

Vernonia Eagle

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VERNONIA, OREGON, FRIDAY MARCH 12, 1926

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Paul Robinson, Editor and Owner

EXCERPTS FROM PAPER PUBLISHED IN VERNONIA

City Was Headed for a Boom Over Coal and Timber Stand; Reprints from Ne- halem Journal, March 24, 1891

Following we devote a couple of columns of reprint from the Nehalem Journal of March 24, 1891, edited by Dave Davis with Wm. H. Branden, proprietor:

Lo, the winter is over and gone, the time of the singing of birds is come, and the voice of the bull-frog is heard in the land

Edwin Ross was over from his place last Friday, and spent a day or two looking around the city.

The improvements going on in Vernonia indicate no end of nerve and foresight.

Last Saturday Joseph Coulter sold to the Vernonia Improvement company 80 acres of land joining the town on the west.

The Pittsburg Mill company bought of S. B. Rose, Monday last, lots five, block six, Rose addition to the city of Vernonia.

If you run across anything in a newspaper that doesn't suit your fancy, skip it, Newspapers are made for everybody, you know.

The new church building is to occupy lot two, block six, Rose addition to the city of Vernonia. The dimensions of the building are 28x42 feet.

The Vernonia Improvement company bought of Wm. Mellinger, forty acres of land in the city of Vernonia; consideration \$1350 cash.

Edward Curtis took the mail to St. Helens Monday instead of Martha VanBlaricom, who, on account of the ill health of his wife, remained at home.

It is the intention of the Vernonia Literary Society to give an exhibition and literary entertainment four weeks from last Friday evening. A committee was appointed to make the necessary arrangements and prepare a programme.

Articles of incorporation were filed last Monday by the Vernonia Improvement company, with a paid up capital of \$60,000, the main office at Vernonia. The incorporators were Frank Hulsman, Thos. Braden, D. W. Cummins and Wm. H. Braden.

Do You Know

That A. Eastlick, of this place, is erecting a chair factory on Second street?

That the mud is nineteen feet deep or less, in the road between this place and Pittsburg?

That there are inducements offered in this valley that are far superior to those offered elsewhere?

Money invested in Vernonia property will bring better returns than that invested in any other town on the Pacific coast?

Our Coal Fields

CAPITALISTS FROM THE EAST GREATLY INTERESTED

Portland Will Most Likely Build a Road Into This Valley—An Interview With an Eastern Gentleman.

The following from the Oregonian of the 17th, speaks in the highest terms of the superior quality and inexhaustible supply of coal and timber adjacent to Vernonia:

In the New Year's statistical number of the Oregonian of January last, it reported that 1,463,387 tons of coal were exported from Puget sound in 1890, and over 273,000 tons were consumed in Portland; and yet the Nehalem coal lands are only forty-eight miles distant. These facts attracted the attention of wo- coal owners who reside at Des Moines Iowa, and they recently arrived in Portland to investigate. They spent some twelve days in examining the coal beds in the Nehalem country.

A reporter obtained from a mining expert who was in the Nehalem valley recently, some valuable information which will be of considerable interest.

In the course of his remarks, the engineer said:

"The coal beds seem to cover an area of 7,000 acres, and are all in township 4 north, range 4 west, covering twelve sections in a continuous body. There are six true veins or seams; the dip or pitch of the coal is in ten to fourteen course 78 east. The quality is semi-bituminous and best lignite, burns a red ash fine for household purposes and for steam. The information is good and solid, with sandstone roof and bottom, and can be opened either by shaft or tunnel. The beds opened up now are 130 to 140 feet higher than the level of the Nehalem river, all located around Vernonia, and within a mile and a quarter of the surveyed line of the Astoria and South Coast road, and can be carried down on an easy grade to the main line.

We examined five veins out of the six. The largest vein was eight feet to nine feet thick, heavy coal, fully exposed. The next was five to six feet with one foot of rock in bottom, then three feet of coal, clean and bright, the third vein should turn out six feet, but only shows four and one-half feet. This vein we found to be the best quality of coal and was similar to the Roslyn mine in Washington, now used by the Northern Pacific locomotives. The fourth vein shows four feet but will probably turn out five or five and one-half feet, 100 feet under the surface, good formation, hard and solid. The fifth vein we measured turned out two and one-half feet, of fine quality, clean and bright. What surprised me most was to find all these coal and covered with very fine timber—cedar, fir and pine good size, abundant and excellent quality for logging, and all around in the vicinity streams of water suitable for carrying logs down to the Nehalem near Vernonia.

All the coal veins we examined can be mined for 75 cents and transported on a down grade to the main line of railway and placed on the cars for Portland for \$1 to \$1.10 per ton, and from there thence carried to Portland, fifty-three miles, via Hillsboro, or forty-eight miles, via Cornelius Gap and Northern Pacific for \$1 per ton or 2 cents per ton per mile, although in the East we pay something less than 1 cent per ton. Allowing \$1.10 per ton for rail transportation to Portland, the coal could be delivered in your city for \$2.10 per ton, first cost, easily."

In regard to the timber, the gentleman said:

"We never imagined that such immense quantities of timber existed so near to Portland. It would pay to build a railway to the Nehalem country from Portland, merely for the timber, if, as I am told, the price of logs delivered here is \$6.50 per thousand feet, that is, without estimating the carrying of a ton of coal from there to your city. In Michigan they have built from fifteen to eighteen miles of railway merely to carry away 76,000,000 feet of timber, whereas, in the Nehalem you have millions of cedar and fir to carry for the next fifty years. We are surprised that Portland has not built a local railway to the Nehalem years ago. It would not only be a most profitable railroad investment but would add largely to the wealth and importance of Portland as a manufacturing, lumber and coal center."

Recurring again to the coal interest, he said:

"I was informed over on the Nehalem that there were 50,000,000 tons of salable coal already taken up by claimants from the United States land department, and that Mr. P. Kelly, the sheriff of Multnomah county, owned the most valuable coal there, a vein of eight feet."

These facts are worthy of investigation in the interest of Portland. If these coal mines are as large in extent and of the quality represented, coupled with the lumber in the Nehalem region they are of greater

(Continued on Page 4)

GO TO WESTPORT FRIDAY NIGHT; LEGION TO SUPPLY CAR

Say Mr. Man, do you know that the peppiest, snappiest basketball team in this state is going to Westport Friday night, there to play and win the game that will give them the district championship. The girls basketball team of the Vernonia high school will play in Westport this Friday night. This team from your town has not lost a game in the past two years and you and I and every other person in Vernonia should lend our support in being in Westport, and helping them win this game. Do you realize what this one game means to Vernonia, as well as to the Vernonia high school? It means that if Vernonia wins this game they have a wonderful opportunity to win or play for the state championship, and what a wonderful amount of advertising this would bring to us. Dr. Hurley, J. C. Lindley, H. E. McGraw, "Happy" Thompson and George McGee are the committee from the Vernonia Post of the American Legion to arrange transportation for all who are able to go to Westport to attend this game. By all means, set aside all other engagements for this Friday evening, if you have a car, or if not, and you wish to go, call up one of the members of the committee and arrange to go with the crowd to Westport.

TO GIVE PLAY

The Parent-Teachers Association will give their play "Too Much Married" at the Majestic theatre Monday night, March 15. The personal of this play is all home talent and will portray the acting in the people who are taking parts. This story is a catchy comedy play, portraying the difficulties of a bachelor, who is in need of a wife and baby. Besides the play there will be a seven reel picture shown, "Ros of the World" which is a gripping romance. A musical program with solos by talented people and selections by the home town orchestra will also fill the bill. The revellers will be a real treat not to mention the dancing by dainty girls of the grade school. Following is the program that will be given: Selections by the revellers; folk dance by grade school pupils; solo by Mrs. J. Lindley; whistling solo, Miss Gladys Cooke; violin solo, Mrs. Frank Shinn; American Legion quartette; xylophone solo, Charles Hoffman. The comedy "Too Much Married" will be played by Alvin Olson, Lawrence Dickson, Elmer Olson, Lora Smith and Mrs. Shinn.

NEED NEW SCHOOLS

What will Vernonia high school do next year with 75 freshmen? Our grade schools are also over crowded. We must do something and do that something now. It has been suggested as one solution: Sell the present high school building to the district school and build a new \$60,000 high school. One location mentioned is the level ground back of the J. W. Rose residence. There may be other good ones.

THE VERHIAN

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Vernonia High School
EditorMargaret Smith

Why pick on us? What have we done? That is what we basketball girls and Miss Goodin thought when Mr. Kelly came up to the high school Tuesday morning and told us that we were under arrest and had to appear at court right away. Oh! Oh! Such traits and tribulations, and such a sensation we created as we filed two and two down Bridge street with the cop behind us. After a long process of misery and dark foreboding our sentence was pronounced. A death-like silence prevailed throughout the city hall while we stood shivering, awaiting our doom. Judge Reasner stood up, looked over his spectacles, drew a deep breath, and began: "Girls, I am indeed sorry about this but I feel it my duty to prosecute you to the fullest extent of the law! Your sentence will be a chicken dinner in honor of the advertisement you have given Vernonia through your basketball team." Stunned with the unexpected blow we staggered from the hall and went to our doom at the White Lunch. We girls highly appreciate this kindness and find ourselves wishing we could be arrested every day. Hurrah for the business men!

ST. HELENS DEFEATS VERNONIA QUINT, 18-17

The boys basketball team of the Vernonia high journeyed to St. Helens last Friday night, where they met and were defeated by the fast St. Helens quintet, by a score of 18 to 17. The Vernonia boys played loosely the first half, allowing St. Helens to run up a score of 10 to 4. Vernonia came back strong in the second half and overcame this handicap. The Vernonia boys played good ball during the final period and kept one point in the lead until the last few seconds, when DeVin of St. Helens, who made a hero of himself in the last game with Vernonia received the ball at mid-floor and made a perfect shot giving St. Helens the deciding point. Although our boys lost the game, it was enjoyed by all everyone present. The line up is:

St. Helens (18)	(17) Vernonia
Wodaage (2)	F..... (7) Roberts
Devin (8)	F..... (1) Hoffman
Beale (7)	C..... (8) Hawkins
Caldwell (1)	G..... Bennett
Ketel	G..... (1) Hodges

RAINIER INVITES ALL TO DEDICATION OF SCHOOL

Rainier, Oregon
March 12, 1926

Dear Friends:
You are cordially invited to attend the formal dedication of the high school building on March 12.

The program will begin at noon and continue throughout the afternoon and evening. Lunch will be served in the cafeteria. Student guides will be on hand to direct you through the building.

In the evening a program and dedicatory address will be given in the auditorium, followed by a dance and light refreshments.

Yours sincerely,
Rainier Union High School Board.

VERNONIA MILL STARTS

The Lindsay Lumber company sawed the first stick of lumber at their new mill west of Rose avenue last Friday. The mill which has been dormant for a long length of time was taken over by Mr. Lindsay, Bear and Bennett, and these gentlemen have installed all new machinery, boiler, and other mill equipment and have made extensive improvements to the dock and have added larger storage space. The mill, from reports, will employ about thirty-five men and has a daily capacity of 35,000 feet of lumber a day, in an eight hour shift. The mill was known at one time as the "Old Vernonia Mill."

Among those from Vernonia who attended the fight in Portland Tuesday evening were Mr. and Mrs. Art Whitaker, Emil Messing, Lewis Blackburn, Tommie Bateman, Don Dupue.

NEHALEM HIGHWAY WORK

Columbia county will also do considerable work this year in linking up its market road system with the Nehalem highway in Clatsop county, thus making a long step toward the complete improvement and the Inland Route from Astoria through the Nehalem valley to the Willamette valley at Forest Grove.

Last year Columbia county paved a short stretch of the road north of Vernonia with concrete. This year the Columbia county market road program calls for the improvement of about two miles of the highway south of Vernonia with oil-bound macadam.

This type of surfacing is to be given a complete test and Mr. Scott expects that it will be adopted for the Inland Route construction generally in Columbia county.

Washington county contributed heavily last year to the improvement of the Inland Route, surfacing five miles of new grade south of Timber with fine macadam. The work in that county is to be carried on further this year.

This year Columbia county expects to lay a considerable mileage of new macadam surfacing on the Inland Route east from the Clatsop county line at Vernonia.

Thus the improvement of the Inland Route is rapidly going forward. The Columbia and Washington county programs are improving the road more rapidly than that of Clatsop county, but construction in Clatsop is heavier, while a concrete pavement is being laid, thus making advancement necessarily slower, due to the cost.

Mr. Scott spent today with A. F. Danielson, county engineer, in going over the market roads of the county, particularly those where new construction is contemplated this season.—Astoria Budget.

LICENSE TAX FEE ON DOGS DOUBLED

Dog owners who have not secured licenses for their canines will have to pay double what they have had to pay had they secured such license on or before March 1, when the increase in fees became effective.

The county has 475 dogs, according to the number of licenses applied for and issued up to last week. Last year 335 licenses were issued and the high year, according to Deputy Clerk Veazie was 1922 when 661 licenses were issued.

But the dog owners who have not applied for a license will be given a gentle reminder when the assessor or his deputies call, for under the law, the assessor must include the canines on the assessment blank, so it is probable that when such blanks have been turned in, it will be found that the dog population is several times 475.

DOCTOR DOUGLAS WILL LEAVE SOON FOR SALEM

Dr. Vernon A. Douglas, who has been practicing his profession here since last July, expects to leave Monday for Salem, where he will be connected with the Marion County Child Health demonstration clinic, a new health unit recently established in that county. The doctor while here had charge of the medical staff of the Oregon American mill and private cases in town, and it is with regret that he will leave here for the state capital city, but the entire community wishes him the best of success in his new undertaking.

BOXING EXPOSITION

At the Rose theatre building on Tuesday night, March 16, will be the first big boxing match in Vernonia, under the new boxing commission. Five good bouts have been arranged and all our citizens who believe in clean sport will want to see the event. It starts at 9:15 p. m. Be in your seat on time. It is hoped that these attractions can be put on every two weeks. The boxing commission of Vernonia is composed of Messrs Kullander, Bush, Messing, Dr. Hughes and Geo. McGee.

G. C. Olsen, of the Vernonia Realty Co., was a recent St. Helens visitor. He was enroute to the states metropolis to spend a brief season under the bright lights.—Sentinel

CONTRACTORS SUE COLUMBIA COUNTY

COUNTY ROAD CASE CALLED IN PORTLAND

Johnson Contract Company Alleges
Engineers Delayed Work on
Pittsburg Road.

The damage suit of the Johnson Contracting company of Portland against Columbia county will be heard Tuesday in circuit court in Multnomah county, according to word that has been received. The plaintiff company which asks a total of \$21,457.57 from the county in connection with road work, obtained a change of venue from the local circuit court.

The suit which was first filed November 5, 1924, grew out of a contract let to the Johnson company by the county court for the improvement of the Pittsburg-St. Helens market road on April 25, 1921. A time limit of November 1, 1921, was set and the work was not completed until July 15, 1922, the complaint alleges. It charges the county officials and engineers assumed absolute control of the work and the delay was caused by failure and delay in fixing proper grades on the part of the county engineers.

The work was two-thirds completed by November 1, the complaint asserts and the company was forced to suspend until spring on account of rainy weather.

Misclassification and underclassification on the part of officials, of materials excavated also is alleged. Because of working under alleged unfavorable and disadvantageous conditions the company asks judgment for \$13,886.57 plus an overhead on performance of work of 15 per cent or \$2,082.99.

The unit basis of the contract was \$72,681.78. Payment by the county of \$66,038.15 is acknowledged and \$1,155.62 allowed the county for doing certain work, thus making the total sum sued for \$21,457.57.

An answer to the complaint filed for the county in the circuit court contends that the Johnson company sublet the contract to O. D. Wolfe, of Washougal, Wash., without the consent of the county and that the plaintiff virtually abandoned the contract April 25, 1921, the day that it was let and never furnished or performed labor thereon and that Wolfe worked spasmodically and that the work never was completed. The answer declares the county court and the Johnson Contracting company made a full settlement and accounting in December, 1921.

John L. Foote, district attorney, will represent Columbia county in court at Portland. Clark, Skulason & Clark are attorneys for the plaintiff.

A. H. Davies, who was county engineer at that time, will come from Stockton, Cal., to testify in the case. William T. Nelson, engineer who was on the ground for the county is now in Nicaragua and cannot be present.

A cablegram was sent to him by the county but no reply has been received. T. B. Mills, county commissioner, was county road master at that time and will be a witness in the case.

OUTDOOR DIVERSIONS HOLD CAMP FIRE ATTENTION

A variety of activities are drawing the interest of the different Camp Fire groups. The Lo-Li-La camp fire girls hiked three miles last Friday evening, selected a beautiful camping place, built a camp fire, roasted "wiennies" and marshmallows, had lunch, treasure hunts, sang songs and had an all around jolly time. coming home, tired but happy. They plan to have their next regular meeting at their log cabin home, about one mile out the Rock Creek road. The home is to have a fire place and campfire banners and decorations and will be a credit to this group.

ACCIDENT

L. R. Gilchrist and family had a narrow escape in an auto accident Wednesday evening. The steering wheel failed in making a turn near Treharne and the big Studebaker car rolled over on its side, spilling the occupants. Mrs. Gilchrist was severely bruised. It was a lucky accident in that none were seriously hurt.