

Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library

"You have to suffer to have fun," has become a joke about a way of life in our family, since my husband first said it to our children as they were complaining about all the work associated with preparations for a camping trip years ago. It seems that everything worth having or doing takes effort and inconvenience before it becomes reality. This can be said about the paving of Weed Avenue and the accompanying sidewalk construction. With its completion, we can now have "fun" or at least have easy and improved access to the library and its parking. Thanks for bearing with this inconvenience during the past month.

Summer Reading is in full swing. Two dozen youngsters and their accompanying adult supervisors have enjoyed the space stories and crafts as we celebrate "Ticket to Tomorrow." Wednesday, July 19th, and Wednesday, August 2nd, there will be two special presentations with storytellers Anne-Louise Sterry and Tom McCormick, respectively. Tom McCormick's afternoon of fun will be paid for with a grant from the Oregon Library Association. July 2nd will be the last of the craft, story sessions. We will be making space helmets and celebrating with traditional "float" fun. You and your children are welcome to join us for this summer fun at 3 p.m. in the library.

Progress has been a little slower on the automation of library materials, with vacations taking precedence for some of the volunteers and for me. (Can you imagine that vacations are that important?) To date, a total of 2,283 items have been entered in the computer and a total of 75 volunteer hours have been spent on the process. This represents savings of \$1095.00 if the items had been sent to a company to be converted, or \$487.50 if minimum wage had been paid for these hours worked. The process is becoming slower, also, because some items are harder to find and to catalog properly, and because a general weeding and repair of materials is taking place. Not only are materials being catalogued from the present collection, but newly purchased items and donations are being processed at the same time. Look on the shelves for these new additions and be sure to use Athena to search the library's collection. Pa-

"ZZZZZZZZxxxxxxxxxeeeeehhhhhpppp-zap!"

Extra-Terrestrials come to Public Library at 701 Weed Avenue in Vernonia.

Wednesday, August 2, 2000, 3 p.m

Master storyteller Tom McCormick will bring aliens to life as he takes the audience on a rollicking adventure! The "storyfella" uses his intergalactic tactics beyond the time/space spectrum. Come & hear the Star-flue open our galaxy to new things. Bring your TICKET-TO-TOMORROW and

Read-Into-The-Future (literally!)

The Sci-Fi hijinks is followed by a futuristic furry-tale, where the kids will learn the Dirt-work song (to the beat of thunder from down-under). This is followed by the rhythmic root-flue as the listeners rock-out to chapter's rapture!

This presentation is made possible by a grant from the Oregon Library Association and is sponsored by the Craig Berkman Family, the Wells Fargo Foundation, Oregon Public Broadcasting and the Washington Mutual Foundation.

trons are being added as they choose items that have been entered in the system and will shortly be issued library cards with personal bar codes. With each new step of the process, excitement increases with the knowledge that, upon completion, checking materials in and out, record keeping, and patron searching will be so much more efficient (and yes, "fun").

When Dana Stabenow's latest Kate Shugak mystery, *Midnight, Come Again*, was acquired and read last month, it became apparent that the story made reference to circumstances of which Vernonia readers knew nothing. This has been remedied with the purchase of *Hunter's Moon*. Be sure to read *Hunter's Moon* first. Stabenow lives in Anchorage, Alaska, and writes not only the Kate Shugak series, but the Liam Campbell mysteries, all of which I highly recommend.

Craig Lesley's new release, *Storm Riders*, is the book that I would recommend this month. It tells of the challenges and tragedies of Clark Woods as he raises his Native American foster son, Wade. Wade, born with fetal alcohol syndrome is not only disabled but also disturbed. Despite doubts concerning Wade's connection

with the drowning of a small girl, as well as the problems Wade causes in Clark's new marriage, Clark vows not to give up and abandon Wade. Lesley brings to life the beauty of Wade's Tlingit Alaskan village, as well as to pockets of the East Coast and the Portland and

Oregon City areas of Oregon. A native of Oregon, Lesley's previous novels, *Winterkill* and *The Sky Fisherman*, are to be found in the library's Oregon section. The library collection had a marvelous beginning with the donation by Glenda Jones. Not everything has been correctly catalogued yet, but do check this section, which will contain selections by Oregon authors and books about Oregon. (The library's computer search contains an Oregon Visual Search button too.) Give it a try.

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:

try Garden, Mike James Horse-shoeing, and West Coast Bank.

The next Ridge Riders meeting will be held July 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the Vernonia Library. For more information, please contact George Bellingham at 429-9523.

Vernonia Ridge Riders

July 4th fun great because of you

To the Editor:

We would like to thank everyone who helped make our 4th of July 2000 a huge success. First of all, thank-you to the weatherman - you didn't rain on our parade! It's always nice to see so many dressed in red, white and blue for the parade. We wish to thank everyone who participated.

A big thank-you to Ray Pelster for putting out the flags along Main Street. Others to thank are Marcie Gwin for preparing the letters to solicit donations, Vernonia Sentry for printing notices advertising the Spaghetti Feed at Lew's, and for donating the treats that were handed out to all participants in the parade. Pat and Darlene Knight for holding the Spaghetti Dinner with all proceeds going to the fireworks fund.

Thank you, also, to Vernonia Fire Chief Paul Epler and the volunteers from the Fire Department, without them we couldn't afford to have a fireworks display. [Pyrotechnician] Kathy Brekken and her crew of volunteers always do such a great job. The ambulance crew and the fire department crew for standing by and being ready to help. Our Vernonia police department for their help in street blocking and making everything run smoothly during the parade.

Have you ever noticed Cub Scout Pack 201, cleaning the school grounds the morning after the parade? They do a great job and deserve a special thank-you. Thank-you to the school district for the use of the grounds.

The donations were great this year. We have a reserve to hold over for next year - who knows - maybe we can have a bigger display in the years to come.

It is great to live in a town where we have so many wonderful volunteers. Last, a thank-you for the help from all of our Vernonia Pride members. See a list of fireworks donors elsewhere in the paper. Once again, a big 4th of July thank-you to everyone

Vernonia Pride
Enid Parrow

Where have all the lawyers gone?

To the Editor:

Where have all the lawyers gone? Where have all the forests gone? Where have all the mountains gone? Where have all the salmon gone? Why

do I stand where our forest was, in clear cuts and clone fir starts as far as the eye can see, with tears in my eyes, all alone.

What once was our watersheds are now vast rapid water delivery systems. Streams and storm sewers for mud and toxic run-off of aerial sprayed poison.

Mountain springs, skunk cabbage marshes and delicate ground cover that keep water pure and clear are crushed by heavy machines, then sprayed to lifeless sterility with the guidance of our state Forestry Department or the "Oregon Department of Mass Destruction" or "Department of Deforestation."

Well-meaning "forestry" students are not taught the science of what native forests have for us to learn, but the junk science of lumberyard forestry and what Wall Street wants them to think.

So standing amidst collapsing mountains, the streams and sea filled with mud, I see where the salmon went. They fell victim to a board of forestry made up of timber company executives; corporate dictators who tell our government what it can and cannot do, and spend our tax money-millions of dollars each year-on propaganda.

A sixth grader could tell you this is a constitutional conflict of interest, but where have all the lawyers gone?

In June alone, ODF auctioned off 50 acres of public forest to be clearcut, closing campgrounds and destroying horse trails largely in slide prone areas sensitive to threatened coho. Clearcutting isn't multiple use, ODF, it is destruction of public property.

Thank you
L.W. Denison
Vernonia

Campuses receive beautification help

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Elementary School Campus Beautification Project took a step toward completion Thursday when a group of moms painted lines for various games on the pavement at Washington Grade School.

The moms names are with the picture on page 1, but also helping were students Stacy and Lindsay Lennen, Kristin Cota and Lindsay Shaw, who baby sat for the moms while they worked.

Generous donations from the following also helped make the project possible: Vernonia Hardware, Western Auto, Meyer's Auto Body, Vernonia Auto Parts, Holce Logging Co., Sword Logging Co., Buckner Land Salvage, Alan Hein Construction and the City of Vernonia.

Future plans include a storage unit for outdoor playground equipment at WGS.

Again, thank you all.

Kirk Sherrill
District Project Coordinator
Kala Cota
Community Coordinator

Letters to the Editor

Mootilda cow has disappeared

To the Editor:

Mootilda is a plywood cow, painted black and white, and stands about 4-1/2 feet tall by about 4-1/2 feet wide. She has large round eyes and a peace sign on her back. Her permanent marker necklace bears her name, "Mootilda."

She was a part of my house and family and has been sitting out in front of my house for the last two years. Sometime between the evening of July 2, and July 4, she disappeared from my fenced yard. Maybe whoever took her thought it would be fun to blow her up for Fourth of July festivities, or thought she would make a cool addition to a fort. I hope the lat-

ter, for it disturbs me to think that she met her demise at the hands of her captor and a firecracker.

What I'd like to tell you about her is that she is about 25 years old. A friend of mine handcrafted Mootilda when he was 10 years old. She acted as a guide to folks visiting his parents' vineyard in Yamhill County. He repainted her a number of times and still couldn't get her eyes right, as they seem to be in a constant state of surprise. The peace sign on her back represents how he felt about the 70s.

While she might just be a plywood cow with strange googly eyes to whoever took her, she's a part of my history, and I'd like her back, whole or in pieces, if that's how she ended up. If you read this and have

her, please return her to my yard. I'm not interested in who took her or why, I just want her back.

Jamie Jones
Vernonia

Poker Ride support really appreciated

To the Editor:

The Vernonia Ridge Riders would like to extend a big thank you to all its Poker Ride sponsors. Donations were received from Pacific Harvest, Cascade Horseman, Boot Hill, One Hour Photo, Marilyn's Tack Shop, Simply Delicious Catering, Canby Farm & Garden, Lazy T. Tack, Elkhorn Tack, L&J Feed, Noetic Pet, Frog Valley Ranch, Hanks, Gardeners Supply, Topnotch Feed, Ohler's Coun-