

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

With the recent arrival of the server and the software for the library's automation program, the process of installation and networking is now taking place. Early in May, a technical representative for the software, Athena, will be here to conduct a training session. Since we are planning to enter all (or at least most) of the library's materials into the program ourselves, competent volunteers will be utilized as much as possible. Anyone interested in helping with this procedure is encouraged to contact me at the library to obtain more information.

Those of us who have seen the sample program are very pleased and excited about implementing it in the library. When all of the library materials, patron information and record keeping information have been input, the library will be able to function much more efficiently. Until this process is completed (and it's probably going to take the better part of a year) check out will be done either by hand or by scanning. Bear with us. This may be confusing for awhile, but, when completed, we think you will love it. The patron search is very attractive and easy to use and staff will be pleased to demonstrate or help if desired.

The library continues to be the recipient of wonderful gifts. These include a beautiful clock, hand-painted on a saw and donated by John Ricker. Be sure to notice this welcome addition on your next visit to the library. You will find it located on the wall in the meeting room. Carol Brown continues to donate some really nice mysteries on a regular basis. This is a lady who really knows her mysteries, especially those written by women, and her donations add greatly to that section of the library. Vernonia's Chapter of P.E.O. recognized the value of audio tapes to library patrons, including commuters and young adults, and donated toward the purchase of several new audio tapes.

Five more blue chairs for the meeting room have been generously donated by the Vernonia Study Club. The Study Club has supported the library from its beginning, with monetary donations for projects and materials and by placing books in the library in memory of former Study Club members. Until recent years, Silver Teas were regularly hosted by the Study Club, with donations received during these events to benefit the library. This is an event that will be revived during the month of May when the Vernonia Study Club will once again host a Silver Tea in the library. Coffee, punch, and cookies will be served by members of the organization and if

anyone would like to make a donation to The Study Club during this time, the organization will determine a library need and contribute to that need. More information about this upcoming Tea will be available shortly.

The most recent additions to the library came from Mary Ann Shaw. She has given her extra, repotted houseplants to the library to use in whatever way we wish. You will find that some of these are for sale, but most are being used to add to the ambiance of the library. These additions to the library are all appreciated very much. It is so wonderful to see Vernonia's citizens continue to support the library through donations, services and usage.

The two books I would like to recommend this month both deal with political intrigue, but in very different settings and situations. The first, *Saving Faith*, by David Baldacci, takes place near Washington, D.C., and pits the power of the CIA against the FBI, a powerful lobbyist and his assistant (Faith Lockhart), and a local private investigator named Lee Adams. When Faith prepares to tell the FBI everything she knows about the lobbyist, she becomes the target of an assassin. Lee is at the scene when the hit man pulls the trigger and kills the wrong victim. Faith and Lee find themselves targets of a relentless pursuit, as both the FBI and a killer search for them. This is a suspenseful tale of power gone mad in Washington, and of one woman's desperate attempt to break out of a web of corruption and terror that reaches farther than even she can know.

The second novel, *Black Mountain*, by Les Standiford, takes place in the wilderness of Wyoming. When New York City subway cop Richard Corrigan saves the life of the state's governor, the undeclared presidential candidate decides to add him to a group taking a long-planned wilderness trip for good luck and publicity. Strange things begin to happen as soon as they are underway. As small mishaps escalate into major disasters, and one by one, the members of the expedition disappear or die, Corrigan realizes it is up to him to fight back or there'll be no one left. The question is—what is he fighting and whom? It's up to Corrigan to find out, and the answer, when it comes, will be a shock. It may also be too late...

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, Mondays, 10:30 a.m.
Phone: (503) 429-1818

Letters to the Editor

Postmaster seeking old photos of Timber

To the Editor:

As Postmaster of Timber and an Armchair Historian, I wish to express my appreciation to everyone in the area who has contributed to my historical lobby display at the Timber Post Office. I began this project last September when I first learned about the PR&N Railroad, and Timber's relationship with the railroad. I must say, my photo collection has grown to an impressive size. Large enough, I'm confident, to cause you to hang around a full 10 minutes!

Although the community of Timber is not the busy rail town it once was, the stories I'm getting of days gone by prove this was a hugely successful, money-making place. It looks like the adjoining rail towns were also quite busy. I have one photo of the railroad station at Salmonberry, where a WWI MP is guarding a load of Spruce lumber destined for a WWI plane manufacturer. Amazing!

Thank you Edmund Gravelle and Andy Wieland, Timber residents, for being so helpful and just as enthusiastic. Also, thank you to the Vernonia Historical Museum for providing such a fine example of historical memorabilia for me to emulate (on a smaller scale!).

If I may, I'd like to ask if any citizens have any photos of the Timber Post Office between, probably, 1900 and 1939. I have photos of when it was a combination store and Post Office with a picket fence around the facility. After that period, I'm not sure. I have 1940 photos, when it was in the present building, but minus the pitched roof and veranda.

Another request is for information anyone might have about an old, unregistered cemetery located 1/2 mile up Timber Road beyond the Post Office, on the right, near the old Army Trail Road. There are about 12 folks buried there, the last burial being a Mr. John Bros in 1919. That area is set to be logged this year, and we are anxious to locate the cemetery beforehand. If you have any information, please stop by the Post Office.

Lastly, I'd like to invite everyone interested in the display to drive on up! My latest addition is a gorgeous photo of the Timber Class of 1935 and 1936. I even have their names.

Remember, I have all the postal services you require so don't forget to bring your mail. And I still serve Starbucks coffee UNLIKE the Vernonia Post Office!

Debby Sargent Goforth,
Postmaster
Timber Post Office

Join us for feeling of accomplishment

To the Editor:

Once a year our caring community bands together for a few hours, where many hands complete an amazing amount of tasks which would take a few forever to do. This year, Saturday, April 29th, is when we'll 'Make Vernonia Shine' during Earth Day/ Clean-up 2000. If you have ever wondered how a few hours of your time could make a difference, this is your opportunity to find out. We'll gather at the Vernonia Health Center Building starting at 9:00 a.m. The feeling of camaraderie and accomplishment is absolutely great!

Vernonia Pride

Dog owner seeks help with training

To The Editor and to all my good friends and neighbors on Lone Pine Rd:

This is a letter of apology, and a plea for help. I'd like to start off by saying I'm extremely sorry for the behavior of my Australian Shepherd pup.

I'm aware of his obsession with spinning wheels and tires and his chasing and barking at vehicles that drive by. I try to deal with him immediately when I catch him in action (that's the secret), but I'm not always there to catch him, you are, though!

If any of you find yourself being chased and barked at by him, and you have a minute to spare, could you immediately stop and aggressively and firmly scold him? This needs to be repeated every time to be effective. He needs to associate his bad behavior with a consequence (consistently).

I would like you to know that you can come to me with any complaint that would concern my children, pets, etc. I would never be upset with you. I'm the type that would bend over backwards to right a wrong. All that I ask is that you would be up-front and honest, because that is what you can always expect from me. I am so sorry if you feel I am an unapproachable person. I try to be a thoughtful, kind neighbor.

I'm not going to give up on my Aussie, he is not at all vicious (his bark makes him seem that way), and he has so much potential. He is only 9-1/2 months old, and with a little more training and help from all of you he chases, he can become a well-behaved and well-liked member of the families on Lone Pine.

Thank You!

Kathy Dalebroux
Vernonia

Letters to the Editor:

Baskets are gone, reward is in place

To the Editor:

They're Gone! All the baskets on the Rock Creek bridge have been taken! These baskets were purchased by community fund raisers (your dollars) and tended to by caring volunteers. Isn't it a shame that something which brought enjoyment to so many would be spoiled by one or two.

The Vandalism Reward of

\$100.00 is still in effect. If you have any information, please let us hear from you.

Contact the Vernonia Police Department or call 429-1204.

Vernonia Pride

Thanks for choir's magnificent efforts

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Vernonia community, I would like to personally thank the Vernonia

Community Choir for presenting their production, "I Choose Jesus." I was privileged to see all three performances, and was deeply touched each time. The first two performances had some minor difficulties, which through persistence yielded a magnificent performance Sunday afternoon.

More than 500 people were able to experience the life-changing power of one man, Jesus Christ, because we live in a community where the churches and schools are willing to work together to provide wholesome and uplifting events that bring us all together. Vernonians have proven that we are a community that works together for the mutual benefit of all our friends and neighbors.

Thank you once again to the Community Choir and our local schools for making Vernonia a place we can all be proud to call home.

Pastor Grant Williams
Vernonia Community Church

Ike Says . . .

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back up, but this time I didn't quite make it, and I can tell you it is a very weird feeling when you realize that you're going under and your paddle is stuck two feet under the surface of the water. I'm sure that once I can quit freezing up at these moments of truth, I will be able to recover with a quick scull stroke, until then, oh that water is cold! The experience did give me an opportunity to prac-

tice my cowboy scramble, and I managed to again pull it off successfully.

Get out and explore our great outdoors. There is much adventure to be had in our own back yard.

Izaak Walton League
meetings are on the third Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m. The public is welcome. For meeting location, call (503) 429-7193.

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.