

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

On May 1, 1925, the City Council of Vernonia set aside space in the city hall for a library and appointed committees to "solicit books, subscriptions, money and the general support of all the people of Vernonia as the library is for everyone in the city, camps, schools, etc." During 1926, donations of books and money to purchase books came from the Pythian Sisters, Oregon-American Lumber Company, Miller Mercantile Company, Lindsey Mill & Lumber Company, Staggs Safeway Stores, as well as from Mrs. Judd Greenman and many other individuals. The proceeds from various social affairs were donated during this year, while Camp Fire Girls mended broken and torn books and Boy Scouts helped collect delinquent books from forgetful or careless borrowers.

During the 1930s, fund raisers included newspaper and magazine drives and a Book Week.

Silver Teas, sponsored by the Vernonia Study Club, were held as public benefits for the library in 1948 and 1949. Carnivals, with booths sponsored by Rainbow Girls, Pythian Sisters, American Legion Auxiliary, Rebekahs, V.F.W. Auxiliary, Neighbors of Woodcraft and Business & Professional Women, were held with the proceeds placed in a fund for "improvement of the Vernonia Public Library."

Proceeds from a cooked food sale, arranged by the Mt. Heart Social Club, and from a community rummage sale were added to the library improvement fund during 1949.

Silver teas, coffee hours, and rummage and book sales, sponsored by groups such as the Vernonia Study Club, were held regularly

throughout the 1950s and '60s. Contributions and proceeds from these events were used to "buy the books desired by the public" that would provide a larger selection than could be purchased with the money provided by the city.

There have been many groups and individuals throughout the years who wanted library materials, services, and facilities in Vernonia and who were willing to work hard at seeing these goals were attained. The Lions' Club has generously seen needs and provided solutions; Library Boards have given time and support; City Council and Budget Committee members have done their best to provide monies to operate the library; local businesses have donated materials; individuals too numerous to mention have offered and given help and, of course, the patrons—the day-to-day library users—continue to provide purpose and direction to the local library.

From the earliest, developmental stages of Vernonia's library, right to the present day, needs have been identified and solutions were found. When a request was recently made by the Library Board to spruce up the interior of the library, a member of Vernonia Pride recognized the need and, with the help of other members of this hard-working group, is seeing that this request becomes a reality.

We can all take "pride" in living in a community that works together to achieve goals for the benefit of "everyone in the city,....schools, etc."

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.

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environment. It is no wonder that, increasingly, Americans have lost confidence in the credibility of this destructive juggernaut.

As new information becomes available, it is clear that the trend toward increased protection for natural resources must continue.

Obviously, we will always harvest timber in Oregon, but an industry currently dominated by a raw-material-mining mentality must give way to a more environmentally friendly one. Sustainable, ecologically sound forestry will mean smaller harvest levels and more habitat area left to natural processes. Remaining old growth forests are both the laboratories and the classrooms from which the new forestry will emerge.

Dennis Nelson
Vernonia

Speak out against discrimination

To the Editor:

I guess I am an optimist or just gullible, but I see good in all people. Even the people who do evil or bad things have good points. I sometimes wonder where are all the good people and why aren't they speaking out? Even Jesus had supporters and people who spoke out.

It is scary to speak out. Jobs or reputations could be at stake. Your pursuit of happiness could be at stake. Jesus spoke out for what was right. None of us like unpleasant things but that doesn't mean they don't happen. Discrimination is a violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and is against the law. Discrimination does happen and even in this community.

In 1992, [Oregon] Labor Commissioner Mary Wendy Roberts filed a complaint against Boise Cascade in St. Helens, on behalf of five unidentified female workers. Boise agreed to 13 things to settle the disputed claim. On Dec. 15, 1994, there was a law suit filed in Federal Court against this same company, Boise Cascade, alleging discrimination. Seems strange that I didn't read about this lawsuit in the newspaper.

Feb. 1, 1995, I read an article about a Hispanic man who filed a lawsuit against Cascade Concrete Products of Scappoose, alleging discrimination. I applaud courageous people for standing up for their rights. They should go down in history as helping to make a better world and better conditions for all workers.

Discrimination is a power issue, where someone with more power tries to take away the power of another. Discrimination is also the knowing looks, the side comments to others, and the jokes or cartoons of questionable taste against anyone

perceived as different. Discrimination is also anti-union.

There is a group, Columbia County Citizens for Human Dignity, that works toward basic civil rights and human dignity for all citizens. They believe bigotry flourishes when good people do or say nothing. If you can donate one hour a week, or five dollars a month to speak out against bigotry, then call 543-3978. In unity we'll have the power so we won't be scared to speak out.

In Unity,
Elizabeth Beardslee
St. Helens

Support expressed for Bruce Hugo

To the Editor:

We were shocked and saddened to hear of County Commissioner Bruce Hugo's gambling problems and related misuse of County funds. As County employees, this tragedy affects us personally because Bruce has proven to be an excellent public administrator. While we in no way condone the misuse of County funds (and expect the County to be reimbursed promptly for inappropriate charges), we sincerely believe it would only make a difficult situation worse if he were to leave office at this time. Bruce deserves a second chance and, with all due respect to other commissioners both past and present, we would like to make a few comments and offer our support for Commissioner Hugo.

Since taking office two years ago, Bruce has made a real difference. From the first day he took office he rolled up his sleeves and began working extremely hard at putting Columbia County government on solid ground. He has concentrated on the less glamorous areas of day-to-day administration, such as budgeting, labor relations and courthouse facilities.

More than most commissioners, Bruce has been proactive in finding solutions to problems. Rather than waiting for a crisis to occur, he has sought advice from employees and department heads on how to make Columbia County function better. It has been refreshing to work with a commissioner that asks for our advice and listens to our concerns before making a decision.

Bruce has done more in two years than many commissioners do in four. Some of his accomplishments are:

1. As budget officer, Bruce made sure the 1993-94 budget was put on solid ground, insisting that expenditures match revenues (in the three prior years, cash carry-forward had been used to make up budget shortfalls, thereby reducing those funds to unacceptably low levels). To accomplish this, spending was

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and careful reasoning. I am reminded of a 1956 study by psychologist Leon Festinger and others, on the behavioral effects of deeply held beliefs. One quote is particularly apt: "When people are committed to a belief and a course of action, clear disconfirming evidence may simply result in deepened conviction and increased proselyting."

Thanks for the offer to debate, Mr. Christiansen, but one cannot debate a "believer". Logic and the Scientific Method are of no use in this case and, since those are my tools of choice, I'll pass.

Bob Ragsdale
Vernonia

Industry prefers no scientific discussion

To the Editor:

Biology is called the Science of Life. I am not a biologist but have always been in-

tensely interested in the study of life. It seems to me that Life lies at the heart of this debate [with Larry Christiansen, *The INDEPENDENT*, Feb. 8, 1995].

Mr. Christiansen says he would have little difficulty refuting my biological assumptions, then he dances away from the subject. Biology and ecosystem science, in particular, are topics that industrial foresters prefer not to discuss. They complicate the lives of those who would rather concentrate on getting out the cut.

Industry propagandists strive to keep the rural political base and labor pool in line, ignorant and angry. Pertinent information that is not conducive to these ends must be discredited as "drivel".

Pressure exerted by the general public through conservation organizations and laws, are the only reasons we have any degree of protection for wildlife, water quality, old growth forests or human habitat.

Industrial forestry has always resisted any initiative that sought to balance high timber production and the en-

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