

Vernonia Justice Court

Abbreviations: DUII, Driving Under the Influence of Intoxicants; BUII, Boating Under the Influence of Intoxicants; DWS, Driving While License is Suspended; MIP, Minor In Possession of Intoxicants; ODL, Oregon Driver License; FTA, Failure to Appear in Court; NTSI, National Traffic Safety Institute; DA, District Attorney; VIP, Victim Impact Panel; F&A, Fees and Assessments.

March 5, 2002

Steven W. Harmon, 42, Scappoose, continued on DUII.

Bernard L. Harris, 63, Vernonia, accepted diversion on DUII; \$336, evaluation.

Terence D. Threet, 37, Vernonia, Assault IV charge dismissed. DA did not file.

Traffic.....8

March 12, 2002

Douglas P. Ansotegui, 44, Deer Island, reset to 3/19 on No Throwable Flotation Device.

Scott Michael Bartley, 37, Olalla, Wash., found guilty of Unlawful Taking of Short Sturgeon. \$299; and guilty of No Throwable Floata-

tion Device, \$175.

Suzanne M. Bellings, 48, Beaverton, dismissed Expired Certificate. \$75 cc.

Leon A. Belza, 22, Portland, found guilty of DWS misd; \$619.

Jessica Jackson, 18, Vernonia, accepted diversion on Assault IV; \$147; letter of apology to victim

w/copy to DA.

Solomaon D. Jacobsen, 28, Canby, found guilty of Angling W/O License, \$120; and No Sturgeon Harvest Card, \$120.

Gary R. Nelson, 50, Rainier, found guilty of Angling-Poss of Undersize Fish; \$120.

James Neal Patterson, 54, Mil-

waukie, found guilty to Angling W/O License, \$120; and No Sturgeon Harvest Card, \$120.

Eric Michael Tiller, 40, Clatskanie, FTA on DUII.

Gregory A. Reynolds, Vernonia, pled guilty to Disorderly Conduct violation (not crime); \$300 F&A.

Traffic.....7

Columbia County Sheriff

March 5 - Lewis Dean Cochran, 30, Vernonia, reported his house had been burglarized and checks were taken.

March 9 - Lenore Jean Dupuis, 37, Vernonia, cited for defective lighting. Her passenger, Mark Alan Washam, 35, Vernonia, arrested for Violation of Restraining Order for being in contact with Ms. Dupuis and on an outstanding Ver-

nonia Justice Court Warrant; taken to CCSO jail.

- Raymond Obrien Reid, 26, Montana, arrested in Vernonia on outstanding warrant from Montana; taken to CCSO jail.

- Daniel Gregg, 20, Hillsboro and Erik Bataglia, 19, Vernonia, cited for MIP/Alcohol. Gregory

Please see page 13

Vernonia man missing, presumed dead in Umpqua River mishap

Douglas County Search & Rescue and a Swift Water Rescue Team from Douglas County Fire District #2 were unable to locate Robert L. Percifield, 52, of Vernonia, who has been missing since going fishing, February 23, on the Umpqua River near Roseburg.

He was reported missing by

his wife, Susan, who told the sheriff's department that he had gone out in his drift boat nearly 24 hours earlier. He bought the boat a year ago, and had used it about four times.

Searchers found no trace of Percifield or the boat, according to the Sheriff's Office. A red and white cooler had been seen drifting downstream near the location where Percifield was last seen. The aluminum Diamondback drift boat had a Honda motor and two oars. It also contained a life jacket, red and white cooler and fishing gear. Percifield was not seen wearing a life jacket.

than ever before and as easy to make as telephoning the corner grocer."

That is just as true today as it was back then. The only difference is how many of you have multiple phones and cell phones, etc.?

The way it was...

By Robb Wilson

I recently received a copy of the 1950 telephone listings for Vernonia; how interesting it is to get a glimpse of life here 52 years ago. On just a couple of pages, the life of this town is written in black and white. One thing that must be understood, though, is that the 313 listings do not include all of Vernonia. Many folks didn't have telephones in their homes and it's safe to say that some business folks only had a line for their shop. The listings also included numbers for nine Mist area phones and businesses.

When I first looked at it, I thought most of the listings were businesses. On closer study, I could see that only 72 were actually of a commercial nature, not counting the eight listings for the City of Vernonia (Chief of Police, City Hall, Recorder, Marshall, Deputy Marshall, Fire Chief, Fire Hall, and Water Superintendent). Also included in the commercial listings were the three schools.

What I find interesting in this list of 72 is that only five businesses are still active today. Three of them are in the same location as 52 years ago: Lew's Place, Standard Oil and the Vernonia Inn (remodeled from the old Hy Van Hotel). The other two listings are West Oregon Electric (when they were on Bridge Street) and Cedarwood Timber Company, which is now a rural business. There are two other hotels listed, the McDonald and the Hotel Vernonia, but at that time, there were also a few other hotels in operation that must have had telephone

service. This is probably true for many other shops and businesses operating in town. Even the bus station didn't have a phone, but the train depot did.

Another fascinating thing is that, though there are only seven names on the list of people who are living here today, four of them still have the same address! There are 22 other recognizable (brothers, sisters, cousins, etc.) family names still in town today. But, again, there are local families who have been here for over 50 years whose names I didn't see in the directory. One man I spoke with said that they never had a phone, as was the case with many others, I suspect.

There are just a few names on the directory list that I recognize or remember years later, in my lifetime. Many of the other names still have connections to town in some way or another—mostly relatives and inlaws, or those who had businesses here and moved on when the town lost momentum after the mill closed. One of the most recognizable names is Cecil

Johnson, who operated the Miller Store for 21 years. Where did the rest of these people go? Found work with other mills is the most common answer, but many come back to visit in August for the annual Old Grads Reunion.

The listings can be interesting in themselves, like the combination "Bush Furniture and Funeral Home." And oldtimers remember the "Pal Shop." There are listings for car dealerships, service stations, taverns, drug and grocery stores, a couple of doctors, a jewelry store, lawyer and many cafes and restaurants. Vernonia was a very active little town and the downtown core was bustling.

The numbers, themselves, were interesting, with most numbers being only three digits long, ie., the police and fire was 441. Thirteen numbers were just two digits and nearly a hundred were four digit numbers. I bet the switchboard operator, Thelma, had them all memorized.

The only letter of the alphabet not represented was "X", as

is true with the 2002 directory.

The ad on the bottom of the page said it best 50 years ago, but it seems true today too:

"You're there and back before you know it - by telephone. The fastest two-way communication from YOU to ANYWHERE in the world. For a surprisingly small cost and within a few seconds you can reach the absent friend or relative - and the visit will cheer you both. Try it tonight. You'll find out-of-town calls faster, clearer and lower in cost than

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