

Life & Times in Vernonia

From page 9

cards. She also enjoys gardening and restarts her geraniums each year. She loves watching Dancing with the Stars on television and stays informed on city events. She likes to keep her woodstove going to take the chill off and stocks firewood each summer to stay warm and toasty all winter.

She remembers when life was harder but much simpler, and when working paid a fair wage that a family could live on in Vernonia. The businesses are different, but the buildings are much the same. Oldtimers

remember when education meant going to school and the teachers made all the difference, not the building. When green was just a color and no one would have thought not to reuse old building materials, or save tin foil, or pass clothes down until they were worn out, then used as rags. Lunchboxes were metal, milk came in glass jugs that were refilled, vegetables and fruit were grown in gardens and canned, while beef was raised in local pastures.

Back in the day, no one would have thought to charge

locals to visit a park or lake because they worked and paid taxes for those privileges. There were no disposable diapers or plastic water bottles to dispose of at the dump. They didn't need energy drinks, if they got tired they went to bed. There were no fast food joints or produce from overseas to cause Salmonella or E-coli poisoning. Cars were made in the U.S. and the average person could actually afford and repair them. A bag of dog food didn't cost three times more than a bag of grain and wasn't made in China.

Eleanor has survived tornadoes, hurricanes and the floods of 1996 and 2007 has lived in the same home on North Street since 1952 with no apprehension at all. She remembers the Great Depression, the plane crash of Amelia Earhart during her flight around the world, the Lindbergh kidnapping and the end of WWII.

She is concerned about the destruction of homes in Vernonia and that elevating them looks ridiculous and makes unnecessary hardships for the seniors in the community. She is determined that Vernonia

should build a dam to manage the water and generate electricity and revenue for the city. According to Eleanor, elaborate, unaffordable buildings do not make a city; it is the people living in the community that build a city's character and make it a hometown to be proud of.

This is Eleanor's life and her opinions, inspired by nearly a century of living and almost 72 years in Vernonia. Eleanor Alice Thompson went from horse and buggy, cooking on a woodstove and heating water

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Just for Fun

Casey and Kyle by Will Robertson



It is neither wealth nor splendor, but tranquillity and occupation, which give happiness.

THOMAS
JEFFERSON
3rd U.S.
President
(1743-1826)

Solve this Sudoku

	6						3	8
		4			5	2		
8					4			
			4	5	7	1	2	
	9	5	6	8	1			
			1					4
		7	2			5		
9	1							7

Answer to October 5
Sudoku is on page 23

Solve this Halloween maze

