

The Vernonia Eagle



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MARK E. MOE, Editor

THE AVERAGE

The world's work is carried on by average folks. Occasionally we have a Burns, a Shakespeare, a Caesar, or a Napoleon, but they are rare. The output of humanity is, on the whole, only fair; fair sermons, fair poems, fair manufactured products, fair crops raised, fair business and professional accomplishments.

This is because most people are not willing to put forth the utmost effort. They are content with the average. Not "somewhat better," but "that will suffice." Instead of most of us giving all we can of self, we try to figure out what the smallest amount is that will answer.

The average in people is seen in two things, inheritance and attainments. Some people are blessed with about 100 per cent native ability, and their attainments are 50 per cent of what they should be. Sometimes there are those who rank about 50 per cent in endowments, but their returns are 100 per cent. Others are blessed with about 50 per cent of what we like to call "genius," and their attainments are about in that ratio.

Now the trouble with our world is that most of its people are in the third class, when they could just as well be in the second class mentioned. A mediocre kind of work is being accomplished, when it should be first class. The reason for this is that those of limited endowments claim exemption from responsibility. That principle is not only wrong, but it is perilous.

The person most highly blessed is not he with many endowments, but it is he who uses what he does have. The first may be spectacular, but the latter is far more useful.

An average person who fixes his eye on an average standard will do average work, which is far below the standard that should be maintained. About 90 per cent of the world's woe is attributable to second-rate methods in the hands of one whose creed is, "I'm as good as the average." He is right, and that is the reason he is not farther along in the world.

The average person is needed for the reason that there are precious few of those above the average. But the second need is the greater.

DO WE HAVE THE COURAGE

Do we have the courage, or the sense, to face our own shortcomings to admit to ourselves and to all concerned our errors and mistakes?

If we do not have, there is little chance that we shall ever be much better equipped to fight our battles than we are today.

Only obstinacy refuses to confess error and only vanity declines to admit defeat. Obstinacy and vanity are drags upon the



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chariot of progress. Unless we cut them loose we do not get very far.

The same truth holds for the individual, the group, the community, the nation. History is replete with instances of fine heads battered against the impenetrable wall of unalterable fact, of fine causes lost by enthusiasts who clung tenaciously to original error, of cities stunted because they were too proud to change their habits, of nations wrecked upon the shoals of their selfish desire.

There is no shame in admitting failure or mistake, neither to ourselves or to observers. We cannot long delude those who watch, and they will respect us the more highly if we frankly confess, when we muff the ball, that it was our fault.

As long as we are not too vain to face the facts of our conduct there is hope for us. But we will never be useful to our teammates in life as long as we hypnotize ourselves into belief that we have made a home run with the bases full after we have just struck out.

VERNONIA NEEDS A SWIMMING HOLE

With the advent of warm weather, the youngsters, and not a few of the oldsters, will be taking dips in Rock creek as refreshing relief from the heat of summer. It was necessary to remove the dam that provided a swimming hole in the park last year, but another should be built.

A dam could easily be constructed so that the water could be let out when necessity arose for removal of gravel from the river bottom, which is not often. It will provide good swimming for as many as choose to go there.

A good swimming hole is also a good step in the policy of safety first. So many communities have been grieved time and again by the loss of young people who went swimming in such small numbers that rescue of a drowning person was impossible under the circumstances. With one good place to swim the danger of loss of life is reduced to a minimum, when there are always plenty of persons nearby to render aid when it is needed.

Folks, do not deceive yourselves into believing that your boys and girls are not going swimming. They will go in spite of parental objections if they so desire. Because Johnny's dad objects to Johnny going swimming and Johnny does it anyway, it is very likely that Johnny will talk his chum into doing the same thing.

Go with them when they want to swim. They will enjoy it all the more and be proud of the fact that you are willing to play with them.

WHAT WE NEED

There are many things we need in Vernonia, but a few are vital and outstanding above all others.

We need stability, the will power to determine what is right and a determination to see that only that which is right prevails.

We need a spirit of unanimity, the ability and willingness to agree upon what we want and then go after it and get it.

We need aggressiveness, for without aggressiveness, indolence and stagnation will be our lot.

We need loyalty, for without loyalty we will be enriching commercial interests at distant points and impoverishing our people at home.

Some communities thrive and grow because of their natural advantages. Others are made only through the dogged energy and perseverance of their citizenship. Ours will be what we make it, and we should make it all that we can.

All is expensive in love and war.

About all summer styles do not show in modesty.

Sometimes a movie hero is one who sits through it.

Some fellows work their way through school; others work their parents.

Little girls are punished for making faces. But not when they grow up!

The average man thinks the only thing that could live on his salary is a germ.

Perhaps it's the conviction there's no place like home that keeps some men going.

Long legs are pronounced a sign of intelligence. At any rate, a long step in that direction.

and good all summer

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Warning to Motorists
There are a number of motorists who are disregarding the law in regards to coming to a stop on approaching Bridge street from any side street. Arrests will follow if this law is not observed.
W. J. KELLY, City Marshal.

Lodge Directory

W. O. W. Vernonia camp No. 655 meets every Monday night at seven thirty at the Grange Hall. Visiting members welcome.

A. F. KOSTER C. C.
C. C. DUSTEN CLERK.

Vernonia Lodge, No. 184 A. F. & A. M., meets at Grange Hall every Second and Fourth Thursday nights. Visitors Welcome
K. A. McNeill, Secretary.

I. O. O. F.—VERNONIA LODGES, No. 246, meets every Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock, in Grange Hall
O. E. Enstrum, N.G.
G. B. Smith, Sec'y.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Meets first and third Mondays of each month at the Legion Hall.
Mrs. H. E. McGraw, President
Mrs. Earl Washburn, Secretary.

Vernonia Post 119, American Legion. Meets second and fourth Tuesdays each month, 8 p.m. H. H. McGraw, Commander.

Nehalem Chapter 153, O. E. S. Regular communication first and third Wednesdays of each month. All visiting sisters and brothers welcome.
Bessie Tapp, W. M.
Leona McGraw, Secretary.

VERNONIA GRANGE

The Vernonia Grange meets on the second Saturday of every month at 7:30 P. M. Any members of the Grange living in or near Vernonia or visiting in the community, are cordially invited to attend.
Mrs. Minnie Malveston, Secretary

MOUNTAIN HEART

REBECCA LODGE No. 243, I. O. O. F. Meets every second and Fourth Thursdays in Grange Hall—Vernonia. Visitors always welcome.
Mrs. Edna Kilby, N. G.
MRS. IRENE SPENCER, Sec'y

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