

The INDEPENDENT

Serving the upper Nehalem River valley. Published twice monthly on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, by Public Opinion Laboratory Ltd., 725 Bridge Street, Vernonia, OR 97064, as a free newspaper. Editors and Publishers, Dirk & Noni Andersen, (503) 429-9410.

Opinion

The INDEPENDENT moves downtown

Nearly a decade after starting publication, *The INDEPENDENT* now has a location on Bridge Street. The new office is at 725 Bridge Street, between the Joy Theatre and Crabtree's Pub-Deli. The phone number will remain the same, however: 503-429-9410.

There may be some glitches while becoming accustomed to the new phone/fax system, but they will be ironed out as soon as possible.

Another change coming up is a change in the days of publication, from the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month to the first and third Wednesdays. That change will begin on December 6, the first Wednesday in December.

Community needs school facilities plan

Vernonia School District facilities are old, overcrowded and in need of repairs. Their age is a factor not simply because of normal deterioration, but because the needs of educational facilities today are very different from the needs at the time these buildings were constructed, even the newest of them.

When Vernonia High School was built in the early 50s, there was no reason to consider the kind of electrical installations needed for a computer lab or satellite television hookups. Today, it is educationally negligent to ignore those needs.

The biggest barrier to meeting the district's needs is, of course, money. It's a forgone conclusion that not all the needs will be met. The questions remain, however: What should be taken care of first; what are the priorities; what can safely be postponed?

The long range facilities planning now underway is meant to point the district in the right direction. In order to do that, the community must be involved—not just parents, either.

Whether or not you have children in the schools, these plans will affect you. Why not put on your thinking cap and attend the next facilities meeting? it will be on November 8 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting room will be announced later.

In the meanwhile, there is time to go to the district office and pick up the packet of information that has already been generated. Review the information and see what conclusions you reach. Then attend the next meeting and express your ideas about what needs to be done and how to do it.

A vital part of long range planning is consideration of as many points of view as possible. Our children are the future and your participation is needed.

I WISH THE SENATORS
WOULD LIVE LIKE ME FOR
AWHILE AND SEE THE KIND OF
LIFESTYLE I'M ACCUSTOMED TOO!

Those ★☆☆ POLITICIANS...



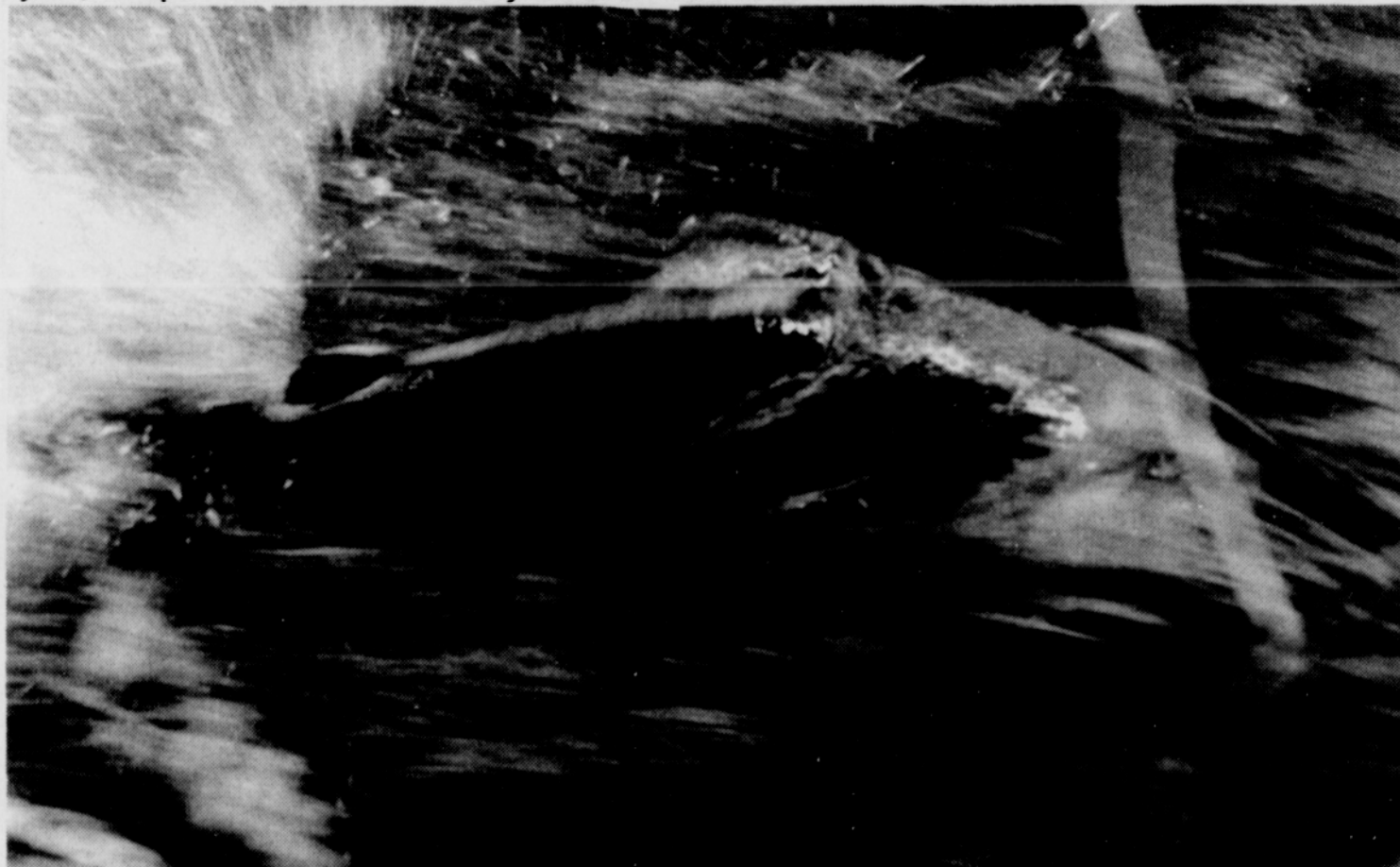
Ike Says

By Dale Webb, member
Izaak Walton League, Nehalem Valley Chapter

Something sure is smelling rotten in our local rivers lately and I like it! We have had a very good return of summer chinook salmon this fall and they are a little ripe right now. The Nehalem Valley Chapter conducted surveys for the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), again this year, and all of our survey areas saw big increases of fish over last year. Our surveyors counted over 275 fish this year, compared to about 100 last year. Water

new attitude toward these weary travelers; many people now defend these fish from unscrupulous behavior. I did catch one young man, while on my survey route, with a fishing pole in hand. Though he assured me that he was only after harvest trout, we both know that a steelhead pole with twenty-pound test line is just a little heavy for trout. I hope our little discussion helps change his mind about having a little "fun" with such a valuable resource.

I want to thank local landowners for access



A salmon prepares a nest for her roe.

Photo by Dale Webb

conditions were very favorable for the salmon this year and helped contribute to far-reaching distribution of the fish.

This is where some of you readers can help: We know fish were spawning in Rock Creek all the way up to Cookie Polos' and as far as Ralph Bergerson's on the Nehalem River, if you saw any of the big chinook spawning above these locations, give me a call at 429-7193. Salmon put on quite a show as they complete their 90-mile-plus river journey home to spawn. My favorite viewing spot is at the little falls at the mouth of Rock Creek where, when the fish are running strong, you can see upwards of twenty fish an hour passing through.

We also are very pleased with the public's

across their lands to conduct these surveys, plus a special thanks to those who helped conduct surveys while some of us lucky hunters were off in eastern Oregon. These surveys are valued by ODF & W since they are the only surveys of the upper Nehalem River summer chinook.

The Nehalem Valley Chapter received some good news in the form of a \$1500 grant from the Restoration and Enhancement board for our stream-side tree planting project. These moneys will buy a new brush cutter and pay for trees for the next two years. Cavenham Forest Products has graciously agreed to supply our Douglas fir trees for this year's

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