

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

Yes, the library is open!! The new sidewalk has been completed and within the next two weeks, Weed Avenue will be paved and more parking will be available. Until then, please continue to do the best you can when searching for parking space and try to look to the near future when once again library parking will be easily accessed.

The last month has been an interesting and exciting time during which the library automation process was initiated. The period from May 15 until June 15 saw ten different volunteers working 60 hours to input library materials for a total of 1,406 entries. If these volunteers had been paid minimum wage, their efforts would have amounted to \$390.00, or if we had paid to have these same items converted by a retrospective conversion company, the cost would have been \$694.88. Isn't that impressive? Not only are the volunteers enjoying themselves while using the new program, they are becoming more familiar with the workings of the library and are saving the City money in the process. An ongoing account of volunteer time, items entered and money saved will be included in this article each month. Additional volunteers will be accepted at any time during the automation process, which will be taking place for several months. Since a complete inventory of library materials has never been done, it has been estimated that library materials total 10,000, so completion time of eight to nine months is a conservative estimate for this process.

The Silver Tea, sponsored by the Vernonia Study Club in May has been proclaimed a success. The ladies decorated the Margaret Thiele Petti Meeting Room and the library entry with beautiful flower arrangements, provided delicious cookies and punch, proved to be excellent hostesses, and collected a substantial sum of donations from those attending. It has been decided that these donations will be used to purchase a laminator for the library. This item will be used to laminate patron library cards and other library objects in need of preserving and will be available to laminate items for the public (A charge will be determined for this service based on the cost of laminating supplies).

Those of us privileged to know her were saddened to hear that shortly after her move to Forest Grove, Edna Hailey's husband, John, passed away. Edna, a longtime Vernonia resi-

dent and library patron, has given a donation to purchase a plant in memory of John. Soon a suitable plant will be chosen and this plant will visibly remind us of the friendship and generosity of John and Edna Hailey.

Mark your calendars for this summer's fun at the library — Summer Reading 2000, Ticket to Tomorrow. Each of these sessions will be held on Wednesday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. *Blast Off* with us on June 28 with songs led by Toni, crafts demonstrated by Jaki, and stories told by Orissa. July 5 and 25 will be similar delightful sessions featuring "space" themes. Special presentations will be July 19 with Anne-Louise Sterry entertaining with her folk stories and songs, "Simply Songs and Stories." Story teller Tom McCormack will be entertaining August 2. McCormack will be using his flute to weave song segments throughout his stories featuring a variety of themes. The Oregon Library Association's Summer Reading Program Fund is paying for his appearance. Other funding for Summer Reading 2000 comes from the City of Vernonia and the remainder of the help is made possible by volunteers. Because studies reveal that children who read during the summer are better prepared for school than those who don't, reading is heartily encouraged as part of this year's program. The reading of at least 10 books during the summer is encouraged for all participating youngsters. The Oregon State Fair is once again providing five pairs of children's tickets for local libraries to give away during the summer reading program. These will be awarded during a drawing for those who have attended at least three of the presentations and have read at least 10 books. There will once again be drawings each week for T-shirts with the summer reading logo. There is no admission for these summer programs and all children are invited.

New books include *After the Fire* by Belva Plain, *Cradle and All* by James Patterson, *Angel Falls*, by Kristen Hannah, and *Wild Life*, by Molly Gloss. New purchases for youngsters are on the topic of (you guessed it!) space!

One more wonderful thing to mention about the library this summer...it's cool!

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:

Parade and fireworks for Fourth of July

To the Editor:

Plans are moving ahead for the 4th of July fireworks display in Vernonia. Donations for the fireworks have been coming in. Thank you.

The Vernonia Booster Club will have their usual concession stand, and Shelly Clines plans on having her Scouts there with their stand.

The parade will be forming at Weed Avenue at 7:00 p.m. Starting time is at 7:30 p.m., following Bridge Street through town to Washington Grade School. We could use some volunteers to help with the parade line-up.

Fireworks will begin at dusk. See you there.

Enid Parrow
Vernonia Pride

Vernonia? Oregon? Must be a misprint

To the Editor:

It is almost two years ago since the day I decided that I wanted to be an exchange student. I did everything I was supposed to, and then a letter came from my host parents. They were writing from Oregon. Oregon? I didn't have any idea where it was. And Vernonia? I looked and looked on the map, but couldn't find it. When I saw in the letter that my new school had 250 kids, I thought it was a misprint and it was supposed to be 2,500. And the weather? Rain almost all year long. I was horrified. I had (in my mind) sunny cities in California, huge schools and rich people in expensive cars when someone said "America."

I just pictured myself going everywhere with an umbrella and then gradually turning into a frog. My friends were saying that everything would be fine, then laughing really hard, since they knew how much I "loved" small towns and rain.

In August I got here, and Vernonia still seemed very small. Then the school year started and I got to know all the different people in this small but very friendly community. The kids in school were very nice to me and teachers helped me a lot too. Everything was so different from what I was used to, but I liked it. I was also surprised at how the whole community was helping to support kids in sports or different fundraisers. I thought it was great. I was able to earn almost all of the money for the senior trip in different fundraisers. For this, I would like to say "thanks"

Larry Doppke
Vernonia Lions

Students remain at the center of plans

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support school programs. This design supports programs while focusing on the student as the most important element. The Site Councils at WGS and VHS have been instrumental in the development of the plans. They will continue to play a central role in monitoring

the implementation of the SIF at each school. These groups meet once a month during the school year and encourage you to attend if you are interested in watching the DIP unfold.

The DIP is available in the school district office.

to all the people that supported and helped us. There were also people that helped me with my senior project, like Judy Gingrich and Shelly Clines. There's still a lot of people who helped me through the year that I can't think of now.

My biggest "thank you" belongs to my new American family, to my American parents, Don and Nona Skinner, that found a place for me in their hearts and I love them very much for everything they are.

After almost 10 months here, Vernonia became my second home, and now I can find it on the map, too. I didn't turn into a frog, and I got used to this small town. I will leave in about a month, but Vernonia will stay in my mind and heart forever.

Yours Sincerely,
Elena Majbova
ASSE Exchange Student
from Slovakia, 1999-2000

Found a home in the middle of nowhere

To the Editor:

When I first came to Vernonia, a small town in the middle of nowhere, I never thought that I would like to stay longer after the year.

Now, after I spent over 10 months in this small town, I don't even want to leave anymore. Vernonia is my second home. I met so many nice people and found so many new friends.

Even though I didn't do any sports before, I participated in cross country, basketball and track and field. A big surprise was that we were supported by the community in almost everything we did, for example, the fundraisers for our senior trip, and all the sports events we had during the year. I have never heard so many people cheering for us during a basketball game.

A big "thank you" belongs to my host parents, Don and Nona Skinner and my sister Elena, to Cathy Ward and family, to Michelle and Tony Gilbertson, the Buxton family and all my friends, everybody in the school and community.

This was the first time that I had a sister in my life, and I have to say that I really enjoyed Elena as a sister. Elena Majbova was another exchange student from Slovakia staying with the Skinners.

Vernonia has its own spot in my heart, and it will stay there forever.

Johanna (Hanna) Seidel
ASSE Exchange Student
from Germany, 1999-2000

Letters to the Editor

From page 2

Homecoming week and much more, without your support, we wouldn't have had this great experience and memories that we will never forget.

Now it is time for us exchange students to say goodbye to Vernonia and to go back home, but I think I speak for every single one of us when I say that this year was a great experience and a time we will never forget! Vernonia became my second home, and that won't change.

I want to give a special thanks to my host family, my mom Candace, my dad Kevin Sr., my sister Nicole and my brother Kevin Swayze, Jr. I can't put into words how much they mean to me. I thank them so much for everything they did for me.

Also, I want to thank Bridget Titus and her family, Kirsten Hyde and family, Colin Plews, Kristin Francis, Shawn Robertson, Lori and Jim Walters, Jason Busch, Brad Bricker and his family, Casey Weller, the Skinner family, Elena Majbova, Erica Hobart and Woody Buxton.

Thanks to all of you for always being there for me and for making this year an unforgettable experience.

I will miss you so very much!

Goodbye and
Auf Wiedersehen,

Anja Miltzer
German exchange student,
1999-2000

Helen Keller award goes to G. Russell

To the Editor:

On June 6, 2000, the Vernonia Lions Club had their annual dinner at the New Hong Kong restaurant in Vernonia. The food and service were excellent. This is a time when spouses are invited.

The roster of new officers was read and many awards were given out. One of the highlights of the evening was when President Ray Allen presented Gerald Russell with the Helen Keller award. The plaque inscription reads:

"Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaid-

ed?"...Helen Keller

This is the second award Gerald Russell has received this year. The Vernonia Lions Club presented Gerald with a plaque "In sincere appreciation and recognition of distinguished service. Loyalty and devotion to the object and furtherance of Lionism Vernonia Lions 1963-1999."

The award was given to Gerald for the 36 years of faithful service he gave freely to our club.

It's people like Gerald Russell who are the backbone of any organization, it's people like Gerald Russell that send out a beacon to light and guide us on our path to the future.

Larry Doppke
Vernonia Lions