

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia City Library

It is still so absolutely wonderful to come to work each day in the new library. Library patrons are continually commenting on the space, openness, and attractiveness of the building and its furnishings. Meetings and demonstrations are being held in the Margaret Thiele Petti Room (Tracy Fletcher demonstrated rubber stamping at the February 9th meeting of Arts and Crafts). Free computer classes are being held on a regular basis. Cheri Califf and Marge Dunay answer questions and oversee "hands on" solutions to computer problems on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month from 2 until 4 pm, and LV Schoonover volunteers his time to conduct similar classes on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of each month from 7 until 9 pm. If you have questions about computers or have skills to share, you are invited to join these sessions that are open to the public. Youngsters may be found many afternoons and evenings doing their homework at one of the tables or even on cushions on the floor or using the computers for interactive educational games or for reference materials from the CD encyclopedias. These are some of the activities that have become possible in the new building and are in addition to the regular Wednesday morning pre-school story time and of course, there is now space for the popular summer reading programs. If you aren't presently using the library, why not give it a try? As one recent new patron commented, she has found herself "hooked on the library."

Be sure and take particular notice of the beautiful, handmade dolls depicting Tom Sawyer, Huck Finn, and Becky Thatcher. These have been generously loaned to the library by their creator, Barbara Corl. Vernonia's abundance of talented citizens continues to amaze me and it is such a pleasure to have their creations on display in the library for others to enjoy.

Just added for your pleasure are three beautiful watercolors, painted and loaned to us by Dixie Polvorosa. Be sure to notice these on your next visit.

Two outstanding selections of books have recently been donated to the library. Made possi-

ble by Councilor Cindy Ball, these are from R.R. Donnelley & Sons Company. One collection emphasizes the diversity of American cultures and is intended for youngsters and young adults. This collection celebrates Black, Jewish, Chinese, Hungarian, and Mexican cultures in these beautifully illustrated and well written works of fiction. The other collection is a series of true accounts of such people as Wm. S. Hart (his movie roles in the early 1900s), Edward Rickenbacker (his aerial combat during Ward War I), Tom Horn (his adventures as a rodeo champion, hired gun and Pinkerton agent and murderer), and Fanny Kelly (her captivity among the Sioux Indians). This is a wonderful series calling attention to persons and events from the past of which you may have heard, but cannot recall specifics.

Another selection of books to watch for has been donated by Glenda Jones. This features mostly Oregon authors (with a few from other sites in the Northwest) and contains both fiction and non-fiction material. Only a few of these have been processed to date, but they are being placed in a section specially designated for works by writers from our locality (the Pacific Northwest). Be sure to watch this area as it is filled with these books.

Of course, new items have been purchased recently, too. These include John Grisham's *The Brethren*; Lillian Jackson Braun's *The Cat Who Robbed a Bank*; Nevada Barr's *Firestorm*, and Steve Martini's *The Attorney*. New audio tapes recently purchased include *Rainbow Six* by Tom Clancy, *The Hammer of Eden* by Ken Follett, and *Brian's Winter* and *Brian's Return* by Gary Paulsen.

As you can tell, the library is a very busy place, with activities and with new items being processed and added for your reading, listening and viewing pleasure. Come on in and get "hooked on the library."

Yes, we do have tax forms.

Vernonia Library 701 Weed Avenue
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m.-5 p.m.
Tues., Thur. 2 p.m.-7 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
Preschool Story Time, Weds, 10:30 a.m.
Phone: (503) 429-1818

Letters to the Editor

Don't eliminate truck "splash" guards

To the Editor:

If you hate to be doused by splash and spray while following or trying to pass truck and trailer rigs, or even triple trailer rigs on Oregon's wet highways now, just wait, it could get worse, much worse.

The Oregon trucking industry as represented by the Forest Products Transportation Association and the Oregon Truckers Association have asked the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to repeal the rule that requires "splash and spray" devices on all big trucks. A hearing officer has recommended that ODOT accept the proposal of the trucking industry. The Oregon Transportation Commission will consider the recommendation in March.

The truckers cite a federal study that finds such devices of little safety value and are merely a costly nuisance. I don't think that study was conducted in Oregon!

AAA Oregon/Idaho opposes the stand of the trucking industry and wants splash and spray suppressant devices on all trucks. AAA asked ODOT to deny the truckers' request to repeal the rule.

I think it's obvious to all of us living in Western Oregon that anything that can reduce splash and spray is a plus for our driving safety. The only way we can make our concerns known is to contact the Oregon Transportation Commission, 135 Transportation Bldg., Salem, OR 97310. Also contact Senator Joan Dukes, Oregon State Capitol, Room S-318, Salem, OR 97310 and Rep. Elaine Hopson, Oregon State Capitol, Salem, OR 97310.

Remember, the decision will probably be made in March.

Dale Fisher
Vernonia

United Way thanks all those who helped

To the Editor:

United Way of Columbia County has had another fantastically successful campaign. We had a lovely celebration to thank and recognize the many people who helped to make this campaign successful.

We would like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the following businesses for their continued support: Columbia River PUD for the loan of Ken Corliss, who was Division chair for the School Districts in Columbia County and the donation of door prize gifts for the celebration. Clatskanie

PUD for the loan of Debbie Throop, who was Division Chair for Utilities in Columbia County. Western Bank of St. Helens for the loan of Lori Hulbert as Division Chair for Financial. Armstrong World Industries, for supporting the volunteers working on the United Way campaign and donation of office equipment to help maintain our low overhead costs. Boise Cascade, Paper Division and AWPPW #1 as well as Fort James, Wauna Mill and IUPI Local 1097, for the many hours spent by in-house volunteers working on the United Way campaign, the donated paper products that allow us to maintain low overhead costs, and the donation of door prizes for our Celebration Dinner. PGE for the many hours spent by in-house volunteers who worked on the United Way campaign and donation of office space and miscellaneous office supplies. Clark Signs and St. Helens Auto for donation of space on a billboard to hang the United Way banner during our Campaign. Paulson Printing, for donated printing during 1999. Red Apple Market, for being our Campaign Pacesetter and donations of products for the Celebration and Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Time & Again Ballroom for the use of the ballroom for the Volunteer Recognition Celebration. Fred Meyer, Scappoose and Safeway, Clatskanie and St. Helens, for door prizes. Hi School Pharmacy, St. Helens, for door prize items. Express Lane Espresso for their donation of labor and products during the Volunteer Recognition Celebration and raffle prize. Bertucci's, St. Helens for their donation of door prizes and raffle prize. Green Mountain Floral & Gift (Kalama), Barnstormer Bed & Breakfast, Oregon Meat Co. (Scappoose), St. Helens Book Shop, Flower & Fluff (Clatskanie), Fultano's Pizza, Humps Restaurant, Chinook Sales & Rentals, Vernonia Golf Course, Vernonia Inn Bed & Breakfast, and Shilo Inn (Seaside), for the donation of raffle items.

To all the United Way member agency staff who took time from their busy schedules to make presentations during our campaign. Thank you! We couldn't have done it without all of you.

Our campaign slogan, "Neighbors Helping Neighbors. It is working in our community" is very true.

Cliff Tetreault, Sup't.
St. Helens School District
Earl Fisher, Sup't.
Clatskanie 6J School District
Year 2000 Campaign
Co-Chairs

Users know dangers of hillside path



JUDY HILL/THE INDEPENDENT

Among the many people who must use the walk along Hwy. 47 are many school children. Sixth graders Sam Thornton, left, and Randy Normand agree that the trucks are "...scary, it feels like they might roll" over.

A frequent complaint of people who use the path along Hwy. 47 is that the traffic goes "way over 20 miles per hour" in the school zone. Winter is the worst time, according to some, when it gets icy and slippery. "I fell more than once," said a student. An employee at Washington Grade School complained that, with only one

street light on the hill, it is even more dangerous on dark and icy winter mornings.

The path is bumpy and narrow, it slopes and drops off steeply and, to make it even more difficult to negotiate, there is no sidewalk at the top or the bottom of the hill. The bottom is a special concern because the hole for a drainage

basin goes right to the shoulder of the highway and it's almost impossible to avoid the road.

One mother is concerned about the amount of exhaust fumes her children must inhale on their way to and from school, because cars and trucks are only a few feet away and there is no other way around the hill.

POLICY ON LETTERS

The INDEPENDENT welcomes readers' letters and will publish as many as possible. All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address and telephone number, although the address and phone number will not be printed except at the writer's request. The INDEPENDENT reserves the right to edit submissions for brevity or clarity.