

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch
Vernonia City Librarian

The library has never been busier than it has been this last month. Circulation is up. Youngsters have been stopping after school for books, videos and for research projects. Response of the public in accessing the Internet from the library has been fantastic. It has been an extremely busy, but rewarding time.

It is so exciting to have library patrons searching the Internet for such things as weather reports from any place in the world, exotic recipes, Web pages of people they know, personal topics of interest such as trains, women in literature, and genealogy.

Some of the Internet sites that are easily accessible from the Oregon Public Library Home Page are: Business and Employment (links to the Oregon Employment Department, stock quotes, and resources for small businesses), Books (listing of books in Powell's book stores, reviews of current books, and the complete works of William Shakespeare), Grants and Funding (information about grants and grant writing), Health (full text information on diseases and disorders, alternative

medicine and nutrition, House and Home (introductory information on Internet, Windows, etc.), Movies, Radio and Television (reviews, news, and schedules for PBS), Science (OMSI information, virtual exhibits, and information on helping people live knowledgeably and safely with volcanoes and other natural hazards), Sports (news, schedules, player information, etc.), Tax Forms and Publications, Phone Directories, Maps, and Zip Codes, Travel (information about Oregon's communities and natural environment), and Weather (Oregon weather conditions, forecasts, warnings, satellite photos, and more).

These are just some of the information sources that are easily accessed from the Oregon Public Library's Home Page. There are so many sites to visit and so much information to access that it is absolutely mind-boggling. Come on in and see for yourself.

Vernonia Library is located at 919 Bridge Street. **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:** Wednesdays, 10:30-11 a.m.

Ike Says

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

The morning was cold, in the teens, as the sun rose in the clear blue sky. The yard was covered in a blanket of fresh snow from the night before and looked so pristine before human foot prints marred its silky surface. Foot prints? Oh, what a good day for tracking foot prints in the snow, my mind said.

My dad used to follow foot prints in the snow when I was a little kid. He did so with the aid of a couple of hound dogs. His quarry was usually raccoons and bobcats. I was always a little too young to get in on this adventure and by the time I was old enough, his trusted hound, Nick, was in his retirement days.

I remembered my dad saying that a man could track a 'coon on foot in a good snow, so I laid out a plan to track me down a 'coon. I had my trusty dog, Bingo, to help in the tracking detail and I knew she was fearless when it came to scrapping with wild critters.

Bingo was a little Springer Spaniel that loved to hunt and it didn't matter what we hunted. She was a family dog and you could set your watch by her. Every day, without fail, she would leave the house, walk up the road and sit under a big fir tree at 3:00 in the afternoon, to intercept me on my way home from school. She loved to be let in on cold nights to spin in circles on the front door rug before settling in for the evening as my folks and sister watched TV.

Bingo loved to hunt so much that one day when I dressed up for an activity day at school, in a 'coon hide trapper's outfit, I had to bring her home and lock her in the basement because she knew I was going hunting.

Well, I slicked up my breakfast and threw on my thermal underwear, at least two sweat-shirts and an old full-length army coat I ended up with from my Uncle Gene, from when he was in Alaska in the Army. I grabbed my new, trusty Remington pump .22 rifle and headed to the woods. It was one of those mornings when your breath appeared as if you were smoking, as Bingo and I turned up Coon Creek Road and proceeded onto the first road to the left, which was not more than two wheeled ruts through the brush. I figured this would be a good place to locate 'coon tracks, since it paralleled the creek and the area around the creek was kind of a swamp. It was not long before we found a set of 'coon tracks in the snow and started following them. I soon found out Bingo was not quite the tracking dog I had hoped; she mostly followed the tracks ahead of me and didn't look particularly interested,

as she did when chasing pheasants. We trudged on, following the tracks as they wandered aimlessly through the countryside. Then we came across the tracks of a bobcat. I could envision packing home a big tom bobcat for Dad to marvel at. The decision was easy, we would follow the bobcat. The cat led us up into the canyon away from town. Soon, it became apparent we weren't gaining on such a fleet-footed creature, as we slipped and slid in the steep terrain. The day was starting to grow old and I finally climbed out on a ridge and looked down toward town. It looked distant. I thought, "I could go straight for town but that would mean crossing more steep ravines and also dropping out of sight of the direction back to town." I knew Crown Zellerbach's mainline was somewhere up on the hillside. My body had started to tell me it was tired and, since I had stopped hiking so fast, was also starting to cool down.

I decided to drop down across the ravine that paralleled the ridge I was on and side-hill back in the direction I had come from. I regretted going down into that tangle of brush that was the bottom of the draw, and climbing up the other side made me even more tired. I side-hilled around the end of the ridge and it started to flatten out a little bit. It was then that I noticed the young alder trees that typically grow in an old cat road (logging skid road). A warm feeling crept into my stomach as Bingo and I started walking, slightly uphill, on the old cat road. Suddenly, we came to a fork in the trail, one going up the hill and one going down. I wanted to go down the hill, because it would be so much easier, but the intersection I stood at looked as though the cat had pulled the logs up the hill. This meant the landing, which would have to be on a log truck road, would be at the end of the uphill road. With Bingo in tow I started up the steep incline as the sun was getting lower in the western horizon. The air was starting to get colder as we reached the end of the cat road, but I had been right and we stood on Crown's mainline.

Knowing we could make it to town, we headed off down the road. I noticed that I no longer had to grip my .22, as the forest floor had frozen to my glove. My drab olive green army coat was covered with little frozen ice balls on the ends of the strings and frayed places. My feet were starting to feel kind of numb and like clubs. Bingo tagged along behind, tired but probably not suffering the same ill effects I was. We finally reached the pavement and had just started the last half mile for home, when Bill Wilcoxon drove up in his

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Letters to the Editor

Furse urges support of education for all

To the Editor:

This year in Congress we have a unique opportunity to do what is right for America — pass legislation which will help ensure that America's educational system is the finest in the world and that our children become well-educated, productive adults. Democrats and Republicans must set aside partisan differences to meet this education challenge. But to do so will require more than action by Congress. Parents, teachers, students, business leaders, and state and local officials must also do their part to improve education in this country.

In his State of the Union message, President Clinton outlined a ten-point call to action for American education which includes:

1. Setting rigorous national education standards to make sure our children master the basics.
2. Making sure there is a talented and dedicated teacher in every classroom.
3. Teaching every student to read independently by the end of the third grade.
4. Expanding Head Start and challenging parents to get involved early in their children's learning.
5. Expanding choice and accountability in public education.
6. Making sure our schools are safe, disciplined and drug-free, and instilling American values.
7. Modernizing school buildings and supporting school construction.
8. Opening the doors of college to all who work hard and make the grade.
9. Helping adults improve their education and skills by transforming the tangle of federal training programs into a simple skill grant.
10. Connecting every classroom and library to the Internet by the year 2000 and helping all students become technologically literate.

Each and every one of us can make sure these proposals become a reality. I encourage everyone in Vernonia to rise to the challenge and think about the kind of contribution you can make to improve education for our young people.

I encourage you to think about how parents, teachers, community leaders and business leaders can work together to improve education, and I welcome your input. Please feel free to contact me or my staff at 316 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515. Education is the key to each person achieving their potential.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Furse
Member of Congress

Tierney best for 47J Board of Directors

To the Editor:

We are very pleased to endorse Kim Tierney's candidacy for position six on the Vernonia School Board. Kim has been an involved parent and citizen in both school and community activities for many years. She is devoted to providing a solid education for all children. She has been active in a leadership role in the foreign student exchange program, in scouting and in the PTA.

During the 1996 flooding disaster, Kim was a dedicated volunteer in assisting flood victims and was appointed to the Unmet Needs Committee overseeing flood recovery efforts.

Mrs. Tierney has an excellent preparation for a school board position, holding a Master's Degree with graduate course work in education and teaching experience at the college level. She also has administrative experience and understands the need for sound financial management. In addition, Kim has successful experience as a grant writer. Her management skills have been proven in her assignment as Clinic Manager of two clinics in the Multnomah County Health Department with about 60 employees, including the responsibility for developing and managing large budgets for the organization.

We believe Kim Tierney will bring valuable talents and skills to the Vernonia School Board if elected. We also believe that Kim has both the preparation and commitment to be an excellent board member. Please give her your consideration when you cast your ballot in the March election. She is not a single issue candidate. She will work to improve our educational system for everyone's benefit.

Sincerely,
Art & Enid Parrow
Vernonia

Thanks to a great, warm community

To the Editor:

During the recent loss of Denise Ruble Muhlbaier, our daughter, sister and best friend, the community of Vernonia taught us what a value and comfort a small town can be.

My family and I would like to thank you all for the support you have given to us. I would like to thank you all by name, but this newspaper wouldn't have room. There are some we would especially like to thank: Pastor John and Linda Cahill, Bob Wiley, Candy Olson, Pastor Paul Pastor, Genny Fisher, St. Mary's Catholic Church, Eric

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