

MOUHPICE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

HOME FACTS

"HISTORY OF NEHALEM VALLEY"

By Veldon Parker
Seventh Grade

About as far back as we can get an idea of Nehalem valley is when the first settlers came here. Several are living here yet.

In the fall of 1874 Clark L. Parker came into this valley, with his family. They carried their belongings on their back, all except the dog, Salmon, and the rutbackies.

What time they were not following elk trails, they were making their own trails through the forest.

They came over Green mountain and down Pebble creek, crossing the creek thirteen times.

A few months later, Van Blaricom, Adams and the Tucker family located here. The Tucker family moved from the lower Nehalem to the upper Nehalem in order to have neighbors.

In 1875 and 1876 a wagon road was made from the Meechine's place to where George Engleky lives now.

Later Clark L. Parker and Mr. Selders finished the road.

Mr. Selders was the first to die here. His death was sad. He was lost in the woods and froze to death.

In 1875 the first baby was born, being Albert L. Parker.

The first school house was erected in 1876, being a small log school house. It was built on the C. L. Parker place or where the S. V. Malmsteen place is now.

The first school teacher being Mr. Cherington. There was three months school at that time.

The second teacher being Mr. Judson Weed, another Nehalem pioneer.

This valley at that time was a dense forest, there being numerous wild animals, the elk and other game being very plentiful. There were as many as fifty seen in one band a few miles below Vernonia.

At that early date there was talk of a railroad coming in soon. This talk caused many of the old timers to locate here.

In 1878 a petition was circulated by Mr. Weed and Mr. Cherington for a postoffice, and the postoffice was granted.

Mr. Cherington named the postoffice after his daughter, Vernonia, and the name has never changed.

The first mail contract was let to Mr. Joe Campbell. He carried the mail from St. Helens to Vernonia. The settlers having made a trail that way. He walked and carried the mail on his back for several months, making one trip a week.

The second mail carrier was Mr. Hiram Van Blaricom. He also carried his mail on his back and later on a mule. He had a four-year contract. On one of these mail trips he nearly froze to death. It took him two days to make the trip.

Mr. Frank Baker was the first postmaster. Before this time the only way they got their mail was when one of the settlers took a trip to Forest Grove, and when they came back they would bring the mail for the rest of the settlers.

About this time some settlers located at the mouth of East Fork, on the Nehalem river, about five miles below Vernonia. There was a sawmill and a grist mill there and later there was a postoffice there. And

the little town was called Pittsburg. In 1879 the people of Pittsburg built a road through to St. Helens, the county seat. The settlers worked in snow several feet deep in order to finish the road.

On July 15, 1880, Mr. J. P. Spencer came over the Beaver Creek road with his bride; she was the first bride to come into this valley.

The first couple married here was Julia Parker and John Van Blaricom.

January 9, 1880, there was a terrible windstorm. It filled the roads with trees, and caused the settlers much hard work.

The first election was held June 8, 1878. Thirty-nine votes were cast at this election.

The settlers then were more neighborly than they are now. They were always ready to help their neighbors, night or day.

The first goods that were sold in the valley were peddled from one homestead to another, by a Jewish man by the name of Fleicher, who later put in a little store in the school house.

Later a store was put in at Vernonia by Mr. William Mellinger.

At that time there was no church, so they held meetings in the school house. Mr. Plowman did most of the preaching. Mr. Kerr and others also held religious meetings. Mr. William Pringle was the Sunday school superintendent. All the settlers attended these meetings.

Mr. J. P. Spencer was the first justice of peace and Mr. Peter Brouse was next.

At that time there was no fruit except wild berries in the valley. But now there are many orchards bearing fine fruit.

From that time on the country commenced to get settled up and look more like civilization. The towns of Pittsburg and Vernonia both grew. At one time there was a weekly paper printed at Pittsburg, and one at Vernonia. The little town of Pittsburg at one time was a very busy place, many people living there. But finally the sawmill was burned and the people commenced to move away, until it lost the postoffice and the property was bought by the timber company; the buildings were torn down, and now the place is called Tourish by the railroad company.

A little town grew up sixteen miles below Vernonia which is called Mist. There was need of a church at that time, so the settlers got together and bought lumber enough to build the church.

Most of the settlers used oxen at that time. As time passed on Vernonia slowly grew. New buildings were going up, the postoffice changed hands many times, as well as the stores.

Among the latter buildings put up are the Grange hall and grade school-house.

Roads kept improving, while now they have hard-surfaced roads.

Many of the first settlers have died, while others have left the country.

The new railroad just came in, causing Vernonia to grow very rapidly. And Vernonia will probably keep on growing in the years to come.

In the last year Vernonia has grown from about 300 people to a population of about 1000.

Fewer Vernonia men would have axes to grind if they had to furnish the motive power for turning the grindstone.

The Christmas Holly Girl



William Allen Laid to Rest

Veterans of the Civil War are leaving the ranks, and Vernonia Post, G. A. R. men are losing their Comrades until few are left. William Wesley Allen, of Vernonia passed away Sunday evening at five o'clock and funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon, at the church by Rev. Heverling. Mr. Allen had been ailing for sometime with cancer of the stomach, but for only the past few weeks was he compelled to remain at home. His life was a busy one. He was quite active considering his age and was always willing and a hard worker. He was a man ever listening for some kind act to do, he was charitable to all causes and always had a smile or a joke. Very few people in the Valley that didn't know him personally, and his presence will be missed by all. Mr. Allen was born in Iona County, Mich, June 29, 1846 and died Dec. 10th 1922, age 76 years 5 months and 11 d ys. Comrade Allen enlisted at Lyons, Mich, Sept 24 1863 in the Tenth Michigan Calvary, Co. B. and he served until the end of the war. He was married to Mary E Waldo, Oct. 24th 1882. There were two children born to this union. In 1891 they moved to Oregon and settled in the Nehalem Valley, where his wife died on July 7, 1898. Mr. Allen was married the second time to Ada M Lavender Dec. 14, 1898. He leaves the good wife and three children. Berdie, Jennie and Harry to mourn their loss.

Married: Last Friday, at Hillsboro, Mr. Thomas Russell and Miss Edith May Potter, both of Vernonia, were united in marriage. Both are well known and popular Vernonia young people. After a short honeymoon the newlyweds returned home, and on Thursday night they were given a big welcome in the way of an old time charivari. Here's wishing them prosperity and happiness.

THE VERNONIA GRADE SCHOOL

Along with other questions now demanding the consideration of our citizens, is the question of housing our school children.

Six teachers are now employed and all rooms are well filled. The teachers are working in hearty co-operation and showing a determination to make this school one of the best in the county.

The personnel of the teachers is as follows: Mrs. Ethel Ray has the primary room, handling fifty pupils, and what her job is needs no comment, for if it is not known it may be easily imagined, and a visit to her rooms by any interested citizen will convince them of her efficiency.

Miss Viola Emmons has the senior second and junior third grades and though a young teacher, is giving her best efforts to the work and proving herself to be a capable teacher.

Miss Lenora Kizer has the senior third and the fourth grades, and in an efficient way is producing results that show a good effect on the pupils under her charge.

Miss Alta Northrop reigns over the senior fifth and the sixth grade, and for vim and activity is the life of the school. Whether on the playground or in the school room, she is thoroughly master of the situation.

Mrs. Wilson is an experienced teacher and conversant with her work. She has charge of the junior fifth and the seventh grades.

Mr. Wilson, the principal, directs the work of the eighth grade and superintends the work of the school. The transportation of the pupils to and from school is handled by four large busses, serving a radius of three to four miles.

In connection with the school work is an active Parent-Teachers' association, whose influence is felt on all school problems.

Visitors are not only encouraged but they should feel it their privilege and duty to visit the schools as often as possible.

We feel assured that the schools will keep step with the advancement of the community at large and mark Vernonia as one of the educational towns in this section of the county.

After reading this week's Eagle don't destroy it. Send it to an acquaintance, or some one wishing information about our city.

America appears to be a country bounded on the north by Canada and bounded on the east by sea-going bootleggers.

Every man in town should join the Vernonia Chamber of Commerce.

BUY A ONE-WAY TICKET TO VERNONIA

Let us say just a word, little more about Vernonia. In six months past Vernonia has trebled in population. Her grade and high school are now over-crowded. From one hundred to two hundred pupils in six months is some gain. Within the next six months Vernonia will again treble in population. This is no guess, but facts based on industries now building that will need that many more people to operate them. Vernonia has some very pretty homes. It is a good home town, a splendid school town, a healthy, romantic, desirable place to live. It is now on a good railroad, recently built from Portland and going to Astoria. It is on the Nehalem river and Rock creek and the central point of five fertile valleys. It is a farming community. No better fruit can be raised in the Northwest. It is an industrial center as well. It is the center of the largest body of standing timber in all Oregon, the mills and camps in every direction make business good in Vernonia. It is a payroll town. A night town, and a mighty good town. There is work here for the laboring man, there is opportunity here for the investor. There is plenty of room here for the business man. Vernonia is on the main Inland Loop highway. The thriving city has no competition within thirty miles. A business hub for a large, thickly settled territory and lasting over the lifetime of any man living. It is as solid as fertile soil and natural timber, can make any place. Vernonia has a live, boosting citizenship and a bunch of business men who are always on their toes for any move good for the town's welfare. Vernonia has well-stocked stores, good churches, mills, machine shops, scenery—the best in the Northwest, fishing, hunting and work is progressing rapidly on a new city water system and a new hydro-electric light and power plant that promises to be one of the most important in Oregon. Vernonia welcomes you; Vernonia invites you; Vernonia needs you. You will make money here. You will have the best surroundings to be found any place in which to bring up a family. Vernonia is booming with a steady boom and now is the opportune time to locate in the busiest little city in Oregon.

PROGRAM AT P.-T. MEETING

At a regular meeting of the Parent-Teachers' association last Wednesday evening an excellent program was rendered to an interested audience and numbers worthy of special notice were the third and fourth grade drill, Miss Haverling's talk, and the character song by the Balford sisters.

If you are not an attendant of the association meetings, is there any good reason why you should not do so? Come out the second Friday of each month.

The historical contest was won by Veldon Parker, with Dorothy Troop, Anna Rea Webster and Ethel Wilson tied for the other prizes, which they split equally among themselves.

ASTORIA FIRE

VERNONIA EXTENDS SYMPATHY AND SHARES SORROW WITH THE CITIZENS OF THE BIG FORT.

One of the most disastrous fires ever experienced on the coast was the big blaze in Astoria, starting at 2 o'clock Friday morning of last week. A damage of at least \$20,000,000 is reported and thirty blocks of the city destroyed. In fact, Astoria was destroyed. A gale was blowing at the time and it was impossible to check the flames as they jumped from block to block and swept under the pilings from the water front back toward the hill. Dynamite was used in saving a few buildings. All wires were down, but the news came to Vernonia by wireless sent from the Oregonian office three times a day. The messages were received at the station in Fenner's confectionery and pool room—one of the best and largest receiving stations in the state. Large crowds listened to the news and all seemed to feel the disaster as badly as if we each owned part of Astoria. Plans are being shaped rapidly for the rebuilding of the big city by the sea, and the state is looking for a larger and richer Astoria to rise from the ruins. The hospital, banks, hotels, big stores, halls, homes, telephone offices, the daily printing offices were destroyed, leaving Astoria a mass of black, smoldering ruins. Within a few hours relief was rushed to the city from Portland and other Oregon cities.

Vernonia to Have Power

Hydro-electric power is today the greatest asset to the business world. Undeveloped water power is being harnessed wherever it is possible. Light and power derived from hydro-electric plants the world over is absolutely the best and the cheapest power in the world today. It is the coming power of a universe wherever a people is lucky enough to live within range. Millions upon millions of dollars are being spent in the development of water power. Vernonia, fortunate Vernonia, has unlimited possibilities from her hydro-electric power. Vernonia people showed a wise decision and a good judgment when they voted for light and power to be developed for our city by a good, strong power company. We voted for more than we realized, as the Vernonia Power company will supply the entire valley, and eventually the whole Northwest will hear of Vernonia and her harnessed water power. It means a good industrial and manufacturing city. Work is progressing satisfactorily and fast and now we hear that we are safe in announcing that you can turn on your lights in Vernonia by the first of May. The streets will be lighted, power can be had for every use and homes can assume that comfortable and homelike appearance as well as any city in Oregon. Vernonia is growing and progressing and will continue to grow as fast as the citizens, will let it.

PROTECT YOUR CAR Against the Cold

Denatured Alcohol for your Radiator
Motor Ether for Easy Starting

Both of these Should be Used by Every Auto Owner

VERNONIA DRUG CO.
Wm. FOLGER, Prop.
NYAL QUALITY DRUG STORE

Super-Safety



Insured BANK-CHECKS

For your greater protection

Whenever you write checks on unprotected, unsecured forms, then you invite loss through fraudulent alteration or forgery. Why do that, when these INSURED Super-Safety checks are available for your use?

Safety,
Honesty,
Courtesy,
Service.

BANK OF VERNONIA