J. Dickey, Pastor
Grant & North Streets
Vernonia, 429-1919 or 429-8720

Sunday School, All Ages 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship 6:00 p.m.

Wed. Prayer Meeting, 7:00 p.m.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

John Cahill, Pastor
952 Washington Avenue
Vernonia, 429-2521

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Visitation, Monday 7:00 p.m.
Bible Study, Wednesday 7:00 p.m.

VERNONIA EVANGELICAL BIBLE CHURCH

Grant Williams, Pastor
957 State Avenue
Vernonia, 429-6790

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Children's Church w/Nursery
Evening Fellowship 6:00 p.m.
Nursery Care

Prayer Meeting, Wed. 7:00 p.m.
Daytime Adult Bible Studies

The Churches of Vernonia Welcome You

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Ted Bjorem, Pastor
410 North Street
Vernonia, 429-6522

Sunday School 9:40 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.
Children's and Junior Church
Evening Service 6:00 p.m.

Ladies' Bible Study, Mon. 7:30 p.m.
Women's Fellowship, 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays, 1:30 p.m.
Every Wednesday:
Ladies' Bible Study, 9:15 a.m.
Evening Bible Study, 6:30 p.m.
Choir Practice, 7:30 p.m.

ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

Pastoral Administrator Joan Dotter
Ass't. Administrator Lani Vandehey
960 Missouri Avenue
Vernonia, 429-8841

St. Vincent dePaul Society
Irish Bruers, 429-7201

Mass Schedule
2nd & 4th Sundays

Word & Communion Services
1st & 3rd Sundays at 10:00 a.m.
Holy Day Services 7:00 p.m.
Sacrament of Penance
Schedule by Appointment
Before or After Mass

SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST

Roger Kruger, Pastor, 397-6883
2nd Ave. and Nehalem St.
Vernonia, 429-1941

Sabbath School 9:15 a.m.
Morning Worship, 11:00 a.m.

Tuesday Prayer, 7:00 p.m.

LOV'N COOKERY

4th Edition will be Available in August



With over 600 tried and proven recipes from cherished community members, Lov'n Cookery is in great demand.

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To purchase Lov'n Cookery, please mail this coupon and \$7.95 plus \$2.00 S & H to: St. Mary's Catholic Church 960 Missouri Avenue Vernonia, OR 97064

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