

More on what the 1956 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree was like

From page 1
in January 1957 listed news stories of 1956, which included:
January 5, 1956 – Emil Messing retired after 38 years as Vernonia postmaster. The post office here was first established in 1877.

February 23, 1956 – The West Oregon Electric board of directors met Tuesday evening to consider plans for the proposed new cooperative building and gave its approval for the drawing of final plans by Charles Gilman Davis, Portland architect.

April 24, 1956 – fire of undetermined origin, which started with an explosion, destroyed the Mist Lumber company mill at Mist Friday night.

And, here's what the Eagle had to say about the 1956 Jamboree;

The parade Saturday was be-

yond expectations of the committee and really showed a lot of work on the part of many. Only regret is that those who watched it didn't show the appreciation they felt. Grand prize went to Carroll Buckley with his buckboard and six horse team; first to the band, second to Essie Nance's float and third to the Ridge Riders who blossomed out that day in aqua shirts and white hats. Honorable mention was given the First Christian church and the covered wagon entered by Brunsman Hardware.

About 75 horses were at the park for the Saturday afternoon events with 37 participants. The events were all entertaining and enthusiastically received. Kathy Dickson, a 14 year old girl from the Columbia Riders club, St. Helens, entered both junior and senior events and went home

with three of the trophies and a second place ribbon. Winners by events were: Pole bending, senior, first, Kathy Dickson; second, George Caldwell and third, Bob Dickson, all St. Helens; junior, first, Kathy Dickson; second, Doug Bustrin, Rainier and third, Eleanor Matney; Texas barrell race, junior, first, Kathy Dickson; second, Harry Molash; third, Sheryl Tarbell, all St. Helens; senior, first, Bill Stennick; second, Kathy Dickson and third, John Siedelman; tail race, first Wilfred Holce and Bud Larson; second, Sonny Dass and Wesley Day; third, Bob Thompson and Cecil Markley; Saddle race, first, Wesley Day; second, John Siedelman; third, Skip Knutson; Takem or leavem, first, Vernonia Ridge Riders; second and third, teams from Columbia Riders, St. Helens; Barrel race,

first John Siedelman; second Bob Thompson and third, Wilfred Holce.

Music provided by the Stardusters for the street dance was excellent to provide a fitting conclusion to a good celebration.

And, finally, from the Office Desk of Lesta Garner of the Vernonia Eagle:

Now that Vernonia's first Friendship Jamboree is over, it is very gratifying to hear the favorable comments upon its success. We think everyone will agree that a spirit of friendship did prevail the entire three days. It was good to have so many former residents back here to chat with and it is hoped that every stranger who came here was made to feel at home, also.

The fact that the affair went over as it did is due to the fact that a few people spent a lot of time planning and organizing and then that a lot of people all lent their services wholeheartedly to put it over. The results were better than we dared hope for and now we wonder what would have happened if all the skeptics who said it couldn't be done, was bound to flop, etc., and themselves did nothing to help had all changed their attitude and gotten into the game, too. A good community spirit needs every member of the community doing his share.

Vernonia is fortunate to have such a public spirited person as Louis Towne come into the community. Perhaps the fact that his grandparents put down root here in the early days has given him a

special interest in keeping Vernonia alive and growing. His efforts have certainly been untiring.

The list of others is too long to mention. The Jamboree group worked as a team and the representatives of organizations taking part all gave many hours to planning and then carrying out the plans.

The window exhibits proved to be a highlight of the occasion and certainly was a demonstration of civic pride. How much better to show our guests the fruits of our talented citizens than to greet them with dirty windows in a vacant building. And how surprised we who live here were at the beautiful and interesting displays that resulted.

Much has been learned by the experience this year that can prove very valuable in future endeavors. Groups were a bit afraid to attempt concessions, partly from not knowing just how to go at it. Now that the results are coming in, those who had them were very successful and they added a lot to the event.

Members of the VFW have expressed disappointment that so many duds appeared in the fireworks. However, they were more aware of them than anyone else and spectators were enthusiastic at the display afforded them.

The Saturday parade was excellent and we especially appreciated seeing some real floats which demonstrate what can be done if each organization would decorate one.

Some dissatisfaction has been expressed at the awarding of prizes in parade and window judging, but there again the human element enters in. What appeals most to one person is least attractive to another. Also, because noone knew just what to expect, no definite rules of judging were set up. From this year's experience many such items can be ironed out for another year. And, after all, isn't it more important to have added a good touch to the occasion than just to have won a prize? Every entry was good and surely everyone was tops in some one's opinion. It took all of them to make it a success.

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