

# Next Chautauqua on September 6

*Magic Carpet Made of Steel: Songs of America's Railroads* is the name of the next Chautauqua program to be held at the Vernonia Library on Wednesday, September 6, at 7:00 p.m.

Jeni Foster grew up listening to the far-off whistles of trains that evoked images of exotic places and people whose lives were very different from her own. Hundreds of folk and popular songs tell the story of our once-great romance with the rails. Foster shows how these songs reflect a particularly American sense of adventure, opportunity and freedom.

This program is brought to Vernonia by the Friends of the



Library, with funding from the Oregon Council for the Humanities, a nonprofit, independent affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities. Overnight lodging for Ms. Foster is provided by Vernonia Inn and the Friends of the Library.

## Oregon 5th in use of solar energy

Solar energy is big and getting bigger in Oregon. To spread the word of how solar energy systems can fit into Oregon homes, Energy Trust of Oregon, Inc., and the Solar Energy Association of Oregon are co-sponsoring a solar photo contest.

"Many people are interested in the idea of solar, but they just can't imagine what a solar energy system would look like. We will use the photos to show Oregonians that their neighbors are investing in renewable power and that they can, too," said Michael VanDerwater, executive director of the Solar Energy Association of Oregon.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, August 25. Entry forms, details and contest rules are available at [energytrust.org/solarcontest](http://www.energytrust.org/solarcontest) <<http://www.energytrust.org/solarcontest>>. Winners will be announced September 1, and notified by phone and email. Questions about the contest should be directed to the Solar Energy Association of Oregon office, 503-231-5662, [info@solaror.org](mailto:info@solaror.org) or to Betsy Kauffman at Energy Trust, 503-459-4072, [betsy.kauffman@energytrust.org](mailto:betsy.kauffman@energytrust.org). Photos will be judged on composition, sharpness, inclusion of home, yard and people, and how effectively the photos promote the use of solar electric and solar water heating technology. A signed entry form giving Energy Trust and Solar Energy Association of Oregon permission to use the photo in print, web, and other communications must accompany all entries.

Awards will include a grand prize for the first-place photo and 15 runner-up prizes. All entrants will receive a gift. Patagonia and Home Power Magazine are donating prizes. Winning photos will be featured on the Solar Energy Association of Oregon website at [solaror.org](http://solaror.org), on the Energy Trust website, [energytrust.org](http://energytrust.org) and in various publications and presentations.

Solar Energy Association of Oregon (SEAO) is dedicated to increasing the use of solar energy in Oregon. The organization has been a leader in the creation and passage of landmark utility restructuring, global warming, conservation planning, energy-efficiency and solar access legislation, policies and programs. These have kept Oregon in the forefront of renewable energy activity nationwide, and have helped make Oregon fifth in the nation in terms of solar systems purchased.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



W o w – What a 5 0 t h J a m - boree – lots of people – lots of cars – m u c h foot traffic – but guess what? Honestly quiet, just happy talk and laughter.

The kids' fishing must have been a success – no room for dog walkers to park so I didn't stay. Pancake Breakfast was busy and food plentiful. I found my motorcycle – shining, jet black, black leather seats, chrome studs and lots of pipe. My choice of all the cars was the black 1931 Ford Coupe with rumble seat – I was courted in one just like it in 1942.

The Parade was WOW. But best of all – there were marching musicians. My hats off to those folk. It made the parade for me. Wandered the street

some – got some good books at the \$1.00 a bag book sale. Was forced to buy a watermelon so I could find a place to park (ho, ho) but no joke. I know first come, first served for parking, but you understand all people that use handicap plaques don't really want to stay home just because it's hard for them to get around on foot. Took me 15 minutes to navigate my car from the blinking light to Washington Grade School at 4:00 p.m. Saturday, HaHa.

Oh yes, I know why they are called Elephant Ears – ever try to eat a day old one?? Tough. Only heard of one police transport on the "scanner" Saturday. The fireworks I heard, the Logging Show I missed, too hot for this old gal.

Sunday morning services a disappointment – I'm sorry – they were not outside due to circumstances but many didn't attend because it wasn't outside. It maybe was hot but it was hard on ones hearing inside. Don't get me wrong

please. Mr. Archer has a beautiful voice and good presence, but it was loud, not soothing to lots of ears that were present.

A reminder of things yet to come: August 19, Bear Creek Run; Old Timer's Picnic, August 20; City Night Out, August 22; Senior Center Picnic, August 25. Don't eat at home that week, enjoy the crowds of visiting folks.

I was handed an issue of the *Ruralite* from January 1986, a recipe caught my eye.

### Elephant Stew

- 1 Elephant
- Brown gravy (lots, lots)
- apple cider (lots, lots)
- 2 rabbits, optional

Cut elephant into bite size pieces. Marinate in lots of apple cider, add enough gravy to cover and spices to taste. Cook over Kerosene fire for four weeks or until tender. Should serve about 3,799 people. If more are expected add the two rabbits. Do this only if necessary as most people don't like hare in their stew.

## Pioneer Museum now offering copies of old photos

The Vernonia Pioneer Museum now has copies of old logging and Vernonia-area photos for sale. Stop by and browse the samples.

There will be a museum table at the Old Timers Picnic on Sunday, August 20.

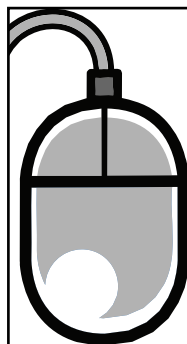
A new reason to stop by the Museum: Now have several editions of the "Vernonia News Weekly" which was published in the mid-1970s. Come see what was happening here 30 years ago!

In addition to the many artifacts on display at the museum, visitors may now view

videos of the Flood of '96 along with interviews of some long time residents.

The museum does not charge admission, but donations are always welcome.

Vernonia Pioneer Museum is located at 511 E. Bridge Street. Summer hours, which will continue through August, are Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays from 1-4:00 p.m.



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