

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

It's rather scary to realize that it is time to be thinking about ideas for Christmas, but requests for holiday materials have been made and crafters will find that books and magazines with holiday ideas are readily available in the library. *Christmas Gifts of Good Taste, Christmas is Coming, Christmas Crafts to Make Ahead, Glorious Christmas Crafts, The Spirit of Christmas*, and *In the Nick of Time* are just some of the volumes containing ideas for holiday foods, crafts, decorations and much more. Magazines with all sorts of ideas for making and sharing include *Country Handcrafts, Crafts, Crafting Traditions, Craft and Wear*, and *A Taste of Home*. Come on in and find some new inspiration for your holiday giving or entertaining.

Speaking of "scary", Ann Rule's newest book relates the true-life account of murder, greed, deception, and evil acts committed by Brad Cunningham. The events in the book, span several years from the late 1960s through 1994 and take place in Washington, Oregon and Texas, with the actual criminal attack taking place on our own Sunset Highway. Entitled *Dead By Sunset*, this book recounts Cunningham's conquest, marriage and eventual betrayal of five beautiful, intelligent, successful women. Each of these women gave him everything he wanted until one (Cheryl) stood up to him by refusing to relinquish custody of her three young sons. When Cheryl's

brutally bludgeoned body was found in her van on the Sunset Highway in 1986, Brad was the likely suspect in her murder, but there was no solid evidence linking him to the crime. It took eight years of probing into Cunningham's relationships, financial manipulations, and "scary" acts of harassment and revenge before justice was finally served. Cunningham was finally tried in the Washington County Court House, convicted of Cheryl's murder, and sentenced to life in prison. Whether she is writing about Ted Bundy, Randy Woodfield, Pat Allanson, Diane Downs, or Brad Cunningham, Ann Rule thoroughly researches her subjects and proves, time after time, that truth is stranger and often scarier than fiction.

Three new mystery acquisitions deserving mention are Sue Grafton's *"L" is for Lawless*, J.A. Jance's *Shoot/Don't Shoot*, and Patricia Cornwell's *From Potter's Field*.

Several fifth graders have been requesting material for their school projects lately. If they or their parents will contact the library, an attempt will be made to have pertinent materials available for use in the library. Remember, the library is open on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. and if enough interest is expressed, an evening of study will be arranged each week until the projects are completed.

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

A close-up look at local police work

To the Editor:

My family and I have lived in Vernonia for 17 years. Vernonia has been a wonderful place to live and raise our family. I have seen a lot of changes in Vernonia some good, some bad, but for the most part Vernonia is a great little town.

However, I see a side of Vernonia that no one else sees quite like I do. When the phone rings at 2:00 a.m. and my husband leaves my side to help someone, I lie awake for hours thinking, sometimes a little scared, always worried. I think of the sacrifice he makes and our family makes for this little town we love so much. The times when he comes home from work so upset because a child has been hurt physically or sexually, or when a child has died from crib death, I see a side most people don't see. There are times when he comes home angry because someone has been screaming in his face and threatening his family...the badge he wears means that is part of his job. This is a side of Vernonia I hope you never have to see.

My husband took this job knowing how hard it would be at times. He knew being Chief of Police would entail many long hours and added responsibility, but he loves his job.

Every year he takes many hours of college classes so he can keep growing in the knowledge that will help him continue to do a good job. He spends many hours working out to stay healthy and physically fit. He makes the sacrifices necessary to do his job to the best of his ability. His family also makes sacrifices to support him because we know how much he loves his job and how important this town is to him. He takes pride in the job he does knowing he is making a difference every day by protecting this community.

He expects hard work, truth and honesty from his fellow officers. Honesty being one of the most important qualities an officer can have. This community is very lucky to have someone working for them with such dedication and honesty.

Carla Strand,
Chairman
Vernonia School Board

Unfortunately, this job is at times a thankless. It is sad to know that some people don't appreciate the great job that is being done.

Remember, we live in one of the top 10 safest towns in Oregon, it didn't get that way by itself. I appreciate the job our Police Department does; I hope others do, too.

Thank you,
Lori Walters
Vernonia

Choose Packwood replacement carefully

To the Editor:

Oh the joy the PEOPLE of Oregon must know! Sen. Packwood has resigned and once again, there is honor in Oregon. It has been a long fight, to remove from congress, someone who has abused his privileges. How GOD has smiled upon the accusers of Sen. Packwood. Now Oregon might be able to get someone like Kennedy, Inouye or Barney Frank or Gerry Studds. Oh joy to Oregon.

Don Schwarz
Nazareth, PA

A lot of truth lies in humorous poem

To the Editor:

I think most of the people in Vernonia will agree with these thoughts.

Thank God for Small Towns

You know you're in a small town when:

The airport runway is terraced.

The polka is more popular than disco on Saturday night.

Third Street is on the edge of town.

Every sport is played on dirt.

The editor and publisher of the newspaper carries a camera at all times.

You don't use your turn signals because everyone knows where you are going.

You know you're in a small town when:

You are born on June 14 and your family receives gifts from the local merchants because you are the first baby of the year.

You speak to each dog you see.
Please see page 13

Letters

Board applicants are caring people

To the Editor:

I would like to express my sincere thanks to those who applied for the school board position. We had a very difficult job last Tuesday night, having to pick just one applicant out of seven. Those who applied were Michelle Blum, Cory Colburn, Kala Cota, Melvin Nice, Susann Ragsdale, Claudia Ryan and Don Skinner. For those who have not heard, Susann Ragsdale is the new school board member.

I would like to encourage those applicants who were not chosen to stay involved in our schools, with our kids and in the community. We have some very tough issues and decisions to make in the near future and will need the support of dedicated community members like yourselves. Thanks again for your involvement.

Carla Strand,
Chairman
Vernonia School Board

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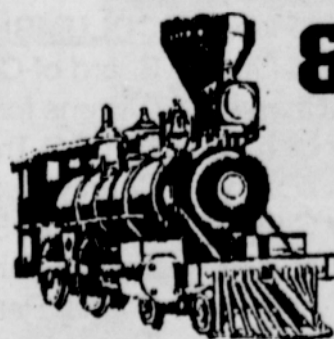
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