

The INDEPENDENT

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Opinion

Vandals will not be successful here

Those vermin of the night, vandals, tried again to destroy some improvements made by volunteers in the community. This time they struck the welcome sign at the south entrance to Vernonia, covering it with black paint. Fortunately, for the community, and unfortunately for the vandals' sick sense of satisfaction, Vernonia's Public Works crew cleaned it up with little damage to the sign.

There is a reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the vandals, because both Vernonia Pride and the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce maintain funds just for that purpose. With a little help from anyone else who would like to foil these nocturnal cowards, donations to increase the reward money may be sent to Vernonia Pride. Contact Donna Webb, 503-429-5201, or Enid Parrow, 503-429-8134, if you want to help.

Museum's operation needs some review

An unfortunate and divisive atmosphere has developed in the Columbia County Historical Society and it has had a negative effect on operations of the local museum.

Local volunteers, some with many years of experience, feel that they have been unjustly accused of theft. The society's president has changed locks on some of the museum doors — even though it is local volunteers who are called when people want to visit the museum, or when emergency personnel need access — and apparently plans to change more of them. This is neither sensible nor wise.

The museum was also closed for three months during the winter because the furnace needed repairs. This shouldn't have been neglected for so long because damp, cold conditions can be harmful to the collection, especially old photographs.

A group from Vernonia will attend a Board of Commissioners workshop, April 9, to discuss the situation. Anyone wanting to attend, should contact Vernonia City Hall for time and location.

ONLY IN THE DARK OF NIGHT...



DO COWARDS AND VERMIN CREEP ABOUT DOING NASTY DEEDS

Ike Says...

By Dale Webb, member
Nehalem Valley Chapter Izaak Walton League

Many of you have read my adventures on the Nehalem River in a plastic kayak. For me, the trips were an adventure in a modern and maneuverable craft, with the real world just a short distance away in the form of a highway and people. Now go back in time to when these luxuries did not exist, but the thirst for adventure was as great as it is today. Here is the story of five young men who started out on one of their life's great adventures. The expedition took place when the tall timber grew, men were tough as leather and when getting home was counted in days, not in hours. Frank Serafin, of Vernonia, was gracious enough to lend me a diary of this adventure so I could share it with you.

Ike's notes: Most of these men were in their early twenties when this trip was made. Glen Hawkins was a night watchman at the Oregon American mill; Archie Adams was the owner of a logging company and worked for Clark and Wilson; Frank Serafin, who didn't know how to swim, was a pitman for a shovel, cutting railroad grade for Clark and Wilson; Loel Roberts was a clerk for the Vernonia Bank; Emil Messing was U.S. Postmaster in Vernonia. The boat "Nancy Lee" was made from marine grade plywood, the "Hersprus" had plywood sides with a bottom of tongue and groove planking. Jerry, the dog, was a Cocker Spaniel and belonged to Glenn Hawkins.

Ed. note: The diary has been shortened because of space limitations; there is also some paraphrasing, but most of the story remains in the words of the author, Emil Messing. Items in brackets [] were not in the diary, and are meant only for clarification.

Down the Nehalem River in a Boat

The party that made this trip, consisted of Glenn Hawkins, Archie Adams, Frank Serafin, Loel Roberts, and Emil Messing, not to mention Jerry the dog, who chiseled into the party one half mile down the river from the start of the trip.

Loel Roberts and the writer had long wished to make this trip by boat down the Nehalem River, from Vernonia to the ocean. Some time in the spring of 1932, we decided to do so. Glenn Hawkins was told about the contemplated trip, and at once decided to build a boat and go along.

His first partner was Harold Shipley. It turned out that Harold could not go, so when the start was made, Glenn had as partners Archie Adams and Frank Serafin. After many days of planning and boat building, the start was made at what is known as the Mile Bridge, June 3, 1932, 4:45 a.m. Using two boats, Glenn, Archie, and Frank in the "Nancy Lee," and Loel and the writer in the "Hersprus." [Probably a variation of "Hesperus," the evening star.]

After gathering at the starting place, all declared that they had not slept during the night on account of the keen interest the trip afforded. Glenn's statement to this effect could not be reconciled, as Vern Adams had to wake him up when he went to the house. But Glenn laughed this off by saying that he had just fallen asleep. Frank hadn't anything to say, he just laughed, maybe he wasn't acquainted with the bunch yet.

We finally got the outfit gathered together at

Please see page 15