

MUSEUM PIECE JUMP

From page 6

area was homesteaded by Bergersons and Bergersons still live there.

Kist School is still there, too, remodeled beyond recognition. Across the road from the school was an old barn that fell down a couple of years ago and was recently removed. The barn had been built of hand-hewn wood, then, in the 1930s had an addition build of railroad ties from a railroad line following the Nehalem River, that had been built by Beaver Logging.

More on this subject next month.



Vernonia lifeguard Stewart Johnson is a senior at Eastern Oregon State College.

Senior News

Senior Citizen members Lyle and Elsie Taylor celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary at the center on June 10th, sharing a pot luck dinner with family members and about 60 friends.

The Taylors were wed June 4, 1945, in Baker City, where they spent the first 17 years of their marriage. In 1962 they moved to Sherwood; then to Jewell in 1979. They finally settled on a hay and cattle spread on Timber Road in Vernonia in 1985.

They are both involved in the activities of the center; Lyle serves on the board of directors and they both spend many hours working on center projects. Elsie will represent the center as a princess on the My Fair Lady Court at the Columbia County Fair.

One of the five princesses will be selected as Queen, reigning over activities of the fair.

The Taylors have two sons, three grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Levi Vinson, long time leader at the center, suffered a broken hip in a fall at his home. He is recovering, according to spokesperson Nellie Tipton, but is still hospitalized at St. Vincent Medical Center.

Trips scheduled for July include a visit to Wild Life Safari on July 8 and to Mt. Hood and Multnomah Falls on the 22nd.

Birthdays in July are: 1, Margret Berndt; 6, Isabel Culbertson; 12, Marge Trahan; 14, Lyle Taylor; 20, John Steele; 22, Hazel Shipman and Ruth Tandy; 29, Ethel Bartles; 30, Scotty Weimer.

Godspell will open in St. Helens

The ShoeString Community Players present six performances of *Godspell: A Musical Based Upon The Gospel According to St. Matthew*, with music and new lyrics by Stephen Schwartz. Performances will be July 7, 8, 13, 14, 15 at 7:30 p.m. and July 9 at 2:30 p.m., in Olmscheid Auditorium, St. Helens High School.

Godspell features 16 songs including "Prepare Ye" and "Day by Day".

Tickets for adults are \$8.00; for seniors and students, \$6.00. Tickets may be purchased in advance at Tony's Shoes in St. Helens and Allstate Insurance in Scappoose. They may also be purchased at the door on the days of the performances.

Remembering . . .

The Sounds of Opportunity

By Charles Comstock

A teacher once instructed students to write about the senses of sight and sound so the reader could share the same feeling and awareness of those senses. Not so easy sometimes.

In the early to mid 1930s, Vernonia was a rather quiet town with the bare essentials of business activity struggling for existence. The McDonald, Vernonia and Nehalem Hotels, though open for business, were often unoccupied. Cash purchases of gasoline at Treharne's "filling station" were infrequent and then usually for two or three gallons. The door to the bank building had not been unlocked for several years yet, through the window, deposit and withdrawal slips could be seen on the counters as though it was business as usual — it certainly wasn't. The WPA and CCC had a couple projects underway out of town where a few men were working, but that did little to reduce the number of occupants spending their idle days in the town's pool halls wishing they could be elsewhere. By comparison, a kid fortunate enough to have a nickel to spend could buy a whole bag of candy. When that eerie siren sounded one blast for the nine o'clock curfew, the streets were already empty except for a few folks interrupting the monotony of the times by watching a second-rate Western at the Joy Theater. That's the way things were in our town during the depth of the depression.

In 1936, there was a change toward better times. While the country as a whole was just beginning to see a bit of light at the end of the long tunnel, Vernonia had its modern sawmill and available timber to provide lumber to the world. The re-opening of Oregon American's mill brought economic life back to our community. Thus, the sounds of opportunity once again became familiar and joyful to our ears.

The morning whistle at the mill meant that men were working again and the wages earned could buy food at the local grocery store, pay the past due rent and even order new overalls or a pair of shoes from Montgomery Ward's "wish book". All through the day, we heard the pulse and heartbeat of the mill across town with the whine of the saws and the purr of those octopus-like lumber carriers as they moved forward and back with equal ease to store lumber in the sheds. Indelible, also, was the "choosh" sound of the shredder that prepared the scrap for the giant burner. We soon became accustomed to these noises, not as an annoyance or distraction but as the sounds of opportunity. If they had stopped anytime during the day except for the noon-time lunch break, the townsfolk would surely have reacted with concern.

All those look-alike houses on OA Hill were occupied once again. The headquarters building for Oregon American at the point on the hill (now the Columbia County Historical Society Museum) had special significance and respect in the community. That is where the payroll for the workers was processed and where many decisions affecting the mill were made. Symbolically perhaps, it was the most important building in town!

For about twenty-one years, the mill continued to produce some of the finest lumber ever made and, meanwhile, those sounds of opportunity continued to be music to our ears in Vernonia.

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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 6:00 p.m.

Women's Bible Study,
1st & 3rd Mon. 7:00 p.m.

Women's Ministry, alt. 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.
Bible Study, Wed., 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, 429-1161

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

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

**The Churches
of Vernonia
Welcome You**

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Dick Halaas, 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.