

MOUTHPIECE of the NEHALEM VALLEY

COLUMBIA COUNTY

Advertising Medium of a Big Pay Roll Community

WHICH WILL IT BE BARABBAS OR JESUS?

"Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day" so sang the psalmist in the ancient days. He had discovered the value of the divine law. It is our prayer that all of us might thus value and love the laws of our God. If such were the case the lives of the citizens of our community would unify and life be really worth living. But, alas! such is not the case. Considering the sum total of human behavior and the drift of the frame of mind we are convinced that the human heart is exceedingly rebellious, anarchistic and sinful. With Lucifer man says, "I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God." We censure Adam and Eve and forget our own delinquency. We flatter ourselves of our own holiness and attainments, but I like to have you see in the following lines that in spite of our boasted righteousness rebellion is still in the heart of man.

It is Good Friday. The day is still young. In my mind I am approaching the gates of the city of Jerusalem. Entering through the gate a strange spectacle presents itself. The Jews closed their shops. Business is suspended. The daily routine of life is interrupted. In wild confusion hordes of people move in a certain direction. Wild shouts arise from the excited mob. Over the city already hangs a cloud of dust raised by the many feet that were in action. We follow the mob. Before the judgment hall of Pilate everybody met. The Jews would not go in lest they might defile themselves.

Standing before the hall of justice Pilate appeared with two other men. The wise judge submitted a very important matter to popular vote. The mob was now to decide which one of the two men who had been imprisoned should be released. I look into the faces of the two men. The face of the first is not that of the usual criminal. No! I recognize him to be the same on whom the multitudes heard gladly. He is the one who had compassion upon the tears of the widow. He is the one who healed the leper and opened the eyes of the blind. It is the same Jesus who spoke the words "Thy sins are forgiven thee, go and sin no more". He is the one who came from heaven's glory to point the way of sinful men to God. He is the one who came to make an atonement for a belligerent human race. He found it worth while to lay down his life that we might live. His whole life and teaching was a benediction upon man. He is the Saviour.

Now I look into the face of the other one. I don't know him. His face, however, has all the characteristics of a criminal. Some one in the crowd informs me that his name was Barabbas and that he was incarcerated on account of murder. He is a type of human who started wrong and lived wrong. He sacrificed his opportunity of becoming a man for the gratification of his passions. He wasted his time, dissipated his energy, and prostituted his soul. He is a man of low ideals. The drift of his character is down. His influence in the community is negative. He is a curse to boys and girls. He gets the young folks started in wrong habits, and directs their way into sin and on to damnation. He is a type of life that is a curse in any community.

The mob now casts a vote. The furious mob shouts "Crucify, crucify him! release Barabbas." Can it be possible that rational beings demand a malefactor and crucify the benefactor? A Barabbas in place of the Christ? And all this in view of the fact that only a few days prior the crowds of the same city shouted their hosannas to the son of David. How do you explain it? Several facts may be noted by way of explanation. First, Pilate, who had authority to release Jesus and knew that he was blameless, turned jellyfish. His backbone became a mere wishbone. He also was afraid that a fair judgment would impair his future relation with the emperor. Second, there was a number of unscrupulous immoral priests and elders who disliked the Christ and stirred up the mob. These men being on par with Barabbas naturally wanted their own protected so that they might contin-

ue their wicket practices. And third, there are always those who go with the crowd. They lack force of character and have little or no principle of their own. They are easily intimidated. These yield to protect their material prosperity, reputation, etc., and are more to be pitied than censured. Thus Barabbas was released and Christ crucified.

On the way to the place of execution some of the women wept over Jesus. He in turn faces them saying, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves and for your children". Less than 40 years later there was another mob. This led the Roman army against Jerusalem and sacked it. Temple, homes, and everything was destroyed. Men, women and children suffered untold agonies in body and soul. The Jews were driven to the four corners of the earth. Even to this day the Jew is a wanderer and is hated by all men. Wherever you find the Jew he is disliked. He is a man without a country. This, my friends, is the final result of the release of Barabbas. It is an immutable law of God that there is a day of doo mfor every city or nation that rejects Christ and yields to Barabbas. And let it be said even today, that every community that rejects its laws, refuses to be decent and clean has no right to exist and ought to die. A city that cannot stant the enforcement of law and order, and a high moral standard has no business to exist; the sooner it will be wiped off the earth the better it will be.

Locally we are passing through a crisis. It is the same Jerusalem scene over again. Shall Barabbas be released or Jesus? We are not alone in this struggle; there are other communities that will sooner or later face the same issue. A new reformation is well on the way. Two things are needed: First, a rational fear and respect for law, the government. Second, and the first is also included in this, a love of God must be inculcated in the hearts and minds of our people; the Word of God must again be taught the children, and it should be done efficiently. Here lies the crux of the whole conflict. It is a holy cause. The principles underlying it are so lofty and at the same time so basic for the future existence of our democracy that we can easily afford to live for them to fight for them, and even to die for the cause. Men and women of Vernonia, behold the Jew! remember the case of Barabbas and Jesus! Shall we allow a mob to rule that has little or no respect for womanhood and whose principles and ideals are no higher than a flask of moonshine? Shall we tolerate men to dictate and rule whose lives are only a curse and whose end is damnation? Shall we be steered in the way of old Jerusalem? Or shall we men who love government, law, order, and God? Men who are progressive materially and spiritually. Which shall it be? Barabbas or Christ? Men of Vernonia, assert your manhood, be chivalrous, unite your strength and fight for your homes, country and God. Never be moved like Pilate, nor put yourself on par with the immoral priests of Jerusalem, nor yield to pressure brought upon you by the lower elements. Let us take our cross upon ourselves and make a sacrifice. The Barabbas let us remove out of society into a place where we can help him. Jesus assisted a thief upon the cross; for He came to save. So let us find some way of reclaiming the Barabbas that is still alive. Perhaps he will repent. In the meantime let us be patient. The heat of day may be intense, the burdens heavy, and progress slow, but remember, there are still angels in heaven. Your cares, toils, failures and successes are being observed in heaven. Should the night be dark and your strength wane, and the cup be bitter, then remember how an angel came to strengthen the Master. In like manner your strength shall be as your day. We are not forgotten; nay, the Master is with us even to the end. May the Lord of hosts bless us, until we all like the psalmist can sing,

PAPER HAS ONE SUBSCRIBER PAID UP FOR 72 YEARS

Alto, Texas.—Joe Barnes of Magnett, Tex., recently visited this city. While here he paid a visit to the local paper, the Alto Herald, owned by F. L. Weimer. Besides paying a visit, Barnes also had his subscription extended from 1924 to 1996 at the rate of \$1.50 per year. The total amount paid was \$108 for 72 years. Barnes says he likes the "home paper" and asks Weimer to "keep 'er comin'." Weimer says he will, if he lives that long.

The Alto Herald has another subscription paid up to 1935, but the 1996 subscription is believed to be a state or national record.

"Oh how love I thy law; It is my meditation all the day."
Written and published by request.
H. G. H.

MANANA

This is a Spanish word, pronounced "Manyana," languidly and leisurely, and is the most important day in a lazy man's life.

Manana means tomorrow.

It is the watchword of the weary, the slogan of the slumberer.

Manana serves the sluggard instead of "pep". It takes the place of the "get up and git" of the hustler.

It is the day when the ne'er-do-well gets a job and the miser sends his wife to Palm Beach.

It is the day when the little boy wipes his feet before coming into the house and the little girl asks to wipe the dishes.

It is the bum's day and the first day on the wagon for the rum hound.

Manana is the day when we all rush around to pay our bills.

The next popular song will be: "Yes, We Have No Mananas Today!"
—The Mediator

TOURIST SEASON IS BEGINNING

Auto parks in various parts of the state are reporting campers getting thick for this time of the year. In Vernonia we see the Fords and autos now arriving or going through from other states with their camp supplies strapped on the sides. The tourists that come to Oregon every year leave thousands upon thousands of dollars. Besides our lumber crop, the tourist crop is the second best paying in the state. These people are in many cases looking for a permanent location. In every case they eat and take care of their car, as well as buy clothes in every town they visit. The longer they remain the more they spend. It is new money. Every town welcomes them; every town tries to make them feel at home; every town tries to so favorably impress them that they will praise that town at all their stops. We were just thinking how nice it would be now if Vernonia had a good auto park with picnic ground, stoves, seats, and protection. Oh, Ho, Hum.

EVANGELICAL CHURCH

Sunday school at 10.
Christian Endeavor at 6:30 p. m.
Preaching services at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.
Mid-Week service Thursday at 7 p. m.
At the Sunday morning service Rev. M. B. Paroungian will present the cause of the Near East. The pastor will speak in the evening on "The Judgement"—You are welcome. H. G. H.

APPRECIATIVE LETTER FROM A PORTLAND REALTOR

Friend Robinson:—
I have been receiving the Eagle for a good while now, and while I am not acquainted in Vernonia, I take great interest in reading the story of Vernonia's fight for improvements. I see where you have installed a Linotype and I must say it improves the paper wonderfully. The print is cleaner and more sharp. I see you are beginning to use it in ads also. What sizes of type did you get? It looks to me like 8 point and 12 point with the blackface of each. Do you find it a convenience? I hope to get up to Vernonia some time this summer. From the looks of the type I would say you have a very good operator for the Lino. I hope you get along with the machine in fine style. In a recent issue you disposed of all ads on the front page and I think it was a decided improvement. You evidently have an assortment of liners for the machine. You are beginning to get some good results from boosting, as I see articles every now and then about Vernonia. I thought of writing and complimenting you on your "Christmas Issue" but we were so busy at that time I didn't get around to it. It stands to reason you are making a success of your paper. As ever,
W. E. Harbaugh.

MANY NEW HOUSES

A walk to Millside Addition will help one to realize how fast Vernonia is growing. The long string of new dwellings going up in that part of town is a wonderful sight and a big improvement that wouldn't even be dreamed of a couple years ago. The houses are all modern and very neat appearing, and they are going up at a swift rate. A week's time makes marvelous changes in all parts of Vernonia.

HOME TOWN PAPER BEST

Chas. E. Blackwell, the most successful merchant in the entire state of Washington, has no faith in calendar advertising. He says: "There are many lines of publicity that the country store can use to advantage, but the one he can use to best advantage is his home-town paper. I venture to say that if the money spent each year for fancy calendars and other knick-knack give-aways were invested—I say invested, not spent, or donated, in carefully planned newspaper advertising, the actual net returns to the advertiser would be ten times as great to say nothing of the advantage the small town paper would derive from the additional and much-needed revenue. And we know that as a business builder it is without an equal in any town."

CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Services of the Christian church will be held at the high school auditorium, Sunday morning and evening. The Bible school will assemble at 10 a. m., a meeting which everyone will enjoy. Sermon at 11, on the subject: "The Secret of His Presence."
Special services in the evening at 7:30. The speaker will be M. B. Paroungian, a minister and native of Armenia. His address on the Near East work and conditions promise to be most entertaining and instructive, since he is a very able speaker. All who can should attend these meetings. W. A. Gressman, Minister.

ACCIDENTAL DROWNING IN THE NEHALEM RIVER

Last Tuesday, nearly noon, the drowning of little Betty Maxine Cook brought sadness to many who gathered as soon as possible after being informed of the accident. Little Betty was playing on the bank of Rock Creek near where it empties into the Nehalem. No one witnessed the accident except the Miller girl, who is only a little older than the little Cook girl, who was two years old the 31st of last December. In some manner she fell in and in a few minutes her mother missed her and summoned aid. A good crowd hastened to the river bank, a boat was procured and in an hour and a half the little body was found a quarter of a mile below the place where she fell in. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Cook certainly have the sympathy of all in this sad accident. It was the only child. The parents left with the body on Wednesday, for Portland, where the funeral and burial will take place. The Cooks have been in Vernonia since last August, coming from Albany.

COUNCIL SHOWS LITTLE BUSINESS ABILITY

The City Council, without any doubt means well and considers all affairs from the right, as well as progressive and conservative standpoint. But when a motion carries, when anything is passed and ordered it too often is dropped without completion. Private business cannot be done that way. We must have a man to collect to water rents and do it NOW. The water system is YOURS if you are a citizen, and if the rents are not paid the city cannot meet its obligations. We hear the Occupation taxes are NOT being paid. Why not? Surely it is the duty of some one to collect them. We hear no dance hall license has been paid this year. Isn't it some one's duty to see to it. How about the Curfew law, dog tax law, rubbish and dirt ordinance. For goodness sake lets run the city as we would expect a successful business to be run. Why is it that Vernonia has no tax money this year.

LOCAL P. O. DOING WONDERFUL BUSINESS

Vernonia's growth is materially noticeable at the local post office. Saturday was a record in stamp sales. That day the stamp sales alone amounted to \$100.00. A wagon load of mail arrives every day. The Postal Department recognizes the unusual condition existing here, due to the rapid growth and last week allowed the postmaster a new clerk. The office now has two assistants besides Postmaster Messing. The office should be advanced and undoubtedly soon will be.

An Intelligent Reading People

One gets a pretty good idea of the calibre of the inhabitants of any community by the habits of the majority. In Vernonia we are proud of the fact that we are a reading community, keeping abreast of the times, being interested in civic, state and national affairs. In no other way is this better demonstrated than in the fact that over 90 per cent of the citizens are regular subscribers to their home paper, and the further fact that many are daily reading the state daily papers. The Portland Oregonian agent tells us he has 265 regular daily readers to the Oregonian and 360 Sunday papers.

NEW BUILDING AND DRUG STORE

"The Silver Fox Pharmacy", so the sign relates, will be the name of a new drug store at the corner of Bridge and Second. A new fire proof building will be constructed immediately, we learn, and the new store in operation by May 1. There is much new building planned for Vernonia this spring, and work is beginning on some of them of a very substantial order.

Mrs. H. F. Nixon's mother, brother and sister of Portland are visiting with her this week.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NOMINATES OFFICERS

Tuesday night the C. of C. met and installed officers for the coming year, to be voted on at next meeting in two weeks. Pres. Richmond, after a year of loyal service without missing a meeting, declined to accept the nomination for the second term. W. O. Galaway, President of the Bank of Vernonia and A. W. Petersen, Clothing Merchant, were nominated for the Presidency. Each of these men would be all that is needed at the head of the Vernonia club. Mr. Hoffman was unanimously nominated for V.-P. For Secretary Lester Sheeley and Prof. Nash were nominated. Mr. Sheeley is the present secretary. Both know the work. For Treasurer the present man was snominated, Mr. Lindley. There are five on the Board of Directors; six were nominated, Messrs Detrow, Folger, G. C. Mellinger, Mr. Childs, J. P. McDonald and G. B. Richmond were nominated. The Chamber of Commerce has much work to do in Vernonia. A good live Secretary is the main thing, he is nine-tenths of the club. This Chamber should inaugurate a membership campaign. 150 members are wanted at the dues of \$1 per month. The Secretary should have as part of his job the collecting of the dues. He should read all communications to the club. He should answer all letters, he should keep accurate minutes of all sessions and make the work a business. We believe the Chamber of Commerce in Vernonia can do more right now than any other order, council or men.

Good Program for Chamber of Commerce
More Mills, Factories, Industries, Better Roads, Lower Freight Rates, Market for Farm Produce, Encouragement to Dairymen, Pretty Lawns, a Clean City and advocating the Home Beautiful Idea, Preparations for our Spet. Celebration.

C. D. POPE DEAD

C. D. Pope died in a Portland hospital, Tuesday, from the effects of the asthma and heart failure. Mr. Pope was a Foreman Painter at the Oregon-American Mill and a few days ago went to the hospital. His death was a surprise to his acquaintances here who didn't realize how sick he was. The body will be sent to Temple, Texas, where his mother resides. Mr. Pope had been here about four months, coming from Carson, La., he has worked as head painter for the Central Coal & Coke Co., for 20 years. Mr. Pope was 56 years of age and was a man well liked by all who knew him. His word was as good as a deed, and he was a man that could always be depended upon. Acquaintances that he has made in Vernonia read with sadness of his parting.

A Big American Legion Rally
St. Helens, Oregon—Columbia Post No. 42 American Legion and the Auxiliary will entertain all ex-service men and all those of their relatives eligible to membership in the Auxiliary, on March 18, 1924, at eight o'clock p. m. in Plymouth Hall, (Congregational church, St. Helens) All of those interested in the American Legion are urged to be present. In all probability, Mrs. Bertha Dorris of Eugene, Department President, of the Auxiliary will be present as well as other distinguished members from Portland and other points in the state. There will be a program and luncheon.

NO STANDARD OIL SIGNS ON HIGHWAY

The Standard Oil Co. has announced that they will hereafter remove all their signs from public highways, believing that the wonderful natural beauty of our highways should not be marred by sign boards. Good for the Oil Co. They also realize that fast going machines are not out to read ads and that the occupants read their ads in newspapers around their home firesides.

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass and Sermon on the third Sunday of each month, at 11:30 a. m. Week day communion Mass to be announced. Jos. P. Clancy, Pastor.

A Good Fire Proof Building

