

Vernonia Eagle

"Vernonia, Gateway to Nehalem Valley Lumbering, Farming, U. of O. Library."

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VERNONIA, COLUMBIA COUNTY, OREGON

THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1946

Berry Growing In Valley Is Monday Topic

Milton Johnson, Geo. A. Nelson To Speak On Coming Program

The possibilities for raising berries in the Upper Nehalem valley and the kinds and fertility of the soil to be found here will be the topics of talks to be heard Monday evening at a Vernonia Booster club meeting to which farmers of the valley are being invited. The program will be preceded by a dinner at 7 p.m. at the I.O.O.F. hall.

Talking that evening will be Milton Johnson, assistant superintendent of Hudson-Duncan company, who will discuss the growing of berries, and County Agricultural Agent George A. Nelson who has been asked to tell about the soil of the valley. Both men are well qualified to present authentic information that will prove valuable to residents of this area.

It is likely that Mr. Johnson will also discuss the new cannery and packing plant that his firm is constructing at Forest Grove.

The Monday evening dinner is being prepared and will be served by Mt. Heart Rebekah club who are planning on one of the largest crowds ever to attend a Booster club meeting.

Anniversary Announced

Pete Brunsman is announcing an event this week for the celebration of his first year in business in Vernonia. Because of the event Mr. Brunsman tells of a special offering to his customers elsewhere in this issue of The Eagle.

Fluorescents Installed

Fluorescent lighting fixtures were installed Monday in the Hoffman Hardware company store to make another improvement in that place of business. The fixtures are of the four-tube diffused type and six of them were installed.

Schroeder Points Out Danger of Fern Burning

Ed Schroeder, district warden of the state department of forestry, points out the danger and loss that results from the burning of ferns at this season of the year in an article prepared a few days ago. Mr. Schroeder's article which follows is especially timely now with the possible decrease in winter rains.

The time of the year is now here, when with a few days of clear weather accompanied with wind, we can have our so called fern fires. During this period the dead herbaceous material from the past year or years will dry out sufficiently with a few days of sunshine so that a ground fire will spread over a large area in a short time.

Fern fires in some cases are justified from the farmer or grazers point of view but are one of the most destructive types of fire known to the forester. The problem in this district is that there are no marked or natural boundaries between agricultural and timber lands because of their intermingled condition. This consequently results in a condition where fern fires that start on farm land spread into adjacent logged off timber land if not properly controlled.

The state department of forestry is not concerned with the fire while it is on farm or grazing lands this time of the year, as long as it is confined to the ownership upon which it is started, but the adjoining timber land which in many cases is held by some absentee owner must be protected. The policy is not to interfere with the use of the in-

\$746 COLLECTED FOR RED CROSS

Red Cross funds sent to Ben Coleman, Columbia county Red Cross chairman, this week amounted to \$746.88, Mrs. Harry Culbertson, local chairman, said Wednesday. Members of the Rebekah lodge turned in \$10.66 solicited at Girod's Food store while the Pythian Sisters solicited \$32.25 at the post office. Solicitations from the business district by Mrs. Lyman Hawken and Mrs. E. Greenwood totaled \$233.50.

IWA Local 5-37 has turned in \$455.47 to the Red Cross as the amount received last fall during the war chest drive. Two-thirds of the amount collected at that time was given to the war chest while one-third was retained here until the time of this drive. Other organizations donating are the Pythian Sisters, \$5.00; and the V.F.W. auxiliary, \$10.00.

The total amount collected so far is \$1028.42.

City vs. Summers To Be Heard Fri.

The final case this week for the circuit court at St. Helens will be the City of Vernonia vs. Robert Summers, an appeal from the Recorder's court here. The case was first heard last summer here when the defendant was arrested on a charge of driving while intoxicated.

Glen R. Metzker is the attorney for Summers and R. M. Burley will represent the city.

Under terms of an order signed by Circuit Judge Howard K. Zimmerman, Everett L. Merritt was summoned to appear in the circuit court Monday of this week to show cause why he should not be arrested for contempt of court for failure to comply with another court order of Nov. 20. That order instructed Merritt to maintain a deposit of not less than \$300 with the state industrial accident commission and was issued after that body had filed an action against Merritt.

dividual's property but to use every precaution to protect the adjoining owner who may not wish to have his land burned over.

There are many arguments on the pros and cons of fern burning and this article does not intend to argue for or against with the exception of the practice on timber lands. On timber land a fern fire is one of the most severe accidents or practices that can happen. Some of the reasons why the forester eyes this type of fire with such a critical eye are as follows:

1. The fern fire, while it may be of low heat intensity, will kill all of the small seedlings which it contacts. In most instances these small trees cannot be observed as they are covered by dead ferns and other small plants or shrubs.

2. The fern fire damages the larger second growth and mature trees by scarring the trunks so that openings are made for decaying agencies.

3. Repeated fern fires remove the duff or the vegetative layer on top of the mineral soil which tends to control the moisture and general reproductive condition of the site.

4. The fern fire tends to kill or retard the growth of small thin barked and hardwood species which furnish shade so necessary to the small coniferous species during the summer months.

5. Some people think that fern burning reduces the hazard on the area, but as a rule this

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Grade School Board Offers New Contracts

March 23-29 Set As Holiday Time For Teachers

All teachers on the School District 47 payroll were offered contracts for the coming year at the last meeting of the board of directors for that district. This procedure, however, carries the stipulation that acceptance of the contracts depends on whether the teachers wish to sign for another year and in some cases if the teachers can meet the state requirements for certification.

Offering of contracts for the coming year is an annual procedure of the board.

In order to maintain a schedule of wages in keeping with other schools in the county, the board also granted a raise in salary which will amount to 10 per cent.

The board also set aside the last two days of the coming school week, March 28 and 29, as holidays so that the instructors may attend the Oregon State Teachers association meeting in Portland. The two dates will also be a spring holiday for students.

COUNTY NEWS

BASEBALL CLUB IS ORGANIZED

CLATSKANIE—At a meeting last Wednesday at the Clatskanie I.O.O.F. hall Don Pillar was chosen manager of the Clatskanie ball club.

A league is being formed and in the near future the list of teams and the playing schedule should be ready for publication. It is understood that the season will open some time in April.

SURVEY SHOWS BUILDING DECREASE

ST. HELENS — St. Helens was the sole community in the state to show a decrease in building for 1945 as contrasted with 1944, the annual building survey by the Equitable Savings and Loan association in Portland shows.

Total dollar volume in building for 1944 in the city was \$94,100, while in 1945 the amount of building here amounted to but \$38,800 which was second lowest in the past seven years. Low mark was set in 1943, when \$19,695 worth of construction was done.

RING COMMISSION NAMED BY COUNCIL

RAINIER—Scheduling of a boxing meet at the American Legion hall Saturday, March 16, led to appointment of a new official city group—a Rainier boxing commission, which is provided in the local municipality's code of ordinances.

Five men were named by the city council at its March meeting to complete the commission.

CITY SCHOOL TEACHERS REHIRED

ST. HELENS — With salary raises ranging from \$100 to \$200 per year, contracts were offered to all teachers in the four St. Helens public schools by the district No. 2 board at its March meeting last Wednesday night.

Pointing out that the average elementary school salary here—\$1851—was considerably under the state average—\$2233—for first class districts, and that the high school average of \$2553 was likewise lower than the state normal of \$2495, Wallace McCrae, city school head, recommended that salary increases be given.

Safety Meet Is Event for Next Tuesday

Speakers To Talk Accident Prevention; Color Films Planned

A community safety meeting sponsored by the joint union-management safety committee of Oregon-American Lumber corporation will be held in the Washington grade school auditorium at 8:00 p.m., on Tuesday, March 26, 1946.

The general public, as well as all employees of all logging camps and sawmills in the vicinity, is invited to this meeting. There will be no charge for admission.

Talks will be made by Dr. Chambers of Oregon State college, a well-known authority on the importance of mental attitudes in accident prevention, and by Robert M. Evenden, director accident prevention division of the State Industrial Accident commission. Dr. Chambers is an intensely interesting speaker whom every person interested in accident prevention should hear.

In addition to the talks, there will be one or more films in color illustrating safe and unsafe methods of work in logging and lumbering.

The residents of this community who are interested in safety—and all residents are—will find this two-hour program of talks and pictures interesting and informative.

R. C. Auction Natal Event

Natal Grange No. 302 will hold its annual get-together and auction for the benefit of the Red Cross on this coming Sunday, March 24, Grange officials announced this week. Luncheon will be served and will be followed by the auction.

Everyone is invited to attend and bring produce or other items suitable for the auction. All proceeds will go to the Red Cross.

Justice Named Shell Manger

A change in the management of the Shell Oil distributing plant here became effective Monday of this week when Ray Justice assumed that capacity, replacing Lloyd Wagner who has been manager for several years.

Mr. Justice began work for the plant before entering the service in which he served in the army air corps. He returned to work with the company after his discharge.

Mr. Wagner will go from here to Scappoose where he will open a Shell service station. He was manager here for four and one-half years.

Game Group Plans Speaker

The Nehalem Valley Rod and Gun club, which met last Friday evening, discussed the sports fishing situation in this area and came to a decision to attempt an improvement in fishing for the valley.

As a start in the direction of removing fishing nets from the mouths of coastal streams, a speaker for the evening of April 5 has been engaged to explain the procedure necessary. Announcement of the coming speech was made by Vice President W. G. Heath, who heads the club since the resignation of Jewett A. Bush.

Time and place of the future meeting will be announced later.

TIMBERLINE JUDGED 4TH

The Timberline, Vernonia high school mimeographed bi-weekly news publication, was awarded fourth place in the 18th annual high school press contest at Eugene March 15. Papers of 72 high schools were entered. Papers were judged on the basis of the score sheet of the National Scholastic Press association and included a consideration of new values, news sources, news writing and editing, editorials and entertaining matter, headlines and makeup.

The Hi-Lite of Scappoose high school won first in the bi-weekly mimeographed division and was awarded the Eric W. Allen cup.

Mrs. Doris Lacey is the advisor for the Vernonia high school students working on the publication.

County Boards Asked to Meet

Every school board member and clerk in Columbia county has been invited by Otto H. H. Petersen, county school superintendent, to attend a meeting at the Rainier high school March 27 at 7:30 p.m. Several topics will be discussed that evening Mr. Petersen mentions. Included are:

Reorganization of the group which has not been active since the war and to elect officers;

To discuss the retirement fund as pertaining to the 1946-47 budget;

To discuss house bill 80, which will be on the ballot next fall.

Jerry S. Saylor, Portland, executive secretary, public employees retirement system will attend to discuss the fund and E. H. Condit will explain house bill 80.

Material Big Line Difficulty

The obtaining of material necessary for the work is presenting the most difficult obstacle in preparing for line construction Frank D. Seelye, West Oregon cooperative manager, said this week.

Of the material required, wire, insulators of all types and transformers cannot be obtained for early delivery, most jobbers and manufacturers quoting delivery in from eight to 12 months. In order to start the work as soon as possible, Mr. Seelye is now attempting to obtain these items from government surplus.

Reichwein to Aid With Field Work

Edmund Reichwein of Portland began work here last Thursday with the West Oregon Electric cooperative and will assist Frank D. Seelye, cooperative manager, with the field work of the organization.

Mr. Reichwein has taken an apartment in the Chat 'N Nibble cafe building and Mrs. Reichwein will move here within a short time. He is a former football and baseball star of Oregon State college.

Musical Event Slated

Mrs. Lulah Fullerton will be in charge of a musical program which is planned for Friday afternoon of this week at 1 o'clock at the Washington grade school. Participating in the program will be the 1st, 2nd and 3rd grade children and the kindergarten.

Injury Causes Death

Death resulted from an injury last Thursday when Chris Brooks, employee of the Columbia Logging company, was struck by a falling limb which fractured his skull. Funeral services were held Wednesday in Portland.

Councilmen Hear Street Lighting Plan

Engineers Present Plan for Modern Street Illumination

Members of the city council and a large representation of men owning businesses on Bridge street heard two illumination engineers propose a modern street lighting plan and the costs Monday evening at the second March meeting of the city officers. Presentation of the lighting plan was made at the request of Frank D. Seelye, West Oregon manager, in order that modern lighting may be installed when it is possible to rebuild the city electrical distribution system.

The engineers presenting the information were K. W. Moore, representing Westinghouse, and Sam Lee of Graybar. As suggested Monday, 14 fixtures would be needed to light Bridge street from Grant avenue to the highway corner at the Vernonia Service station and allow for one light in front of the city hall.

The lights would be of the mercury-vapor type giving double the illumination that would be received from an incandescent light of the same wattage. The engineers suggested that the poles be spaced from 80 to 130 feet apart and over one-half a foot candle was needed for the light traffic which was the basis used for the street.

Cost of the lights was placed at \$170 per fixture which does not include labor for installation.

As suggested Monday evening, the city will pay part of the expense, the business firms on Bridge street a part and the West Oregon Electric a part. Mayor George Johnson suggested that the business men meet to determine the method of raising their part of the expense and appointed a committee of Cleve Robertson, J. A. Bush, Jr., Lyman Hawken and Marvin Kamholz to arrange the meeting, the date for which has not yet been set.

Chairman Cleve Robertson of the committee appointed by Mayor Johnson, asks the business firms be represented at a meeting he has arranged for Friday night at 8 p.m. to discuss finances for the lighting. The meeting will be held at the city hall.

New Car Agency Announced Mon.

George W. Johnson announced Monday of this week that he has obtained dealership rights for the Kaiser-Frazer automobiles which are being placed on the market. Mr. Johnson will be the agent for both of the Kaiser-Frazer firm's cars, the Kaiser and the Frazer.

A demonstrator is expected here for display May 1st. The Kaiser features a front-wheel drive and unit body-and-frame torsionetic springing, while the Frazer is said to be a full year ahead of the field in styling and engineering advances.

Along with the car dealership, Mr. Johnson will also have the agency for Roto-ette and Roto-tiller, power gardening machines for the use of home gardeners and on small farms.

Martha Wells Places

Martha Wells, Vernonia high school student, placed fourth in the Willamette Speech conference held last Friday and Saturday. Eight high school students and their instructor, Mrs. Betty Jean Sherman, attended the conference Friday and Miss Wells entered final competition Saturday.