

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

The holiday season has arrived! Most people have a happier disposition this time of year. Wouldn't it be nice if this was a year-round feeling, though maybe it is meant to be only once a year to commemorate the wonderful event we are celebrating.

This feeling of good will was experienced and shared by those attending the Holiday Open House at the library on December 7. Once again it was a really nice afternoon, during which some of the local writers and artists gave of their time to visit with others of the community. The library board members provided Christmas cookies, spiced cider and coffee which were enjoyed while catching up on some of the exciting new projects and ideas for projects which these talented people are involved with at present.

John Ragner was present to sign copies of his newly published book, *Planet Strange*. Since it has already been checked out by a young reader, I predict that this "choose your own ending" book will be in high demand by youngsters. Helen Solem graciously donated a copy of her latest book, *The Jack Murdock Story*, to the library.

Walter Matthews impressed some of us with a rendition of his poem naming and telling a little something about each of the presidents

of the United States. He also shared a poem he had just finished writing. Chris Burkett has been busy travelling and taking photos, but was generous in sharing some of his time with us on this day.

Robb Wilson, who diligently researches and shares events of Vernonia's past in *The INDEPENDENT*, as well as drawing the political cartoons, was present. Jennifer Worthington, local calligrapher, was present. If you haven't tried calligraphy or really looked at it, do so. Calligraphy is really quite an art. April Kinney, another of Vernonia's talented citizens, was also present. She writes, paints and does Tai Kwon Do.

Did you know that Mayor Tony Hyde is a talented artist also? Although he was able to spend only a few minutes at the end of the afternoon, we are grateful that he made the effort to come, as we are grateful of the effort on the part of all who attended—artists, writers and, of course, the wonderful people who always support the library by using it and attending these special gatherings.

Happy Holidays to you all!

Library Hours: Monday and Friday 1-5 p.m., Wednesday 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m.-2 p.m. **Preschool Story Time:** every Wednesday from 10:30-11 a.m.

Letters to the Editor

Kid shoppers again enjoy "Santa Shop"

To the Editor:

For the past four years, the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the "Santa Shop", a gift shop that operates in a unique way. People in the community donate new or good used items to the shop.

Then, on a Saturday in December when Santa is available, young children can do their own Christmas shopping with no help from their parents and at prices the children can afford (starting at ten-cents). We gift-wrap, too, before the kids go on their way.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped at this year's Santa Shop. This includes all of the people who worked at the Santa Shop—those who helped decorate, helped the kids pick out presents and helped wrap gifts.

Thanks, also, to the people who donated the gift items (without their generosity, the Santa Shop wouldn't be possible); to the Vernonia Senior Citizens for allowing us the use of their building; to the Vernonia Fire Department for delivering Santa to the shop.

Last, but certainly not least, I thank Santa for spending the day at the Santa Shop, visiting with and having his picture taken with the kids.

Thank you, everyone, for your help!

Mary Ann Shaw,
Santa Shop Chairman
Vernonia Area Chamber
of Commerce

nations of food, money, pop cans, and time during the 1st Annual Vernonia Cares Canned Food Drive. Genny Fisher and Vernonia Pride did a great job of organizing the event and all of the volunteers needed to help make the food drive very successful. Without the volunteers going door to door, this task would have been impossible.

THANK YOU!!

The art raffle at the Christmas Bazaar was also a success, largely due to the following local artists who contributed their work: Arleta Frace, Christopher Burkett, Irene Christensen, Dolly Keenon, and Jeff Patterson. Tickets were sold by cash donation or per item of food donated, all going to Vernonia Cares.

THANK YOU!!

I would also like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their involvement: all of the local churches that placed a donation box in their church, all of the many individuals and organizations that donated cash, Jazzercise, Doug Tesdal, Vernonia Sentry and Justin Jones for counting thousands of pop cans and bottles, Becky Elder and Mildred Elton, for without them, there would be no Vernonia Cares.

THANK YOU!!

The people in your community will benefit from your time and effort in making this holiday season and the New Year a little brighter. Thank you for helping people in your community.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a bountiful New Year.

Jamie Stacklie
Vernonia

Thanks for meeting needs for food

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you, the citizens of Vernonia for your do-

BOOKS

SPECIAL ORDERS
— YES!

CHAPTER II BOOKS

10 am - 5:30 pm, Mon - Sat.
2038 Main Street
Forest Grove • 359-5673

To the Editor:

We at Vernonia Cafe would like to thank everyone who was brave enough to come in and, even braver, to keep coming back for the last 6-1/2 years.

Thank you for expressing your concern when we were told to vacate. You all expressed how much you are going to miss us. If truth be known, we will miss all of you.

Please see page 18

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