

## Letters

### A love affair that is going to the dogs

To The Editor:

Vernonians seem to have a love affair with their dogs, you see them everywhere, not just little household pets but great big ones and not just one but

several. I recently saw four large dogs pulling a man along the street. Now dogs can be great, after all they are man's best friend, but the problem with a dog is they pee and poop everywhere they take a notion.

There is a gentleman who walks his dog by our house

most mornings and I observe him through my kitchen window. One morning I told my husband, "Here comes that man with his dog. Oh, there he goes peeing on my shrubs." Another ten feet and he goes again, getting the first light pole, at which point he crosses

the street and takes a poop in the neighbor's yard. Now I've heard of being full of "p..." and vinegar, but 3 times in 75 feet?

I asked my husband how come it's okay for a dog to relieve themselves whenever and wherever but we can't?

When we would go camping, and we have a vintage camper, before bathrooms and holding tanks, we couldn't even drain the sink water on the ground, it had to drain in a sealed container. It seemed we always camp in the far end of the park,

leaving me with a half-mile hike to the nearest bathroom. As

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### Policy on Letters

The INDEPENDENT will not publish letters that include personal attacks on private citizens. Because of space limitations, preference will be given to brief letters, 300 words or less.

All letters must be signed and include a verifiable address or phone number.

## Between the Bookends

By Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



Does the celebration of Oregon's 150th year as a state bring back memories of 1959, its Centennial year? Having been a senior in high school that year, my thoughts were on many other things, but I do remember that nearly every male in the state of Oregon grew beards. This

meant that most of the fathers, including my dad and future father-in-law, were still sporting these unusual tufts of facial hair at the graduation ceremonies. The archives of the *Vernonia Eagle* show that residents here celebrated the occasion in many ways, including a Centennial play by eighth-grade students, a Centennial hoe-down sponsored by the Senior class, and the participation of Vernonia Ridge Riders (Mrs. R. L. Thompson, Bob Thompson, R. Cone, Wilfred Holce, J. Siedelman, and Archie Dass) in a Pony Express mail run. Pictures accompany several of these articles in the *Eagle* if anyone is interested in seeing how Vernonia celebrated in 1959.

As Oregon's Sesquicentennial is observed this year, the Oregon Library Association is encouraging Oregonians to read three books by Oregon authors – *Stubborn Twig*, *Bat 6* and *Apes to Oregon* – that focus uniquely on Oregon. *Stubborn Twig* is the book chosen for discussion Monday, February 23, at 5:30 p.m. The library has been able to borrow an award-winning documentary which aired on the PBS series *An American Experience*. *A Family Gathering* was filmed by Lise Yasui, a granddaughter of Masuo Yasui, who came to the United States in 1903 as a sixteen-year-old, and with whom this saga of three generations of a Japanese-American family begins. Arrangements for viewing this video in the library may be made until Mid-March.

The map of Oregon in the library's entryway is updated weekly to represent the number of books read by patrons from the beginning of February through the end of April. At the end of the first two weeks, 497 books have been read. Prizes will be awarded to the five patrons reading the most books during this period as part of the library's recognition of Oregon's 150 years of Statehood.

Both February movies, *Sometimes a Great Notion* to be shown Thursday, February 26 at 7:00 p.m., and *Free Willy* to be shown Saturday, February 28 at 6:00 p.m., were filmed in Oregon. Starring Paul Newman, Henry Fonda, Lee Remick and Richard Jaeckel, *Sometimes a Great Notion* was filmed on the Central Oregon Coast,

inland from Newport at Elk City, and in the woods near Agate Beach. It's Ken Keasey's novel of a "strike-busting logger who honors a contract on principle rather than union concerns". Even though Newman and Fonda don't exactly come across as "real" loggers, the movie has some very nice footage of logging in western Oregon. This movie for mature audiences has an unforgettable scene of Joby (Jaeckel) trapped under a log on the Siletz River, and Henry Mancini's, *All His Children*, sung by Charley Pride, is a great theme song for the movie. Astoria, Cannon Beach and Portland are the Oregon sites that viewers will see in *Free Willy*, the family movie of the month.

To further celebrate Oregon's 150th birthday, arrangements have been made to have a book reading/signing by Oregon authors Eileen O'Keefe McVicker and Barbara Scot. Their book, *Child of Steens Mountains*, recounts McVicker's childhood as the daughter of an Irish immigrant sheep rancher and teacher, growing up on a homestead on the southern slope of the Steens Mountains. Copies of this book will be available for reading and/or purchase prior to the event on Saturday, March 21, at 2:00 p.m.

On March 12th at 7:00 p.m., the library board and the Friends of the Library will host a Chautauqua program sponsored by the Oregon Council for the Humanities. In his presentation, The Chinese Diaspora in the Americas: The first "Illegal Aliens", Elliott Young explores the immigration bureaucracy that was created to track, find and capture "illegal" Chinese immigrants, and the strategies these immigrants used to stay one step ahead of government inspectors.

Popcorn is always available on movie nights and refreshments will be provided at the book signing and Chautauqua program.

New acquisitions include *Plum Spooky* by Janet Evanovich, *Bone by Bone* by Carol O'Connell, *Born to Run* by James Grippando, *Dead or Alive* by Michael McGarrity, *The Associate* by John Grisham, *True Colors* by Kristin Hannah and *Revolutionary Road* (audio book) by Richard Yates,

**Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale Saturday, March 7, in the library from 10-4.** All proceeds will supplement library materials and programs and a book bag will be awarded to the person who purchases the 150th item, also in honor of Oregon's 150th year of statehood.

**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

## An Oregon Perspective

By Senator Jeff Merkley

During my time as Director of Portland Habitat for Humanity, I saw how home ownership transformed families. I had the privilege to work side-by-side with parents who put in thousands of hours and enormous effort to build a safe home for their children. A home provides the foundation for families to thrive and for children to reach their full potential. Right now in America, this basis of financial security for families is being threatened by a series of three entangled financial crises: a job crisis, a lending crisis, and a mortgage crisis.

This past week, we took a major step toward economic recovery by passing a significant economic growth package. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Plan will create jobs, provide tax relief to working families, and invest in our long-term economic future.

This plan is not a complete solution to the challenges facing

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### Where to Find Them

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