

## Community

### History, Past and Future

By Robb Wilson

I find it interesting to think about the people who were born in the 1800s and are still living today. With the start of a New year and New decade and New century and New millennium, those folks have accomplished a rare feat.

This past fall a friend of mine passed away who had seen his 100th birthday in April. Wally Noakes was one I thought (or hoped) could have lived in parts of three different centuries and two millenniums! Sad to say that he didn't make it.

It was sad to see, too, that the oldest living person in the U.S. passed away a few days before the arrival of the 2000s. Who would have thought that, in a few days, she would have had the distinction of living in three different centuries!?! With all of the interviews, excitement and hoop-a-la going on for her, it must have just been too much.

Cemeteries on the west coast probably don't have tombstones that skip a whole century, but I'd imagine that on the east coast and Europe there are grave markers for a few people who might have lived through an entire century. Not just during the past 1900s, either!

I don't need to feel bad about someone not making it, when of course there are a reported 72,000 people living in the U.S. over the age of 100, so a large number of folks have made that mark of living in three centuries. I just wish I knew someone who has; they must have some mighty interesting things to say. The Saturday *Oregonian* has an interview with such a person, Peggy Goetze, who lives in Beaverton and who had a wonderful life.

One man from here who passed away a few years ago was, I believe, the last person born in the United States in the 1800s. He was born on Dec. 31, 1899, in a log cabin close to town, and told me that he was born late in the day, just missing the new century!

He never claimed or thought about that pos-

sibility that I know of, but I figured (after his passing) that because Oregon is, and Vernonia was about as far west that you could get in the U.S. at that time (Alaska and Hawaii weren't states yet) and as late in the day (time zones had been established in the U.S. in 1883) as it was, that he could have been the last American to be born in the 1800s!

The population of the U.S. in 1900 was 76 million people; today it is slightly above 275 million, with a baby born every 8 seconds — that's seven a minute. A hundred years ago, I'm not sure how many babies were born per minute.

Baby Katie was the first Oregon baby born. She arrived in Portland at 12:01 a.m. for all those "new" titles, one minute later a baby boy, Andy, was born in another hospital. Both sets of parents claimed they were not trying for a record book entry as so many other couples have, according to the television news stations.

But a baby, in Washington state claims the right as first in our time zone, being born at 2 seconds into the new calendar year!

I think the most unique birth is of the twins born to a Washington State couple; one of the boys was born before midnight Dec. 31, 1999, and his brother was born a little while later on Jan. 1, 2000. That ought to add much confusion to their paperwork!

The little baby born 'first' in this time zone couldn't be first for all of those 'new' titles. That would have to be someone born in New Zealand or on some South Sea island paradise where the international dateline begins. But I haven't heard mention or seen anything about that child.

Did we have any "New Year" babies born around here for one of those "new" and "first" titles? As of this writing, I haven't been made aware of any. But, there was a baby boy born on New Year's Eve at 11:48 pm. Now, there's a candidate for the "three centuries award." Look out 2100, here he comes!

## Local infant is last born at Tuality in 20th century

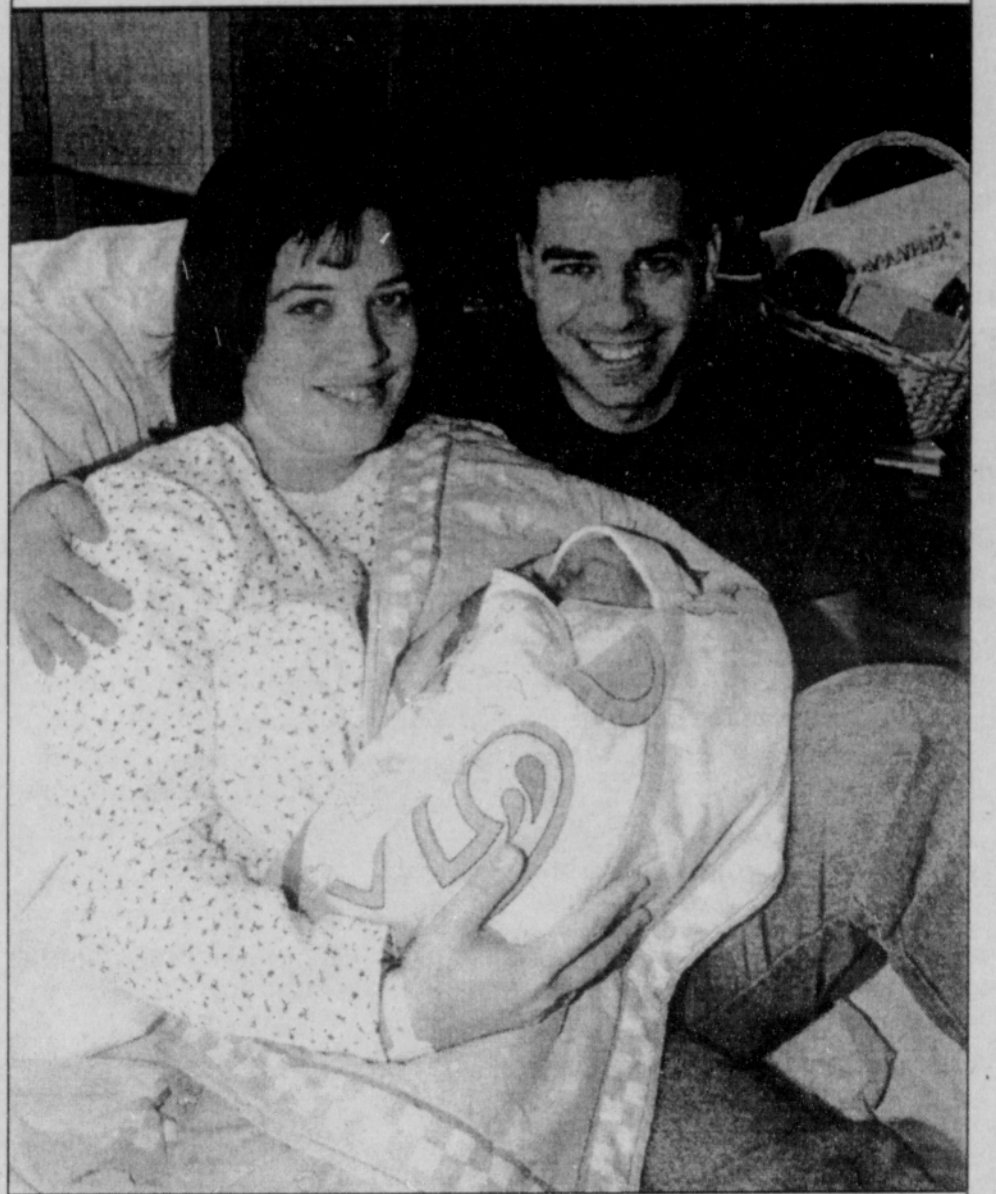


Photo by Chester Epperson, *The Argus*

Jonathan Vincent is unconcerned about being the last baby born at Tuality Hospital in this century. The son of Stephanie and Shawn Vincent, of Vernonia, arrived Dec. 31, 1999, at 11:48 p.m. He weighed six pounds, 11 ounces and was 20.25 inches long. He will join a brother, Josiah, and sister, Amberlee, at the family home.

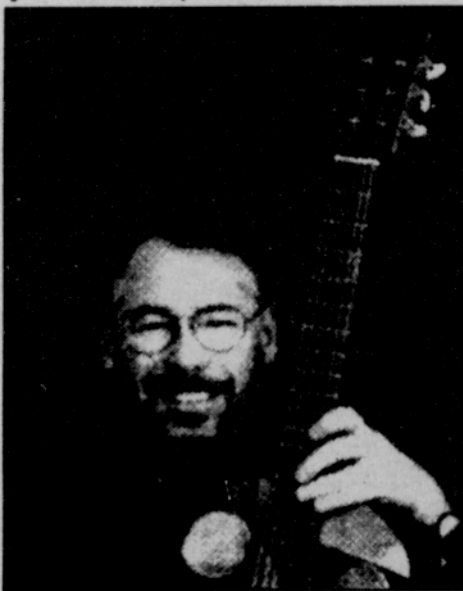
## Guitar concert scheduled Sunday at Vernonia Community Church

John Standefer, a professional guitarist for over 30 years, will perform in concert

at 957 State Avenue. Admission is free.

Standefer, who has recorded as a studio musician on over a hundred record projects, appears weekly on the 'Heart of Praise' radio broadcasts, writes for *Fingerstyle Guitar Magazine* and the *Christian Musician's Institute*, and is author of the Mel Bay book and CD set "Gospel Cookin'."

He travels throughout the U.S. and Canada instructing Christian guitarists through his Praise Guitar Workshops. John's playing style is quite varied. He plays Chet Atkins style, Jazz, Pop, Folk and Brazilian music.



Sunday, January 9 at 6:00 p.m., at Vernonia Community Church. The church is located

## Senior News

By Patricia Olson

Have you been in to see all the new changes at the Vernonia Senior Center? The most noticeable is the new floor in the big main room. In the future, there will be a covering, possibly carpet. At this time it is plywood. No so pretty, but warmer, and more durable.

While we were at it, the entire inside got re-arranged. The Thrift Store can now function smoothly without interfering with the production of the paper rolling.

Speaking of paper rolling, we could really use some more volunteers to sort paper. It is the source of funds that keeps COLCO up and running.

We had a full house for our annual Christmas Dinner. Our new cook, Linda Miller outdid herself, in fact, she was sick for a week after. Come to think of it, we have seen a lot of absenteeism lately. Lots of colds, flu and bronchitis.

Two of our seniors had heart

### Volunteers needed

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attacks on Christmas day. Gerald Russell, past chairman of our Center, is in Tuality Hospital since having his attack. Walter Self had open heart surgery to repair damages from his heart attack the same day as Gerald's. Our prayers and wishes are that both have a speedy recovery.

Several seniors went to McMinnville on COLCO for a shopping outing. Also, a vanload went out a few nights before Christmas to see the lights. I have not heard of any outings planned in the near future.

Jacqueline Ramsay has a couple of crochet students and has room for more to learn or improve skills in knitting and crocheting. The quilting ladies are very lonely. Please drop by and see the beautiful quilt they

have in the frame now.

During the holiday season, the game tables were empty, as we were closed both Thursdays, but they will be up and running next Thursday afternoon. Come by for a few hands of cards or any other game you fancy.

Stop by for a hearty lunch or just to read, chat or watch TV. You are always welcome. The business meeting is the first Friday of each month and is open to anyone who wishes to sit in. The only restriction is that only the Board actually votes on issues.

Thanks to all of you generous people, this has been a successful, happy year. We look forward to another year of fellowship, friendship and service to our friends and community. Happy 2000!!!

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