

## Between the Bookends

by Nancy Burch, Librarian  
Vernonia Public Library



While researching the founding of Vernonia's library and library board, the original hand-written resolution establishing a "free public library" and a "library board" was discovered. Items such as this very real document linking Vernonia's past to its present, are fascinating to me. This resolution was passed, "this 20th day of February, 1928" and is included with the appointment of the first library board by D.B. Reasoner, City Recorder. Also included in this binder are original by-laws of the library, and handwritten minutes of the board meetings from 1928 through 1936, listing such items as circulation, number of library "members", number of books, and expenditures. One example, from 1933 shows that circulation for 1932 was 14,623 with 811 library members, and with the number of books totaling 1,155. If you're interested in comparisons, circulation for 2011 was about 26,000, registered borrowers numbered 2,456, and the library's collection now totals 25,267.

Many changes in connection with libraries have taken place over the years — Internet use, automated library systems, Nooks and Kindles with downloadable books, circulating collections of audio and video materials, as well as changes in services and activities now taking place in libraries. Programs for children and adults have become routine events in Vernonia's library. The upcoming visit by author Molly Gloss is just one example of programming for adults. Ms. Gloss will be here to discuss her novel, *The Hearts of Horses*, on Monday February 27 at 5:30. This novel, set during World War I, tells of nineteen-year-old Martha Lessen as she uses her unconventional methods of "gentling" wild horses for ranchers in eastern Oregon. I liked this book even more as I recently reread it, and really hated to bid good-bye to this remarkable young woman and her cowboy dreams. Also, in conjunction with the Columbia County Reads theme, western movies will be shown on Saturday, February 18 at 2:00 p.m. and on Thursday, February 23 at 6:30 p.m.

Themes have also changed in the novels that are being written today. As time has passed, many of the shoot 'em up westerns and dark Victorian novels have morphed into novels with issues pertinent to those we face today, or might be facing in the future. Reflecting some of these newer concerns are some of the library's new acquisitions including *Left for Dead* by J. A. Jance (drug wars along the U. S. border), *Red Mist* by Patricia Cornwell (the use of forensics in solving crimes), *The Dry Grass of Autumn* by Anna Jean Mayhew (segregation), *Home Front* by Kristen Hannah (overseas deployment and single parenting), *Lone Wolf* by Jodi Picoult (life support), and *Enclave*, a young adult novel by Ann Aquire (dystopian society).

Where libraries used to be places where only whispering was allowed and business was conducted by stern librarians, they have become places where patrons may share ideas, use computers, participate in programs, borrow all types of materials and be assisted by helpful staff members. For some staff and patrons, they have almost become second homes. Hopefully, libraries will not entirely lose the character of yesteryear as they progress to the future.

**Vernonia Public Library:** 701 Weed Avenue  
**Hours:** Mon., Wed., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Tues., Thu. 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.  
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## Oregon 1st lady to battle poverty

At the 2012 Food Security Summit on January 20, First Lady of Oregon Cylvia Hayes unveiled the Oregon Prosperity Initiative, an effort to attack poverty and restore the middle class in Oregon. Oregon has one of the highest rates of childhood hunger and homelessness in the nation, and failing to address hunger costs Oregonians \$2.1 billion annually, primarily from health care costs associated with poor nutrition and educational losses for kids who are too hungry to concentrate.

The Oregon Prosperity Initiative aims to ensure that people who are currently struggling

to feed and shelter themselves and their families have access to critical resources. At the same time, the initiative will promote strategies to address the long-standing, systemic root causes of poverty.

"It is unacceptable that in our state, with its rich natural resources and human ingenuity, so many people are struggling to make ends meet," said Hayes. "It is time to turn this around, maximize our potential, and make Oregon a more prosperous place to live and do business."

In the short term, the Oregon Prosperity Initiative will

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## New Forest plan will consider multiple uses during planning

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planning process, says Vilsack, is to preserve jobs in forest communities.

The Department of Agriculture predicts the new rule will mean fewer lawsuits over logging, with earlier cooperation in planning the sales. Forest Service chief Tom Tidwell says the focus will be on local contracts for restoration and stewardship work, "The byproducts, the outputs of that work, is that the saw timber and the biomass that's used for renewable energy — that they are a key component. Without that industry, there's no way we're going to be able to do the work that we need to do to restore these forests."

A key part of the forest planning rule is the use of "best available science" in decision-making, which could be the most controversial part as well. There are sometimes conflicting studies about such topics as climate change and the effects of logging and mining on public land.

While every forest is different, Rob Klavins, wildlands and wildlife advocate at Oregon Wild, says having some basic standards and minimum protections for clean water, wildlife

and recreation make sense. He says the conservation community is pleased with the new planning rule, but concerned about whether the specifics can be enforced, "It's all well and good to have great vision statements and mission statements, but it's really important that those are backed up with requirements that are clear and understandable — for the agencies to carry out the vision, and for the public to be able to make sure that they are actually following the rules."

The guidelines haven't been updated since 1982, and several previous attempts didn't withstand court challenges. The agency received more than 300,000 comments on this forest planning rule, which goes into effect in March.

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