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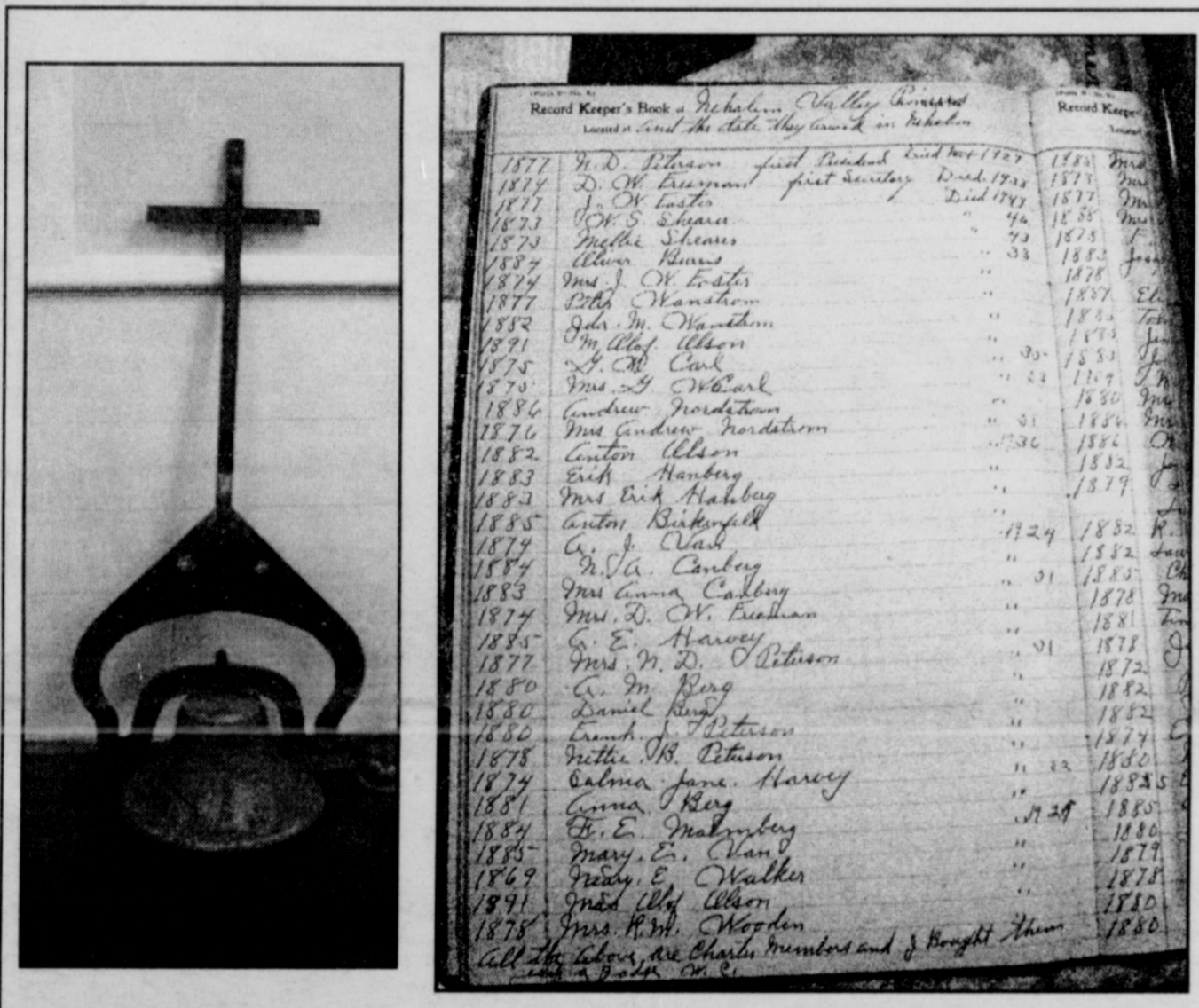
The INDEPENDENT

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"Voice of the Upper Nehalem River Valley"

November 21, 2001

Living history...



Descendents of Nehalem Valley pioneers celebrated the restoration of the Mist Church, last Sunday, enjoying reminders of the past that included the original church bell and the roster of Nehalem Valley Pioneers charter members, with many names that are still very much a part of life in the area. See article and more photos on page 12.

Vernonia school bond defeated at poll

A bid by the Vernonia School District for a \$14.9 million bond measure to replace Washington and Lincoln Grade Schools and Vernonia High School, was defeated, with 720 ballots cast in opposition and 508 in support of the measure. Nearly 60 percent of the district's voters participated in the election.

There was little difference between voters in rural Vernonia precincts and City of Vernonia voters. Mist voters, however, opposed the bond measure by 68 percent to 32 percent. Mist also had a lower voter turn out, with only 50 percent returning their ballots. To be valid, the election required a majority of

registered voters to cast ballots because it was a money measure in a general election of a non-presidential election year—that may be confusing, but that is the system previously approved by voters.

Feds provide \$1.4 million for 9-1-1

An announcement last week by Congressman David Wu that Congress has approved \$1.4 million for improvements to the Columbia County Emergency Communications District (9-1-1) was met with delight and near-euphoria by CCECD Director Sally Jones and the district's directors.

The need for a microwave system that would be effective throughout the hills and valleys

Tree lighting, bazaar, start holiday season

The Christmas season begins this weekend in Vernonia with the annual "Christmas in Vernonia" bazaar and the Community Christmas Tree lighting on Saturday, December 1.

The tree lighting will be at 6:00 p.m. next to Vernonia Realty & Insurance, with caroling by the Vernonia High School choir beginning at approximately 5:40 p.m. In case of bad weather, the choir will sing at the Vernonia Public Library.

Many businesses will stay open to accommodate shoppers after the tree lighting, and Grey Dawn Gallery will be open with a new show of Christopher Burkett's awe-inspiring Oregon images.

Two day bazaar

"Christmas in Vernonia," the twenty-third annual Vernonia Booster Club bazaar will be held on Saturday, December 1 from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and Sunday, December 2 from noon to 5:00 p.m., in the Washington Grade School gym, 199 Bridge Street.

Organizers are predicting that this year's Bazaar will be one of the best ever! There will be approximately 50 tables with handcrafted items such as wooden toys, wreaths, dolls, ornaments, handmade cards, ceramics and quilts, plus many different raffles and much,

of Columbia County has long been recognized. In addition to "dead" radio reception areas caused by the terrain, the floods of 1996 made the problems inherent in a telephone line-based system even more obvious, when landslides toppled poles and lines, obliterating communication between 9-1-1 and many areas of the county.

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much more.

The gym will be transformed into a delightful holiday shopping mall and the cafeteria will be filled with enticing aromas from the hot cinnamon rolls, homemade chicken noodle soup with hot rolls, corn dogs, nachos, pizza and lots of homemade desserts, featuring pies from our local Booster elves. There will also be hot coffee, hot chocolate and cold pop.

There may be a few tables available for late participants. For information, call Rietta Behnke at 503-429-6975, or Nona Skinner at 503-429-8401.

The kitchen staff of Washington Grade School has volunteered their weekend to help prepare and serve the food. Students and coaches will help set up and clean the gym for the Bazaar, and the youth of Vernonia, through the Booster Club, will benefit from all profits from table and space rents and food sales.

Pictures with Santa

Santa Claus will be very busy around town, too, as he makes himself available for pictures at both the bazaar and at Buds and Blooms, 859 Bridge Street.

At the invitation of the Vernonia High School Cross Country Team, Santa Claus will be at the Bazaar so everyone, including the family pets, can have pictures taken with him (Pets may be at the Bazaar only long enough to have photos taken with Santa.).

On behalf of the Toy and Joy program operated by volunteer firefighters of the Vernonia Fire District, Santa will be at Buds & Blooms (Vernonia Photo) for photos from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. The price is either a new, unwrapped toy, or a comparable cash donation.