

50 Years Ago This Month

The July 24, 1958, issue of the *Vernonia Eagle* included the following news story on the front page, under the heading 'Imagineering' Session Monday Brings Out Ideas:

Following the suggestion made by John D. Abrahamson from the U. S. department of commerce, during a town meeting some time ago, chamber of commerce president Guy Thomas called a group together Monday night for an "Imagineering" session.

He explained that regardless of how small or simple an idea might be, it should be mentioned. Many heads working on an idea are better than one and the main objective of the meeting was the betterment of this area.

It was agreed that the first need is action to combat the knockers. Slogans were suggested, such as: "If you can't say something good - don't say it at all"; and a contest such as, "why I like my community" was mentioned.

RECREATION GOOD ASSET

Advertising the wonderful recreational facilities of the Upper Nehalem Valley and Vernonia was stressed. Mentioned were the swimming pool, golf course, parks and picnic areas, river and

streams, camp sites, the shay engine, rocks and fossils, trails for horse riding enthusiasts and hunting and fishing.

The possibility of having a berry receiving station located here for local berries was discussed and also that of a custom cannery. There is the need for such. Manufacturing jams and jellies for sale in the home (cottage industries), gift boxes of them and a confection using berries similar to Aplets and Cotlets was mentioned.

HOSPITAL RECOMMENDED

A community hospital was recommended as a service and as a means of keeping a large volume of dollars in Vernonia that go out of town for hospitalization for babies, illnesses, accidents and surgery. It was stated that hospitals, like banks, post-offices and drug stores, act as focal points and encourage people to settle near them. The many visitors to such an institution would mean business to service stations, restaurants and to retail establishments of other types.

A hospital would also provide employment for a number of persons, would use heat, light, food, drugs, linens and many other com-

modities. It would be an added attraction to industries looking for location.

Wayne Akers brought a stalk of an Australian sweet cane (sorghum) grass, called almun. It is used for silage and pasture and hay. It was planted May 18 and was about five feet tall. He sent a sample to Oregon State college for an analysis and will report back at the next meeting, the results.

NEW SIGNS NEEDED

Clay deposits will be checked on. The sign proposed for Staley's junction some time ago was brought up again, as well as some needed highway signs at other spots. Using the wooden nickels for publicity was urged. A good camp site was discussed. Fish ponds were recommended as a good money-maker and it was intimated that one would be built in the near future.

There is a constant inquiry for cabins or lots or acreage along the rivers. Several of these ideas will be perused and there will be another meeting of this type in two weeks, on Monday night, August 4 at the West Oregon Electric meeting room at 8:00 p.m. Anyone with an idea is welcome to come to the meeting and tell about it.

Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Gee, another two weeks has flown by. Do I have

anything to JAW about this week? Well, yes, and maybe I shouldn't. You see, I'm waiting for tonight's (July 17th) meeting of the Vernonia Planning Commission. I've a lot on my mind that will be affected by the decisions made there. I'm only one of the many people that will possibly be told when they can move out, but not necessarily where they can go. That is up to the individuals. So - here is a thought or two to ponder:

1. Single wide mobile homes are not welcome in Mobile Parks anymore (house type, that is).
2. Most M.H. folks are of senior age or moderate income families.
3. When they move it is usually into the house renting market.
4. Fact - Vernonia has no

median or low rent or Senior Living facilities.

So this means I won't be the only resident that will not be living in Columbia County much longer. Maybe. I've been in my spot for 22 years as of July 4, 2008. In all this time one of the main topics over coffee or whatever is "wish I could find an affordable, nice place to live here but there is nothing. So they move on. Folks are coming in here to build big homes. That is good and fine but what is the town going to do with all of its senior citizens? At present, it's move out of town or pass over. Yes, there should be a Senior Village living facility here, but there isn't, so folks move out of town because they have to.

I know the state killed the idea the Senior Center had years ago to try and build a small units court along with their thoughts of a new Center. (That was around before the first flood in '96.)

But that idea died too.

Wake up folks - serve the people that already live here and want to stay. Relocate to higher ground first - then invite new folks to live in the lost town in the woods.

Lipizzaner Stallions are coming to area

The "World Famous®" Lipizzaner Stallions will be in Astoria and Tillamook soon for their 38th anniversary presentation of the "Dancing White Stallions". Over the years, more than twenty-six million people throughout North and South America, Europe, Australia and Hawaii have seen the Lipizzaner Stallions perform their unique equine ballet.

The Lipizzaner Stallions will present one show at the Clatsop County Fairgrounds in Astoria on Thursday, August 14 at 7:30 p.m., and another show at the Tillamook County Fairgrounds on Friday, August 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Regular adult admission tickets are \$19.50 each. Regular admission for children 12 and under, and seniors 60 and over, is \$17.50 each. Tickets are available at Papa Jacks and Tickets.com. Tickets may be purchased by phone, toll free, at 800-882-8258.

For event information, call 503-325-4600. More informa-

tion is available at www.lipizzaner.com and www.clatsopfairgrounds.com. Additional facility fees, ticketing fees, service charges and/or taxes may be included in (or added to) ticket prices. All information is

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