

Vernonia Friendship Jamboree & Logging Show August 4, 5 & 6

Parade • Fishing Derby • Teen Dance • Much More!

For full details, check the 1995 Vernonia Jamboree tabloid available Friday, July 28, at stores and restaurants throughout the area.

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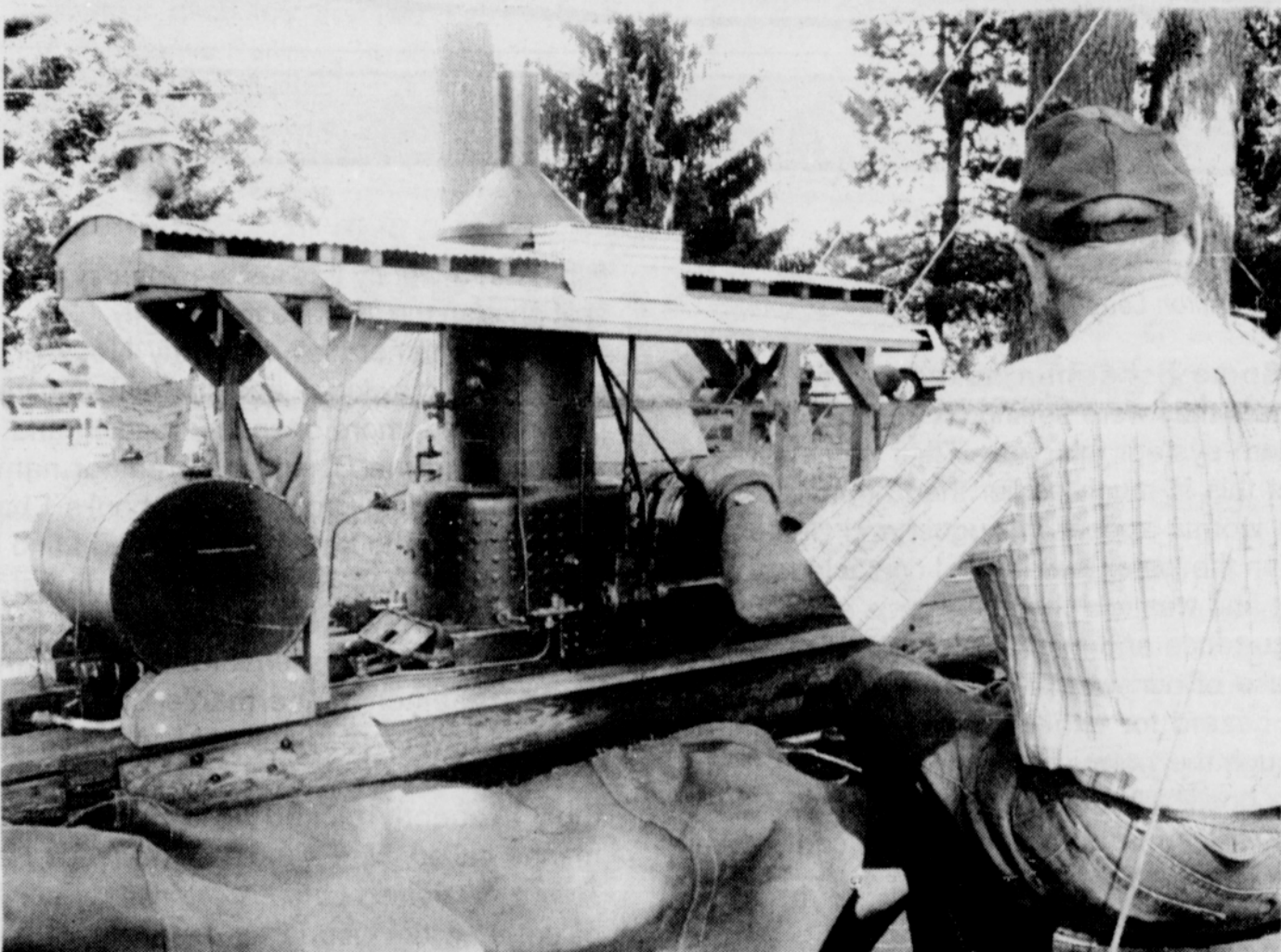


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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

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Your turn . . .



This scale model of a Willamette 2-speed yarder, built in 1973 by Bill McReady of Milwaukee, was on display at the O-A picnic

Surfacing mining a rocky county topic

By Noni Andersen

Figuratively speaking, the jury is out on whether Columbia County should retain or repeal its surface mining ordinance, and a public hearing last week did little to clarify the situation.

In 1972, when state law let counties opt to have the Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) assume control of surface mining, Columbia County's miners preferred local control. They essentially wrote the ordinances governing operations of the rich gravel mining industry in the county, including reclamation of depleted pits.

At last Wednesday's hearing, the miners expressed frustration over what they feel is inconsistent and unfair enforcement of the industry by the county and asked the county Board of Commissioners to turn regulatory control over to DOGAMI.

Countering industry representatives, other speakers claimed that regulation was, indeed, upsetting gravel miners, but only because the county now enforces its ordinance. They say that regulation is neither unfair nor inconsistent. Some even contended that, if regulation was uneven, it was the fault of in-

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Construction of new Banks depot results from cooperative efforts

A ground breaking ceremony Monday morning in Banks noted the beginning of construction of a railroad de-

Company and the Port of Tillamook.

The result of those efforts, according to Mark Laukkanen



The customary ribbon cutting was done with a front loader backhoe to start construction of the new railroad depot.

pot at the east end of Depot Street. Participants and on-lookers enjoyed coffee, donuts and the results of a year-long process of negotiations between Banks Lumber

of Banks Lumber, is a mutually beneficial agreement in which the Port will provide land which Banks Lumber Company needs for expansion.

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Large turnout enjoys O-A picnic

A record number (120) of people congregated at Anderson Park on July 16th to celebrate the third annual Oregon-American Picnic. Organized by Robb Wilson, Curator of the Columbia County Historical Museum, the picnic brings together former OA mill employees, their families and others interested in what was once the largest electric saw mill in the world.

Of those present, Fred Roediger, now of St. Helens, was awarded a certificate for having worked at the mill longest. Other certificates were issued to Lionel Youst from Coos Bay for traveling the greatest distance; Reggie Bruce of Vernonia, for being the last employed; earliest employed distinction went to Phil Taylor from Salem and oldest attending was awarded

to Eric Peterson, now in Forest Grove.

Other visitors of note were Ed and Greg Kamholz, sons of the long-time publisher of the Vernonia Eagle, who are writing a book about that era. Ed lives in Menlo Park, Calif. and Greg lives in Portland.

Facilitating nostalgia trips for many of the old timers was a scale model (1.5" to 1") of a Willamette 2-speed yarder. Demonstrations conducted by Merv Johnson of Beaverton, were continuous throughout the afternoon. The model was built in 1973 by Bill McCready of Milwaukee. McCready was unable to attend.

In a flyer supplied by Johnson, he explains how the system functioned:

"The current rigging is the North Bend system, in which

the butt-rigging and chokers are attached to a fallblock tailholed into a carriage on a skyline. Both a head tree and tail tree are used with the required number of guy lines. Wooden spar trees were from 160 to 190 feet high. The North Bend system was used primarily for cold-decking and swinging logs."

Johnson is currently working on a book cataloging the location of existing steam donkeys.

Because a number of the people attending the O-A picnic also attend the Vernonia Old Grads picnic on the third Sunday on August, it was suggested that the two observances might be held simultaneously so people who travel great distances might participate in and share experiences

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