

Between the Bookends

By Cecelia Sadtler
Volunteer, Banks Library

Now that Autumn is upon us don't these cooler evenings make you want to curl up with a snuggly robe, a cup of cocoa and a good book? Or perhaps you find yourself getting bored or drowsy on your twilight commute. Maybe you'd like to read some gossip in a current magazine but the magazine price tag is just as shocking as the contents. Or are you someone who sees yellow school buses and gets nostalgic for some of the things you read long ago...

Well, the Banks Public Library is just the place for you! The aisles of shelves are stocked with old favorites and recent best-sellers, a "Friends of the Library" book sale shelf always has reasonable prices, there are audio tapes you can play in your car, and numerous new magazine subscriptions you can actually check out. You'll find the Library a friendly, clean, well-lighted place to read. In addition to the usual novels, histories, biographies and hobby and craft books, you'll discover dozens of useful reference materials, lots of books on culture and diversity, information on traveling and geography, game books, flyers about local events, and community periodicals. With the convenience of the Library's copy machine you can duplicate whatever you like for ten cents a copy.

Best of all "WILnet" is up and running at the Banks Public Library! Come on in and see what we've been waiting for. The Library's dumb terminals have been replaced with full color PC workstations and the communications network linking the Washington County libraries has been upgraded.

As a result of this major updating of software for WIL (the Washington County InterLibrary Information system), the Library has been in a "construction" mode since early August. During the transition time Library users experienced a few delays and some general inconvenience, but all that is over now. WILnet gives library users far greater access to information and to many local and national resources. As a courtesy for any inconvenience caused by the installation of the new system, the "fine-free" period that has been in effect during construction will extend for three more weeks. And, as staff continues to input information, you'll begin to see lots of new books, magazines, reference materials and other resources that have just been wait-

ing to be indexed and catalogued into the new database.

The new *user-friendly* system has state of the art technology, graphic interface, on-line help, e-mail notifications of holds, and more. WIL's new software accommodates direct Internet access instead of the dial-up modem access. Those who have an Internet Service Provider can access library information from home via the World Wide Web. And when you come into the Library you'll immediately see and sense the new changes. Anyone who uses Windows 95 will already be familiar with how the new system works. For those who need some extra assistance, volunteers and Library staff will be available to help.

Look for these new titles at the Banks Library (whether you visit in person or by electronic means): *Outside Passage* by Julia Scully, *Wormholes* by John Fowles, and the *House & Garden Book of Country Rooms*.

In the children's section look for the delightful *Dear America* series. This collection of books portrays critical moments in America's history, such as the Civil and Revolutionary Wars, in the form of a young woman's diary. While the diaries are works of fiction, they contain authentic material, including sketches, photographs and even recipes of the times.

Stop by the Library to see the changes or to select a book. Displays and reading recommendations are constantly updated and new releases appear frequently. Construction and installation of the new WILnet software has not interfered with normal library functions like the display and posting of local flyers, the distribution of *The INDEPENDENT* and the activities and events provided by the Friends of the Banks Library.

Each month on the second Saturday, the Friends sponsor a monthly recycle day. In October that date will be the 10th. This convenient service to the community is offered at the SWATCO Service Yard, 15945 NW Sellers Road between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. You are welcome to bring your recyclables during that time.

Banks Library 111 Market Street.
Hours: Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m. to 7 p.m.;
Wed., Fri. and Sat. 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Phone: (503) 324-1382

City Scene

By Julius Dalzell, Councilor
Vernonia City Council

The recent controversy surrounding two proposed ordinances directed at dealing with youth is worthy of further discussion. In a nutshell, the proposed laws would have introduced a daytime curfew and emphasized the need for parental responsibility. The ordinances were read once, publicized for public review and comment, and then discussed at length with public input prior to a second reading and vote. Public sentiment was strongly opposed to adoption and the ordinances were consequently voted down by City Council.

Have the ordinances gone away? Yes, for the present, at least. Interestingly, the State is evaluating a parental responsibility law. More importantly, however, have the issues that brought the ordinances "to the table" gone away? No, and for that reason a broad-based community-level committee was agreed to in concept, with Larry McClellan, Vernonia School District superintendent, offering to take the lead. That committee will certainly be occupied!

What is behind the sentiment for such laws? Fundamentally, there is a concern over growing youth mischief and crime. Statistics bear out that such activities are on the increase in Vernonia. Certain segments of the community are weary of both the consequential damage and perceived threat to personal well-being. We are constantly reminded by the media and statistics what is happening in other, particularly, larger communities. It can be assumed that a majority do not want those trends to prevail in Vernonia. So what are the answers?

A companion question becomes, why are we

witnessing a growing problem in this regard. The answers typically provided by the professionals and experts are many:

- parents are over-extended in attempting to earn a living;
- the schools no longer provide discipline or direction to youth regarding conduct;
- parents are prevented from disciplining their children by concerns about authoritative intervention;
- kids are being taught that attention to parental guidance and authority is not necessary;
- kids have lost all respect for adults and are not accountable;
- kids are given too much and have no values.

The list goes on and weaves a very complex tale. Facts become blurred. Issues of rights and liability consequence seem to outweigh practical considerations. As an example, the school system has responded to the constant threat of legal consequence by putting in place administrative rules that seemingly limit their role in the area of discipline, compared to what many of us recall. I vividly remember "the strap" being used on wayward kids in my community school, late 40's vintage.

Without doubt, "things" have drastically changed since then. What has not changed is the need to find time for the kids, whether as a parent or a member of the community. Children learn both principles and practices from their parents and the rest of us. Somehow we need to find the time for nurturing the "adults of the future." Our modern society has us "running

Please see page 13

Letters to the Editor

Replace me with Hopson, Josi says

To the Editor:

I want to publicly state my support for Elaine Hopson to assume the seat I am leaving as Representative of House District #2. Elaine has been an active part of our community as both the superintendent of schools and as a member of numerous community organizations and activities. During her more than thirty years in Oregon, she has lived in rural areas and has always contributed to the community. In Detroit and Idanha, she owned and operated two grocery stores while teaching school. Both businesses were successful and served the needs of the logging community where she was raising her family.

Elaine's experience as a hard worker in both the private and public sector has given her a broad basis for entering into the political arena to represent our needs and us. She is honest, truthful, and willing to make the tough call in order to do what is needed. I urge you to vote for Elaine — she has a vision and will work toward our goals.

Sincerely,
Tim Josi
State Representative
District 2

Seniors need to write in Mike Sykes

To the Editor:

As a senior citizen, I am very concerned about senior services in Columbia County and that is why I will be casting my vote for Michael Sykes as County Commissioner. Mike has always been a strong advocate for seniors because of his genuine concern for them.

Mike supported seniors in 1992 when the county Budget Officer tried to eliminate county funds for COLCO and the meal programs. Sykes was instrumental in protecting these vital resources for the seniors of Columbia County. COLCO and the meal programs are a lifeline for many seniors in our community and they must continue. We need Michael Sykes back in office to ensure that senior services are protected. I urge you to write in "Michael Sykes" for County Commissioner.

Pat O'Mara
St. Helens

Urges support for county jail bonds

To the Editor:

Columbia County needs a new jail! I do not often support tax increases nor do I like to see criminals pampered, but I feel we need to do something in Columbia County now. During the first six months of this year three hundred criminals were either released from our

present small jail or were not lodged at all because there was no room in the jail.

A small tax of thirty-eight dollars per year on a one hundred thousand dollar house will allow our county to build a larger jail so that criminals can go to jail when arrested or sentenced, which should help to keep our county safe. Please vote yes for our Columbia County jail.

Sincerely,
Bobby Jo Brusco-Harding
Rainier

Income needed from family tree farm

To the Editor:

My mom and dad purchased a forty acre farm in Columbia County in 1948. We tried to clear the land for pasture and strawberries, but the Douglas Fir trees kept coming back on about 15 acres, so we gave up and let them grow.

In the early 50s we sold several truck loads of Christmas trees. This was the first cash we received from our trees. We didn't do much with that fifteen acres except use it for pasture for the cows and cut firewood from trees that died.

In 1973 or '74 my dad retired from working in the mill. We did a selective cutting to buy a new Ford tractor and equipment to go with it. A few years later there was some blowdown—not enough for a truckload—so the folks had a man with a sawmill come in and saw the logs into boards for a shop building.

In the 80s when they needed extra money, they cut a few trees. In 1991 we had a few acres of blowdown so we clearcut about four acres. My dad passed away in 1996 and Mom had to clearcut a few more acres last year. Now the trees she has left have been planned as part of her income for her old age.

If Measure 64 passes she won't be able to cut any more trees to help with her expenses. PLEASE VOTE NO ON 64.

Tom Budge
Vernonia

Vote again for needed 9-1-1 improvements

To the Editor:

As many of you know, Columbia 9-1-1 is in the midst of a crisis. We are trying to survive on outdated equipment and our resources are dwindling. So we called upon the voters of Columbia County for help.

Measure 5-43, which would have provided Columbia 9-1-1 with much needed additional funding, received 57 percent Yes votes in September's election. Yet, despite this resounding support, we fell 1,040 ballots short of the 50 percent turnout required for that election, and the result was declared invalid.

That is why Columbia 9-1-1
Please see page 13