

# Vernonia Eagle

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Paul Robinson, Editor and Owner

## COUNTYPAPERS GO WILD OVER NEGRO CITIZENS

Papers Make Big Fuss Over Vernonia.

EDITORS TAKE SUDDEN INSPIRATION

Neighboring Papers Suddenly Become Interested in Vernonia Mill Co.

These two articles are copied or reprinted from other papers in the county. The Eagle in reprinting them is asking YOUR opinion. Send us in your ideas immediately, and be sure to sign your name to your piece. It is not necessary for us to print your name on your article, but we must have it for reference.

Few people in Vernonia seem to be overly "worked-up" or excited over any "race problem." In fact you, reader, probably are totally unaware of any strife. Morally, Vernonia probably has foreigners who regard law considerably more than any negroes. Nevertheless, Vernonia would appreciate without doubt, being a white man's town. The St. Helens Mist in a recent issue is harrying to the world the "Vernonia Has Race Problem." Has the article been written as "news" or a newspaper feature, the editor would have stayed with his subject but no, the article takes the aspect of a "dig" at Vernonia, in that it refers to past affairs of a new building city as problems of discord. But here is the Mist's article in full:

"It seems that the growing city of Vernonia, metropolis of the Nehalem, scarcely disposes of one problem before another is faced and in each instance, so it seems, the problems are the more difficult to solve and at the present time, Vernonia has a tough nut to crack, a problem entirely different from those which have been amicably adjusted.

"It was only a short time ago that citizens and the law enforcing officers were at loggerheads and the 'progressives' bitterly opposed the 'administration.' Those questions were settled by appointment of new city officers when the 'progressives' almost made a clean sweep at the city election. Then the paving job came up and just as everything seemed prepared to change a sea of mud into a hard surfaced street, injunction proceedings were filed and the work held up until that could be settled and at the same time the city faced a \$100,000 damage suit which the death of the plaintiff ended, so for the time being, it seemed that the troubles were over. But such peaceful state of affairs was not destined to last long and the dove of peace has taken flight to the tall timbers and left Vernonia people to settle the latest problem, one which they had not heretofore faced.

"Several months ago, according to reports, the Oregon-American Lumber company brought a number of negroes from their former mill operations in the south to work at the Vernonia plant, and some of them brought their families, and in the families were children of school age. When school opened, a number of these negro children were at the school to register and that was the beginning of a school problem. Some of the patrons of the school contended that inasmuch as the lumber company had brought these negroes from the south that the company should furnish them with school facilities and others contend, so The Mist was informed by a Vernonia man, that 'if the Southerners could stand the negroes, the westerners could and it would be a better idea, to let them go to school until the patrons from the south became tired of them and insisted on a separate school.

"Officials of the mill company were unwilling to and they agreed to equip a separate school for the negroes and they even had

the teacher employed, but the negro parents, so it is stated, listened to the advice of a negro woman from Portland, and refused to send the children to the school, claiming that under the laws of Oregon, they had the right to attend the public school. The teacher was at the schoolhouse for several days and when no pupils came, she resigned the position and the desks and equipment were moved from the school.

"County School Superintendent Anderson admitted that it was a problem, which as yet he had been unable to solve. Under the Oregon law he said 'the negroes have a right to attend the public school and as far as I know there is no law which would compel them to attend any other school.' He said that his office was responsible for the enforcement of the truancy law, but he could not determine whether or not the negro children could be classed as truants. He was endeavoring to get Vernonia to appoint a truancy officer to look after such matters, he stated. He admitted that it was a very embarrassing situation for his office, but under the circumstances, he did not know what action to take but he thought that the proper solution of the matter would be for the mill company to get rid of their negro employees and by doing so, Vernonia would be rid of the negro population and for the time, at least, the race problem which it now has.

"So far as can be learned, this is the first instance of its kind to come up in Columbia county and the manner in which the problem is solved, will, no doubt, have much to do with similar problems which will come up in the future."

### WHY THE COMMOTION

More Dope Concerning Negro

And now we see the Rainier Review is having bad dreams and worrying over conditions in Vernonia, that Vernonia people hardly know exists. Some 400 white men employed at the big mill here. Very few negroes, fewer Japs, and several Phillipinos. Sure, we wish they were all white. Vernonia's worse kink, so far, is the company some of these workers, not negroes, are attractive. Dances on Sunday nights for example. They should be barred. If some white girl smilge, it is the girls the public condemns. Listen to this long yell from the Rainier Review. It says:

"The Review cannot help but ask the question: 'Is it necessary for large lumber manufacturing concerns to import negroes from the South to do their work?'"

"We hardly think that it is. Yet we have instances of the practice in more than one locality in this immediate vicinity.

"It is apparently reliably reported that the Oregon-American company of Vernonia has either brought or has employed a large number of negroes from the south, as well as Japanese, and that this policy is rapidly bringing a blight on the fair metropolis of the Nehalem. If such is the case, it is a great pity, for nowhere in all the great Northwest was there any town with such a brilliant future as Vernonia, with wealth untold, not only in her walls of timber, but in her virgin soil as well.

"Is it avarice that would cause a great lumber concern to populate such a fair community with negroes and Japanese, or do those who have the management of the concern love

## THE VERHIAN

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Published Every Week By Vernonia High School

Editor Margaret Smith

Mr. Wilkerson has offered one dollar for the best essay based on the great quotation of Lincoln: "Study and get ready for the chance that will come."

The Juniors are having a terrible time with MacBeth. Most of them wish that Shakespeare had put Macbeth out of his misery in the first act.

Dane Brady, Buster Hodges, Loei and Thor Roberts and Morris Bennett attended the Pacific University football game in Forest Grove last Saturday.

Lygia and Lynn Burt visited in Forest Grove last Friday night.

Ruth Parman has been very ill for the past two weeks and unable to attend school.

The high school students are very grateful for the new books that have been purchased by the city library. Many of them are on the English reading list.

Mrs. Goodin of Portland, visited her daughter, Miss Goodin last week. Miss Goodin accompanied her home on Friday.

The Seniors received their rings last Friday and they are very proud of them. The rings are indeed very beautiful.

Hazel Jenkins visited school Monday.

A prize has been offered for the best name submitted for the high school carnival, which will be given on December 4.

Virgil VanAlstine visited school

the black man better than the white? We leave them to answer the question.

"If these lumber concerns cannot come into the Pacific northwest without trailing their negro "mamies" after them the Review is frank in saying that we would much prefer that the giant trees of the Nehalem and elsewhere would forever remain a virgin forest and stand a monument to the white man, rather than be made a vast waste to profit men who would trample white labor under foot for a few extra dividends.

"No white man should work alongside negro or Japanese in competition with him, inasmuch as standards and living conditions are wholly different.

"Let such companies as the Oregon-American be either wholly white or wholly black. It is the only solution."

MR. YOUNG DROWNS AT INMAN-POULSON LOG POND

Word came last Monday evening that Loren Young had drowned at the Inman-Poulson camp, north of Vernonia. Loren W. Young so well known in the valley was camp superintendent at the big I.-P. camp. He was well liked at camp, in town, and by all his acquaintances. While riding logs in the big pond alone, he evidently slipped and fell. In falling it is believed that his head struck a log, rendering him helpless for the time. Before help could reach him it was too late. The body was in the cold water about an hour. Mr. Young was 31 years, 11 months and 7 days old. The remains were shipped to Portland on Tuesday.

HOME OF THE BANK OF VERNONIA



Showing outside of building where important business changes in the personnel of management has taken place recently in Vernonia.

## ARMISTICE DAY PROGRAM ARRANGED



Wednesday, Nov. 11, is Armistice Day. It will be observed in Vernonia. The American Legion will celebrate the day and the citizens generally have declared their willingness and desire to close their places in the afternoon. "Lest We Forget" is written on the minds of all, who are keeping in sacred memory that first all important Armistice Day. For the day in Vernonia we have as a program:

Half holiday, from 12 noon. At noon the American Legion Dinner at the church served by the W. R. C., assisted by the wives of the Legion members. Speaking and dinner during the dinner hour. 2 P. M. Football game at the Athletic field. Dance, 8:30 P. M. at Coyle's hall by Legion, with program and refreshments at dance.

### REPORT OF RED CROSS NURSE FOR OCT. 1925

Visits to schools, 30; pupils inspected, 669; defective: teeth, 242; tonsils, 195; vision, 21; orthopedic, 3; pupils weighed and measured, 742; pupils seriously underweight, 96; exclusions from school, 19; notes to parents, 296; visits to home, 3.

Two Hurt, Sue Lumber Firm—The Oregon-American Lumber company, operating at Vernonia, Or., was made defendant in two suits for personal injury damages filed yesterday in circuit court. One was filed by Jack Stuart, the other by W. W. Higdon, a minor, through Lula B. Higdon, his guardian. Each plaintiff alleged that the company failed properly to safeguard its workmen against injury in the operation of its mills, and each asked for judgement of \$2999.—Oregonian.

Lumber Company Sued.—P. J. Gillis filed suit yesterday in the federal district court against the Oregon American Lumber company for \$25,000 damages as a result of injuries. Gillis, who was employed as a faller, alleged that in trying to escape a tree felled by another in close proximity to the tree on which he was working, he tripped and fell, inflicting a deep cut on his knee with an axe which he was carrying.—Oregonian.

### SEASON OF HOLIDAY'S ONCE AGAIN UPON US

Holiday season is upon us each year before we really realize it. Halloween has passed; passed with numerous parties, apple ducking and receptions. Thanksgiving Day is nearly here. We all have plenty to be thankful for. Thankful we are alive and as well off as we are; thankful for our splendid climate, our friends, health, plenty to eat and some place to go. Thankful that Vernonia now has paved streets, cement walks, lights, water, sewer, drainage, excellent schools, churches, societies and a few fools to break the monotony. Then comes Christmas, only a few weeks away. Families are now preparing for the glorious day, merchants are selling Christmas goods and more of the Christmas spirit is noticed each week. Santa Claus will no more than make his visit and go his way, than New Years will be ready to take the platform for a day. Time goes fast and it keeps the older people hustling to keep up

### WORLD'S FAIR—PORTLAND 1930

OUR CHRISTMAS EDITION  
The Vernonia Eagle will issue a Christmas number with beautiful and expensive cover page of three colors, on Dec. 11. To Nehalem valley readers about 3000 of you, we are sure it will be to your advantage to read carefully the ads of your home merchants in this and preceding issues and to do your Christmas buying at home, as loyal home folks. Will advertisers please get their ad copy in as soon now as possible. Demonstrate to your customers that you appreciate their patronage with the Season's Greetings. Christmas shopping has begun.

## VERNONIABANK MAKES CHANGE IN OFFICERS

Seattle Men Purchase Interest in Bank.

HAVE HAD LONG BANKING EXPERIENCE

Constructive and Conservative Policy to Be Followed.

Mr. Christian Meyer and Mr. G. W. Davis of Seattle, Washington, have purchased a substantial interest in the Bank of Vernonia, and have taken over the active management of the bank this week.

Mr. W. O. Galaway, former president, who has been the active head is one of the organizers of the General Savings & Loan association in Portland, and will soon take up his duties there, where he has established a home.

Mr. H. E. McGraw, who has been cashier, intends to give all his time to his shingle mill, recently constructed in Vernonia, and operating full time with two shifts.

Mr. Christian Meyer has been interested in various business undertakings, having been a commission merchant, real estate dealer, and has taken an active interest as a director of various banks. Mr. G. W. Davis has had banking experience in Ohio, Idaho and Washington. He has recently been connected with the Metropolitan National bank of Seattle, as manager of the trust dept. Mr. Meyer and Mr. Davis bear the reputation of being very conservative and it is their intention to operate the bank in a constructive and conservative manner as has been the policy since the banks' organization. Mr. Galaway and Mr. McGraw will retain an interest in the bank and will still be interested in the welfare of the community. The incoming managers have been in this valley a few times and became impressed with the future possibilities. It is their intention to build homes and bring their families as soon as possible. They will be compelled to rent for the present if a house can be secured, until such time as they can build suitable homes with us.

The Eagle, with all citizens of the valley, welcomes heartily the new citizens and bankers, but at the same time regrets losing Mr. Galaway and Mr. McGraw. Mr. Galaway intends moving to Portland. Vernonia will miss him and his active and counsel. Much of Vernonia's prosperity today is due to the early efforts of Mr. Galaway and the close friendships formed between him and our citizens will be lasting. May his future be prosperous, successful and pleasant. And to the Bank of Vernonia, we predict a bright and successful future. The new bankers are experienced and will prove excellent men for the community.

It has cost the government five millions of dollars. Just the little neglect of not having the senders name and address on the upper left hand corner of the envelope of all letters sent through the mail. We all help to pay for the extra government work in indirect taxes. Uncle Sam requests that your envelope bears your return card. Most all home printing offices print envelopes to order.

### VERNONIA MILL CUTS 15,000,000 FEET OF LUMBER

The Oregon-American mill at Vernonia broke its own record by cutting 15,000,000 feet of lumber during the month ending October 31. The mill was operated on two eight-hour shifts for the 27 working days during the month, the daily average for the two shifts, being more than 500,000 feet. During the month the company shipped almost 14,000,000 feet of lumber, a majority of the shipments being for custom and middle west sections of the country. —Mist.

FOUND—Another communication in the news box on our dear Monday signed "A Reader." No name. We must know names of all readers. This is not necessary for publication but to know whom it is from.