



The first Jamboree birling contest was held as part of the logging demonstration in 1957. Bud Gibson, Jr., on log at right, won the contest while a man identified only as Bishop falls off the log. Original picture courtesy of the Vernonia Pioneer Museum.

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**Welcome  
to the  
54th  
Annual  
Vernonia  
Friendship  
Jamboree**  
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Jamboree continues tradition of bringing friends and family together

Vernonia's Friendship Jamboree tradition began in 1957 when the Oregon-American Mill was closing down for the final time and Vernonians wanted a way to stay close to friends and family who were leaving to find jobs elsewhere. That first Jamboree was held July 4-6, 1957 and brought those who used to live in Vernonia back together with those who still lived here. Events included a golf tournament, swimming competitions, baseball (Vernonia vs. Tillamook), a water fight between the fire departments of Vernonia and Banks, concerts, a square dance, a bike race, kids activities and competitions, a parade, a horse gaming show, a street dance and a logging competition.

This year's Jamboree can boast many of the same events (see full schedule on pages 4-5). One event that will be missing is the Logging Show. Scheduling problems by the organizers resulted in the show being cancelled for 2010.

The 1957 Jamboree logging competition included only five events; birling, trailer backing, power saw falling, eye splicing and power saw bucking. The first winner of the first ever Jamboree logging competition was Bud

Gibson, Jr. who won the birling competition. Others who placed first, second, or third in 1957 were Bill Ferguson, Bill Pond, Don Tiffney, Pete White, Hugo Hill, Bill and Gene Odam, Don Webb, Dane Brady and his son, Larry, Sam Smith and Snow Ridling. First place winners took home a \$25 prize and the others received ribbons.

By 1959, the events were Falling, Truck Backing, Bucking, Chopping, Ax throwing, Shake splitting, Birling and Pole Walking. By 1959, the logging events had moved to a slot on Sunday where they have remained.

In 1966, the high pole climb was added to the Logging Show and it was announced that wall events were open to ladies as well as men. The *Vernonia Eagle*, Vernonia's paper until 1974, called the logging show, "one of the biggest draws." That was the same year that saw the beginning of the Revolving Trophy, it goes to the winner who keeps it for a year then can compete to take it home again. The first Revolving Trophy went to Phil Holsheimer of Scappoose. The Vernonia Jaycee's organized the show in 1969. That year, the only events on Sunday were the Logger Breakfast and the Logging Show. By

1974, other events had joined the Sunday lineup. The title became Vernonia Friendship Jamboree and Logging Show by 1988.

Logging obviously has a long tradition in this town whose largest employer for over 50 years was a sawmill. In recent years, the History Channel renewed interest in logging, when they featured Vernonia loggers in their series, Ax Men.

Many families in Vernonia and the surrounding area still make a living in the woods, either on logging crews or by driving logging trucks.

Instead of a logging show this Jamboree, on Sunday, August 8, at Hawkins Park, there will be a concert with proceeds to benefit the family of Josh Schultz. Schultz lost his life on July 22 when the log truck he was driving left the road and crashed. There will also be logging pictures, a guess the board feet raffle, and chain saw chairs will be auctioned off.

Come enjoy the many activities offered at the 2010 Vernonia Friendship Jamboree. There's no better time to get together with old, or new, friends and family and enjoy a variety of activities in Vernonia's small town atmosphere.