

Harrison to speak on melodramas

The Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association invites you to attend a special Museum Talk by Mayor Sally Harrison on Sunday, March 18, on the Vernonia Melodramas. This event will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the Vernonia Grange, 375 North Street.

The Vernonia Chapter of the American Cancer Society (ACS) started the melodramas in 1971 to raise funds for the local chapter. The idea for staging a melodrama came from Cathlamet, Washington, where melodrama productions had been successful. With so many creative minds in Vernonia, however, the idea soon grew into a full community project. Between organization, concessions and play production, more than 200 volunteers were involved each year.

Organized by the ACS for six years, the school district took it over to raise funds for school projects for two or three years. People who were in Vernonia during that era always light up when melodramas are

mentioned because it was so much fun for the workers and the audience alike. The Washington Grade School hallway was transformed into Main Street with a general store, flower shop and sweet shop. Outside, the curb was lined with antique cars. The gym became an old fashioned playhouse where the audience sang, hissed, sighed, booed, and tossed peanuts at the appropriate times. Waiters attended every need. Sunday matinees had reserved tables and box lunches were sold.

With her love for drama, Harrison was a mainstay of the play production. She did everything from emceeing to playing the good and bad ladies in the plays. She will share her collection of memories, posters, pictures, and paraphernalia with on Sunday. This is a great opportunity to learn more about this special time in Vernonia's cultural history.

Ed. Note: Thanks to Genny Fisher for providing the background for this article.

St. Mary's special services listed

St. Mary's Catholic Church will have special services for Easter. Every Wednesday during Lent, there will be soup at 6:00 p.m. followed by stations of the cross at 6:45 p.m.

There will be a 7:00 p.m. mass on Holy Thursday, and a 7:00 p.m. service on Good Friday. Easter Sunday Mass will start at noon.

St. Mary's Catholic Church

is located at 960 Missouri, Vernonia. For more information, call Judy Budge at 429-8841.



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Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian
Vernonia Public Library



This next month will be another busy one in the library beginning Saturday, March 17th, with the book sale sponsored by The Friends of the Library. This will be held in the meeting room from 10 a.m.-4:00 p.m. and will have videos, hard covered

books as well as paperback books—all at very reasonable prices. Some very nice canvas book bags with the logo of the Friends organization will also be available for purchase during this time. All proceeds will be used to supplement library programs and materials.

During the last week of March (Spring Break) movies will be shown on Monday and Wednesday. *Flushed Away* will be shown at 3:00 p.m. on Monday the 26th, and *Annie Get Your Gun* will be the featured family movie of the month on Wednesday, the 28th, at 6:30 p.m. Featuring Howard Keel as sharp shooter, Frank Butler and Betty Hutton as Annie Oakley in Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show, *Annie Get Your Gun*, has comedy, action, and music and should be fun for the whole family. What do you want to bet that at least someone will go away singing, *Doin' what comes Natur'lly?*

The monthly book group will be discussing Betty MacDonald's book of 1945, *The Egg and I*, Monday, March 26th at 5:30 p.m. Some of you may be familiar with the movie made from this book, featuring Fred MacMurray, Claudette Colbert, and Ma & Pa Kettle. (The library has a copy of this movie in VHS format that may be checked out.)

Friends of the Library will be meeting Tuesday, April 3rd at 6:30 p.m. in the library, and are always glad to welcome new members.

The week of April 15-21 is National Library

Vernonia Public Library: 701 Weed Ave.
Hours: Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Tues., Thur. 1:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Preschool Story Time: Mondays, 10:30 a.m., when school is in session.
Phone: 503-429-1818

Week. Tuesday, the 17th at 7:00, B.J. the Clown will be entertaining young and old alike. This program will last about 40 minutes and will be sponsored by The Friends of the Library. Thursday afternoon, the 19th, will be an Open House/Coffee Time sponsored by Vernonia Study Club. Refreshments will be served all afternoon and pictures and articles of the history of the library and Study Club will be displayed. (Study Club was very instrumental in promoting and supporting library in Vernonia's early days and has continued to donate materials as memorials to former members and their immediate families). During this entire week, tickets will be given to patrons for each item checked out. These will be placed in a container with a winning ticket to be drawn. The winner will receive a copy of the new J. K. Rowling book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, as soon as it is released in July. A limited number of pencils and balloons denoting National Library Week will also be available during the week.

I recently finished reading Chris Bohjalian's latest novel. In *The Double Bind*, Bohjalian, the author of the controversial, *Midwives*, *Before You Know Kindness*, and *Water Witches* takes the reader on a haunting journey through one woman's obsession with uncovering a dark secret. The story centers on Laurel Estabrook, a young social worker in a homeless shelter, who is trying to overcome mental and physical scars incurred in a brutal assault some six years earlier. After coming into possession of photographs taken by a formerly homeless client, Laurel tries to understand how a man who had taken snapshots of celebrities in the 50s and 60s might have wound up on the streets. To complicate matters, at least one of the pictures appears to be of her on the day of her attack. Laurel becomes more and more obsessed as she tries to unravel the meaning behind these particular photographs and how they relate to the homeless man and to her own life and the traumatic assault she suffered. References to Jay Gatsby of F. Scott Fitzgerald's novel, *The Great Gatsby*, form the basis of the mystery to these photographs. Promise not to peek at the ending or read the discussion questions until you have read the very last sentence of this book because it has an ending that is entirely unexpected.

Other new acquisitions include *Fifth Vial* by Michael Palmer, *Innocent in Death* by J.D. Robb, *Hide by Lisa Gardner*, *The Edge of Winter* by Luanne Rice, *Nineteen Minutes* by Jody Picoult, *White Cascade* by Gary Krist, *Storm Runners* by T. Jefferson Parker, *Deep Storm* by Lincoln Child.

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