

## 24 Years Ago This Month

The November 26, 1986, issue of *The Independent* included the following news story on the front page:

Reduction in the amount of state grants for technical assistance to local communities will make it more difficult to fund the study of Vernonia's leaky sewer system. That was the message given to the Vernonia City Council at their November 17 meeting by Glenn Higgins of Community Action Team.

The council previously asked CAT to prepare a request for a technical assistance grant for an engineering study to pinpoint conditions allowing raw sewage to bypass the treatment lagoons and flow into the Nehalem River. At that time the council was under the impression that the state Economic Development Commission grants were for a maximum of \$10,000, but Higgins told them that the upper limit for TAGs is not \$7500. The estimate for the engineering study is \$11,000. The estimate was prepared by the engineering firm of HGE.

The council told Higgins to proceed with the grant request, nevertheless, because the state Department of Environmental Quality has said the problem must be corrected. The city will seek other ways to raise the money for the study if the TAG is approved.

A committee was appointed by Mayor Wallace Vaughn to start work on repair and refurbishing of the old Shea steam engine belonging to the city.

Wells Oviatt, Tim Enyart and Fred Klinger were named to the committee.

At the November 3rd meeting of the council, Wally Thomas, who with his wife has purchased the Joy Theater, objected to a letter from the city that directed him to replumb the building so each tenant would have a separate water meter. Pointing out that one meter had worked for the building for 60 years, Thomas said he would be responsible for payment for his tenants, but that if the city insisted on replumbing, he felt they should pay for the work.

After discussion, the council agreed to let the Thomases accept responsibility for payment.

Emil Rode asked the council for an extension of time to make repairs required by the city's enforcement of its ordinance controlling unsafe buildings. Rode was told that he would have to appear before the Appeals Board to ask for an extension, but that his appearance at the council meeting would fulfill the requirement

that he make an appeal within ten days after being cited since the date of the first Appeals Board meeting wasn't set.

Mayor Vaughn also appointed the Appeals Board which will consist of two council members, Bill Hansen and Rob Richards; two members of the planning commission, Leonard Simmons and Fred Klinger; and one at-large member, Bob Sargent.

## Logging slides will be shown

Slides of local logging/loggers, taken by Janelle Wiggins between 1976-1985, will be shown at the Vernonia Public Library on Saturday, November 20, at 6:00 p.m. by Cory Colburn.

Cookies and coffee will be provided by Vernonia Study Club.

## Bits & Bites

By Jacqueline Ramsay



Time flies when you are trying to stay dry and keep warm but carry on with keeping in step with the outside world. I've been busy but don't know for sure what I have accomplished since last time I was in Vernonia. I survived Halloween, only nine little goblins (it did not rain). The election didn't really go my way. Having only been here a year didn't know enough of people and city issues to vote on much – But, I did vote. So

I guess I can gripe for another two years.

Christmas is all over the place. Some folks have already got lights on their porches and shrubs. Gee whiz.

Before I forget – the answer to the word I gave you two weeks ago – an extremely loud and very strong smelling flatulence. Now you can look that word up, unless you have a pet that is very odiferous.

There was lots of news in the last issue of *The Independent*. Congratulations to Josette. Had I still lived there, she'd have had one more vote. Notice a change in the county races, too. Change is good sometimes. (At least I pray so.)

I wish I was young enough to strap a backpack on and walk the trail to Banks – this time of year. It would be spectacular.

Bye now.

# Happy Thanksgiving



## This flame is not an emergency.

For 20 years, citizens have called Columbia 9-1-1 Communications District when there's a fire, crime or medical emergency. We think it's important to recognize the highly skilled professionals who take the calls; the Board and staff who've worked to fund technology and improve efficiency; and all the fire, medical and emergency personnel who respond to the need. It's also time to celebrate the citizens who've continued to support this essential countywide service. Together, we're making our community a better, safer place to live.



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